

VENTURA COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT
CHANCELLOR'S NEWSLETTER

Veterans Edition



VETERANS EDITION | NOVEMBER 2016



VCCCD Chancellor
 Dr. Bernard Luskin



VCCCD Board of Trustees
 (L-R) Chair Larry Kennedy, Vice Chair Bernardo Perez,
 Trustee Stephen Blum, Trustee Dianne McKay, and
 Trustee Arturo Hernández.

Chancellor's Perspective

As a Veteran's Day message, I thought to share with you that last month I had the privilege of sharing my experience in the United States Navy aboard the USS Norton Sound AVM-1 (sentimentally known as "The Galloping Ghost of the Hueneme Coast") with fellow seamen and individuals from Port Hueneme during a special presentation at the Port Hueneme Historical Society Museum.

Declassified after many years, we have learned that the world's first nuclear missile test at sea was conducted on the USS Norton Sound AVM-1 in 1958. I served as the Captain's Yeoman during Operation Argus – when three high-altitude nuclear tests shots were fired from the South Atlantic Ocean north to test Nicholas Christofilos' theory that "proved that high-altitude detonations would create a radiation belt in the upper regions of the earth's atmosphere."¹ I was responsible for damage control communication during battle stations. This required me to transmit the Captain's orders during the operation. We understand now that those test shots are still considered one of the greatest nuclear experiments ever conducted and I was on the bridge of the ship when those missiles were fired. My presentation at the Port Hueneme Historical Society Museum was the first time that I shared this story of myself as a naïve young seaman.

During my military service, a young officer advised and urged me to get an education. At age 18 and a first generation American,

I took his advice and enrolled at Ventura College. His guidance stimulated my quest for higher education and for 15 consecutive years, I did not miss one semester. I cannot tell you my story of education and career success, however, without explaining the history of the importance of the GI Bill and the birth of the community college. These events shaped much of the United States as we know it today.

Before the end of World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, also known as the GI Bill. It granted service men and women the opportunity to pursue an education. The act made provisions for monthly living allowances, access to VA backed loans and provided reasonable unemployment compensation. The GI Bill created a ladder to class mobility and gave birth to the American middle class.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman established the Truman Commission that produced an education report that pointed the way to the future. The report stated there should be a college within driving distance of every American. The community college was labeled and this initiative shaped post WWII America.

As a result, the Ventura County Community College District now has three community colleges. They are Moorpark College, Oxnard College and Ventura College, i.e., a college within driving distance of every citizen in

continued on page 6

IN THIS ISSUE

Chancellor's Perspective	1
Board of Trustees	2
Veterans Resource Centers	3
Student Veterans	4, 5
Employee Veterans	6, 7
Community Resources	8
Who's Doing What	9
Diversity Dashboard	10
Shift Happens	12

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Larry Kennedy connects military service to role as Board Chair and CCLC Veterans Caucus Co-Chair

Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustee Chair Larry Kennedy, a Vietnam-era U.S. Navy Disabled Veteran, served as Petty Officer Second Class (equivalent to a Sergeant) in the United States Navy from January 1967 to December 1970, prior to his 33-year career as an educator at Oxnard College. In honor of Veterans Day, he shared insights to his naval career and connected his military service to his current role as VCCCD Board of Trustees Chair and Community College League of California Veterans Caucus Co-Chair.

Chair Kennedy's leadership experience began as a U.S. Navy Aviation Administrationman. Kennedy managed airport operations and airplane efficiencies – collecting data and determining ways to improve failing airplane parts. "I was one of the original Navy Air Data Analysts," stated Kennedy.

"I also trained pilots on survival strategies in case they were captured as prisoners of war and how to escape if they were chased by insurgents. This is where my interest in teaching and training began," he added.



Larry Kennedy
Board Chair

"I also trained pilots on survival strategies in case they were captured as prisoners of war and how to escape if they were chased by insurgents. This is where my interest in teaching and training began"

Kennedy advanced in his training career and became one of the official trainers with the Navy's management department for airports until he began his teaching career at Oxnard College in 1979. He taught in the Business Department until he was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2012. "I would still be teaching at Oxnard College if my peers had not encouraged me to run for office," said Kennedy. "Even with serving on 15 corporate Board of Directors, including the Workforce Investment Board and the American Red Cross, I had not thought about running for the Board of Trustees until approached."

Kennedy sees the connection between his previous management experience and his current role as Trustee. As Chair, his primary responsibility is to ensure the Board runs smoothly and that he and the other trustees support the needs of the district and

the Chancellor in his role as CEO over operations. "I have to give a lot of credit to my Vice Chair Bernardo Perez and the entire Board of Trustees. We work cohesively to look at the programs offered at each college to determine what we can do outside of operations to leverage resources to meet the needs of students," he said. We work with organizations such as the Community College League of California to develop partnerships that help us better serve the students and the community. CCLC is a state-wide nonprofit public benefit corporation whose voluntary membership consists of 72 local community college districts in California. Its mission is to strengthen California's Community Colleges through advocacy, leadership development, and district services.

Chair Kennedy is Co-Chair of the CCLC Veterans Caucus, along with Dr. Jannett Jackson, Chancellor, Chabot Las Positas Community College District, Dublin, CA. The mission of the CCLC Veterans Caucus is to work in affiliation with the Community College League of California and other



Larry Kennedy
Petty Officer Second Class

appropriate veterans organizations to provide a strong voice and representation within the league, to promote the welfare of veterans through effective legislation, and to encourage veterans to participate fully at all levels of policy development and public service.

"I look forward to working with Dr. Jackson to effect change at the state level. That includes encouraging the state chancellor's office to designate funding for veterans for counselling and to get legislation passed that will mandate veterans centers on all college campuses," stated Kennedy. "This will institutionalize the care of veterans in higher education."

"Working with dedicated trustees such as Bernardo Perez, Stephen Blum, Art Hernández, and Dianne McKay is one of the highlights of my life. We have a great board of trustees and I am proud to be part of it," he proudly stated.

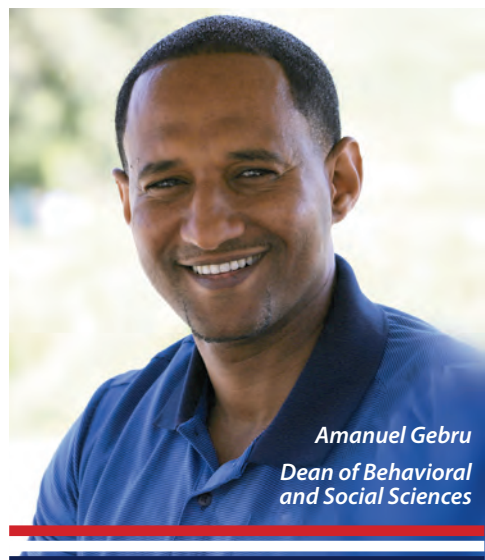


Amanuel Gebru provides a place called home for Moorpark College student veterans

Amanuel Gebru, Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences, has worn many hats at Moorpark College. He began July 1, 2013, overseeing its international programs, outreach, the childhood development center and foster youth program. Gebru has always had a soft place in his heart for students of special populations, so it was befitting when he was charged with developing a Veterans Resource Center at Moorpark College. "I tip my hat to former Executive Vice President Lori Bennett and Chancellor Bernard Luskin, then president of Moorpark College, who helped shape and encourage the development of the Veterans Resource Center here on campus," stated Gebru. Current Moorpark College President Luis P. Sanchez, JD, LLM, is also sensitive to the needs of the veteran population and supports Gebru's desire to grow the center into a nationally recognized program.

Gebru understands the immediate needs of student veterans who require assistance in their transition from military life to civilian life while simultaneously getting acclimated to an educational environment. "We make sure they have all of the resources they need to succeed," said Gebru. "That includes academic support, mental health services, tutoring and more. We value our service men and women and we take a holistic approach to serving our student veterans." The VRC

continued on page 5



Amanuel Gebru
Dean of Behavioral
and Social Sciences

Leo Orange: Veterans Advocate at Oxnard College

Leo Orange is a pioneer and crusader for the student veterans of Oxnard College. He began his career at Oxnard College in 1997. His first position was part-time counselor for students with disabilities. Three years later he became the coordinator of the Education Assistance Center (EAC), which prepared him to be the coordinator of the first Veterans Resource Center in the Ventura County Community College District. He has been steadfast in assuring veterans' needs are met with dignity and respect as they transition back into civilian life in a society where many may not understand the atrocities veterans have witnessed or experienced while defending our country.

"Veterans need an entry point and someone who understands their challenges as they return to education," said Orange. There were three driving forces that initiated the center at Oxnard College. First, the academic world presents considerable challenges to most veterans who may not have attended any formal or traditional academic programs. Second, Orange explained that many veterans

continued on page 12



Oxnard College Veterans Resource Center staff (L-R)
Alfredo Martinez-Castro, Club Officer; America Barroso, Veteran Counselor; Amparo Martinez, Administrative Assistant; Alonzo Cotton, Club Officer; and (seated) Leo Orange, Coordinator.

Bruce McFadden and the Veterans Resource Center staff at Ventura College go the extra mile to reach student veterans

Bruce McFadden is the coordinator for the Ventura College Veterans Resource Center. He has served in this capacity since August 2016 following former VRC coordinator Perry Martin's transition to Moorpark College. McFadden expressed his commitment to serving student veterans. "I am fortunate to have some really great people working with me to support veterans in their educational pursuit," said McFadden about School Certifying Official of Veteran Educational Benefits Patty Mazuca and Veteran Academic Counselor Janet Meadows. "Veterans are a special group and while I am trying to get the word out that we have some wonderful resources that can help give student veterans direction, I have a team that is just as committed in serving this population of students" proclaimed McFadden.



Ventura College Veterans Resource Center staff:
(L-R) Academic Counselor Janet Meadows, Coordinator Bruce McFadden, and School Certifying Official of Veteran Educational Benefits Patty Mazuca.

McFadden has been a physical education instructor at Ventura College for 38 years. While he is not a veteran, his father was, and that instilled in him a level of respect and passion for helping veterans who have given so much to this country. Working with the campus veterans, McFadden spends much of his time reaching out to student veterans as a liaison to the center within the greater campus community. He is creating more synergy with the center and the college to identify incoming

continued on page 11

STUDENT VETERANS

MOORPARK COLLEGE

Student Success Profile **Robert Felix**



Robert Felix is a Moorpark College graduate: he is completing his bachelor's degree in psychology at California State University, Channel Islands. His anticipated graduation date is May, 2017.

In 1992 Felix enlisted in the Air Force with a contract to be a firefighter. As a result of an injury, he switched his career and became a medic. He started active duty at Travis AFB in California from October 1993 to September 2002. "During my 10 years of active duty I was never deployed outside of the United States. I was a volunteer firefighter. I worked part-time with the local 911 ambulance and with the local civilian ER as an ER nurse," stated Felix. He left active duty and went to the Air National Guard at Point Mugu and retired from the Air Force/Air National Guard in October 2015 with the rank of Staff Sergeant (SSgt.).

Felix started his college education at Oxnard College and then transferred to Moorpark College where he graduated with a degree in Natural Science. He also earned an associate's degree with the Air Force in Practical Nursing.

Felix is dedicated to helping fellow veterans and credits Maria Martin, Moorpark College VA Certifying Official with helping him navigate through the daunting paperwork required for veterans to receive GI Bill benefits. He also expressed appreciation for Moorpark Registrar Dave Anter who mentored and inspire him. Both Martin

continued on page 5

OXNARD COLLEGE

Student Success Profile **Chelsea Johnson**



Chelsea Johnson is an Oxnard College student and a United States Navy veteran. As a child, Johnson aspired to join the Navy and become a Seabee because of her admiration for Walt Disney who drew the Seabee logo for the United States Navy in 1943.² She also comes from a military family of commanders and lieutenants. At age 19, Johnson enlisted and became a Seabee (United States Naval Construction Force). As a Seabee she worked as a construction electrician. She decided to become an electrician to do something different and deviate from most of her family who held positions in the healthcare industry.

During her service from December 2009 through December 2014, Johnson went on multiple deployments. She was stationed throughout Spain, Djibouti City, Djibouti Africa, Kuwait and Afghanistan. Her longest deployment was eight months in Afghanistan. She remembers the long and extremely hot days she spent in the Middle East. "The sun would rise at 3 a.m. and we would go into hiding on the clock" she said. She recalls being nearly nocturnal in Afghanistan. After her return from Afghanistan she stayed in the states for eight months before going to Djibouti City, Djibouti Africa, where her deployment was cut short due to sickness. Johnson is grateful for the opportunity to travel the world and experience various cultures.

continued on page 5

VENTURA COLLEGE

Student Success Profile **Mark Martinez**



Mark Martinez can now add Ventura College graduate to his long list of accomplishments. Martinez began attending Pepperdine University in the fall of 2016. He credits Ventura College faculty and staff for inspiring him to complete his education while working and raising two boys.

At the young age of 17, Martinez enlisted in the Navy right out of high school and began boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois. He later transferred to Pensacola, Florida, to begin Aircrew training and was finally stationed in Virginia Beach, VA. Martinez provided logistical support to several branches of the military all over the world. The untimely death of his father in 2013 ultimately lead to his decision to transition out of the military. "After spending a third of my life in the military, I had a better idea of what I wanted to do with my life. I knew that in order to get to where I wanted to go I must get back into the classroom," stated Martinez. "I immediately registered for the summer 2014 semester and began taking a math and history class. I felt out of place but soon found out that the Ventura College staff was incredibly helpful and wanted to see me succeed."

Martinez credits Political Science Professor, Corinna McKoy for inspiring him to become a political science major. He also acknowledges English Professor Heather Aguilar for helping him realize he was a good writer. He feels she was the most

continued on page 5

STUDENT VETERANS

FELIX continued from page 4

and Anter hired Felix to work at the college and help other student veterans. "Veterans are a unique breed and culture, a majority (approx. 70%) of them have seen combat and their ability to adjust from combat military life to civilian life is a task in and of itself. I reached out to many community organizations to collect resources for veterans in need. It's a place where veterans can go and feel safe and destress from their academics," stated Felix.

Robert Felix is a guardian angel to our student veterans. He is considering applying to the Nursing program at CSUCI or to the Physician Assistant program.

Felix is a native Californian and a father of two teenagers

MARTINEZ continued from page 4

influential and important person of his academic career.

Martinez became a tutor while at Ventura College in both Political Science and Philosophy. This experience allowed him to discover that he wanted to work in the non-profit sector, education or law.

He graduated from Ventura College in May of 2016 with an Associates of Arts degree in Political Science. He was on the dean's list and invited to join the Honor Society. He was accepted to many top schools in the nation and chose Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA.

Congratulations, Mark Martinez! You are an inspiration to us all.

JOHNSON continued from page 4

While in the service, she was stationed at Point Mugu Naval Base where she operated as a building manager doing hospitality marketing and helping sailors use their VA housing allowances. When her contract ended in 2014, Johnson decided to discharge from the service and devote her time to being a mother and pursuing her educational goals. Looking back at being a single mom in the service she called herself, "super J.I. Jane."

Prior to discharge, she started to seek out dental hygiene programs. When she came across the Dental Hygiene program at Oxnard College "It was like fate" Johnson remarked because of the close proximity of the program to where she was stationed at Point Mugu. She visited the campus in 2014. "When I first came to the campus Mr. Leo and Mrs. America immediately greeted me and I said I'm staying here," Johnson reminisced. In January 2015, she began taking classes and has not stopped since. Johnson decided to pursue dental hygiene for multiple reasons. Most importantly, she likes the freedom she will get to be a mom when she becomes a hygienist. Ultimately, she wants to become a dentist and is already looking forward to programs at universities such as the University of California, Los Angeles.

²Wired (2012). *The Fighting Seabees America's DIY Soldiers*. Retrieved from <https://www.wired.com/2012/05/the-fighting-seabees-americas-diy-soldiers/>

Gebru continued from page 3

at Moorpark College is representative of the population it serves. The students have taken ownership of the VRC as evidenced by the military décor that presents a sense of pride, warmth and comfort; it's a place they can hang out, study, and talk to other students. "They have their own space here where they can feel comfortable – a place they can call home with people who care about their development," stated Gebru.

There are approximately 150-200 active student veterans on the Moorpark College campus. The VRC is open 40 hours a week to serve their needs. There are two counselors and a School Certifying Official, Maria Martin, who does all of the paperwork for the GI Bill enrollment and recertification for veterans. In addition, a full time staff person coordinates all of the veteran activities and a part time veterans liaison, Robert Felix, reaches out to the community to raise awareness about the center. Gebru further credits his advisory committee that supports the VRC's mission. Members of the committee include Moorpark College Registrar David Anter, Student Health Services Coordinator Sharon Manakas and Maria Martin.

Gebru's number one goal is to learn more about the student veteran population to educate faculty, staff and the community on how to better provide resources to this group. He co-chairs the professional development committee at Moorpark College that provides activities for staff to become more knowledgeable about the resources and support available to help understand student veterans. Faculty and staff should be aware that student veterans don't always self-identify. Providing resources and strengthening connections for veterans is exactly what Gebru is doing for Moorpark College to create a widely known veteran-friendly campus.



**HONORING THOSE
WHO HAVE SERVED**



EMPLOYEE VETERANS

Dr. Richard P. Enriquez shares his pathway to professor of the Oxnard College Dental Hygiene Program

When Richard P. Enriquez, DDS, graduated from high school, he thought he wanted to be a commercial artist. Although he knew he wanted to go to college, he followed in his father's footsteps and joined the U.S. Navy. He served from October 1968 to August 1972. The story of how he got into the Navy Dental Corps was "purely accidental," said Enriquez. After bootcamp, he was assigned to scrub and wax the floors in the Dental Department. He was skilled at cleaning, because he had a job as a janitor while in high school. He would complete his cleaning tasks too quickly and to prevent him from sitting around idly, Enriquez's



captain assigned him to assist the dentists. He worked in the Dental Corps for three years, then the Navy sent him to school and he became a dental technician.

After the military, Enriquez enrolled at Pasadena City College in September 1972 as a pre-dental major. During that same

period he worked for an orthodontist who would become his mentor. The orthodontist provided a pathway for Enriquez and promised to get him into the University of Southern California, School of Dentistry if he kept his grades up and continued to work

continued on page 12

Perspective continued from page 1

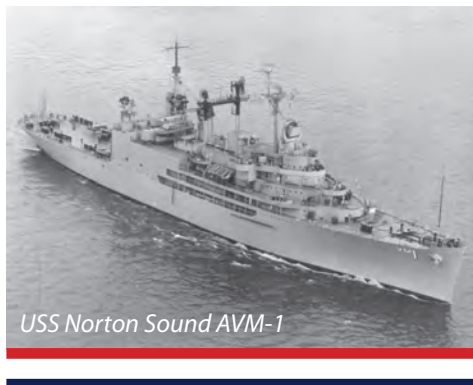
our county. Today, more than 1,200 self-identified student veterans attend one of our three colleges. In May 2016, 105 student veterans graduated from degree and certificate programs from colleges in the VCCCD, i.e. Moorpark College (29), Oxnard College (34) and Ventura College (42). We invite veterans to take advantage of the Veterans Resource Centers on our campuses and to use the GI Bill to set his or her own course and educational pathway to success. We each have a unique story. Mine took me from Ventura College as a young Navy seaman to Chancellor of the Ventura County Community College District. I am a proud veteran and look forward to sharing Veteran's Day with colleagues. It was Ventura College that anchored my life and I am forever grateful for my opportunity and to share the importance of being here with you.

Best Wishes,

Bernie Luskin

Bernard Luskin, Ed.D.
Chancellor
Ventura County Community College District

¹Operation Argus (2015). Fact Sheet. Retrieved from http://www.dtra.mil/Portals/61/Documents/NTPR/1-Fact_Sheets/21_ARGUS.pdf



USS Norton Sound AVM-1



A young Chancellor Bernard Luskin when he served aboard the USS Norton Sound AVM-1 as the Captain's Yeoman. He received three medals of honor for his role in this historical account.



VCCCD Chancellor Bernard Luskin (R) shakes hands with Paul McKee, 2nd class gunner's mate U.S. Navy 1945-1946 and Korean War veteran 1951-1955; McKee was also one of the first graduates of Oxnard College. He served as Captain of the Oxnard Fire Department for 34 years.



(L-R) Larry Downing, Navy veteran 1965-1966, Port Hueneme Mayor Pro Tem Jonathan Sharkey and wife Dr. Beverly Kelley (museum volunteers), and VCCCD Chancellor Bernard Luskin.

EMPLOYEE VETERANS

Ventura County Community College District

Micaela Aguilar, Army Reserve, Staff Sergeant, Administrative Supervisor, 1981-1999; Office Assistant, Moorpark College Since 2002

Gary Amar, Marines, Sergeant, 1966-1968; Adjunct Instructor of Communication Studies and Criminal Justice, Oxnard and Ventura College since 1978

James Artero, Navy, Lieutenant Commander, 1968-1994; Instructional Lab Technician II, Physical Sciences Department, Moorpark College since 2013

Michele Bailey, Air Force, Captain, Aerospace Physiologist, 1989-1994; Professor of Nutrition, Fitness and Health, Ventura College since 1995

Michael Bernard, Army, Specialist 6 E-6, 1974-1980; Instructor of Music- Oboe, Moorpark College since 2015

Ryan Brautovich, Army Reserve, Sergeant, Army Ranger, 1995-1999; Adjunct Professor of Construction Technology, Ventura College since 2016

David E. Carey, Air Force, Sergeant E-4, Paramedic, 1967-1971; Instructor of Kinesiology, Ventura College since 2001

Mark Chaney, Army, SP-5, 1970-1974; Retired Part-time Faculty/ Athletic Trainer, Ventura College since 1981

Mark Clements, Air Force, Sergeant, Rescue Squadron, 1970-1977; Maintenance Worker II, Moorpark College since 1997

John Cooney, Army, Private First Class, Medic, 1991-1994; Data Analyst, Oxnard College and District Administrative Center since 2000

Chris Copeland, Air Force, Senior Airman, 2001-2004; Instructor of Math, Moorpark College since 2016

Jesus Dagum, Navy, E-6, 1966-1988; Custodian, Oxnard College since 1997

Anthony Diaz-Brown, Marines, Sergeant, Maintenance Management Specialist, 2009-2013; Instructional Lab Technician I Automotive, Oxnard College since 2015

David Diebolt, Air Force, Captain, Weather Forecaster, 1971-1976; Part-time Instructor of Math, Ventura College since 2008

Lawrence A. Edwards, Coast Guard, E-5, 1971-1976; Adjunct Instructor of Communications, Ventura College since 2012

Richard P. Enriquez, Navy, E-4, Dental Corps, 1968-1972; Professor of Dental Hygiene, Oxnard College since 1998

Daniel Goicochea, Army, 2nd Lieutenant Res., Army Infantry Special Forces Division, 1968-1971; Counselor, Oxnard College since 1996

Dorian Guerrero, Air Force/ Air National Guard, 1980-2013; Athletics and Associated Student Government, Oxnard College since 2013

Everardo Gutierrez Rivera, Navy, Petty Officer, 1990-2004; Professor/Counseling EOPS/CARE Program, Oxnard College since 2002

John H. Handlos, Air Force, A1C, 1961-1965; Adjunct Instructor of Accounting, Moorpark College since 1983

Carolyn Hanohano, Navy, E-5, 1988-1998; Clinical Faculty, Ventura College since 2009

Kevin Hughes, Army, Specialist 5 (SPC 5), 1981-1985; Professor of History, Oxnard College since 1999

Larry Kennedy, Navy, 2nd Class Petty Officer, Aviation Administration-man, 1967-1970; VCCCD Board of Trustees (Board Chair) since 2012

Dan Kumpf, Air Force, Sergeant, 1972-1976; Dean of Sciences, Ventura College since 1997

Bernard Luskin, Navy, Captain's Yeoman YNT-3, 1956-1958; Chancellor, District Administrative Center since 2015

Tim Lumas, Army Reserve, Sergeant, Infantry Man, 1979-1985; Instructor of Criminal Justice, Moorpark College since 1996

David N. Magallanes, Air Force, Sergeant E-4, Ground Radio Repairman, 1967-1973; Emeritus Professor of Mathematics, Oxnard College since 1992

Lucas J. Mather, Navy, 2nd Class Petty Officer E-5, 1993-1999; Part-time Adjunct Professor of Philosophy, Moorpark College since 2005

Thomas O'Neil, Air Force, Captain, 1964-1970; Professor of Geology and Oceanography, Oxnard College since 1976

Julian D. Orense, Navy, Chief Petty Officer E-7, 1975-1995; Custodial Supervisor, Oxnard College since 1996

Michael Pallotto, Marines, Sergeant, 1999-2007; Police Sergeant, Ventura College since 2006

Rick Post, Navy, 3rd Class Petty Officer, Aviation Electronics Technician ANT-3, 1968-1970; Vice Chancellor Educational Services, District Administrative Center since 2015

Allan F. Prieto, Air Force, Staff Sergeant, 1963-1969; Head Coach of Women's Softball, Oxnard College since 2009

Lazaro Salinas, Air Force, Staff Sergeant, 1980-1988; Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, Ventura College since 2015

Anthony Schoenfeld, Marines, E-4, 2010-2014; Veteran Student Worker, Veterans Resource Center, Ventura College since 2015

William (Bill) Sgro, Air Force/ Air National Guard, Captain, 1958-1971; Part-time Instructor Business Department, Moorpark College since 2002

James Spencer, Army, E-5, 1961-1964; Adjunct Instructor Business Department, Ventura College since 1974

Douglas Thiel, Marines, NCO, Secret Clearance Mail Delivery; Instructor of Philosophy, Moorpark and Oxnard College since 1996

Andress Walker, Navy, 3rd Class Petty Officer E-4, 1986-1998; Adjunct Faculty Business Department, Moorpark College since 2014

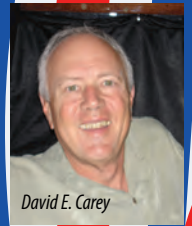
David Yzaguirre-Shea, Marines/Army Reserve, Corporal (Marines)/Captain (Army Reserve), 1981-1984/1985-1995; Grounds Department, Oxnard College since 2013

Harvey (Neil) Ziegler, Army, Private First Class, Medical Corps, 1954-1956; Retired Part-time Instructor of Biology and Anatomy, Oxnard and Ventura College since 1964

Lois Zsarnay, Air Force, Captain, Registered Dietitian, Medic Corp, 1981-1985; Assistant Professor of Addictive Disorders Studies, Oxnard College since 1993



Andress Walker



David E. Carey



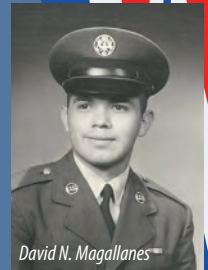
John Cooney



Douglas Thiel



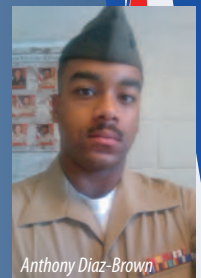
Lois Zsarnay



David N. Magallanes



Michele Bailey



Anthony Diaz-Brown



James Artero



Rick Post



Tim Lumas

Congressmember Julia Brownley and Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin talk veterans legislation at the Ventura County Military Collaborative monthly meeting

The Ventura County Military Collaborative featured 26th District of California Congressmember Julia Brownley and 44th District of California Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin at its October monthly collaborative meeting. The VCMiIC is a network of more than 180 agencies that work together to provide direct military and veteran services in Ventura County. The monthly meeting serves as an open forum for individuals, government and non-profit agencies to come together and address the needs and issues in the Ventura County military community. Kim Evans is Founder and Executive Director of the organization.³

Congressional Representative Brownley is a member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health. Thanks to Brownley, the local Community-Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) in Oxnard is three times the amount of square footage it used to be. The clinic is focused on including more specialized services that will help local veterans avoid time consuming trips to the West Los Angeles VA facility. Specialty services recently added to the clinic include audiology, physical therapy, cardiology, and a dedicated exam room for female veterans. "The demographics are changing and women are a larger population in the veteran community," stated Brownley. "As a consequence, when we think about healthcare facilities we need to think about women's healthcare, as well," she added.

The long term plan is to develop a 47,200 sq ft. facility, which would be double the current size, and that will offer even more specialty care services to local veterans. According to Brownley, the money is in the president's budget to meet long-term planning needs. She has written two bills that would authorize the VA to move forward on the future clinic improvements. Brownley also announced her bill (H.R. 2915) regarding the Female Veteran Suicide Prevention Act was recently signed into law. Also signed into law was Brownley's bill to help catastrophically-disabled and blinded

veterans access rehabilitation care and her initiative to allow the VA to pay for IVF and adoption services for veterans with service-connected reproductive challenges.

Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin also addressed the topic of suicide relative to the armed forces in a bill she brought forth to the Assembly. "The Military Mental Health Act was signed by the governor making it the first law of its kind. It removes barriers for service members to seek mental health care by decriminalizing suicide," stated Irwin. She reiterated that the stigma around mental health and seeking treatment is pervasive. Her hope is that this can be addressed federally so that death by suicide throughout the armed forces may be reduced. Irwin is the Chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. The Assemblymember also discussed legislation on cyber-security, education and homelessness as they relate to veterans. Irwin has been actively working to provide veterans housing. She was successful in working with members of the Ventura City Council to grant an early transfer of 11 acres of land back to the city from the state. The early land transfer makes it possible for the city to proceed with efforts to build veterans housing at the site. For more information, please visit <https://juliabrownley.house.gov/> and <http://asmcd.org/members/a44/>.

³ Ventura County Military Collaborative (2016). VCMiIC. Retrieved from <http://www.vcmilc.org/collaborative.html>



Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin



(L-R) Kim Evans, founder of VCMiIC and Congressmember Julia Brownley

Reading is healing for many veterans in Ventura County

Kim Evans founded the VCMiIC in 2011. As a military spouse whose husband served 26 years active duty, Evans noted there was limited access to care outside of the military base. Evans has a master's degree in Clinical Psychology from Pepperdine University and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She was embedded with the Army National Guard from 2006 to 2010 and began working with the Air National Guard in 2010 as the director of psychological health with the 146 Airlift Wing.

In collaboration with Colonel Marilyn Rios, Vice Wing Commander of the 146th Air National Guard, Julie Morency, Director of Family Programs at the 146th, and a team of 146th Airmen, the VCMiIC held its first meeting with 20 agencies in November 2011. In only five years, its membership has grown from 20 to more than 195 vetted agencies. The agencies must have some footprint in Ventura County.

The program now has a roster of organizations that provide much-needed resources that include legal and employment services. VCMiIC deals with a variety of veterans issues. "The most

continued on page 11

WHO'S DOING WHAT?

Ventura College VRC Rotary Scholarship

The Ventura College Veterans Resource Center is grateful for the generous donation of \$500.00 from the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise. We truly appreciate the gift and especially thank Dr. Michael Johnson, president, for his steadfast support. Through generous donations like this, the Veterans Resource Center is able to meet the needs of student veterans when there is a gap between benefits and entitlements. Veterans all across the nation benefit from the support of community stakeholders. Their assistance is immeasurable while students continue to pursue their educational goals. "We are blessed to have organizations like the Rotary Club of Simi Sunrise and all of its members for living out their commitment to social responsibility with integrity," said Perry Martin, former VRC Coordinator.



(L-R) Dani Amayo, University of Southern California, School of Social Work Intern (E-7/ Gunnery Sergeant (Ret.) U.S. Marine Corp; Dr. Michael Johnson, President, Simi Valley Sunrise Rotary; Professor Perry B. Martin Jr., former Ventura College Veterans Resource Coordinator Program Advisor (E-9/Sergeant Major (Ret.) Army; and Sal Sandoval, Ventura College Health Center LCSW.

Ventura College Veterans Resource Center First Coin Ceremony

The Ventura College Veterans Resource Center held its first Coin Ceremony for student veterans who graduated in May, 2016. This ceremony recognizes the hard work, dedication, commitment and perseverance of graduating soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Military leaders have long recognized the value of giving "On the Spot" awards. This tradition of giving awards for "doing the right thing" crosses all branches of the military. "It is not uncommon to visit with a veteran and see them glow as they share stories about who, what, when, where and how they received their coin," stated U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major (R) Perry B. Martin, Jr.

Ventura College Veterans Resource Center is committed to the success of student veterans. This ceremony is a testimony to their principles. Fortunately, the Veterans Resource Center staff and leadership are not alone. A debt of gratitude goes to William "Bill" Hart and the Ventura College Foundation for the conception and execution of this very important tradition.



U.S. Army veteran Sergeant Major (R) Perry B. Martin, Jr. presents a coin to U.S. Navy veteran Jamal Dowdy. Dowdy graduated with two Certificates of Achievement – one in Water Science/Water Option and the other in Water Science/Wastewater Option.



Oxnard College Faculty Attends Awareness Seminar for Veterans

Oxnard College recently hosted the VET NET ALLY Seminar to create sensitivity and increase awareness surrounding challenges veterans may face when transitioning back to civilian life. VET NET ALLY is an education and awareness program that develops a network of faculty, staff and administrators committed to creating a welcoming and supportive campus environment for military service members and veterans.⁴ Dr. Marshall Thomas, Director of Veterans Affairs Services, California State University, Long Beach, addressed approximately 50 Oxnard College faculty and staff during the 2.5 hour session. He lead participants down the path a veteran takes from making the decision to choose military service, transitioning into the service, becoming acculturated to a military lifestyle, exiting the service, transitioning back to civilian life, and becoming a student.⁵ The program has been taught across the country at the University of Michigan, Flint, University of California, Los Angeles, San Diego State University and Citrus College, among many other higher education institutions.



Ventura County Community College District Vice Chancellor Educational Services Rick Post is a U.S. Navy veteran; he had the opportunity to attend the VET NET ALLY seminar that was held at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks. "It is important for special student populations to be understood and to understand each other," said Post. "All special student populations make up one student body," he added. Post further commented that "trainings like these are a small but important piece to the overall picture to make sure our campuses are entirely inclusive of students with special needs." He, like many other seminar attendees, entered the seminar unaware that by the end they would receive the official VET NET ALLY designation sticker.

continued on page 12



U.S. Army veteran Stedman Graham launched the VCCCD Chancellor’s Diversity in Leadership Speakers Series

New York Times bestselling author, entrepreneur and educator Stedman Graham is a U.S. Army veteran. He served in administration as a specialist in the medical unit from 1975 to 1979. He was stationed in Landstuhl, Germany. Graham recently shared his message of identity leadership with students, faculty and staff of the Ventura County Community College District as the first signature speaker in the Chancellor’s Diversity in Leadership Speakers Series. Sponsored by the Human Resources Equal Employment Opportunity Committee, the series will feature multicultural role models in positions of leadership who will share inspiring stories of trials and triumphs on the path to achieving success.

The event was hosted by Oxnard College President Cynthia Azari at the Oxnard College Performing Arts Building and live streamed to the District Administrative Center, Moorpark College and Ventura College. A complimentary President’s Breakfast and Chancellor’s Lunch was catered by the remarkable students and staff of the Oxnard College Culinary Arts and Restaurant Management Program for our special guest and the Chancellor’s executive staff.

Identity, freedom and leadership were the focus of Graham’s presentation as he laid the foundation to his proprietary Nine-Step Success Process™ outlined in his book *Identity: Your Passport to Success*. “Education and information need to be organized into what is relevant to your development as a framework to consciously create a process that supports your identity,” stated Graham. The global educator explained how each of the nine steps may lead to a better, more fulfilling life, and then engaged with students in a question and answer segment where they applied his principals of success to their own lives. The transformative message concluded with Graham personally signing copies of *Identity: Passport to Freedom*. More

continued on page 11



Stedman Graham takes time to engage with Oxnard College students (L-R) Yulliana Gurrolea, Laura Mallot, Karina Alcazar, Vincent Chan, Nicole Graham, Salvador Vazquez, Evelyn Espinoza and Oxnard College Professor of Communications Studies Amy Edwards, M.A., Chair for Visual and Performing Arts Department.



VCCCD Chancellor Bernard Luskin (2nd from the left), Oxnard College President Cynthia Azari (front center), members of the VCCCD Board of Trustees and executive leadership team join bestselling author, entrepreneur and educator Stedman Graham (back center) on stage after identity leadership presentation.



Stedman Graham with Oxnard College President Cynthia Azari.

Graham continued from page 10

than 400 books were given to participants on a first-come, first-served basis.

"The practical teachings of Stedman Graham resonated with the students and the entire audience," stated VCCCD Board Vice Chair Bernardo Perez. "Stedman's message of identity leadership is grounded in research and his own personal development, but it applies to anyone who is willing to do the work," stated VCCCD Board Chair Larry Kennedy.

Graham is the author of eleven books, including *You Can Make It Happen: A Nine-Step Plan for Success* and *Teens Can Make It Happen: Nine Steps to Success*.



Bestselling author, entrepreneur and educator Stedman Graham presents proprietary Nine-Step Success Process™ to students, faculty and staff at the Ventura County Community College District Chancellor's Diversity in Leadership Speakers Series.

McFadden continued from page 3

student veterans. McFadden finds many students are unaware of the benefits the center can provide; from assistance with their GI Bill to emotional support and even a space that is relaxing and safe for them to hang out. Special to the center is Dr. Danny Amialo, clinical psychologist and therapist, who helps veterans work through many issues that come with transitioning back into civilian life.

Mazuca assists veterans with getting their applications for admission and other criteria successfully completed before referring them to Meadows. Mazuca's father, Patrick Mazuca, now deceased, was a Radioman in the U.S. Navy. He served in WWII and the Korean War, which explains the drive Patty has for providing exceptional service to the student veterans at Ventura College. "I saw firsthand how the war can be very disruptive to one's person," stated Mazuca. "The transition issues are difficult to overcome. Navigating civilian life is challenging unless you have someone to whom you may ask questions." Mazuca began her employment at Ventura College on November 15, 2000, with the goal of making a difference in someone's life.

"Another challenge is working through all of the courses veterans have taken at colleges all over the country," stated Meadows. She began working at Ventura College on July 1, 2015. Part of her responsibility as Academic Counselor is to help student veterans determine the remaining courses they need to meet program requirements. Meadows noted that veterans don't mind working hard and putting in the long hours necessary to achieve their goals. Many of them already have families, including children, so it's not easy to balance that obligation with continuing their education. "One of the greatest things about working with student veterans is that they are mission driven and motivated," said Meadows.

The most rewarding part of the job for McFadden is helping veterans find their way again. "To date, working with veterans is one of my most rewarding experiences at the college," confided McFadden. "There are anywhere from 50-100 veterans on campus right now that don't know we exist; we just need to use all of our resources, including social media, to get the word out and connect with them," concluded McFadden.

Reading continued from page 8

challenging issues are veterans struggling with access to care," said Evans. "It becomes especially difficult when dealing with the homeless population. Some of whom may not have their paperwork or IDs. There may also be physical barriers presenting roadblocks to receiving care; such as access to transportation." On a more positive note, the collaborative has established the Veterans Book Club. The book club has 12 members who meet monthly at the City of Camarillo Public Library. The VCMiC pays for the books and refreshments. Participating veterans meet and discuss the current book and then receive the new book to read for the following month.

Currently, all of the members are veterans who served in Vietnam and the books have all been about the Vietnam War. "Amazingly, this was not by design. The fact that the members are all Vietnam War veterans is strictly by coincidence," said Evans. "To watch a group of men come together, some of whom have never discussed their experience in the war, and as a group talk through that is life changing for them." It becomes more about a process and it makes for a really nice way to be able to discuss their issues. It's a bonding experience for them, because many of them thought they were the only ones who went through that" added Evans.

For more information about the VCMiC visit www.vcmic.org

VETERANS BOOK CLUB

"We read to know we are not alone." — C.S. Lewis

The club will meet the second Thursday of every month from 6 to 7:30pm

- ★ Provides a peer led forum for discussing literature and personal military experience.
- ★ Fosters community, understanding, and mutual support for the military and veteran citizens of Ventura County.
- ★ Registration is open to all veterans.
- ★ Participants must commit to completing assigned readings.
- ★ For more information, please contact Ben Wilson at ben.wilson.lmf@gmail.com.

The book club is made possible through a generous grant provided by the Ventura County Military Collaborative.

VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER Additionally, trained volunteers are available at the library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays to assist with any benefit related questions.

For more information, call (805) 388-5884 or email vets@camarillolibrary.org.

City of Camarillo Public Library
4101 Las Posas Road, Camarillo, CA 93010
(805) 388-5222 • www.camarillolibrary.org
M - Th 10am - 9pm
F - Su 10am - 5pm

VCMiC
VETERANS COUNTY MILITARY COLLABORATIVE

SHIFT HAPPENS

NEW HIRES

Sunny Le

Senior Programmer Analyst,
October 3, 2016

Eric McDonald

Senior Programmer Analyst,
October 10, 2016

PROMOTIONS

Michael Alexander

Promoted to
**Director of College Information
Technology Services**
September 19, 2016

Dr. Enriquez continued from page 7

for him, which Enriquez did. When he completed his two years of study at Pasadena City College, Enriquez attended Occidental College from 1974 to 1975 and California State University, Los Angeles, in his 4th year. He went on to USC as planned and graduated from the School of Dentistry in 1980.

After college, Enriquez returned home to Kansas and spent time with his parents. He worked as a dentist in a small town of about 2,000 people, approximately 50 miles from where he grew up before returning to California in 1982-1983. He worked in private practice as an associate for many years before joining Oxnard College as a Dental Hygiene Instructor in January 1998; he has been a full-time instructor since 2000.

For Enriquez, working in education is much more rewarding than working in private practice. "These young men and women come to me after two years of prerequisites and they are excited and full of energy; I feed off that energy," said Enriquez. "I'm proud of all of the students and graduates of this program," he added. In 18 years, all of the students who have completed the Oxnard College Dental Hygiene Program have passed their regional clinical dental hygiene examinations and nearly all of them have successfully passed the National Board Dental Hygiene Examination – offered under the Joint Commission on National Dental Examinations, an independent agency of the American Dental Association.

Seminar continued from page 9

The seminar closed with a panel of seven Oxnard College student veterans who responded to questions related to how Oxnard College helped them with the transition to civilian life. Alfredo Martinez Castro said, "I could not adjust to civilian life at first. It took a full year from the first time I visited the campus to actually enroll in classes," he explained. Now that Castro is a student he said, "I have friends who understand me and I have no judgement here." All of the students on the panel gave high praises to the Veterans Resource Center staff. Chelsea Johnson told the audience "Mr. Leo and Ms. America have always been my advocates; it's important, not even important, but imperative to have those people," she stated. Ivanhoe Castellanos shared with the audience that he can confidently refer other veterans to America Barroso knowing she will help not only veterans but their dependents as well. "I'm 99.9% sure she will help you," Castellanos told the audience.

At the end of the seminar the student veterans passed out VET NET ALLY decals to the participants turned veteran allies. Kudos to Oxnard College for taking action to become a part of a national network of veteran allies making the campus a better place for our veterans.

⁴California State University Long Beach: Division of Student Affairs (2016). Retrieved from https://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/veterans_university/awareness.html

⁵California State University Long Beach: Division of Student Affairs (2016). Retrieved from https://web.csulb.edu/divisions/students/veterans_university/documents/VETNETSeminarDescription.pdf

VET NET ALLY TAKEAWAYS



- **Never "out" a veteran or put them on the spot.**
- **Do not thank veterans for their service unless it is genuine.**
- **Each veteran has had their own unique experience; don't generalize service duty.**
- **The Coast Guard is a part of the U.S. Military under the Department of Homeland Security.**
- **Practice situational awareness, i.e. if talking about a war in class be mindful that a veteran classmate may actually have had the experience.**



**Thank you for
your service!**

Leo Orange continued from page 3

veterans entering the community college system are nontraditional learner. And, lastly, some veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan may have Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) or other medical or disabling issues that pose a challenge to their learning.

While those three issues were the primary reasons for opening the center, Orange finds there are other common issues veterans face such as family and work stressors. In addition, "they are coming into civilian life and there is a lack of awareness regarding VA benefits and resources," he explained. "Our responsibility goes beyond a student Ed plan," stated Orange. "If they are not being treated at the VA for their symptoms, we make sure we have the support here on campus to help," he added. At Oxnard College there is a designated veterans counselor, America Barroso, a health center with a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), Linda Martinez and a host of trained staff. Orange and the staff at the Oxnard College Veterans Resource Center also work with the community, i.e., listening, guiding and supporting student veterans to address their needs.

Orange feels privileged to be able to work with veterans who have sacrificed and given up so much of their freedom to defend ours'. Oxnard College provides outreach to the Point Hueneme Naval Base, establishing the campus as veteran friendly. Because of staff like Leo Orange, he believes this is all a grass roots effort and hopes the VRC can provide the needed support for our veterans at Oxnard College and the surrounding community.