



City College
Mesa College
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Continuing
Education

San Diego Community College District

WE *with excellence*

May 2010

TRANSITIONING FROM BATTLE TO BOOKS

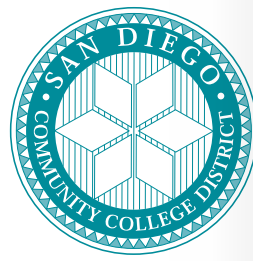


Thousands of military veterans have been arriving recently on our college and continuing education campuses to take advantage of the new G.I. Bill and begin their transition to civilian life.

Continued on page 3.



Chancellor's Message



Constance M. Carroll, Ph.D.
Chancellor, SDCCCD

PROVIDING FULL SERVICES TO THE MILITARY



The San Diego Community College District has a long history of service to the military, both in providing direct education at over 30 military bases throughout the nation and in assigning priority to returning veterans.

Several decades ago, the four branches of the military began to outsource some of their education and training responsibilities to higher education. In fact, the San Diego Community College District began to receive contracts for providing general education and technical training at a variety of Navy bases as early as 1980. At the present time, these contracts now include not only the Navy, but also Army and Marine bases, bringing our total enrollment of service personnel to over 100,000 off-site students who are primarily enrolled through San Diego City College and our Military Education Program.

Some military students are studying geography and satellite-based information systems. Some are mastering land-based communication systems designed to keep U.S. troops in contact during fierce weather conditions, such as sandstorms. Others are learning aviation and methods of safely landing a jet on an aircraft carrier in turbulent seas. Still others are improving their command of mathematics, English and other disciplines necessary to their success. What is unique about these students is that they are all soldiers, sailors or marines.

When veterans return to San Diego, they are treated as a priority by City, Mesa and Miramar Colleges by providing priority registration for classes and by offering a wide range of services for returning veterans, as well as for their spouses

and families. Ever since the G.I. Bill we view this priority and these services as recognition of the debt that all of us have as Americans to those who are willing to make the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

The District's Continuing Education division has addressed a more poignant aspect of need for some returning veterans. More and more veterans of modern warfare, most notably the war in Iraq, are returning to their homeland with an all-too-common wound: traumatic brain injury. Known as the "signature wound" of the Iraq conflict, this disability has a profound impact upon the men and women affected by brain trauma.

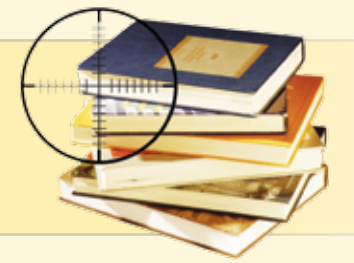
In response to this challenge, the San Diego Community College District's Continuing Education division has recently added the Naval Medical Center of San Diego as a new site for its Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) Program. Although ABI is a well established program within the community college district, the new program was designed and is exclusively provided for veterans, almost one hundred percent from the war in Iraq.

These returning veterans are unique in that they seem the same as when they left for war, but have been forever altered by this unique form of injury, suffering neurological changes, cognitive changes and psychological changes as a result of the trauma they have sustained. Addressing their needs requires more than offering a few classes or providing financial aid; it requires a rigorous curriculum and program of therapy designed to address both the physical and emotional needs of these student veterans.

From training to employment to aftercare in tragic cases, the San Diego Community College District is a model of the growing collaboration between the military and higher education. As a community college organization, we long ago realized that the boundaries of our "community" extend beyond our geographical borders in order to reach those who have put themselves in harm's way for the benefit of all of us. ♦

BATTLE TO BOOKS

Continued from cover... Student profiles begin on page 4.



These are not ordinary students. They are extraordinary individuals, many of whom are veterans of the Mideast wars. It is likely that several of these student veterans may be suffering the nightmare known as Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Sadly, PTSD is not the only challenge facing student veterans. Most have had financial problems, difficulties navigating state and federal bureaucracies and trouble transitioning from the highly structured military life to the many freedoms that come with being a civilian college student. Many lack academic preparedness and virtually all suffer from an information void when thrust back into civilian life.

City College student Danielle Coulter is among veterans that fall victim to the lack of information needed to survive. Not long after discharge from the U.S. Navy, she "ran out of money for three months."

"A lot of veterans don't know what's out there for them," said Counselor Ana Bravo, who was appointed Miramar College's first-ever veterans transitions coordinator last fall.

The District's increased service to veterans is due to a recent major wave of veterans recently seeking a college education or a continuing education. This influx began to rise appreciably in August, when the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill for training became effective.

If eligible, tuition and fees are covered by the Veterans Administration, plus annual allowances are issued for housing, textbooks and school supplies.

The colleges and Continuing Education are charged with the labor intensive task of certifying applications for G.I. Bill benefits. Currently, SDCCD serves an estimated 5,000 veterans and nearly 2,000 active military, making it one of the largest educators of veterans in the nation. (Military spouses and other dependents are not included in estimates.)

Despite funding limitations, the three colleges and Continuing Education are working to accommodate their special needs by expanding services.

Significant help came in the form of a \$100,000 Wal-Mart Foundation grant, awarded last spring to SDCCD's nationwide Military and Government Education and Training program (MGET). Miramar College was first within the District to receive Wal-Mart grant monies (\$26,000), used to stage special campus events for veterans, including focus groups and a spring 2010 resource fair.

Miramar student veteran Corcynthia Williams was grateful for the new services. Not along ago, "I didn't know who to turn to for support when my husband deployed. The fair helped me."

Last fall, Mesa received \$20,000 of the Wal-Mart grant, triggering plans to provide a resource fair and other veterans' services, including career assistance workshops held in March and April.

The remaining \$54,000 went toward supporting personal financial management courses taught through the MGET program at 24 military installations located in 15 states, reported MGET Director Lisa Curtin. The Wal-Mart Foundation grant was acquired largely through her efforts.

About 18 months ago, student-run organizations for veterans began forming at the colleges. Their primary function has been to provide critical information to fellow student veterans as well as act as a support system.

At Mesa, student veteran Joshua Ray and four others founded the Student Veterans Union a year ago. Ray, who served aboard a Navy destroyer patrolling the Persian Gulf, said it is gratifying "to see someone get help with a problem from another student. So many times it is just a matter of letting people know how to avoid common pitfalls associated with being a returning student."

Raising awareness of the unique needs of these students and creating veteran-friendly campus environments are helping to develop effective support services for these unheralded heroes. ♦

VETERANS SERVICES*

- Priority registration
- Veterans Affairs offices
- G.I. Bill benefits certification process
- Student-run advocacy/support groups
- Wounded Warriors Disability Support Programs & Services (DSPS)
- Acquired Brain Injury Program (Continuing Education)
- Career workshops
- Individual résumé writing
- Focus groups
- Mental health support groups
- Drop-in counseling
- Counseling by veterans
- Specialized tutoring
- Textbook scholarships
- Faculty and staff workshops
- Resource events
- "Meet and Greet" orientations
- Specialized academic services
- Mental Health Aide/Advocate
- Certificate program – Mesa College
- Military Leadership Studies
- Degree program – Miramar College

* Some services listed are not available at all three colleges or Continuing Education.

BATTLE TO BOOKS

Profiles of SDCCD Student Veterans.



DANIELLE COULTER, 27

Petty Officer, 2nd Class

U.S. Navy, 2002-2009

Deployments: Persian Gulf, 2004; Hurricane Katrina search and rescue, 2005; Kuwait/Iraq border, 2006

Enrolled: City College, second full-time semester; Online student while active-duty

Campus Activities: Associated Students Senator, member of BEAT (Bringing Education and Activism Together) activist for GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) community

Educational Goals: Transfer to a four-year college or university in fall 2011, major in performing arts

Career Plan: Dance Studio Owner/Operator



NOTES AND QUOTES:

- Coulter served aboard an amphibious assault ship, her first deployment.
- She volunteered to serve with the Navy's helicopter ambulance division. In Kuwait, became part of a crew that made sure all helicopter life support systems were in place and operable.
- "Helping to save lives was a very rewarding experience."
- At City College, she embraces campus activities. Currently a student government senator, the former Navy Petty Officer is planning to run for Associated Students president.

EDGAR ROMERO, 37

Petty Officer, Third Class

U.S. Army National Guard, 1998-2006

Deployment: World Trade Center, September 11, 2001; New York City, 2001-2003

Enrolled: Continuing Education/North City Campus, 2009-2010

U.S. Navy, 1992-1997

Deployment: Persian Gulf, 1993; North Korea, 1994; Persian Gulf, 1994-1995; Somalia, 1995

NOTES AND QUOTES:

- As a National Guardsman, he was among the first responders to the 2001 World Trade Center attack, guarding Ground Zero for the first two weeks. For the next two years, Romero guarded New York City's bridges and tunnels.
- In 1994, the Navy Petty Officer served on board an aircraft carrier dispatched to the Sea of Japan when North Korea mobilized one million troops to the demilitarized zone.
- Romero described this transition to civilian life as "very tough." Since September, he has been at Continuing Education's North City Campus, taking a four-month Web Server Maintenance and Security class and plans to enroll in a follow-up course of the same length.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Romero preferred not to have a photograph published.



CORCYNTHIA WILLIAMS, 23

Private, First Class

U.S. Army National Guard, 2005-2007

Enrolled: Miramar College

Campus Activities: Secretary, Student Veterans Organization

Educational Goals: Transfer to SDSU and join its Army ROTC, then transfer to Army's physician assistant school in Texas

Career Plan: Become a Physician Assistant, perhaps as an officer in the Army

Corcynthia Williams (right) with her mother, Colonel Darlene McCurdy.



NOTES AND QUOTES:

- Military life is truly a family affair for Corcynthia. Mom is a National Guard Colonel, Dad fought as a soldier in Vietnam War and is an Army helicopter pilot, and her husband, Timothy Williams, is in the Navy.
- Corcynthia trained as a combat medic. During a training accident, she sustained permanent nerve damage to her left foot. "I didn't have the privilege to serve in a combat."
- "PTSD is huge. I see signs of it" on campus. "I don't think families were prepared for it." She feels that PTSD from the Mideast war is easily triggered because "Iraq is an urban conflict, and they (veterans) come back home to urban areas."

DUSTIN BARFIELD, 27

Corporal

U.S. Marine Corps, 2006

Deployments: Iraq, 2004

Combat: The Second Battle of Fallujah

Campus Activities: Associated Student Council Vice President, 2008-2009

Enrolled: Miramar College, 2006-2009; Stanford University, 2nd semester. Major: Material Science and Engineering, (Had also been accepted to MIT and UC Berkeley)

Career Plan: Medical Doctor



NOTES AND QUOTES:

- In just six years, the 27-year-old Texan has gone from Iraq to Miramar College to Stanford University.
- Barfield managed to get through combat without physical injury, but sudden sounds "still bother me."
- While attending Miramar, he experienced "a big-time support system, personally and academically."
- Although obtaining G.I. Bill benefits was "the biggest obstacle" in transitioning to civilian life, Barfield indicated that the financial situation eventually became relatively smooth. "The G.I. Bill kept me absolutely afloat. Without it I would have had to work full-time and not be able to attend college full-time."

RICHARD GILBERT, 25

Sergeant

U.S. Marine Corps, 2003-2008

Deployments: Iraq, 2004-2006

Combat: The Second Battle of Fallujah

Enrolled: Mesa College, fourth semester

Campus Activities: President and DSPS liaison for the Mesa Student Veterans Union

Educational Goals: Transfer to UCSD or the Brookes Art Institute

Career Plan: Professional Photographer

Thanks to Rich Gilbert, many Iraqi children no longer went without shoes.



NOTES AND QUOTES:

- In Iraq, started a shoe drive for local children after coming across a young boy who had cut his foot. "We patched him up. I quickly noticed none of the kids had shoes, wrote home and got all the schools and churches involved with sending me boxes of shoes." When on patrol, he would hand them out to children. Managed to provide shoes for "a few hundred kids from the villages."
- The Texas native travels extensively to raise awareness of PTSD, which he calls "Trigger Journeys." Last summer, Gilbert took a 14,000-mile road trip from San Diego to Deadhorse, Alaska (northern most point in America by road). Along the way, he sought out veterans and others to let them know that they are not alone in suffering from PTSD. His photographs and article he penned about the road trip was published in the April edition of *Real Travel Magazine*.
- Gilbert is a campus activist, blogs and has a website www.richardvgilbert.com. "I am trying to break the negative stigma that comes with PTSD."
- This summer, he plans to backpack from coast to coast in South America on "My Trigger Journey."

JOSHUA RAY, 26

Petty Officer, 2nd Class

U.S. Navy, 2001-2007

Deployments: Tsunami rescue and relief, Indonesia, 2004; Persian Gulf, 2005-2006

Enrolled: Mesa College, 2008-2010

Campus Activities: Co-founder, former President of Mesa's Student Veterans Union. Phi Theta Kappa Honors Society President, Associated Students Senator

State Activities: California Director of Student Veterans of America

Educational Goals: Transfer as international relations major to George Washington, Brown or other major university; Graduate degree (perhaps law school)



NOTES AND QUOTES:

- Ray served as a ballistics missile defense systems specialist aboard a destroyer that patrolled the Persian Gulf.
- For three months in 2004, Ray helped rescue tsunami victims on the Indonesian island of Sumatra. "My unit was one of the first responders."
- Throughout the rescue and relief, 14-hour days were common. "It taught me the meaning of a hard day's work."
- Ray's decision to major in international relations at Mesa and beyond is a direct result of serving overseas.
- He and four other veterans founded Mesa's Student Veterans Union. Ray has been gratified to see that their organization has been able to assist other veterans to avoid common pitfalls associated with being a returning student.



Terrence J. Burgess, Ph.D.
President
San Diego City College

City

PEACE CORPS PERFECT PREP FOR COUNSELOR

In 1982, Edwin Hiel toiled in an El Cajon livestock feed store. Though he had recently earned a B.S. in Animal Science from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, he didn't get accepted into veterinary school.

Like many of the students he now counsels at City College, Hiel was directionless and didn't know where to turn for help. The young man toyed with joining the Peace Corps, but postponed the decision, figuring he needed to get serious about a real career. Shortly after, Hiel met a feed store customer who expressed her profound regret about a similar community service opportunity she chose not to act upon.

"That hit me so hard," Hiel recalled. "I didn't have any reasons preventing me from going. I didn't have obligations, any serious relationships I couldn't break away from. So I said, 'Now's the right time to go on a life adventure.'"

Hiel joined the Peace Corps and served in Ecuador from 1982 to 1984. It changed his life. Though his mother came from Honduras, Hiel never learned Spanish. "I grew up in San Diego in the Sixties, when a lot of prejudice existed. My mom recognized that and wanted us to speak (only) English. I grew up devoid of any influence from my Latin heritage," Hiel said, admitting that he had even subconsciously adopted a discriminatory attitude toward Latinos.

The Peace Corps "changed my world view," Hiel declared. "You live in a community. You're living at their level and really sharing. I came to appreciate other ways of looking at the world. Some of the happiest people I've ever met were by far the simplest people. They didn't have cars, high-powered jobs, Jacuzzis or boats. They were genuinely happy just because they were with family, with friends and they were healthy. They were able to derive happiness out of being in the present."

Hiel met his wife while serving in the Peace Corps and appreciated his volunteer experience so much that he returned to Ecuador in 1989 and spent more than five years teaching locals sustainable agricultural practices. Ecuador became a second home.

Today, Hiel draws from his Peace Corps experience, plus additional travels abroad, to relate to students from other nations as the City College international student counselor. He relishes the role. "I can empathize with them. The first week they come here, everything's new and up in the air, and they're intimidated about things. I understand, and I know they sense that." ♦



City College Counselor Edwin Hiel (above, left and below) during his time in the Peace Corps, circa 1982-1984.



Patricia Hsieh, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Miramar College

Miramar

Aviation Prof Heats Up Kitchen

Miramar College Aviation Professor Larry Pink may not be leaving the cockpit for the kitchen just yet, but will have the credentials to do so when he graduates in May with an associate degree in culinary arts from Mesa College.

A relatively new "foodie," Pink discovered a passion for cooking after his wife, Jolee, remodeled their home two years ago. Featured in *San Diego Home and Garden Magazine* last August, the professionally-equipped kitchen cried out for experimentation.

Since the remodel was completed during summer break from his full-time teaching load, Pink inquired about classes at the San Diego Culinary Institute. An advisor told him their program wasn't for him and to check out Mesa College. His first thought – after the surprise of learning that Mesa has a culinary arts program – was faculty parking! So he enrolled in the introductory courses and joined students decades younger.

Pink, who has taught aviation maintenance technology for 14 years at Miramar, discovered many similarities between culinary arts and aviation maintenance, namely the academic rigor and intensity of the programs. Dire consequences for mistakes "on the job" are another. Negligence with food preparation can lead to illness or even death, not dissimilar to a technician's need to assure every single bolt is tightened in an airplane engine or lives can be lost in a crash.

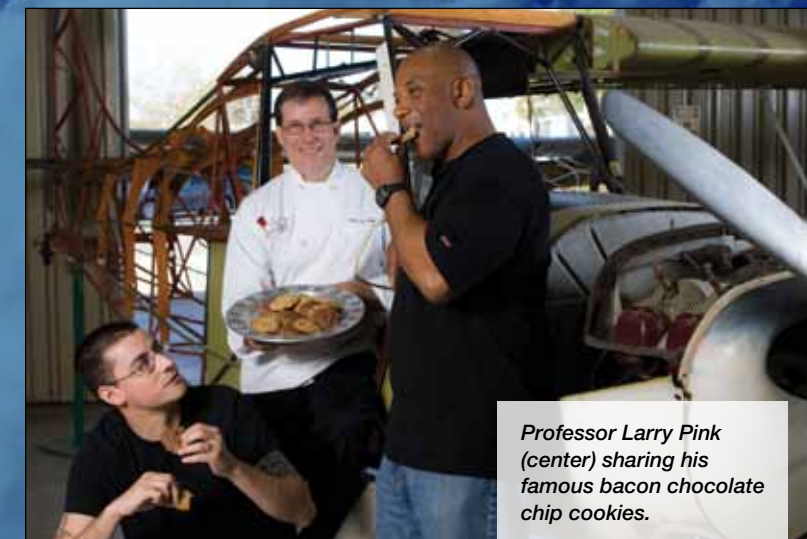
Even with bachelor and master degrees in aviation management and safety, Pink still needed to complete certain SDCCD general education requirements (history, political science and health) to earn an associate degree.

"I am more sympathetic to the plight of our students now. Balancing home, careers and college is hard," he noted.

Not surprisingly, the technical side of cooking appeals to Pink. "The science of cooking – the order of ingredients and building flavors excites me," Pink said. "Building stocks and sauces is my favorite thing to do right now – lobster risotto is my specialty."

Once the household chef, Pink's wife supports the new interest. An artist, she created a logo for her husband's home kitchen as a 10th wedding anniversary present. *Prop Wash Bistro* serves gourmet meals to friends and family, but most importantly, says Pink, to a single customer, Mrs. Pink.

Although the aviation professor has been accepted by the prestigious New York Culinary Arts Institute for fall enrollment, Pink isn't sure about attending. What he is sure about, however, is that he'll keep cooking. ♦



Professor Larry Pink (center) sharing his famous bacon chocolate chip cookies.

Larry's Famous Bacon Chocolate Chip Cookies (approx. 45 1.5 oz. cookies)

¾ lb. butter (3 sticks), softened	1 lb. bacon cooked crisp, drained
½ lb. brown sugar	1 lb. 2 oz. all purpose flour
½ lb. granulated sugar	1 tsp. salt
2 eggs	1 tsp. baking soda
1 tsp. vanilla	14 oz. chocolate chips

1. Preheat oven 350°
2. Cream butter and sugars in a mixer fitted with a paddle.
3. Add eggs, mix in one at a time.
4. Add vanilla, mix until blended.
5. Add bacon, mix until blended.
6. In a separate bowl mix flour, salt, and baking soda.
7. Add flour. Mix until firm. Do not over mix.
8. Mix in chocolate chips by hand.
9. Portion cookies on a sheet pan.
10. Bake until golden brown around edges.
11. Consume mass quantities.



Rita M. Cepeda, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Mesa College

ROSA PARKS TRANSIT CENTER OPENS WITH SPIRITED CEREMONY



After years of planning and more than a year of construction, Mesa College unveiled the Rosa Parks Transit Center in February, which topped off Black History events at the college.

The cold, blustery weather did not dampen the spirits of the nearly 300 students, faculty, staff, SDCCD community and neighbors who gathered along Mesa College Drive directly in front of the transit center and parking structure. They came to witness



Rosa Parks (left) with then Mesa President Constance Carroll.

the unveiling, to participate in the dedication, to celebrate the legacy of the American icon and to remember her visits to the campus in the early 1990s.

Rosa Parks' simple and powerful act of civil disobedience – she refused in 1955 to give up her seat on a bus to a white person – was the watershed moment for the American Civil Rights Movement. Set in stone in the reflection area adjacent to the transit stop are the words that Civil Rights leaders and historians used to

best describe her character: “quiet strength.”

The phrase and its meaning are woven into the design of the memorial, which celebrates the quiet that all people have within them to take a stand against repression and injustice.

It also set the tone for the morning's event, which opened with a new MTS transit bus delivering speakers and guests to the transit stop. The Mesa College Vocal Ensemble sang “Ride on King Jesus,” as the speakers disembarked the bus. President Cepeda introduced and recognized the many people who made the project a reality.

Comments from Chancellor Constance Carroll and Prof. Emeritus Elizabeth Hamilton, a friend of Mrs. Parks followed. Students were the highlight of the program in song, poetry and spoken word.

Chancellor Carroll, who was president of Mesa when Mrs. Parks visited the campus,



Speaker Professor Emeritus Elizabeth Hamilton addresses attendees.



The Rosa Parks Transit Center consists of a reflection area where the words “quiet strength,” words that best describes Rosa Parks, are set in stone.

reflected on the meaning of Rosa Parks' legacy to today's generation of students. “What today is about is a celebration of quiet revolution, of quiet courage... In contemporary life, many people, many students, particularly those who are poor and disadvantaged are forced to sit in the back of their own lives,” she said. “It requires a quiet courage, a quiet revolution to stand up and move forward to the front of one's life to discover true heroism.”

Elizabeth Hamilton, who first invited Mrs. Parks to Mesa



Mesa Professor Mario Lara and artist Nina Karavasiles in front of transit center.

College, remarked “Every one of us is her legacy.”

In order to bring Mrs. Parks to Mesa, Hamilton took out a bank loan for \$10,000. “I was prepared to eat rice and beans for a year if that's what it took to get her here,” the former music teacher recently told a local newspaper columnist.

Mrs. Parks never did cash that \$10,000 check. When Hamilton asked about it, Parks replied: “I'm doing okay, dear, why don't you use the money for San Diego events.” ♦



Anthony E. Beebe, Ed.D.
President
San Diego Continuing Education

Continuing Education

Women Seek Nontraditional Job Training to Earn Higher Wages

"It's like putting on makeup. You need precision when you line your eyes, and I use the same concentration when I'm trying to keep my bead in a straight line."

At age 46, Pamela Hasley talks the talk about welding. She grew up in a family of welders and worked in a shipyard as a fire watch, a job that didn't provide her with the size paycheck needed. After comparing wages with welders, she set her mind to learn welding.

"Welding is mostly about hand-eye coordination, not about physical strength," said Ken McDonald, lab technician for Continuing Education's welding program. "The women learn the skills right along beside the men, and can do just as well."

Motivation to find a good-paying job is a big reason women choose to enroll in nontraditional programs and seek employment in nontraditional industries such as welding and automotive. Hasley is determined to succeed, and plans to complete the welding program in June 2010. She has already applied to several welding companies, including BAE and NASSCO.

"You have to visually place yourself where you want to be," she said. "I can already see the paycheck."

Hasley shares her goal with classmate Monicka Bolden who is also mastering the skills needed to enter the welding industry. Bolden sees herself succeeding one day in a leadership position as an inspector or a lead foreman. "I'm as skilled and capable as the men," she says.

Bolden is also a role model for her five children. "I'm not worried about my son," she says. "I need to set an

example for my daughters so they know they can do anything they want to do – and anything a man can do."

Less than 100 yards away, Continuing Education's automotive program is in full swing. In the midst of the heavy equipment, auto bays and a giant tool warehouse, student Cynthia Parks, has run out to buy bolts, and the guys wait for her return to make the next repair.

At age 28, Parks has stood on the side of the road with a broken down vehicle for the last time. Determined to know for herself how cars actually work, she entered the auto technician program.

Initially, Parks' only intent was to learn skills needed to repair her own car. Now she's enjoying the program, and mastering the skills. "I'm getting an A in engines," she says. "I plan to get an A in brakes as well."

Debunking stereotypes about women in the automotive

trades, Instructor Howard Bass indicated, "Many women go beyond the shop work into management positions."

Parks is on track to complete the auto program in May 2010, and her success may motivate her to look for employment in the trade. "Maybe a service writer, or a technician," she says. "I'm still finding my way." She may also consider earning an associate degree in an automotive field.

Parks is an inspiration to fellow student Kate Titarenko, who has recently enrolled in the program. Titarenko completed four years of coursework toward a Bachelor's degree at Belarus State University in Eastern Europe. Now, at age 26, Titarenko's goal is to become fully knowledgeable about what it takes to be an auto technician. If she likes what she learns, she may pursue a job in the industry.

"It's not about being female," she says. "It's about what I'm interested in." ♦



Continuing Education students Kate Titarenko (left) and Cynthia Parks in automotive technician class.

Accomplishments & Achievements

KUDOS

HONOR ROLL COMMUNITY SERVICE

City College has been named to President Obama's 2009 Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll. The Honor Roll recognizes colleges and universities nationwide for addressing issues such as poverty, homelessness and environmental justice. This award is the highest federal recognition a college can receive for its commitment to volunteering, service learning and civic engagement.

"With nearly 1,000 students providing 30,000 service hours in a year, I am extremely proud of City College and its commitment to the community," City President Terrence Burgess stated.

The annual Honor Roll is administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS).

CNCS Chief Patrick Corvington congratulated "City College and its students for their dedication to service and commitment to improving their community. They have achieved impactful results and demonstrated the value of putting knowledge into practice to help renew America through service." ♦

CE Leaders Among City's Pioneers

"San Diego Black Pioneers," including Continuing Education Past President Robert Matthews and CE Instructor Emma Wilson, were on hand when the San Diego City Council declared February the city's Black History Month.

Council Member Tony Young identified the local pioneers as the group that built a foundation for national pioneers such as, Rosa Parks, Jackie Robinson and President Barack Obama, so that progress could be made toward equality for all humankind.

Dr. Matthews encouraged the city council to help ensure an accurate history of all cultures is taught in San Diego educational institutions. ♦



At a recent San Diego City Council meeting are (from left) former Continuing Education President Robert Matthews, CE Professor Emma Wilson and City Council Member Tony Young.

Help Haiti



To assist quake-devastated Haiti, an estimated \$5,034 was raised through fundraisers led by Classified Senates districtwide and Miramar's Diversity and International Education Committee, according to reports from the colleges and Continuing Education.

Donations went to *Doctors Without Borders* for their work with the Haiti earthquake relief effort. ♦

California's Top Male Athlete



Joshua Lee Denz has been named 2009 Scholar Male Athlete by the California Community College Commission on Athletics (COA).

The 27-year-old former U.S. Marine is only the third athlete in the history of Mesa College to receive this award, reported Dean of Physical Education and Athletics Dave Evans.

It is the highest student achievement honor awarded annually by the COA, which oversees intercollegiate competition among nearly 27,000 student athletes from the 104-member colleges. ♦

we with excellence

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CATCHING CRIMINALS AND PASSES



SDCCD Officer **Jarad Preston** (left) and Sergeant **Jordan Mirakian** don police gear everyday for the public good at City College. When not wearing their SDCCD police officer uniforms, they can be found playing football for the San Diego Enforcers, a team of the National Public Safety Football League. The team raises funds to find a cure for breast cancer and has adopted the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation as its charity.

The team's motto is, *"We Catch Criminals, We Catch Passes, We Catch Breast Cancer."*

\$4.95 MILLION BIOCOM GRANT

Miramar College, San Diego State University, BIOCOM and the San Diego Workforce Partnership were recently awarded a three-year, \$4.95 million federal grant aimed at assisting the economic growth of the region's life sciences industry.

The Biotechnology Readiness, Immersion, Certification and Degrees for Gainful Employment (BRIDGE) project will provide education, training and placement services to more than 1,000 military veterans, incumbent workers, dislocated and unemployed workers within the region.

The BRIDGE project will focus on the critical need for clinical laboratory scientists, medical laboratory technicians, medical physicists and professional scientists. SDSU and Miramar will provide certificate, degree and Professional Science Master's (PSM) programs. ♦

