

Spring 2010

## Spartan Salute, Vol. II

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# *The Spartan Salute*

*Formerly The Spartan Soldier*

*Newsletter of San Jose State University's Burdick Military History Project;  
Veterans/Military Students Task Force; and Veteran Students Organization.  
Number 2 Spring 2010*

## **VETERAN STUDENTS FEATURED IN SPARTAN DAILY**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, San Jose State's student newspaper, *The Spartan Daily* featured an extensive article entitled "U.S. Veterans Transition to College Life at SJSU." The feature, written by Hannah Keirns, included interviews and a large color picture of the Veteran Students Organization president Mark Hannah, in his Marine dress uniform. An on-line version of the article can found at <http://www.news.sjsu.edu/16550/u-s-veterans-transition-to-college-life-at-sjsu>

## **VETERANS/MILITARY STUDENT TASK FORCE TO MAKE FINAL REPORT**

In 2009 outgoing SJSU President Jon Whitmore established the Task Force on Veterans and Military Veterans. The Task Force, which held its last meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>, will submit its final report over the summer to interim president Don Kassing. The Task Force's top recommendation is the creation of a permanent committee or entity to represent the interests of veterans and military students on campus. The task force will make other recommendations on how to help veterans and military students at SJSU, as well as goals for the university's Diversity Master Plan, as veterans and military students have been categorized as a "diverse group."

## **BURDICK MILITARY HISTORY PROJECT MOVING**

On June 30th History Department's Burdick Military History Project, presently located in Industrial Studies 219C, will move to a new location. The new space is on the same floor, Industrial Studies 239, and across the hall from the AFROTC offices. The Project plans to dedicate a portion of the new room as a lounge for veterans.

## **AID TO VETS OFFERED**

Dr. Richard Francisco of Counseling Services has established "Spartan Roll Call" for all SJSU veterans. The group provides peer-to-peer networking, consultation and collaboration. It is designed to assist student veterans in navigating the academic maze and provide a safe and confidential place for student veterans to discuss any issue of concern. For more information contact Dr. Francisco at (408) 924-5910

## **VETERAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION NOW ONLINE**

The Veteran Students Organization has two websites, where information about activities can be found. One is at <https://secureapp.netclubmgr.com/ICS/CM/V2/Student/Club.aspx?uid=sjsunv&clubId=13058> and the other at <http://sjsu-vso.ning.com/>

## **SURVEY MADE OF VETERANS AND MILITARY STUDENTS**

Dr. Anne Demers of the Health Science Department reports that she has completed a survey of veterans and military students attending San Jose State University. Eighty-two individuals responded to the survey, representing all five branches of the military. Of those surveyed, fifteen percent were females and more than half were veterans of the war in Iraq and/or Afghanistan.

The data from the survey will be analyzed this summer and results presented to the university community in the fall. Dr. Demers thanks each of those who participated in the survey this spring to help in better understanding their experiences as veterans on SJSU's campus.

## **VETERANS ENCOURAGED TO APPLY FOR \$2500 SANTIAGO MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS**

Veterans and military students are invited to apply for the Lt. José Santiago Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship was established by family, friends and colleagues in the honor Lt. José Santiago, a veteran and a retired Lieutenant with Santa Clara County Department of Corrections, in order to help a college bound students fulfill their educational goals. The amount of each scholarship is \$2,500.00 and this year \$10,000 will be awarded. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.5, and show a preference for a career in Public Service or Community Service.

For more information contact the Lieutenant José A. Santiago Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 546, San Jose, California 95106-0546, telephone (408) 655-4737

## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY SALUTE TO WOMEN VETERANS**

San Jose State University participated "A Salute To Women Veterans" held Thursday, March 25, 2010 at the Santa Clara County Government Center. Jonathan Roth and Jennifer Anderson staffed a table with literature on the Veteran/Military Student Task Force, the Burdick Military History Project and material for veterans wishing to study at San Jose State.

## **FRESNO ARMY RECRUITING BATTALION SPONSORS MEMORIAL AT SJSU**

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Army Recruiting Battalion, Fresno sponsored a "Days of Remembrance" memorial at the San Jose State campus. LTC Rich A. Rivera and MSG Rae Batiste spoke on the army's commitment to diversity and outreach to the community. Dr. Jonathan Roth gave a short talk on the military's role in assisting victims of the Holocaust and punishing perpetrators. SJSU President Whitmore attended, as did Provost Gerry Selter, Dean Karl Toepfer, LTC Rick Moxley (AFROTC) and LTC Shawn Cowley (Army ROTC) and other faculty, students and staff.

## **SVA NORCAL SUMMIT HELD**

The Student Veterans of America held its Northern California Summit at DeVry University - Sacramento Campus in Elk Grove on the 12th of June. The summit featured leadership members from the SVA, as well as individuals from the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

## **2010 BURDICK SYMPOSIUM ON WRITING MILITARY HISTORY**

On Saturday April 10<sup>th</sup>, the San Jose State History Department and the Burdick Military History Project presented the 2010 Burdick Military History Symposium. This year's symposium was entitled "Writing Military History: A Panel Discussion" and was held from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the Engineering Auditorium, on the San Jose State University campus.

The panelists (in alphabetical order) were: Michael Green; Hans Halberstadt; Dwight R. Messimer, and Amy Goodpaster Strebe. The moderator was Jonathan P. Roth. The panel discussed many aspects of writing military history, including the problem of the reliability of veterans' stories and the future of print publishing. Copies of a DVD of the proceedings can be obtained through the Burdick Project.

### **FACULTY NOTES**

Dr. Annabel Prins, Associate Professor in the Psychology Department, is a clinical psychologist with over 15 years of experience working with veterans. She is currently involved with the dissemination and evaluation of a congressionally mandated web-site for returning veterans called [afterdeployment.org](http://afterdeployment.org). Dr. Prins is a member of the Veterans/Military Student Task Force.

Dr. Jennifer Anderson, Lecturer in the Anthropology Department, has been working on a project to help veterans with combat traumas return to the university, and works to assist veterans. She is also a member of the Veterans/Military Students Task Force.

## **ALUMNUS EKK PHIXITXONH SERVES STANFORD VETERANS**

Ekk Phixitxonh, a research assistant at the Stanford University School of Medicine, provides outreach to veterans through the Stanford Vets Connect program. Mr. Phixitxonh served in the USAF Reserve as a medical tech for eleven years, and in 2003, deployed to Iraq. Upon his return to the Bay Area, Ekk earned a criminal justice administration degree from SJSU. The Stanford Vets Connect program serves OEF, OIF and Post-9/11 service members. Their clinic provides free and confidential psychological therapy for up to six months and welcomes all military branches, regardless of duty status or discharge type.

## **PROJECT HIRED COMES TO SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY**

Since 1978, Project HIRED has been assisting adults with disabilities to gain and sustain employment through partnerships with business and the community. In 2009 they began their Wounded Warrior Workforce Program, designed to specifically help injured veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and other disabled veterans transition back into the civilian workplace.

The Wounded Warrior Workforce Program is a portfolio of people, resources, and services that specifically supports disabled veterans as they evolve their military training, resourcefulness, and resilience into a successful civilian career. All of their services are free of charge. Call 408-557-0880 or visit their website [www.projecthired.org](http://www.projecthired.org) for more details.

**ALUMNA NANCY BILLINGS  
WORKS WITH SERVICES FOR  
BRAIN INJURY**

Services For Brain Injury (SBI) offers a unique continuum of programs and services for civilians and veterans of all ages. SBI assists at all stages of recovery through rehabilitation services provided by certified, experienced professionals. SBI provides support for families and caregivers and community awareness about prevention and treatment of brain injuries.

SBI is certified by CARF (for quality in human services) and is the only program of its kind in California. For information contact Nancy Billings at Services For Brain Injury, 60 Daggett Drive, San Jose, CA 95134, 408-434-2277, <http://sbicare.org>

**GENERAL LEONARD WALLACH,  
SJSU ALUMNUS, DIES AT 82**

Leonard Wallach, a graduate of San Jose State College, and a Brigadier General in the U.S. Army reserves, died on May 30<sup>th</sup> in Los Angeles. BG Wallach was a varsity swimmer and gymnast for the Spartans. He enlisted as a private during World War II, was commissioned through OCS, serving in the Pacific Theater. He also served in Korea and Vietnam, and did 43 years on active and reserve duty. He swam for the US at the 1948 Olympics and was a coach in the 1964 games. He also served as director of the San Francisco Bay to Breakers Race. He will be buried at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Honolulu, Hawaii.

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