The Veterans Service Center held its annual Veterans Day ceremony this year on November 10th. Veterans, students and UCI staff were invited to listen to guest speakers such as Pastor Frank Orozco and Alyssa Guerrero, who is a field representative for Congresswoman Loretta Sanchez. The colors for the ceremony were presented by the UCI Army ROTC, with the singing of the National Anthem performed by current UCI student and Navy veteran Gabrielle Cobos. The colors were presented by the UCI Army ROTC. The event was hosted by current UCI student and Navy veteran, Harwood Garland. A special thanks to both these student veterans for helping out with the event. A special thanks to the Associate Dean of Students, Sherwynn Umali, for giving the opening and closing words of the ceremony. The ceremony itself went off without a hitch, and a good number of students paused to observe it. Each speaker was presented with a UCI spirit bag at the end of the ceremony. After the ceremony concluded, guest and speakers alike were invited to the reception over at the Hillside Lounge. Towards the end of the reception an opportunity drawing was conducted, ensuring that everyone who entered went home with something. Prizes ranged from bags of Starbucks coffee, to stuffed animals of everyone’s favorite mascot, Peter the Anteater. The Veteran Services Center would like to thank everyone who came out for their support.
To kick off the 2015-2016 school year, the Veterans Service Center hosted a Welcome Week panel at the beginning of the Fall 2015 quarter. Representatives from various organizations such as The Good Will, Habitat For Humanity, UCI Army ROTC, and the UCI Counseling Center were present at the panel. Veteran students were invited to listen these speakers explain the benefits their organization has available to them. After the presentations by the speakers, a panel of veteran students took the floor. One-by-one, each student gave a brief history about their military service, followed by the path that led them to attend UC Irvine. The students then answered any questions from fellow students or guests in the audience. The following day after the Welcome Week panel, a Welcome Week reception was hosted inside of the Veterans Service Center office. Staff, speakers from the previous day, and students all showed up to the event. Both the panel and reception were a success, and a great start to the 2015-2016 school year. The Veteran Service Center would like to send a special thanks to the speakers who came out, the veteran student panel, and all students and staff who showed up to both the panel and reception, we greatly appreciate your support!
In celebration of UCI’s 50th anniversary, the school launched the Fifty for 50 Campaign. The goal of the campaign is to have members of UCI give back to the community by accumulating 50,000 volunteer hours throughout the school year. The Veteran Service Center here at UCI is doing its part by collecting cards to be sent this holiday season to service members currently overseas. Students and staff alike have expressed their gratitude and appreciation through these cards. To date, the Veteran Service Center has collected 741 cards. It is a big accomplishment, and we could not have done it without the help and support of our fellow UCI community members.

Our booth set up at the ZotHealth Fair with the cards set out for people to write their thanks to the Veterans.

The collection of the cards to be sent overseas this holiday. Thank you to everyone who took the time to fill one of these cards out.
The Veteran Service Center would like to start a new tradition by naming one hard working veteran student the Veteran of the Quarter. Our first winner of this award is Harwood Garland. Harwood served as a Navy Corpsman. During his time in the Navy he served on two deployments, one to Iraq with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marines, and the other aboard the USS Kearsarge. Harwood is in his final year here at UCI, where he hopes to earn his BA in anthropology. Harwood is currently in the process of applying to medical schools, which he hopes to get into one shortly after his graduation here from UCI. Harwood has volunteered many hours for the Veteran Service Center this quarter, from tabling out on ring road, to hosting the Veterans Day ceremony. He has also worked along side with the director of veteran service, Adeli Durón, in launching the new Veterans in Higher Education course that will take place this winter quarter. Harwood has gone above and beyond for the Veterans Services Center, and for that, we would like to recognize him as our first Veteran of the Quarter.

Upcoming Events:
Survival Bracelet Workshop, co-sponsored by the LGBT Resource Center.
Time TBA
Veterans in Higher Education Course
Winter 2016, Wednesdays, 12:30 - 13:20
2 Units

UCI Veteran Services Center