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TELACU EDUCATION FOUNDATION

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Veteran's Art Provides a Creative Transition

When Kenneth James enrolled in the TELACU Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program in the winter of 2008, he knew he had found an important resource that would support his dream of higher education. Through his VUB English, math and computer science classes, Kenneth was able to build an academic foundation that would ease his return to school and enrich his college experience.

"All the classes helped me regain command of important skills," Kenneth recalls about his time at VUB. "The Classes were instrumental in preparing me for reentry into college life. Everybody made me feel welcome, it was a nice environment."

Upon completion of VUB in the summer of 2008, Kenneth enrolled in the Pasadena City College (PCC) paralegal program, but quickly found that he had a desire for a more creative future. Based on the positive feedback he had received for his artwork over the years, Kenneth enrolled in the PCC art program last summer.

Kenneth works in many different mediums at PCC and is currently trying his hand at digital art. "I still love to work with my hands and fingers in creating objects," Kenneth says. "I love pen and ink, abstract and drawing." This past spring, Kenneth had the opportunity to perform an interactive art piece with his fellow students at the mirror pool in front of the PCC campus.

The piece, titled "Resurrected Love Reclamation," involved over 40 supporters. "For me, this project means that people



Kenneth James displays his artwork on the campus of Pasadena City College during the school's Student Art Sale. Kenneth received a scholarship from the Winifred Chandler Nienstedt Memorial that allowed his work titled "Portraiture of Passion" to be displayed at the PCC Art Gallery for two weeks.

This past April, Kenneth received his Copyright Registration for 294 pieces of art he created from 2000 to 2009.

Anyone interested in viewing or purchasing Kenneth's artwork can contact him via email at studentvub@yahoo.com.

have had their hearts broken or worse," Kenneth says of the piece. "They are trying to trust again, and give themselves, to see if they can find someone with whom they can share their visions and dreams. They are starting over again with their love."

Participation in VUB eased Kenneth's doubts that his time away from the classroom would prevent him from being successful and gave him the confidence to strive for his goals. "All the professors were instrumental," Kenneth says. "VUB helped me with the motivation to return to school. It's strange, as a Marine, we're typified as not to need help. But we need help and VUB was there for me."

VUB Congratulates its 2010 College Graduates

Dane Collins

VUB Spring 2007
Long Beach City College
Electrical Engineering
(Transferring to CSULB)

Anthony Garcia, AA

VUB Spring 2008
Rio Hondo College
Psychology

(See VUB Scholar Graduates feature
on this page)

Hannah Hong

VUB Fall 2009
Los Angeles City College
Political Science
(Transferring to UC Riverside)

Martin Ledezma, AS

VUB Spring 2007
East Los Angeles College
Criminal Justice

David Prieto

VUB Winter 2007
Cerritos College
Architecture
(Transferring to CSULA)

Aida Tapia, BA

VUB Spring 2007
University of California
Los Angeles
Political Science

Partial list

VUB Scholar Graduates from Rio Hondo College

VUB Scholar, Anthony Garcia, recently reached an important benchmark when he received his Associate of Arts degree from Rio Hondo College on May 27.

Born and raised in East Los Angeles, Anthony enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps upon graduation from Garfield High School in 2003. He served four years of active duty, including one combat tour in Iraq prior to his honorable discharge in 2007.

Anthony enrolled in the VUB Spring 2008 quarter and then successfully transitioned to Rio Hondo College where he utilized the VUB math and English classes as preparation for his college courses.

When he enrolled at Rio Hondo, Anthony was unsure about what field of study to pursue. Since his childhood, Anthony had been intrigued by human behavior and his military experiences only enhanced that interest. He soon realized that he wanted to study Psychology in the hopes of

“I accomplished something. All the hard work, all the classes, all the research papers, it has all finally paid off.”

finding treatment solutions to the problems many veterans encounter when they leave the military.

As a combat veteran, Anthony has seen firsthand the need for more counselors who are specifically trained to deal with veterans as they all have their

own unique experience and no one solution will work for them all. “I have a rapport with veterans so I can relate to them. I know everyone has different experiences but I am a veteran too,” he says.

Anthony plans to apply to Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State L.A. and Cal State Long Beach for the Fall 2011 term. He also worked with VUB staff to complete his financial aid paperwork so that he could preserve his Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits for graduate school.

In the meantime, Anthony plans to expand his knowledge of the field by taking additional psychology classes at Rio Hondo to build on his interest in the mental health field.

As he continues toward his goal of a Masters degree, Anthony reflects on the satisfaction of his first academic milestone. “Graduating felt like a big relief,” he says, “I accomplished something. All the hard work, all the classes, all the research papers, it has all finally paid off.”

Summer 2010 VUB Scholars of the Quarter

Scholar of the Quarter: Summer 2010 (Morning) Jose Chaure



Jose was born and raised in Los Angeles. He served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1998 to 2002.

Best described as a quiet-tough guy with a humble and helpful disposition, Jose is a hardworking and cooperative student. He has excelled at the writing process and his composition skills have improved weekly during this Summer quarter. Jose impressed his English Instructor with his willingness to go the extra mile

to improve academically. He is also a vocal participant in class who readily asks questions. Jose has also exhibited notable academic ability this quarter. His essay on "Animal Testing" was insightful and thought-provoking.

Jose is currently attending Pasadena City College. His long-term academic goal is to earn a Bachelors degree in Criminal Science. We have no doubt that Jose will succeed in everything he attempts.

Scholar of the Quarter: Summer 2010 (Evening) Albert Venegas



Albert was born in Los Angeles and served in the U.S. Marine Corps as a Machine Gunner in Vietnam, where he earned a Vietnam Campaign Medal and a Combat Action Ribbon.

First joining the VUB family in the 2009 Summer quarter, Albert returned to VUB for the 2010 evening Summer quarter to build upon his basic reading and math skills. His math instructor,

Eric Garcia, was especially impressed with Albert's progress throughout the quarter.

Albert has demonstrated a strong commitment to improving his academic foundation, and although he will acknowledge that he still has a long road ahead, he has already proven himself to be a role model for all veterans looking for motivation to return to the classroom.

Program Overview

TELACU Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) is funded by the U.S. Department of Education. It is a TRIO Program designed to help veterans enter and succeed in college. Currently, there are 48 VUB Programs nationwide helping veterans transition to college.

TELACU VUB is located in Los Angeles and is the only Program in California helping veterans learn about the college system, apply for Financial Aid and learn about the Post 9/11 GI Bill. VUB provides college-preparatory classes, educational workshops and college campus tours for veterans. All services provided by TELACU VUB are free to veterans.



Veterans Visit ELAC & USC



On April 29, VUB Scholars participated in a campus tour of both East Los Angeles College (ELAC) and the University of Southern California (USC).

VUB conducts campus tours of local community colleges or universities to provide Veteran Scholars with an inside look at campus resources provided to ensure they are able to make a smooth and successful transition into post-secondary institutions.

Campus tours provide many veterans with their first opportunity to experience life on a college campus. The tours include visits to various educational departments to gain a personal look at some of the academic and vocational programs that are available.

Thanks to the friendly staff at both ELAC and USC, VUB Scholars received a personal look at how these institutions meet the unique needs of all veterans in the pursuit of higher education.

SVA Seeks to Renew its Focus on College Veterans Clubs

The Student Veterans of America hosted its first annual Western Regional Conference at the Crown Plaza Hotel LAX on May 28 and 29.

At the conference, student veterans attending colleges from California and Arizona gathered to discuss important issues concerning veterans in higher education. Some of the topics of discussion included: how student veterans can obtain office space on campus and the roles of SVA leadership positions.

David Curry, a UC Irvine student veteran, provided the results of his academic study on the military's various transition programs and their impact on veterans as they transition into a post-secondary educational institution.

The SVA national leaders urged the incoming Western Regional executive board to focus its efforts next year on reaching out to the many student veteran organizations that have formed over the last several years on local college campuses.

SVA is a coalition of student veteran groups from college campuses across the United States. Founded in January of 2008, SVA is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization that works to develop new student groups, coordinate between existing student groups, and advocate on behalf of student veterans at the local, state, and national level.

To learn more about SVA, visit its Website at www.studentveterans.org. You can contact SVA at 866.320.3826 or via email at contact@studentveterans.org.

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