

The Spartan Salute

*Newsletter of San Jose State University's Burdick Military History Project;
Veterans/Military Students Task Force; and Veterans Students Organization.
Number 3 Fall 2010*

SJSU ALUMNUS MAJOR GENERAL ANTHONY L. JACKSON TO SPEAK AND OPEN NEW BURDICK ROOM

On November 23rd, Major General Anthony L. Jackson (USMC) will be speaking on "Challenges of Returning Veterans to the University," and formally opening the new location of the Burdick Military History Project.

General Jackson will speak at 1:30 pm in the Umunhum Room of the Student Union. The talk is co-sponsored by the Burdick Military History Project, the Office of Equal Opportunity and the Veterans Student Organization.

A ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Burdick Room, which includes a study area for veterans and other students, will be held at 3:00 in Industrial Studies 239, located just to the north of the Student Union. The ceremony will followed by an open house. Both the talk and the opening are free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Dr. Jonathan P. Roth at jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu.

Both a cadet in ROTC and the captain of the football team at SJSU, General Jackson received his B.A. in 1971 and his M.A. in 1973, both in history. He enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1975, and attended OCS. A graduate of the Armed Forces Staff College, the Army (continued on page 4)



GAILEY LECTURE HONORS 2500TH ANNIVERSARY OF BATTLE OF MARATHON

On November 18th at 3:00 pm in Engineering Auditorium (ENG 189) Dr. Gaius Stern will present the 2010 Gailey Memorial Lecture, entitled "Legends of Marathon."

This series of lectures, on battles and military campaigns, is named in honor of the late SJSU military history professor Dr. Harry Gailey.

In 490 BC, Greek hoplites defeated an invading Persian force landing on the beach at Marathon, 26 miles from Athens. This talk is free and open to the public.

WEST POINTERS DISCUSS 'DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL'

Two West Point graduates Beach Pace ('91) and Jincy Pace ('94) both former U.S. Army officers gave a presentation entitled "Don't Ask Don't Tell: Personal and Leadership Perspectives." to an audience of 50 students, faculty, staff and community members. The talk was co-sponsored by the Burdick Military History Project, History Department, College of Social Sciences, Women's Studies, American Studies, MOSAIC cross-cultural center and the LGBT Resource Center.

Captain Pace explained the history of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell Policy in military law, and the changes in its implementation in peace and wartime. Lieutenant Pace then spoke about being discharged (honorably) under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. After the presentation, there was a lively question and answer period.

FREE WORKSHOPS ON RELATIONSHIPS FOR OIF/OEF VETERANS OFFERED

Dr. Elena Klaw and Ricky Townsend of the Psychology Department are offering a series of workshops for veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom. "Warriors at Home: Love, Sex & Healthy Relationships" will be held every Wednesday 12:00 to 1:15 from October 20th to November 17th in the Burdick Military History Project IS 239. Lunch is provided and each participant will receive a free copy of *Once a Warrior, Always a Warrior* by Col. Charles Hoge (USA, ret.). For more information contact Dr. Anne Demers at ademers@casa.sjsu.edu.

VETERAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION SPONSORS FOOD DRIVE

The Veterans Student Organization and Sacred Heart are joining forces to help out those in need this holiday season. We will be collecting food and clothing from Oct. 18 - Dec. 17th. Four bins are located throughout campus: CVA, CVB and CVC (Campus Village housing, in the building lobby) and the 5th floor of MacQuarrie Hall (rm 528) in the Justice Studies Dept. For further questions or a complete list of acceptable items to donate, please contact Damian Bramlett at damianbramlett@yahoo.com.

AVIATION EXPERTS SOUGHT FOR CONFERENCE ON TURKISH AIR FORCE

We have received a request from Major Emin Kurt, Chief of the History Branch of the Turkish Air Force. They have funding to bring experts on the history of Turkish military aviation to a conference in Istanbul in February 2011. The costs of the speaker's trip will be covered by the Turkish government. Anyone who is interested should contact Major Kurt as soon as possible at EMIN.KURT@hvkk.tsk.tr

VETERANS CREATE A VIRTUAL COMMUNITY

The SJSU Veterans Student Organization has put up a website at <http://sjsu-vso.ning.com>. The site advertises events, posts photos, has links to articles, and contains a blog, a forum and other links. Veterans are welcome to join this virtual community.

REPORT OF THE RESULTS OF SJSU VETERANS SURVEY

Dr. Anne Demers and Dr. Richard Francisco have conducted a survey of SJSU student veterans. Eighty-seven respondents completed the survey, all branches of the military were represented, and 38% of participants OIF or OEF war veterans.

Less than 50% of surveyed student veterans had been screened for PTSD or traumatic brain injury (TBI). Of those screened, 36% were diagnosed with PTSD, and all of them reported that they are receiving treatment. None of the veterans had been diagnosed with TBI. Almost 40% of veterans had no knowledge about counseling services available to them at SJSU; 45% of this group had served in OIF or OEF.

Queried about how welcome they feel at SJSU, 65% feel completely welcome, 35% feel somewhat welcome, and 10% do not feel welcome at all. Feelings of being welcome on campus were primarily related to supportive interactions with faculty, staff, and students. Factors included faculty who respected veterans' experiences, acceptance by non-veteran students, positive interactions with the VA Benefits Coordinator, and the freedom to remain anonymous when desired.

Veterans attributed not feeling welcome to institutional factors and negative interpersonal interactions. These included frustration with registration and financial aid (for those without benefits), lack of acceptance of military credits, and inability to enroll in needed courses in a timely manner.

Encounters with both faculty and students were often stressful. Veterans reported a lack of understanding on the part of faculty that many veterans are

dealing with psychological issues and life transition stressors. They also found an unwillingness of some faculty to entertain diverse perspectives in class discussions. Veterans were frustrated by interactions with students perceived as either judgmental and/or uninformed about the military and veterans.

Approximately 60% reported that they had overcome their challenges in transitioning to student life, citing support from the VA Benefits Coordinator; other veteran students; and from family, significant others, and peers, as well as determination as most helpful. Barriers to successful transition were similar to factors that prevented a sense of feeling welcome at SJSU, but some also identified emotional and psychological issues: the loss of a sense of purpose, low motivation and energy.

Veterans identified social support and institutional services that would assist them in transitioning to both university and civilian life. In the area of social support, veterans suggested outreach and peer support groups that could provide occasions to process their experiences, and social gatherings that promote extracurricular activities and develop supportive relationships.

Suggestions for better institutional support included university orientations specific to veterans where they could learn about university systems, procedures, and support services; extended services available at night, e.g., tutoring; and training staff/faculty/administrators to be more sensitive to veterans' issues and challenges. In addition to the aforementioned suggestions, we would recommend that all OIF/OEF veterans be encouraged to obtain screening for PTSD and TBI.

**EDWARD SORIANO, COMMISSIONED
IN SJSU ROTC, RETIRES AS
LIEUTENANT GENERAL**

Army Lieutenant General Edward Soriano, has retired after thirty-five years. General Soriano was raised in Salinas, and graduated from SJSU in 1969 with a degree in management. He was commissioned in 1970 through the SJSU ROTC and saw service in the 4th, 7th, and 9th Infantry Divisions and 2nd Armored Division. His final assignment was command of I Corps and Fort Lewis, Washington. General Soriano retired as the highest-ranking Filipino-American ever in the Armed Forces.

**MARINE VETERAN SEEKS VET
FOR PHOTO PROJECT**

Mark Pinto, a Gulf War vet, is looking to do brief interviews with combat veterans for a class photo project. Please call him at 714-747-1985.

**GENERAL JACKSON SPEAKS
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War College and the Marine Corps Staff & Command College, he served in CENTCOM from 2005 to 2007, supporting OEF and OIF. General Jackson also in the African Command, before taking his present position as Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West.

TO SUPPORT US MAKE OUT A CHECK TO EITHER THE BURDICK MILITARY HISTORY PROJECT OR THE VETERANS STUDENT ORGANIZATION AND SEND IT TO DR. JONATHAN ROTH, HISTORY DEPARTMENT, SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY, SAN JOSE, CA 95192-0117

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c/o History Department
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