



The Husky Vet Gazette

~Underway since 2012~



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This Issue at a Glance

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Late Night Wrap Up

Despite the bitter coldness of the night, several hundred students made it to the Student Union for the Stars and Stripes themed Late Night on Friday February 12th. The author Kirsten Holdmstedt presented on her two books, *Band of Sisters* and *The Girls Come Marching Home*. Half a dozen members of the Veteran Student Organization (VSO) staffed an equipment display and MRE (meals ready to eat) ration sampling station. ROTC Cadets from the Army and Air Force and a National Guard representative engaged face to face with UConn Students. Finally, Senator Mae Flexer, a member of the CT General assembly and the Chair of the CT Legislature Veteran's Affairs Committee came out to experience the event first-hand and meet with the students. The event was hosted by Student Activities with co-sponsorship from the UConn Veterans Affairs and Military Programs office.



UConn Student Life Award!

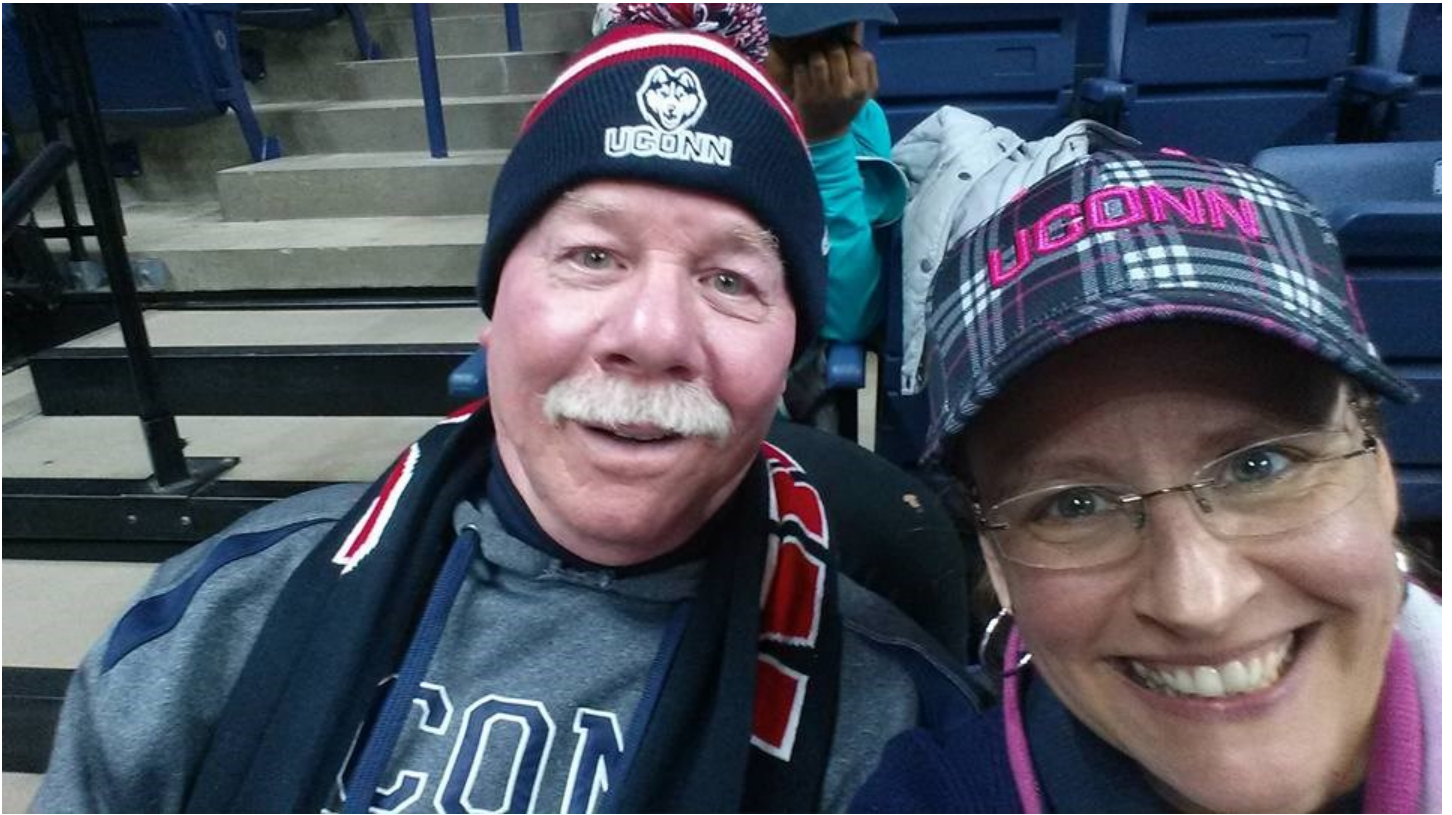
\$1,000 Student Veteran Scholarship

The "Willis N. Hawley Service & Leadership Award" recognizes a student veteran(s) who has made significant contributions to the University community through leadership and service during their tenure as a student.

The deadline is **February 26th** to apply for this award.

Go to <http://sla.uconn.edu/> for detailed information on how to apply, or nominate someone.

February Veteran of the Month



Lawrence Petery graduated high school in 1966 without plans to go to college since he wasn't scholarship material and he didn't have the means to pay for college. He also wanted to leave Portland, Oregon and see the world. He enlisted in the Air Force for what he thought would be a four year hitch to give him time to decide what direction to take his college endeavors and be able to use the G. I. Bill to pay for it. His four year hitch turned into twenty. (As John Lennon said, "Life is what happens while you're busy making other plans.") He took college courses periodically throughout his career, learning early that college is much more interesting than high school. During two separate five year tours at Royal Air Force bases located halfway between Oxford and Cambridge Universities, he periodically took classes from Oxford and Cambridge professors who were moonlighting with the University of Maryland on base. Class subjects were too varied and the subject choices too limited to tie into a degree. Lawrence altered his plans and set out to complete his college degree as soon as possible after retiring from the Air Force on 1 March 1987. He then received a letter from the Veteran's Administration in December of 1986, letting him know that the G. I. Bill was going to change significantly on 1 January 1989, so he decided that a job would have to be his first priority.

After retirement, he returned to Portland and went to work for the U. S. Postal Service, with the intention to resume taking college courses when time permitted. His varying job schedule didn't allow taking outside classes, but Postal electronics and machine maintenance courses filled his desire for learning. Lawrence's wife, Gigi, pulled him aside in 2008 and said, "I want to go to school." Within four years, she graduated from Washington State University with a 4.0 grade point average, and she already had graduate school plans. "The University of Connecticut is offering me a slot in their Industrial/Organizational Psychology Doctorate Program!" Lawrence tried to transfer from the Portland Post Office to Hartford, but Hartford Postal Maintenance informed him that they were downsizing. "Sorry." So, he retired after 25 years and came to Connecticut with Gigi. Unfortunately, his combined military and Postal retirement pension couldn't buy food, lodging and UConn tuition, and his G. I. Bill entitlement had long since expired. On Veteran's Day, 2012, As Lawrence puts it, "I was listening to Governor Dannel Malloy tell the NPR interviewer what Connecticut is doing for veterans. He said, among other things, "No Connecticut resident veteran who served in time of war will pay tuition at any Connecticut state school." Really? He's a veteran, and a resident, but the benefit was unbelievable. "I must have heard him wrong." So Lawrence checked with the UConn Veteran Affairs Office and, sure enough, Connecticut could make his degree possible. UConn accepted Lawrence's application and gave him credit for most of the courses he took while in the military. He started desired fulltime degree towards an English major in August of 2013. Lawrence and his wife Gigi will walk across stages in May of 2016: Gigi for her MA on her way to a PhD and Lawrence for his baccalaureate. "Our mothers will be in the audience," says Lawrence."

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

Complete this survey for a chance to win an iPad mini!!



The goal of this survey is to understand the factors that best predict academic success for student veterans (for example, university support, support from family), and which factors can stand in the way of that success. This information can then be used to create programs that help veterans achieve their goals and obtain meaningful employment after graduation.

The survey link is listed below. The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete. Upon the completion of each survey, you have the option to enter into a raffle for an iPad mini (we expect to give away 5 each questionnaire).

They will be collecting data at the beginning AND end of two semesters. You will have the opportunity to participate in these follow up surveys. You will have a chance of winning an iPad mini each time you complete a survey in each new phase.

To take the survey, click on the following link:

<https://www.psychdata.com/s.asp?SID=169960>

iPad mini



Army ROTC Cadet of the Month



Brian Goldstein grew up in Cromwell, CT with two sisters and his parents. He went to Cromwell High School where he was on the high honor roll for all four years and an Eagle Scout from troop 26. He also participated in many extracurricular activities such as lacrosse, soccer, indoor track, a national honors society and student government, where he was board of education student rep for his junior and senior years.

Currently a freshman in UConn's honors program for Chemical Engineering, Goldstein was looking to join a group that was both physically engaging and allowed him to help people in the future. "I joined the Army ROTC because I felt that it had the greatest diversity in future career paths for me, and it seemed like it would be the most enjoyable military branch," said Goldstein.

Though still undecided in the army branch that he would like to go into, he's looking at a combat support branch, perhaps engineering. On campus, he is a member of AIChE, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers, and he enjoys going to the rec facility to use their climbing wall.

SFC Stefan Falls, Military Science Instructor, says "In addition to his outstanding first semester academics, Goldstein is our top-ranked freshman. He also consistently demonstrates a strong sense of patriotism and duty to our nation."

UCONN Commissions Two Army 2nd Lieutenants

by CDT Calvin Knecht, A-CO, NH BN PAO



STORRS, CT — On January 8th, 2016 the University of Connecticut Army Reserve Officer Training Corps commissioned Second Lieutenants Denali Ostebo and Timothy Biesiadecki.

Approximately 45 people attended the ceremony. The newly-commissioned Second Lieutenants were sworn into their commission by LTC Tanya Wahlberg, the Battalion Commander of the University of Connecticut's Army Reserve Officer Training Corps.

2LT Ostebo is continuing her family's military tradition. Her father is Rear Admiral Ostebo of the United States Coast Guard, and her older sister is a Lieutenant in the United States Army. 2LT Ostebo commissioned into the United States Army Quartermaster Corps and will be stationed in South Korea following her

Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Lee, Virginia.

2LT Biesiadecki is the first in his family to commission into the United States Army. 2LT Biesiadecki commissioned into the United States Army Transportation Corps. He was sworn into the Connecticut National Guard on the same day as his Commissioning and will be joining the Connecticut Army National Guard's 1048th Transportation Company at Enfield, CT following his Basic Officer Leaders Course at Fort Lee, Virginia.

We wish the best to Second Lieutenants Ostebo and Biesiadecki in their military careers.



Benefits Corner

Scholarship Opportunities from Student Veterans of America (SVA)!!

SVA (Student Veterans of America) is excited to announce their spring 2016 Scholarships, funded by Raytheon and Accenture. In 2016, SVA is on track to grant its one millionth dollar in scholarship Awards.

Raytheon Patriot Scholarship

Two U.S. Army veterans pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree at an accredited four-year institution will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Raytheon SVA Scholarship

Five student veterans pursuing a STEM degree will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

The Accenture SVA Scholarship

Four student veterans enrolled in a four-year institution will each be awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

All scholarship applications close at **11:59pm EST on April 4th.**

Apply Here: <http://studentveterans.org/index.php/programs/scholarships>

Are you using eBenefits?

eBenefits is a site that is the result of a collaboration between the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Defense (DoD). It is for Veterans, Service members, Wounded Warriors, their family members, and their authorized caregivers.

What the site can do for:

- A secure environment where you can safely access your personal information and perform self-service tasks. **To include your military service records, training and administrative records**
- Applications (online and PDF) for disability compensation and **vocational rehabilitation.**
- Form letters to include **veteran certification for housing loans and service verification letters**
- Employment resources.
- A personalized Dashboard that you can customize to suit your preferences and information needs.

Access to the National Resource Directory, which enables you to find links to resource based on subjects that interest you.

For more information go to <https://www.ebenefits.va.gov>

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
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Johnson & Johnson	Derek Dalmalin	ddalmoli@its.jnj.com
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Wal-Mart	Ron Ealey	ronald.ealey@wal-mart.com

