UCI Veteran Services is dedicated to providing a welcoming environment for veterans, reservists, and their dependents. We provide assistance in obtaining the educational benefits to which they are entitled. The center is responsible for submitting entitlement requests for new and continuing students to the VA, answering any questions veteran students or dependents may have concerning their educational benefits and providing resources and programs to assist veterans in navigating their transition to civilian and student life.
We had a very eventful week in honors of Veterans Day! We began our celebration on Tuesday November 12, 2013, when our UCI Veteran Services team partnered up with the Veterans Professional Fraternity to host a flag ceremony at UCI. Students, faculty, and staff were invited to listen to guest speakers such as Chad Franks, A Field Representative for Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez; Herb Killackey, Vice Provost of Academic Personnel; Pastor Frank Orzio from the Wounded Warrior Ministry; Paul Henisey, UCI’s Chief of Police, and Brad Padgett, president of the Veterans Professional Fraternity. The event started with the UCI ROTC Color Guard presenting the colors followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and the National Anthem sung by UCI student Paloma Ibarra. After a brief history of Veterans Day and the official welcome to the ceremony given by our very own Billy Lesher and Adelí Durón, the audience was treated to amazing speeches by our guest speakers such as Pastor Frank, a Vietnam veteran and purple heart recipient who spoke about the price of freedom and Keynote Speaker Professor Killackey who recalled of his own time in service and his transition to college.

Keeping the momentum, on Thursday November 14, the VSC hosted a free screening of "The Welcome" at the UCI Student Center. "The Welcome" is a documentary that offers a fiercely intimate view of life after war: the fear, anger and isolation of post-traumatic stress that often affects vets and family members alike. The film joined veterans and their families on a five day healing retreat where the audience witnessed how the ruins of war can be transformed into the beauty of poetry. By the end of the film, the audience began to understand that they are all vital pieces in helping veterans find their place back home.
**Announcements**

*Survival Bracelets Workshops*

Going camping? Need a quick belt? Need help making a fire? Tying down items? Survival bracelets are a must for tactical survival. Learn how to make survival bracelets with our Veteran Services Team! Supplies are free.

**Wednesday, February 5th & Tuesday February 11th**

12:00 PM – 2:00 PM

UCI Veteran Service Center

Student Center: Floor 3, Room 304

*Want a bracelet, but can’t come to our workshops? Premade bracelets are available at the VSC for $3*

**Google Hangout with Janet Napolitano**

Join the first in a series of Web chats that UC President Janet Napolitano plans to hold with students, faculty and staff as she engages with the UC community. Napolitano wants to let students know what her priorities are and to hear directly from them about their concerns, hopes and challenges. Since last September, Napolitano has visited every UC campus to listen and learn from students and employees of the university. She sees this Web chat, and the others that will follow, as ideal platform for an ongoing conversation with the UC community.


**Tuesday, January 28th**

2:00 PM-3:00 PM

Chat Address: ucal.us/hangoutwithjanet

*Research Study on OEF/OIF Veterans*

Veterans needed for study on OEF/OIF veterans with a spouse/partner. Must be in a committed relationship. Study will involve in-person interview and questionnaire, evaluating family readjustment of male and female veterans post-deployment. The interviews are conducted anonymously and confidentially.

**$25 Compensation per participant ($50 per pair)**

Please direct all questions to Kelly Blake by email at kblake1@uci.edu
Our Veteran Services Team has been working hard all quarter to plan engaging events for you all! Be on the lookout!

Keep an eye out for our Winter Quarter events:

- Our VSC Survey: Let us know what you’re thinking!
- Roundtable Discussions with all new guest speakers for Winter Quarter
- Tabling on Ring Road
- The 2014 Sochi Olympics & March Madness viewing at the VSC

ASCUCI VETERANS LIAISON

Remember, for any Veterans related issues on campus, please contact your friendly Veterans Liaison that represents you in ASUCI.

ASUCI Veterans Liaison- Matthew Hoeffner
Contact Info: mhoeffne@uci.edu
ASUCI phone number-(949)824-5547
Meet Our Staff!

Name: Adelí Durón
Title: Director
Motto: “Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”

Name: Shannen Allado
Major: Public Health Policy
Motto: “Be who you are and say what you feel because those who mind don’t matter, and those who matter don’t mind.”

Name: Melissa Cintron
Major: Political Science/Int. Studies
Motto: “Be brave and do what you must. You’ll get to where you want to be soon enough”

Name: Yani Chu
Year: Senior
Major: Psychology
Cool Fact: “I was a veteran spotlight in the summer 2012 edition of Vet Quarterly.”

Name: Billy Lesher
Major: Business Information Management
Motto: “A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.”

Name: Matthew Hoeffner
Grade: Senior
Major: Criminology Law & Society/History
Motto: “Don’t judge a book by its cover.”

Name: Zed Santiago
Major: Global Cultures/Asian American Studies
Cool Fact: “I was born on an air force base in the Philippines.”

Name: Paul Lee
Major: Mechanical Engineering
Motto: “I never sleep because sleep is the cousin of death.”

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