From Combat to Classroom

Active military personnel face enormous challenges. The first is often a difficult experience in war or war-related service, as well as a range of support roles that require both intensity and sacrifice. The second challenge is deciding “what happens next” in their careers and lives after leaving the military. This question dominates their final 90 days of service as the specter of transition looms large. Community colleges, including the San Diego Community College District, play a critical role in this decision.

Story continues on page 3.
One of the most enjoyable experiences of the year is seeing students receive scholarships, which are a great investment in their future. This year was no exception, with scholarship awards dinners, luncheons, and programs hosted by City, Mesa, and Miramar colleges, and Continuing Education at which hundreds of students received almost $700,000 raised by the foundations of the colleges and CE. Four students, however, stood out this year in a separate category, as recipients of the national, prestigious Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship Award.

Established from the estate of a philanthropist in 2000, the eponymous Jack Kent Cooke Foundation is “dedicated to advancing the education of exceptionally promising students who have financial need,” believing that “high-potential, low-income students will excel educationally when given the resources to develop their talents.” Community college students receiving these scholarships are provided $30,000 a year when they transfer to a four-year college or university in pursuit of a baccalaureate degree. The Jack Kent Cooke “scholarship class of 2013” is composed of 73 students nationally, including 4 students from the San Diego Community College District. Let me introduce them:

Angel Monroy, 22, originally from Mexico and now a resident of City Heights, is the first in his family to attend college. He will be earning his associate degree in social sciences and history and is part of the graduating class of City College. Angel has applied to Stanford University, Claremont-McKenna College, and San Diego State University, and plans to pursue a master’s degree and doctorate in sociology.

Tammy Schwinegruber, 43, of Serra Mesa, is a non-traditional student who returned to college full-time in 2010 to prepare for a new career after many challenges and personal setbacks. She will graduate from Mesa College with a 4.0 GPA and earn multiple associate degrees. She plans to pursue a degree in chemical engineering at UC San Diego or UC Berkeley.

Kiet Lam, 20, of Talmadge, is also graduating with a perfect 4.0 GPA. He will join Tammy Schwinegruber as a Mesa College valedictorian. Kiet will transfer to UC Berkeley, UCLA, or UCSD, where he plans to study electrical engineering and computer science.

Christopher Patrick, 25, originally from Maine and now a Mira Mesa resident, is a former U.S. Marine. He is the first Miramar College student to receive the Jack Kent Cooke scholarship. Christopher decided to pursue a major in bioengineering, with a second major in materials science.

We are proud of all of our students and we send, as the students say, a special “shout out” to our Jack Kent Cooke winners.
President Barack Obama and the federal administration have spent time and effort exploring ways to improve support for transitioning military personnel. One model that has been developed to assist service men and women during this change is the Transition Goals, Plans, Success (GPS) program. A successor program to the former Transition Assistance Program (TAP), the GPS program endeavors to provide transition services in a collaborative, interagency manner rather than in a series of individual, disconnected efforts. This all-agency effort includes: the Departments of Defense, Veterans Affairs, Labor, Education, and Homeland Security; the Office of Personnel Management, and the Small Business Administration.

The development of this new approach resulted from broad consultation, including discussion with the higher education community. This topic was pursued at the White House Summit on Community Colleges in October 2010, which featured several discussion groups, one of which was chaired by the former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Admiral Mike Mullen, and included Chancellor Constance Carroll as one of the participants. The need for collaboration was also discussed at the White House Western Regional Summit on Community Colleges in April 2011, at which Military Education Director Lisa Curtin and a panel of students shared concerns and suggestions.

Although a strong effort to combine and standardize services is envisioned, flexibility among the services, as well as differences, are still in evidence. “Each Transition GPS program is designed differently depending upon the branch of service and each installation base has additional flexibility,” explained Dr. Lisa Curtin, noting some of the unique approaches. For example, the U.S. Marine Corps invites service personnel to a five-day Transition GPS workshop, consisting of presentations by higher education institutions on specific topics, such as College/University Education, Career and Technical Training, Financial Planning for College/Career Technical, and Employment/Entrepreneur Preparation. All programs include specific institutional information, such as fees and application procedures.

Three Military Education advisors from the SDCCD Military Education Program serve the seven local military bases. For example, SDCCD counselor Annette Ragsdale, the lead advisor for Miramar College and City College at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar and the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, regularly provides presentations and support.

The pathway from military service to an institution of higher education, and from there to employment, holds challenges for many service personnel. As newly-minted veterans, these individuals cannot afford to take any “wrong turns” in their educational choices because they only receive 36 months of GI Bill educational support. Locally, 2,500 marines have matriculated through the Transition GPS program. Although only 15% plan to stay in California, the SDCCD is proud to help those who have done so much to serve their country wherever their career and life choices lead them.
On March 13, 2003, the 67,000 sq. ft. Learning Resource Center (LRC) was officially dedicated to replace the 30-year-old City College Library. In addition to the library, the 3-story LRC houses the Office of Classroom Technology Management (OCTM), the Independent Learning Center (ILC) for students, and CitySite for faculty and staff professional development.

As the informational hub of the college, the LRC is the most visited facility on campus. Although thousands of students, faculty, and visitors have used the library since 2003, Senior Media Clerk Guillermina Lewis says that people often think that the building is brand new.

While the floor-to-ceiling glass windows framing the beautiful views of the Coronado Bay Bridge remain the same, a lot of other things have changed. Instructional Laboratory Technician Sean Ryan has been with the LRC since 2004. He noted, “The most radical change is in our support of a wireless environment.”

Jennifer Ignacio, LRC Media technician confirmed, “Everything is now online.”

Most of the resources are now available in electronic format for anytime, anywhere access, including dozens of databases, over 30,000 e-books, two streaming academic video collections, and an online chat reference service that is available 24/7.

Dr. Sandra Pesce, Electronic Resource Librarian, has worked at City College since 2006 and shares that the LRC has become more user-oriented over the years. Gone is the closed periodical collection, replaced by open shelves in the public area so users can help themselves to the nearly 300 magazines, journals, and newspapers. The media collection has been moved from a non-public area to the ILC, and cataloged like books, to provide better access to users.

Pesce said that moving forward, “the trend is to incorporate more electronic resources, such as building larger e-books, an online database, and streaming video collections. Other statewide trends include more collaboration with other libraries, possibly culminating in a statewide shared online catalog.

What will the future bring? Majeda Naswari, Instructional Support Supervisor with the ILC and OCTM, thinks “we will see more immersive technology, virtual literacy, and online learning. Our roles will change to accommodate these trends,” says Majeda. She enjoys the non-stop demand for their technology services and says, “There is nothing more satisfying than seeing our new buildings with state-of-the-art technology for our students.”

The LRC will continue to expand its informational resources. Instructional Lab Tech Eric Sandoval surmised, “I think the LRC embodies ‘learning’ more than anywhere else on campus. I know it takes a campus and no one department can exist without the others—but perhaps it harkens back to earlier days of society when the ‘guardians of books’ were the ‘keepers of knowledge’. Even if the lights go out and the network is down, the knowledge is not lost.”

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

Students gravitate towards the LRC to find a quiet and spacious atmosphere in which to focus on their work.
Gracia Molina de Pick was born in Mexico City into a family of political reformers. As a young teen, she would tag along with her aunt on Sunday visits to Frida Kalho’s home. She was inspired by the artist and feminist icon, and learned from her that “great people are never only for themselves, but always fight for those who cannot defend themselves.”

This lesson helped to shape de Pick’s life’s work as an educator, feminist, mentor of students and community activist for women’s equality, indigenous communities, labor and immigrants’ rights.

As an early champion for bilingual education during the ’60s and ’70s, de Pick helped develop an academic program at Mesa College that gave birth to one of the first Chicano Studies Departments in the nation.

Now in her 80s, de Pick returned to Mesa College on March 11 for the 2nd Annual Gracia Molina de Pick Feminist Lecture Series, honoring activist Tommie Camarillo, who fought to create Chicano Park in Barrio Logan.

The event was also a celebration of a lasting gift to future generations of students. A week earlier, de Pick had signed an $80,000 endowment contract in support of furthering the college’s Chicana/o Studies Department. The donation is believed to be the largest of its kind awarded to support a Chicana/o Studies at a community college.

“The establishment of the Gracia Molina de Pick/Chicana and Chicano Studies Department Endowment Fund represents Gracia’s wisdom to re-invest her money into the ongoing work of Chicana and Chicano Studies at our community college, as a tool for community education and community empowerment,” stated Dr. César López, Chair and Professor, of the department.

The fund will support the de Pick annual lecture series, the expansion of programs, and create an annual student scholarship. Mesa College will also name a glass gallery exhibit space in the Humanities, Languages, and Multicultural Studies Building rotunda in her honor.

“I am a Chicano because of Mesa College Chicano Studies,” wrote Brent E. Beltrán, Chicano activist, writer, and publisher, in an article for the San Diego Free Press announcing the endowment. With more than 20 years of involvement with various Chicano groups, Beltrán credits his Mesa College classes and professors with placing him on the path to his future.

“I am honored to have taken Chicano Studies courses at Mesa. It was an important part of my life that pushed me into giving back to my community,” he concludes.

With this enduring gift to Mesa College, generations of students will be inspired to follow in Beltrán’s — and perhaps even Gracia Molina de Pick’s — footsteps.
Italy’s medieval universities established the study of human anatomy for medical professionals. To heighten their art, Renaissance masters clandestinely studied anatomy through human dissection. Dr. Kevin Petti, professor of anatomy, physiology, and human dissection at Miramar College since 1987, has extensively researched the connection between art and science and explored the very halls, auditoriums, and dissection theatres where great scientists and artists once studied side-by-side.

“The sense of history alone is enough to make you gasp,” he says. “To be in the room where Leonardo da Vinci performed dissections, well, everybody gets very quiet.”

Petti, who holds American and Italian citizenship, led a group of anatomy and physiology professors from the U.S. and Canada on an 11-day, below-the-surface anatomical and cultural tour of the Italian Peninsula last summer and will do so again this year.

Last fall, the University of San Diego alum was profiled in USD Magazine. In February, Petti’s art-science interdisciplinary research was featured in the weekly newspaper, L’Italo-American, which promotes Italian culture to a national audience, www.italoamericano.com/story/2013-2-22/Human-Body.

Petti’s Renaissance road show, Anatomia Italiana, plays to standing-room-only crowds and is in demand across the country and throughout the Italian-American community. Petti has contributed to numerous college anatomy textbooks and is a frequent guest lecturer at national conferences and universities.

Since January, Petti has lectured about the cultural history of anatomy in Italy at the House of Italy in Balboa Park and the Italian Cultural Center in San Diego’s Little Italy.

In March, Petti addressed a packed house at the Italian Cultural Institute (IIC) of Los Angeles as part of the national Year of Italian Culture initiative, organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Italy in Washington D.C. ✪
Continuing Education’s new facility, located at Mesa College, consolidates programs and classes that have been offered in temporary classrooms, rented facilities, and several neighborhood locations.

The facility is the Campus of Excellence for Intergenerational Studies. The facility houses programs that provide activities that bring people from different generations together for mutual benefits. “From the young children who attend classes with their parents to the older adults in the Emeritus program, we have at least three generations of students who attend classes in this building,” said Dean Leslie Shimazaki. “The opportunity to combine these students for classroom activities means each generation finds new ways of learning from each other.”

The Parent Education program offers a short-term job training certificate in Child Development that is eligible for college credit in Early Childhood Education. For English language learners, there are seven levels of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes, including ESL Transition to College, where students practice taking notes from lectures, and college-level essay writing. Students also learn how to apply to college.

“I get a feeling of excitement in my stomach as I greet students walking through the hallways. It comes from seeing an amazing variety of students.” - Leslie Shimazaki, Dean for the Parent Education and Emeritus Programs.

Of the almost 2,000 students who transitioned in 2011-12 from Continuing Education to one of the District’s three colleges, 735 went to Mesa.


New Campus, New Excellence, New History

Classes at the New CE Facility are Offered In Five Program Areas:

- Community Education (low fee classes for professional and personal enrichment)
- Disability Support Programs and Services
- Emeritus Program (classes for age 55+)
- English as a Second Language (ESL/VESL)
- Parent Education

Encouraged by the location of this new building because it helps toward our goal of transitioning students from noncredit programs into college. The faculty and staff at Mesa are amazing, and we are learning a lot from them.”

Elaheh Sareban has been in the U.S. for about a year. She was educated in her own country and arrived with a degree in Radiology/Technology, but could not speak English. Elaheh is an ESL advanced-level student and plans to transition to Mesa College as a next step. “My counselor at Continuing Education [Steven Flores] guided me. He helped me with knowing how to continue with college and which courses I need,” she said.

“I get a feeling of excitement in my stomach as I greet students walking through the hallways. It comes from seeing an amazing variety of students.” - Leslie Shimazaki, Dean for the Parent Education and Emeritus Programs.
**GREEN ACADEMY**

**Be a part of the solution!**

In February, San Diego City College MESA (Math, Engineering, Science Achievement) students received Green Academy training through a program sponsored by San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). The Green Academy is a model “train-the-trainer” academy for understanding “what is energy efficiency and sustainability.” City College MESA Program Director Rafael Alvarez said the students are excited to be “part of the solution” by sharing their new Green knowledge with their peers through classroom presentations.

The Green Academy training was provided to 30 high school, community college, and university students in the MESA pipeline (high schools with MESA Schools Programs in San Diego and Imperial Valley, and MESA programs at San Diego City College, Southwestern College, and San Diego State University). In addition to receiving hands-on training and a training packet, the trainees were exposed to energy efficiency and green careers at SDG&E.

District officials, former and current college administrators, students, and staff were in attendance for the grand opening of San Diego Mesa College’s new Student Services Center, held in February. Even though students have been enjoying the space since October 2012, the day marked the official “thank you” to everyone who helped make this outstanding facility a success. “This is the little building that could,” noted Chancellor Constance M. Carroll, who said that during her tenure as president of Mesa College, “we tried and tried and tried to find a way to pull all of student services together. This is a real cause for celebration... a really top-notch achievement.” The hit of the event was the Mesa College Vocal Ensemble, directed by Professor Rich Chagnon singing “The Lion Sleeps Tonight” on the third floor balcony. Architects Hanna Gabriel Wells, PCL Construction, and the members of the Gafcon project management team marveled at the building’s outstanding acoustics, an unexpected but welcome surprise.
SDG&E Supports Vet Services at Miramar College

Veterans Services at Miramar College received a shot in the arm in March, when Dave Smith, SDG&E Vice President & General Counsel (and a veteran) presented a check for $25,000 to the Miramar College Foundation to support the college’s Vets-2-Jets program. The program will assist approximately 125 returning military veterans who were severely wounded or injured during service. These veterans have 20% or more Veterans Administration documented disability, and are enrolled or plan to enroll in a Miramar College certificate or degree program to prepare for employment upon completion. The project is intended to remove informational, cultural, injury or trauma-related, and financial barriers to enrollment and retention that are typically faced by Veterans. A network of mentors and tutors is available to assist veterans with career guidance and job placement to support their academic success.

Smith noted many Veterans work for SDG&E and said, “We are always seeking opportunities to better integrate and transition returning military into civilian life.” He continued, “We are proud to be associated with Miramar College and this worthy endeavor.”

ACCESS AND STUDENT SUCCESS BOTH LOCAL AND STATEWIDE PRIORITIES

When local administrators have the opportunity to serve on state level committees, their ability to impact and influence increases dramatically. Brian Stockert, Dean of Student Development at Continuing Education, serves on the State Chancellor’s Office Matriculation Advisory Committee. The committee is currently working on statewide system planning for implementation of The Seymour-Campbell Student Success Act of 2012, legislation that focuses on increasing access and success for community college students.

Congratulations Dr. Neault

Vice Chancellor Lynn Neault recently won the Council for the Study of Community Colleges (CSCC) 2013 Dissertation of the Year award for her doctoral dissertation entitled “Implications of State and Local Policy on Community College Transfer in California: A Regional Case Study.” Dr. Neault was presented with the award at the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) 93rd Annual Convention in April.

From left: Military Education Director and Miramar College Foundation Board Member Lisa Curtin; SDG&E Vice President and General Counsel Dave Smith; Miramar College Vice President of Student Services Gerald Ramsey; Miramar College Student Veteran Organization President Christopher Patrick; Miramar College Foundation Board of Directors President Marty Hight; Miramar College Associated Student Council President Michael Shepard; Miramar College Associated Student Council Senator William McKibben; SDG&E Community Relations Manager Warren Ruis; and Miramar College President Patricia Hsieh.
**City College Provides Shelter for Downtown Fire Victims**

At 5:00 a.m. on Monday, March 11, San Diego City College received a request from the American Red Cross to set up a temporary evacuation point to house more than a dozen fire victims who had just lost their lodgings at the Hotel Heritage, a residential extended stay facility in the East Village.

City College police, administrators, and facilities services sprung into action, allowing the American Red Cross to quickly establish a center on the campus so the displaced fire victims could receive help in finding housing, food, and emergency resources.

Mitch Hall, Feed Lead for the American Red Cross, was appreciative of the quick response by the campus, “Your entire staff went out of their way to do anything and everything they could to make sure we had what we needed, from rooms to meet with clients, to providing security, and to providing access to your wireless network. Every person I talked to was helpful and wanted to make sure we felt welcome. Your help made our job so much easier.”

The American Red Cross establishes a Temporary Evacuation Center for displaced fire victims on the City College campus.

**CE Instructors Making History**

Dolores Parks (center) was honored for developing the class with her late husband and teaching it for 20 years; and Pat Mosteller (left) was recognized for co-teaching the class and taking it into the future via technology.

The Congress of History of San Diego and Imperial Counties honored Pat Mosteller and Chris (Dolores) Parks with the John Montgomery Education Award for the Rediscovering San Diego class taught through Continuing Education’s Emeritus Program.

The class visits venues of historical, educational, or cultural impact, civic importance and cultural influence of each site.

The Congress of History coordinates the educational efforts of member organizations interested in promoting a greater awareness of the history of San Diego and Imperial Counties among its members and the general public.

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**CCPRO Winners**

From over 300 submissions from 65 California community colleges, the San Diego Community College District, City College, Mesa College, and Continuing Education (CE) received awards for design excellence at this year’s Community College Public Relations Organization (CCPRO) conference. In the Annual Report category, City College’s 2011-12 Report to the Community: Countdown to 100 Years won second place and Mesa College’s 2011-12 Report to the Community: A Year of Growth & Transformation took first. CE was recognized with a second place honor for its “Inspiring Success for 100 years” logo and the District was awarded first place in the Newsletter category for its September and December issues of the WE – With Excellence.
We—With excellence

Accomplishments & Achievements

Mesa Students Earn Top Honors at International Forensic Competition
– again, and again, and again!

They just keep bringing home the gold. The San Diego Mesa College Speech and Debate team returned from an international speech and debate competition in Antwerp, Belgium with wins including first place in debate – for the third time in three years. Jaimie Owens and Dennis Gulyas swept the floor to take first place in debate at the International Forensic Association Championship Tournament on March 10-12. The Olympians also captured fifth place in impromptu speaking, and Dennis Gulyas won fifth place in a “nuance” event where contestants tried to “sell” one sight in Antwerp.

The trip was also a culturally enriching experience for the six-member team, with trips to the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, and the Palace at Versailles, where they learned about the French Revolution.

Professors Kimberley Perigo and Linda Farnan are the head coaches of Mesa’s forensics team. Catch them in the hall in the first floor of the G Building, and they’ll point to the team’s awards-packed display case which is nearly overflowing with trophies the team has won in local, national, and international competitions. They definitely have earned their bragging rights.

Outstanding Civil Engineer

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), Region 9, has selected Vice Chancellor Dave Umstot for the Outstanding Civil Engineer in the Public Sector award. Last year, Dave received the award from the local ASCE chapter and his name was put forward for the regional award. Vice Chancellor Umstot was honored at the March 6 ASCE Awards Banquet in Los Angeles.

Super Scholar Carmen Jay

English professor Carmen Jay has been accepted to the UC San Diego chapter of the Bouchet Honor Society. The Edward Alexander Bouchet Honor Society recognizes outstanding scholarly achievement and promotes diversity and excellence in doctoral education and the professoriate.

The Bouchet Society seeks to develop a network of preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy. As part of the award, UCSD sent Jay to Yale University for a recognition ceremony in April, where she presented her research on high-achieving, low-income students.

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Women’s Hall of Fame Trailblazer

Chancellor **Constance M. Carroll** was inducted into the 2013 San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame on March 16. Dr. Carroll was honored with the Trailblazer Award for her contributions to education and to the San Diego community, notably for being the first woman to become Chancellor of the San Diego Community College District. Each year, five women are inducted into the San Diego County Women’s Hall of Fame who have contributed significantly to the quality of life and who have made outstanding volunteer contributions in San Diego County.