



# The Husky Vet Gazette

~ Underway since 2012 ~

Vol. III, Issue IV



**Happy Holidays to you and your Families**



**Take a time out, relax and reflect.**

**We are looking forward to seeing you in January**

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## Results of the Veteran Care Package Drive

Thanks to everyone's efforts there was over 3000 Items donated for Homes for the Brave in Bridgeport and South Park Inn in Hartford. The organizations that in the spirit of giving and competition gave the most in support of the homeless veterans here in Connecticut are:

1st Gully Whompers - Congratulations  
Runners Up  
2nd EHS - Most Hygienic  
3rd - CHIP - Most socks!  
4th - Biology - Most well rounded!



Katlin Marinelli from The Homes from the Brave

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## Welcome Back Pizza Luncheon

When: 29 Jan 11:30AM-1:00PM  
Where: Arjona, Rm 339

Have you Ever wonder about FAFSA Free Application for Federal Student Aid ? Ever had questions like can I apply if I am on VA military benefits? Or other questions , Come get the answers. Daniel Kowalchik our in house subject matter expert will be available to try to answer your questions about student aid. The dead line for submitting the FAFSA is 1 March 2016.

Come eat and ask your questions.

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## “Stars and Stripes with Late Night”

When:  
Feb 12th @ 9:00PM to 1:00AM  
Where:  
Student Union

The theme of the evening will center around the military and patriotism with movies ,events, games and food. There will be something for everyone. As the night draws closer we will share more details.





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## Veteran of the Month



It is with great honor, we recognize Michael Castillo as UConn's Veteran of the Month for December. Michael Castillo joined the CT Army National Guard in August 2001, straight out of high school. While in Ft. Benning, GA. Michael watched the attacks on the World Trade Center live on TV. At first he thought it was a movie, until he saw the second plane strike and realized we were under attack. Then everything changed.

On Valentine's Day, 2003, Michael got the call from his Squad Leader to come down for formation the next day. They left for Iraq shortly after. They spent their time in Iraq working with the 3rd A.C.R, the 1st I.D., the 82nd Airborne, and the 1st Marine Division. They built buildings and cleared IED's off the side of the road and everything in between. They later deployed with Humvees that had can-

vas doors and trucks from the 70s and the 80s. So, when they got to Kuwait, they were given the green light to raid the local scrap yard for makeshift armor, which they welded to the vehicles to add iron doors; plates to shield the backs of the trucks carrying troops, and surrounded them with Concertina Wire to keep people off of them. They had the appearance of something out Mad Max driving through the desert!

Michael shares the military taught him what it's like to have real camaraderie, and what it truly takes to be a leader, which is to focus' on one's ability to motivate for a common cause. For them, he says, it was to do their jobs and go home. In his experience, the best leaders were the ones who used selfless service as the most powerful motivation tool.

Michael is currently in UConn's MBA program with a concentration in finance and management. He plans to use his education in a management position at his current job, or move over to another company where he can work to create and implement strategy. Michael also plans to do everything he can to give his 19 month old daughter all of the skills that she needs to pursue her own dreams and ambitions. In addition to his work, school, and family commitments, Michael is honored to serve as the Secretary and Treasurer of a non-profit organization called the Veterans Advocacy Center. Their mission is to provide veterans with the skills and therapy they need to better their lives.

Michael likes the atmosphere at UConn and finds it very welcoming, despite the size of the student body and faculty. In his experience, most people at UConn are very approachable and seem really willing to help each other out. He further states, "We're all in this together so to me it's comforting to have that type of learning environment." He feels there is a great network of veterans from every service here at UConn and says, "It honestly makes me feel very welcome to have so many fellow veterans all around at UConn."

If you would like to nominate a veteran at UConn for "Veteran of the Month," please contact Nikki Cole at [Nikki.cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.cole@uconn.edu)



## Veteran Students Organization (VSO)

The Veterans Student Organization (VSO) is a Tier II student organization of UConn undergraduate and graduate students that support veterans at the University. The VSO regularly hosts social events, holds care package drives, and works to ensure incoming veteran students are as welcome as possible. Active duty, family, and non-veterans are welcome as well! If you are interested in participating or helping out with any of these activities, or have ideas of your own, please contact us.

### Upcoming Events:

- Our next meeting will be on **announced after the winter break**, All are welcome!
- See the UCONNTACT Page for further info

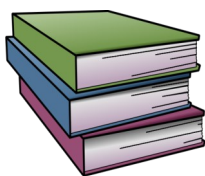
**Open Officer Position:** Vice President of Business Development. Are you interested?

Please let us know if you have any event ideas that you would like the VSO to make happen!

*Sean Seipel is the VSO VP of Veteran Outreach . If you're interested in getting involved with the VSO attend our meeting or contact him at [Sean.Seipel@uconn.edu](mailto:Sean.Seipel@uconn.edu).*

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## Attention Vets! Do you want to help yourself and others in our community save money?



Become a member of the VSO Book exchange and trade old books with other vets. Its free to sign up and all you need to do is just post what books you are looking for and what books you have to get rid of. Just follow the steps below:

- 1) Go to [reddit.com](https://www.reddit.com) and create a username (takes 30 seconds)
- 2) In the search field, put uconnvsobooks, then click the first and only link that pops up.
- 3) click on message the moderators to message me and then I can approve your access
- 4) start posting what books you have and what books your looking for!

Email me at [sean.seipel@uconn.edu](mailto:sean.seipel@uconn.edu) if you have any questions or need any help

**DID YOU  
KNOW...**

## Employers List . . .

...On the back page of this and every Husky Veteran newsletter is an extensive list of employers and contacts? These employers are dedicated to hiring qualified veterans at every opportunity. The points of contact listed provide you a direct entry point at these companies who's focus is to recruit veterans to their company. Each of these companies has an internal Veterans Employee Resource Group dedicated to providing for the needs of veterans within their companies. These companies care about their veterans. For graduating seniors, now is the time to begin your job search. See Kris Perry or Nikki Cole for any questions. Or feel free to contact the Point of Contact listed on the back page.

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## Veterans Housing Community – Come live with us!!

If you're currently residing on-campus and plan to return to on-campus housing next year, don't forget to submit your 2016-2017 On-Campus Housing Application by **January 25<sup>th</sup>**. For those students interested in living in the Veterans Community on-campus, please send an email by **Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** to [Nikki.Cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.Cole@uconn.edu) with your full name, student ID number, and indicate the full name of the person you want as a roommate (assuming they will also be sending a mutual request).

The Veterans Community will be located in South Suites for 2016-2017. Questions? Send your questions via email, to [Nikki.cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.cole@uconn.edu) about this living option.

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## UNIV 4800—1 Credit

Are you close to graduation and looking for another class to add for Spring 2016?  
Sign-up for the 1-credit Senior Year Experience (SYE) class.

Spring 2016, the SYE lecture will be Mondays 2:30p.m. to 3:45p.m. with smaller discussion sections being offered various dates and times. Nikki Cole in Veterans Affairs & Military Programs will be facilitating one of the smaller discussion sections for SYE (Section 011D), which will be on Fridays from 1:25p.m. to 2:15p.m. There are still a few spaces open in Section 011D if you're interested! Topics will include: resume and cover letter writing; how to translate military skills during job searches; insurance 101; money management, and much more! Questions? Contact Nikki Cole at (860) 486-3802 or [Nikki.cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.cole@uconn.edu)

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## UConn Graduate School Application Fee Waived for Vets

If you are interested in applying to graduate school at the University of Connecticut and are a veteran your application fee is waived starting with the 2016 fall semester.

Active Duty, veterans, guardsmen and reservists.

For veterans, guardsmen and reservists: **Submit a copy of your DD214 to** [gradadmissions@uconn.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@uconn.edu).

For active duty military:

- Option 1: Submit an official JST transcript to the University of Connecticut Graduate School at [gradadmissions@uconn.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@uconn.edu).
- Option 2: Submit a letter from your commander or personnel office stating you are active military to [gradadmissions@uconn.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@uconn.edu)
- Option 3: Bring a copy of your active military ID to the Graduate Admissions Office for a staff member to review.

# Carry On with these employers

It's time to get to work. One of the greatest benefits of completing your college education is securing employment that will aid you for the rest of your life. Each of these companies is veteran friendly—so what are you waiting for?



Company	Point of Contact	Email Address
Access Health CT	Peter VanLoon	peter.vanloon@ct.gov
Aetna	Jill Klepacki	klepackij@aetna.com
AonHewitt Consulting Practice	Mike Walton	mike.walton@aonhewitt.com
Bank of America	Lisa McNulty	lisa.a.mculty@bankofamerica.com
Baystate Health	Dennis O'Brien	dennis.obrien@baystatehealth.org
Boehringer-Ingelheim	Jeff Bridges	jeffrey.bridges@boehringer-ingelheim.com
Bravo Delta Consulting	Dawn McDaniel	dawn@bravodeltaconsulting.com
Cigna	Jim Wiggs	jimmie.wiggs@cigna.com
CT Public Broadcasting Network	Michael Komrosky	mkomrosky@cpbn.org
Disney/ESPN	Kevin Preston	kevin.preston@espn.com
EMC	Lou Candiello	lou.candiello@emc.com
Enterprise Holdings	Carrie Smith	carrie.l.smith@ehi.com
Frontier	Karlian Brown	karlian.brown@ftr.com
GE	Joe Beal	joseph.beal@ge.com
Johnson & Johnson	Derek Dalmalin	ddalmoli@its.jnj.com
Marymont	Steve Dumont	sdumont@marymont.com
MassMutual	Toby Proctor	tproctor@massmutual.com
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.	Douglas Yeager	douglas.yeager@ml.com
Pepsico	Marty Kanengiser	marty.kanengiser@pepsico.com
Prudential Financial	Nadine Krause	nadine.krause@prudential.com
Raytheon	Jeff Lance	jlance@raytheon.com
Sikorsky	John Donovan	john.donovan@sikorsky.com
Stanley Black & Decker	Sally Bartas	Sally.Bartas@sbdinc.com
The Hartford	Brian Fresher	brian.fresher@thehartford.com
Travelers	Casey Neff	cneff@travelers.com
United Technologies	Dan Ward	daniel.ward@pw.utc.com
U. of Connecticut - Human Resources	Robin Lessard	robin.lessard@uconn.edu
US Trust	Doug O'Donnell	douglas.odonnell@ustrust.com
Verizon Wireless	Alissa Belcourt	alissa.belcourt@verizonwireless.com
Wal-Mart	Ron Ealey	ronald.ealey@wal-mart.com

