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Issue 36
May 2017

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CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
SAN BERNARDINO
Veterans Success Center

The VSC By The Numbers

As reported by William Lewis, VSC Student Assistant

The VSC has demonstrated a measurably significant amount of growth over the past five years, with every month showing a tremendous increase. From our first full academic year to this year, we have had a monthly increase of no less than a 65 percent between September to April, with an average of 166 percent increase over the year total.

We also demonstrate that our busiest months are October and November in the fall term, which is typically reflective of the mid-term time frame and the final time frame. During the winter term our busiest month typically is March, with an obvious pattern of build-up that correlates with the test schedule of the school. And for the spring term we see a trend of May being our busiest month which could possibly related to our studying student body; but it could also be related to our hungry student body since the last two weeks prior to finals, the VSC serves lunch in order to help out our student veterans while they focus more on class and can easily forget to nourish themselves in the hastiness of the week.

The most common reason for a visit to our center is our wonderful computer and printing facilities. But a close second is the use of our group room. Our group room is reported to be a place of peace and refuge that the members of the veteran community can go to unwind, enjoy their food, study, and talk with other members of the military community. And this writer can confirm they do indeed talk about the biggest ideas and the most inane ideas that you have ever heard take place in such a short period of time.



In order to accomplish this remarkable growth, the VSC has had the combination of several factors. A dedicated staff working hard to make each and every year better for all veterans on our campus, as well as the students who proliferate it. The students who attend our school committing each day to the venture of higher education, putting their goals at the forefront of a better and more exciting life. And of course the gracious community of CSUSB, we couldn't have done it without you!

The U.S. Navy's New Aircraft Carrier

Gathered by William C. Lewis

Exciting news for the Navy as the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford (A.K.A. CVN 78) was christened in April after it passed its builder trials. Builder trials consist of having representatives from the Huntington Ingalls Industries-Newport News Shipbuilding, the Navy's CVN 78 Program Office, the Navy's Supervisor of Shipbuilding, Conversion and Repair as well as, various experts in the technical aspects of the carrier's key systems. This trial should be a comprehensive test of all ship equipment and approximate the scope of the acceptance trial. The aircraft carrier Gerald R. Ford is the first of the "Ford" Class carriers. Ford carriers are slightly larger than previous aircraft carriers with large technical improvements. The improvements are:

An Electromagnetic Aircraft Launch System (EMALS) - The general idea of EMALS is to build a system to replace the legacy steam catapult system. This idea is not entirely new as your common roller coaster has similar technology powering it to increase speed for its riders. This system is more energy efficient and provides a smoother launch, which will be important when considering the variety of aircraft that will need to land on the carrier. Electromagnetism isn't only for the planes though; it will be used to replace the standard hoist system in elevators, making the transport process faster.

Increased Electrical Output - With an increased demand due to the 10 million feet of installed electrical cable and 4 million feet of installed fiber optic cable, the U.S.S. Gerald R. Ford will use new nuclear reactor designs to produce 250 percent more power in order to keep up with the energy demands of the carrier, and still allow for more to be incorporated into the ship as time goes on. Not to be an energy guzzler, the Ford will have energy efficient T-8 lightbulbs (producing more light and lasting 100 percent longer), an increased air conditioning system which will reduce heat and "hot spaces" in key areas that would typically require special manning, and the biggest kicker is that the entire ship was first constructed in a digital format in order to reduce initial workup costs and used programs to determine the most efficient route to place wires and transport energy.

Reduced Manning - In order to reduce the amount of people needed to run the ship, advancements have been made with regards to reducing moving parts such as levers and valves. By cutting out nearly a third of these parts, maintenance costs are reduced and areas that need to be manned are also reduced. This saves the U.S. Navy an estimated \$4 billion in costs over the estimated 50 year lifespan of the aircraft carrier. The ship also possesses a flexible infrastructure that allows it to quickly adapt interior spaces for new missions, preventing the need for multiple ships to do one job. Now one carrier can complete multiple jobs with just a quick change of interior design.

Larger Flight Deck - In order to conduct more flight missions (aka sorties) the flight deck has been redesigned to be more accommodating. The "island" (the tall tower structure that functions as the command center) has been reduced in size and moved further back to allow for more space. The lighter software-controlled advanced arresting gear (AAG) system increases the ability to recover smaller aircraft. The U.S.S. Ford is able to generate 25 percent more sorties per day than Nimitz-Class carriers, which allows for more missions to be accomplished and more force presence to be demonstrated across the world.

All of these improvements culminate to create a greater well-rounded naval ship and contribute to America's ability to protect the ocean and the interest of our allies. This step forward in ship advancement contributes to future conflict prevention through the promise of a superior force. If you would like more information please see the cited sources below.

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Los Angeles Times Festival of Books

This is a story about our veterans and their stories ... their published stories that is. At the LA Times Festival of Books, members of the Veterans Success Center Writing Group, our very own veteran writers, presented their published and printed books. There were a total of 13 members of the Writers' Group attending the festival, along with our dedicated VSC staff members Jaime Espinoza and Kenneth Jacobs.

The LA Festival of Books is a free public event considered to be the largest literary fair in the United States that celebrates writing as a profession and as an art form. Authors from all over the nation come to participate in this annual event in order to promote and sell their literary works. The public comes to hear from their favorite authors, and to check out new and budding authors who have much to offer the literary world. Books aren't the only thing at the festival though. Food, with many different

culinary styles available for purchase, and cultural performances that showcased the skills of different groups were also featured. Members of the celebrity community was there as well including: Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Margaret Atwood, Tim Wu, and Michael Tolkin.

If you would like to participate in this event next year, or if you want to participate in the Veterans Writers Group, come down to the VSC and speak with either Jaime Espinoza or Agustin Ramirez about what steps you can take to become a member of this friendly, hard-working group of writers.



Dr. John D. Reitzel

I am an assistant professor of criminal justice, I served in the United States Navy from August 17, 1987 to August 17, 1992, and was honorably discharged on December 20, 1992.

I was a personnelman third class (E4). My job was to handle enlisted sailors personnel records. I first attended boot camp at Recruit Training Center Orlando, FL, in 1987. My first ship was the U.S.S. Belknap, which was the Sixth Fleet Flagship, homeported in Gaeta, Italy. I spent two years aboard her, visiting at least 15 different countries and had the chance to be pictured with President George H. W. Bush during the Malta Summit in 1989. After leaving the Belknap, I did a stint on the U.S.S. Fulton (AS-11) a submarine and stayed aboard her until decommissioning in 1991.

Well, I'd say firstly I learned a strong work ethic and how to take orders and how that others might be right and know a lot more than I do. I write this because for a short period early in my service, I butted heads with a new chief (E-8) who radically changed the way my office operated. But it wasn't until he punished me by keeping me aboard the ship, forcing me to work longer each day than others, that I realized he was trying to teach me a lesson, but how he needed to get through to me first (I was resistant to change!). When I realized it and worked, it was like a light popped on in my head and my resistance turned into learning, and my chief became someone I greatly respected and admired. But most of all, I learned the value of serving something bigger than myself.

Being a veteran has paid dividends throughout my life. Not only has the VA helped when I needed healthcare and to get a home loan, but in many little ways in that people respond positively in finding out that I served. And it helps me understand students who are considering serving upon graduation (or already are serving), and how to guide them in a positive direction. I try to get them to "seize the moment" in their service. To dedicate themselves to serving others but also to self-improvement and to being a good person. Life can be tough and people sometimes mean, but we can determine our own attitude and how we treat others.

I have long kept abreast of veterans issues and would gladly serve as a mentor, or simply as someone to talk to as vets navigate their college careers. I would absolutely love to be a resource that people can come to and speak with.



Armed Forces & Memorial Day

In honor of those who are serving on deployment and those who gave their life in service the Veterans Success Center put on two events this May. One was the Yellow Ribbon campaign which took place in congruence with the Armed Forces Day celebration on May 17th. All members of the community were encouraged to come out and decorate a tree with 100 yellow ribbons and other decorations to show their appreciation for soldiers serving overseas on deployment. In honor of Armed Forces Day, yellow ribbons were displayed on the trees throughout the CSUSB campus to bring awareness to our community of the tens of thousands of California soldiers, marines, sailors, and airmen that are currently deployed and although, they have left us and have been sent to places far away, we will think of them and wait for them until they return home.

An acknowledgement ceremony was held on the CSUSB Campus at 11:30 AM. Members of the Armed Forces, past and present, spoke about the history of Armed Forces day and said some words regarding the day's events. The ceremony included a presentation of The Colors from local Air Force and Army ROTC cadets (Detachment 002 and Coyote Battalion, respectively). Not to be left out our Palm Desert Center (PDC) Campus hosted their own Armed Forces day on May 18th, to celebrate with our community on that campus.

Also not to be forgotten is the VSC celebration of Memorial Day on May 24th at 9:00 AM. Although traditionally the holiday falls on the last Monday of May, the VSC celebration occurred on Wednesday at the CSUSB campus and on May 25th at the PDC Campus early to celebrate properly. Memorial day stands as a tribute to those service members who died in the line of duty and serves as a sullen day for us all to remember those that paid the ultimate sacrifice. We were grateful to honoring them with you the community at our celebration events.



Overview of Veterans Stole Graduation Ceremony



2d Lt Nakanishi presenting a graduation stole at the Winter Stole Ceremony 2016

The Veterans Success Center (VSC) Stole Graduation Ceremony is right around the corner and we would love to have all members of the military community involved. The stole ceremony is meant to showcase the different military members of CSUSB who have succeeded in achieving their degree for this academic year, whether it be an undergraduate degree or graduate degree. The evening is full of food, friendship, comradery, and approbation as those members of the military community are recognized and presented with graduation stoles, which can be worn with the traditional cap and gown at the primary graduation ceremony.

Although it is obvious to recognize our members of the veteran community (everyone who has their DD-214, we also recognize members of active duty as well as reservist. A historically under-recognized portion of our ceremony includes members of the ROTC programs. Since these students are about to enter into their respective branches they qualify under the criteria set by the VSC (so long as they are a contracted member of the ROTC program prior to their commissioning date).

In addition to the stole ceremony, there are also members who qualify to become members of the SALUTE Honor Society. SALUTE is the only national honor society recognizing and honoring the service and the scholastic achievements of students veterans. The society has four tier levels to give further credit to those achieving high scholastic achievement, a minimum of a 3.0 cumulative GPA is required for entry into the society. They also have a secondary program for students earning a graduate degree. If you qualify contact the VSC in order to apply for this lifetime membership and we will ensure that you receive the complementary honor cords that you can wear as part of your cap and gown attire.



The ceremony is scheduled for June 9, 2017 Friday between 5-7 p.m. The dress code is business casual. Attendance is by RSVP only, in order to reserve your spot log into Org Sync and complete the online form or speak with one of the employees at the Veterans Success Center.



May Month Highlights!



Jordan Gallinger, USMC Veteran
Major: Accounting & Public Admin

To me, the people are what made my experience at the VSC unique. Much like the military, college is composed of people who have made the personal choice to be here. Being surrounded by student veterans only amplifies this experience.

A big selling point in choosing CSUSB was the proximity to my home. I am originally from Barstow, Calif., and having a good support system nearby is very helpful when it comes to

student success.

What I love most about the VSC is the family-like atmosphere. People come and go, but each successive generation that passes through is acclimated by the time the old group leaves. It allows the center to constantly grow and change, but still feel the same.

To me, success is easy to measure. If you can go to sleep at the end of the day knowing you've worked your hardest to improve not only yourself, but your fellow man, then you have been successful. It is this constant pursuit of both that I will always use to measure myself.

I actually came to CSUSB with the specific goal of obtaining an accounting degree and I have stuck with it to the very end! I don't think my vision has changed, but I have always been of the mindset that it needs to be very malleable to seize any opportunities that might come your way.

Taylor Yost, Air Force ROTC

Major: History



My experience at the Veteran's Success Center has been unique, due in part to my position as a history major, which ensures that I always have a plethora of documents to analyze and connect into a larger narrative. As a result, the resources provided by the VSC are vital to the pursuit of my studies.

Primarily, I chose Cal State, San Bernardino to pursue my degree because of the Air Force ROTC program offered on campus.

What most attracts me to the VSC is the staff. Always striving to work in the best interests of the center's patrons, the VSC staff represent with integrity the currently serving military members, veterans, dependents, and cadets whom they serve. The newest addition to the VSC staff, Deborah, is always at the front desk with a warm and inviting smile. Out of all of the services CSUSB offers, the VSC is truly among the finest.

Q: Success can be measured in a multitude of ways, how did you measure your success and how will you measure your success for the future?

In my opinion, success can only be measured by the impact that I have had on others. Compared to the multitude of ways that success can be measured, the effect that a person has on the lives of others is the definitive method for which this endeavor should be accomplished. As a prospective educator, this is the standard to which I will evaluate my personal success: Have I truly made a difference in the lives of those around me? So far, I have stayed true to this standard. My role within the AFROTC has provided me the opportunity to share with my fellow peers the knowledge and experience that I have gained.

Norman Gainer, Navy Veteran
Major: Business Administration



Interacting deeply with other veterans and peers, contributing our strengths, tackling challenges together, and applying new skills to different scenarios we encounter as students.

I chose CSUSB because of its long standing reputation for academic success and 18th best college for veterans in the United States.

What I love about the VSC is the friendly staff who always helps and always willing to listen if somebody needed them.

I don't measure success by my accomplishments rather by the opposition that I have encountered, and the courage required for me to maintain my fortitude through the struggle. In the future I will measure success by the strength of my desire and how I handle disappointment and victory along the way.

My goal from the start has been to: complete my education, to pursue knowledge, and secure a career instead of just a job, so that I may leave a legacy for my children. I have stayed dedicated to these goals while managing to have success in both my personal and professional life.



Angie Presley, USMC Veteran

Major: Biology, Nursing

I always feel welcome at the Veterans' Success Center. It's a safe place on campus where I can retreat from the rest of the student population, get some coffee or get some homework done. I chose CSUSB because is a great school for the cost. It is also conveniently located close to my workplace.

Personally one of the things I love at the VSC is the free coffee. As a medical student that has been a life-saver on multiple occasions.

How do I measure success? I'm a highly productive person. I support myself (have since I was 18), am a full-time nursing student, and work a full-time job at a local hospital. All my friends always tell me that I'm doing great and that they are proud of me for everything that I do, but honestly, I don't feel like all these things that I do necessarily make me successful.

I think that the key ingredient to having a successful life is to just enjoy it. I try and take moments in my day to stop and appreciate the simple pleasures that I encounter each day. It could be a hot shower after a long shift, a warm hug from a friend or the shiny flicker of a hummingbird's wing as it flutters past me on my way to class. The point is, I like to remember to "stop and smell the roses" per se, and this makes me feel good to be alive every day. Ultimately I see success as subjective; that is, it is whatever we decide it should be. To me, if I can feel happy and loved (which I am), then I'm definitely winning.