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ISSUE
16 June 2014

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Facebook.com/VSC.CSUSB

or search for

CSUSB Veterans Success Center

Location: Bookstore Basement, Room B006

Contact: (909) 537 - 5195 & (909) 537 - 5196



PDC to Open Veterans Success Center



On May 23, 2014, the Palm Desert Campus (PDC) held its first Memorial Day Observance. CSUSB student veteran Bruce Guthrie emceed the event. The majestic ceremony included welcoming remarks by Interim Dean David Maynard, followed by the presentation of the colors by the Desert Hot Springs High School Marine Corps JROTC and a superb performance of the National Anthem by PDC student Jesse Flores.

Capt. William Oliver, a World War II Army Air Corps Pilot, provided the keynote address. Capt. Oliver was born in Oakland, Calif., in 1921 just three years after World War I ended. He served in World War II as a pilot and instructor for which he received the World War II American Campaign Medal. Capt. Oliver humorously told the crowd that he was considered a “war ender” because when he and his crew were preparing for the flight to join the European Campaign against Germany it was announced that Germany had surrendered and the war in Europe was over. He then retrained as a B-29 pilot for the Pacific Campaign because the U.S. was still at war with Japan. While preparing his B-29 crew to join the war in the Pacific, it was announced that Japan had surrendered.

Navy Chaplain Lt. Paul Armstrong provided the invocation and moment of reflection. American Legion Post 519 provided a 21-gun salute and played taps, and bagpiper Joel Daniels closed out the ceremony with “Amazing Grace”. After the observance, guests were treated to refreshments and were able to tour the space where the new Veterans Success Center will be located (Health Sciences Building, Rm 105). Dr. Maynard stated it best, “The event was perfect.”

The PDC VSC, which will open on Veteran’s Day, will provide the same services as those at the San Bernardino campus. The PDC currently has thirty seven veterans, but the Coachella Valley has a large population of veterans to draw from. VSC Director Marci Daniels remarked, “We need to give special thanks to faculty member Dennis Larney and CSUSB student Charles Carter for all of their hard work to establish a center at the PDC and to Brent Hunter for finding the initial seed money.”



Congressman Takano Visits the

training. The GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act includes two bills authored by Rep. Takano, the VetSuccess Enhancement Act (H.R. 844) and the Work Study for Student Veterans Act (H.R. 1453). The VetSuccess Enhancement Act increases veterans' access to vocation and educational services by extending the eligibility period from 12 to 17 years. The VetSuccess program provides disabled veterans with employment, vocational, and educational programs, including vocational counseling, job training, apprenticeships, and financial assistance with trainings at colleges and vocational, technical, or business schools.

On May 16, 2014, U.S. Rep. Mark Takano, who represents Riverside, Moreno Valley, Perris and Jurupa Valley (District 41) in the U.S. House of Representatives, toured the Veterans Success Center and visited with student veterans.

Rep. Takano is a strong proponent of military veterans, having co-authored the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act (H.R. 357), the VetSuccess Enhancement Act (H.R. 844) and the Work Study for Student Veterans Act (H.R. 1453). The U.S. House of Representatives passed the GI Bill Tuition Fairness Act (H.R. 357), which would improve veterans benefits regarding education, and vocational and job

The Work Study for Student Veterans Act extends the Department of Veterans Affairs' Student Work-Study Allowance Program, which expired on June 30, 2013, of last year, until 2018. This program offers qualifying veteran students in college degree programs or vocational or professional programs who are paid to work on campus, at VA facilities, or at other veteran-centered organizations to transition assistance.

The student veterans are following up with Rep. Takano with a letter outlying their concerns.

Message from Melissa McQuead

Summer session is upon us and fall registration is around the corner. I wanted to take the time to remind those of you who receive VA educational benefits of the following. (This information **does not** apply to those in receipt of the Cal Vet Fee Waiver only.) Please remember that you need to fill out a new "Statement of Responsibility" form **after** you enroll in classes **each** quarter or summer session. You may request this form from me via e-mail at mmcquead@csusb.edu, by phone at 909-537-5213, or download the form at <http://rre.csusb.edu> under Veteran Certification. You are always welcome to come in person to UH-171 to request it as well. You may return the completed form to me via e-mail, fax to 909-537-7064 or turn it in at the Information Counter in UH-171. Remember, you must wait until **after** you have registered for classes before requesting and submitting the form and you must submit this form for each quarter or summer session that you attend. Once we have received your completed form, your certification will be submitted electronically to the VA within 48 hours. In most cases, we are able to submit it the same day you turn it in. If you remember to submit this form after you have registered for classes; your education benefits will continue to be sent to you in a timely manner. It is my honor and privilege to serve the veteran and dependent student population here at CSUSB. Please let me know if you ever have any questions about the educational benefits that you receive.

Thank you for your service!

Melissa McQuead

School Certifying Official



Remembering the Sacrifice

Memorial Day



"Memorial Day is a time to remember those who have answered our nation's call and paid the highest price," said Carrera Allred, Cal State San Bernardino student and Air Force ROTC cadet. Allred sang the national anthem at CSUSB's Memorial Day celebration, "Remembering the Sacrifice," on Wednesday, May 21. The day included a ceremony on the south lawn of the university's Pfau Library, followed by a trip for some student volunteers to the Riverside National Cemetery.

CSUSB Air Force ROTC Det. 002 presented the colors. Dr. Brian Haynes, CSUSB vice president of Student Affairs, who provided welcoming remarks stated, "Americans must remember the sacrifice of the more than one million American soldiers who have died to preserve the nation's freedom, the 140,000 who were prisoners of war, and all those who were declared

missing in action. Today, our campus honors all of our fallen soldiers. As our nation continues to fight terrorism and tyranny and promote freedom around the globe, let us hope that our service members return safely to their families."

Seven cadets from the Sunburst Youth Academy of Los Alamitos participated in the flag-folding ritual at Cal State's observance of Memorial Day. At the conclusion of the observance, the Honor Guard from Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6476 performed a rifle salute and a bugler played taps. Retired Gunnery Sergeant Joel Daniel played Amazing Grace in front of a memorial of crosses representing the graves of the fallen. Three of crosses were adorned with names of CSUSB student veterans that had recently passed away.

After the ceremony on campus, about 22 student volunteers from CSUSB went to the Riverside National

Cemetery where they placed American flags and flowers at 442 graves.

"Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is observed each year on the last Monday of May. One of the first official Memorial Day proclamations was made in 1868 by General John Logan, who was serving as Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. This began the tradition of placing flowers on the graves of all the Union and Confederate service members at Arlington National Cemetery." (Huff Post, "A Pause for a Prayer on Memorial Day, May 19, 2014).

"This was a community service opportunity for CSUSB students in support of Memorial Day," said Marci Daniels, director of the Veterans Success Center at CSUSB.



Veterans Graduation Celebration

On June 5, 2014, the Veterans Success Center (VSC) held the Spring 2014 Veterans Graduation Celebration. Forty-four veterans, service members and one dependent were presented with their special graduation regalia honoring their military service. The VSC's Kenneth Jacobs, USMC Reservist and CSUSB senior, emceed the event. Dr. Brian Haynes, vice president for Student Affairs, provided the welcoming remarks, followed by newly commissioned Army second lieutenant and current SVO President Daniel Padilla who led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance and entertained everyone with his humorous remarks. Capt. Jesus Acuna-Perez, Air Force ROTC Operations & Recruiting Flight Commander, eloquently spoke of growing up in Juarez and his journey to becoming an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Dr. Joe Scarcella, professor of education and a U.S. Navy veteran, inspired the audience with his remarks. Reuben Perales, CSUSB alumni and USMC veteran, challenged the graduates to give back by helping veterans. Capt. Josh Unverzagt, U.S. Army, Capt. Acuña-Perez, Council Member Benito Barrios, LTJG Jason Gomez and Dr. Scarcella presented the graduating veterans with their stoles and honor chords for those students with GPAs of 3.0 or greater. Pat Fabio, district director for U.S. Rep. Gary Miller, presented certificates to each graduate in recognition of their achievement. The 163rd Reconnaissance Wing Chaplain David Sarmiento provided a very moving invocation. Capt. Acuña-Perez, who is retiring later this year after serving his country for twenty three years remarked, "Thank you so much for allowing me to be part of your program—it's been more than a good experience! I truly enjoyed joining forces and truly representing past, current, and future vets."

SVO Appoints New Officers



STUDENT VETERANS ORGANIZATION
AT
CSUSB

The SVO held a meeting on Friday the 13th of June at the VSC and elected new officers for the 2014-15 school year. Congratulations to the following newly elected officers;

President: Richard Shepard
Vice President: Lawrence Gomez
Secretary: Jordan Gallinger
Treasurer: Jennifer Smolenski
Public Relations: Kenneth Jacobs

The SVO welcomes new students year-round, so if you are interested in joining or have any questions, please e-mail svo@gmail.com or stop by the Veterans Success Center.



Class of Spring 2014

CSUSB's Veterans Success Center

Presents

Cinderfella 2

The Fairy Tale Continues

A Silverman Family Production



If you are a graduating CSUSB veteran and in need of a new suit to wear at commencement or to help you with your future career endeavors, visit the Veterans Success Center to see if one of our suits is a perfect fit for you. Suits are free-of-charge and sizes vary. First come, first serve, so be sure to get here early!

Continuing Excellence

by David Briggs

The CSUSB Model United Nations Program continued its win streak at the 2014 National Model United Nations Conference in New York City. The competition of diplomacy included 2,717 students from around the world simulating delegations of UN member states and non-governmental organizations. CSUSB sent two delegations to the competition: 19 students represented Lebanon including Air Force dependent Briahna Howells, Army veteran Lanier Rogers, and Navy dependent McKenzie Kelly, while the second delegation comprised of eight students represented Third World Network, a non-governmental organization, and included Air Force dependent Beatrice Longshore-Cook and Army veteran David Briggs. CSUSB also sent a delegation of 10 students to the 2014 Rocky Mountain Regional Model Arab League conference that included Marine Corps Reservist Treneal Banks.

The Lebanon delegation won Outstanding Delegation, the top prize, while the Third World Network delegation won the second tier award Distinguished Delegation. The two teams were also highly awarded for their preparatory work, winning Outstanding Position Paper awards for 10 out of 15 papers.

Faculty advisor to the Model United Nations and Model Arab League Programs, Dr. Kevin Grisham is also a veteran and comes from a family of veterans. According to Dr. Grisham student veterans bring life experience and varied viewpoints to the team, often with on the ground experience in the countries the program focuses on. Diversity is a major part of what makes each year special, as such student veterans are highly encouraged to apply to the program.

"Model United Nations delegates are dedicated people that are going to change the future and the world, they are dedicated to helping their fellow man and the global community"

-Dr. Kevin Grisham, faculty advisor



Air Force dependent Briahna Howells, Army veteran David Briggs and Tricia Mimaki



Army veteran Lanier Rogers



Students at the Model United Nations Conference

Future Soldier Fun Run



Future soldiers form up for PT

The VSC and Army ROTC program joined forces to host the U.S. Army San Bernardino Recruiting Center's future soldiers. Capt. Josh Unverzagt lead the 33 member strong formation in a fun run around campus, after which Jaime Espinoza briefed them on CSUSB admissions requirements and the programs and services offered through the VSC. Captains Unverzagt and Howen provided a briefing on ROTC program requirements and Major Nouredine provided inspirational remarks. At the end of the program, everyone joined together to sing the Army song and celebrated with a piece of birthday cake in honor of the Army's 239th birthday.

Favorite Event of the Year

Military Appreciation Night

Jaime Espinoza, ASA II



Since I came to CSUSB in the fall of 2009, I wanted a four-year university experience. I wanted to get involved on campus, serve our community, and have school spirit. During my undergraduate years, I would like to believe I achieved all of these goals except for one, which is school spirit. As an undergrad, I attended about 10 basketball games and 15 volleyball games, but knew that something was missing: “The Crowd.” After I got hired at the Veterans Success Center, I was put on multiple committees and had to attend different meetings. Most of them involved student affairs issues and one of them was school spirit. I want to say that my favorite event for 2013

-2014 academic year was Military Appreciation Night at CSUSB. I was able to complete my last goal, school spirit. This event took a lot of dedication and time, but at the end CSUSB students and our surrounding community members benefited and were able to experience a tailgate and a great basketball game. During the game, it was so loud when prizes were given away. We had so many that I want to believe that every single person that attended left with a souvenir. I am looking forward to doing this again. I also want to thank all of the departments and sponsors who helped us have a successful night. February 21, 2014, will go down in my book, and CSUSB history.

Cinderfella

Kenneth Jacobs, USMC Reserves, Senior



My favorite event of the year was definitely the Cinderfella Suit Giveaway Extravaganza. Suits were graciously donated by the Silverman family for those veterans that needed a suit to enhance their career path opportunities. The center was decorated in pink for our male veterans by Darcie Tossetti, which added the perfect amount of feminism to the whole event. I came into the office at 8 a.m. and most of the suits were gone, I was later told that veterans were lining up at the door before 7 a.m. each one holding a ticket with a number to designate who arrived first. In disbelief, I was then shown the pictures to prove it. It was great to see a good deed done for our CSUSB student veterans!

Coyote Cares Day

Zayre Ruiz, Junior

My favorite event this year would have to be Coyote Cares Day. We had the chance to help make a difference in the community while having a good time. Seeing our group work together side-by-side with other CSUSB students at the Disabled American Veterans Garden was truly a great experience. Luckily, there were many of us that were there to help, so everyone had the chance to garden, pull weeds, rake and make the aesthetics of the garden even better. Overall, that Saturday was great from the beginning – we were provided with a good breakfast, lent out a helping hand at the garden, bonded, and received awesome shirts!



Favorite Event of the Year

238th Marine Corps Birthday

Jordan Gallinger

USMC Veteran, Freshman



My favorite event of the year was the Marine Corps Ball held in November. As a Marine, I appreciate the effort that everyone on campus and the community put into making this a success. The ball showed that the campus really does care about its veterans and what we contribute to the community as well. The one thing I liked the most about it was that we were able to show many people who may never get to see a Marine Corps Ball how one is done, and all of the different traditions behind all the small things that are carried out.

Strongest Coyote Contest

Jake Russell

U.S. Army Veteran, Freshman



My favorite event at CSUSB was the "Strongest Coyote Contest" which was held on April 3, 2014, in which I won for my weight class. The events in the contest were: the Atlas Stones, which is lifting up stones and placing them upon a pedestal for time; the tire flip, flipping a tire a distance of 50 feet for time; the Farmer's Carry, holding heavy weights in each hand while walking a certain distance for time; and the last event in the contest, the Truck Pull, which was cancelled due to complications. Overall this was my favorite event at CSUSB. I like picking things up and putting them down.

July 4th Celebration

Luca Daley

USMC Dependent, Sophomore



My favorite event was the July 4th celebration that was held all the way in July in 2013, almost a year ago. I say it's my favorite event because there were a lot of attendees and it was held in the Veterans Success Center and outside on the patio, unlike other events where we host them elsewhere. The celebration consisted of a barbeque lunch and a thorough tour of the center. The event had a very relaxed atmosphere with everyone enjoying their lunch and receiving a thorough tour of the Veterans Success Center. It was great to see the different departments from all over the campus interested in what we do. I hope there will be even more attendees at this year's July 4th celebration!



THE FEW
THE PROUD
THE COYOTES

WHO REMAIN ON CAMPUS
HOLDING DOWN THE FORT...

**The Veterans Success Center proudly invites you to
drop in on our open house in honor of July 4th.**

- ★ Tour our center
- ★ Learn about our services and accomplishments
- ★ Enjoy an American Style BBQ and entertainment

Time: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

July 3, 2014