

# VET QUARTERLY



(Above) Keynote speaker Peter James Gravett, Secretary of CA Dept. of Veteran Affairs, accepting his gift of UCI gear from UCI Veteran Services Coordinator Adeli Duron.

G304 STUDENT CENTER, IRVINE CA  
 PHONE: (949) 824-3500 FAX: (949) 824-7971  
 VETERAN@UCI.EDU  
 WWW.VETERAN.UCI.EDU

## Spring 2012

### In this Issue:

Veteran Appreciation Dinner	2
Workshops	3
Veteran Spotlights	4

## OUR MISSION

UCI Veteran Services provides Veterans, Reservists, and their dependents assistance in obtaining the educational benefits to which they are entitled. The office is responsible for submitting entitlement requests for new and continuing students to the V.A., answering any questions veteran students or dependents may have concerning their educational benefits and providing resources to assist veterans in navigating their transition to civilian and student life.

# Veteran Appreciation Dinner



The third annual Veteran Appreciation Dinner held on May 9, 2012 was a huge success. The night opened with a casual reception of mingling and appetizers while the UCI Women's A cappella group, Claire de Lun, sang in the background. Tickets were handed out to guests for the opportunity drawing table which included great items from donors including: Veggie Grill, The Los Angeles Dodgers, Mission San Juan Capistrano, the cast of Sons of Anarchy, Professional Jockey Joe Talamo, Universal Studios and many more.

The event initiated with the Presentation of the Colors by the Joint Color guard of ROTC students at USC along with music from the 1st Marine Division Brass Quintet. UCI student Kristi Barsam beautifully sang the National Anthem followed by the posting of the colors by the Joint Color guard. Adelí Durón, UCI Veteran Services Coordinator, then spoke about benefits that UCI Veteran Services offers and awarded Peter Huynh and Nordin Uribe the "Military Bridging the Gap" Scholarship.

Alpha Psi Omega, UCI's Veteran Fraternity, then played a short film about their activities and charity work throughout the year. A highlight of the night was the performance of service songs by the 1st Marine Division Brass Quintet and members of each branch stood while their song played. Gladys Rojas '12 then led the presentation of the POW/MIA table stating, "Today we have some honored guests who cannot be with us. The POW /MIA table is reserved to honor our missing loved ones and comrades in arms."

After dinner, Assistant Vice Chancellor, Rameen Talesh introduced Vice Chancellor, Thomas Paraham who then introduced our special guest and keynote speaker Peter James Gravett, Secretary of CA Dept. of Veteran Affairs. Gravett discussed California's four pillars for assisting veterans: Housing, Employment, Healthcare and Education.

Graduating Veterans were then recognized and Military Student of the Year was awarded to Alexander Louie and Veteran Student of the Year was awarded to Jack Williams. Opportunity drawing winners were announced and Vice Chancellor Parham concluded the evening by challenging guests to make a monetary donation towards the "Military Bridging the Gap" Scholarship Program.





## Spring Workshops

### South Orange County Vet Center

#### "Veterans helping Veterans"

Benefits include: individual counseling, group counseling, marital/family counseling, couples counseling, crisis intervention, women veteran issues, alcohol/chemical dependency referrals, information for discharge upgrading, employment assistant and community outreach

### Goodwill Orange County

"Last year, we placed 140,669 people in jobs in their communities."

Benefits include: Employment, Job Readiness, Family Services, Housing, Food, Training to start your own Business



Our office is a great study spot and fun hang out area for veterans!



---

# VETERAN SPOTLIGHTS



**ALEX LOUIE & JACK WILLIAMS**

Alex Louie enlisted in the California State Military Reserve in 2008; California's State Defense Force and a component of the California Army Guard and served in several positions as a Traditional Reservist as a Medical Clerk, 40<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division Support Brigade (Medical). His most recent State Active Duty Assignment includes being adjunct U.S. Army Combat Lifesaver Instructor & Security Forces Soldier at Joint Forces Training Base, Los Alamitos assigned to the Installation Support Command. In 2011 he was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. He is graduating with a Bachelor's of Science in Nursing. His future plans include becoming a Public Health and Search & Rescue Tactical Nurse. One of his many awards includes, "Military Student of the Year," by UCI Veteran Services.

Jack Williams is a former US Marine. He served from 2006 to 2010 in the infantry field. After he exited the service in 2010, he attended Saddleback College and transferred to UCI in winter 2011. He will graduate with a history degree and an emphasis on the Middle East. Jack is one of two veteran liaisons to the ASUCI President, the delegate to the Student Fee Advisory Committee, and the founder of Alpha Psi Omega at UC Irvine. Jack has been nominated to join Phi Beta Kappa, was selected for the Chancellor's Award for Distinction, and has a 4.0 GPA. Jack was awarded *Veteran Student of Year* by UCI Veteran Services. Jack will attend UCI Law starting this fall.