

# *The Spartan Salute*

*Newsletter of San Jose State University's Burdick Military History Project,  
Veterans Advisory Committee and Veteran Students Organization.*

Number 5

Spring 2012

## **LTG JOSEPH FIL IS SJSU'S HIGHEST RANKING ALUMNUS**



Lieutenant General Joseph F. Fil, who received a B.S. in Anthropology from San Jose State University in 1976, commands the Eighth Army and all United States Army forces in Korea. General Fil, a native of Portola Valley, has three brothers, all of whom are also graduates of San Jose State University.

A Distinguished Military Graduate of San Jose State's Army ROTC program, General Fil was commissioned as an armored cavalry officer in 1976. After serving in various posts in Germany, in 1992 he took command of the 1st Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment and, in 1997, the 1st Brigade of the First Cavalry Division. General Fil graduated from the Command and General Staff College and the National War College and has also earned three Master's degrees: an MS in Administration from Central Michigan University, a MS in Military Arts and Science from the US Army Command and Staff College, and an MS in National Security and Strategic Studies from the National War College.

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## **CONFERENCE ON VETERAN STUDENT SUCCESS COMES TO SJSU**

As part of *The Welcoming Warriors Home Project*, SJSU's Career Center is co-hosting a conference with the Blue Shield Foundation, The Center for Community Learning & Leadership and the Health Sciences Department to promote best practices working with Student Veterans.

This conference will be held May 4, 2012 and entitled "Welcoming Warriors Home: Supporting Veterans as They Transition into Higher Education." Come learn about an innovative, dynamic collaboration among faculty members and student affairs professionals to support veterans' success in college and civilian life. For more information contact Dr. Elena Klaw ([Elena.Klaw@sjsu.edu](mailto:Elena.Klaw@sjsu.edu)), Dr. Anne Demers at ([Anne.Demers@sjsu.edu](mailto:Anne.Demers@sjsu.edu)) or Melodie Cameron ([Melodie.Cameron@sjsu.edu](mailto:Melodie.Cameron@sjsu.edu)).

## **CISCO DONATES \$5000 TO SJSU**

As part of a broad national effort to aid returning veterans, Cisco Systems has generously donated \$5000 to create a scholarship fund for SJSU veteran students. Cisco, based in San Jose, sponsors numerous initiatives to aid vets, and plans to be active at SJSU. The Veterans Advisory Committee is working on how this scholarship money will be used.

## **EXHIBIT ON AFRICAN-AMERICAN MILITARY SERVICE AT MLK LIBRARY**

During African-American History month, dozens of uniforms, equipment, medals, photographs, documents and other militaria reflecting the service of African-Americans in the Armed Forces are on

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## **NEW COURSE FOCUSES ON VETERANS RETURNING HOME**

University Studies 95V: "Warriors at Home: Succeeding in College, Life, and Relationships," a class just for military students and veterans, is coming back by popular demand and will be offered Fall Semester 2012. The course is a three-unit interdisciplinary seminar instructed by Dr. Elena Klaw (Psychology), Dr. Anne Demers (Health Sciences), and Melodie Cameron (Career Center).

This innovative class was specifically designed to assist veteran and military students in making positive transitions from military to civilian or post-deployment life. The course provides essential tools to navigate the University, to succeed in academics and interpersonal relationships, and to develop a career plan. Class sessions are highly interactive, involving varied guest speakers, films, and discussion. The class culminates in a service project designed by the students. The Fall 2011 cohort, for example, conducted a campus-community fair in which local organizations serving veterans shared resources and information with campus staff and students. Students in the course became expert on topic areas they researched, and presented the results at the fair.

Overall, the inaugural Fall 2011 class was a great success. Student veterans reported powerful effects from their participation. For more information about the course, please contact Dr. Elena Klaw (Elena.Klaw@sjsu.edu) or Dr. Anne Demers at (Anne.Demers@sjsu.edu). To learn more about career planning resources for student veterans, please contact Melodie Cameron (Melodie.Cameron@sjsu.edu).

## **FIRST ANNUAL STUDENT VETERAN ORIENTATION SPONSORED BY VETERANS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

SJSU's first new Veteran Student Orientation in decades took place on August 25th, from 12:00 to 2:00 at the Burdick Military History Project. About 20 new veteran students were welcomed with pizza,

soda, and a wide variety of presentations. After welcoming remarks by Dr. Jonathan Roth, Melodie Cameron of the Career Center spoke about Careers for Vets, Andrei Ingalla from Student Services, discussed Veterans Benefits, and psychologist and counselor, Dr. Richard Francisco, talk about counseling services for veterans,

The president of SJSU's Veteran Student Organization, Damian Bramlett then made a presentation about the VSO's activities. Dr. Elena Klaw of the Psychology Department, presented details of a new course, intended for incoming veterans. Finally, Vince Kilmartin, the Northern California representative of Troops to Teachers, offered details on this national program.

## **VETERAN STUDENTS ORGANIZATION REPORT BY DAMIAN BRAMLETT, OUTGOING VSO PRESIDENT**

As always, things are pretty busy with the Veterans Student Organization (VSO) and the Spring 2012 semester is no exception. This semester the VSO is welcoming our recently elected executive officers. Marine Corps veteran David Richardson is our new President; Retired USMC Major Mark Pinto is now Executive Vice President; Navy veteran Robert Davila has been elected Secretary; Marine Corps veteran is the VSO's Treasurer.

In other VSO news, SJSU student and VSO member Canh Ha has just returned home safely from a deployment to Afghanistan. If you see Canh around campus, be sure to welcome him home. I'm sure he would appreciate it tremendously.

Dylan Wondra, another SJSU student and VSO member, is currently on deployment in Kuwait and we look forward to his safe return in the near future.

The VSO will have new sweatshirts coming at the end of February/beginning of March. The cost for each sweatshirt is \$20, with the proceeds going toward future VSO events. T-shirts are still available for \$15.

Both items can be purchased at VSO meetings or by contacting us at: [VSO.SJSU@gmail.com](mailto:VSO.SJSU@gmail.com)

## **EXPERT SPEAKS ON THE JAPANESE SWORD**

On Feb. 20, 2012 in room 225/229 at MLK. Mr. Paul Martin, a former staff member of the British Museum, author, and an acknowledged authority on these weapons, presented a lecture on the history and construction of the classic Japanese sword. Prized as much for its artistic beauty as for its amazing cutting ability, the Japanese sword is one of the most recognized symbols of Japan and its warrior class, the Samurai. The creation of these works of art has continued to the present through the efforts of a new generation of artisans, many of whom Mr. Martin interviewed and filmed for his documentary film, "Art of the Japanese Sword."

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS SUPPRTS SJSU VETERANS**

One of the goals of Vision 2017 is for SJSU to further create a *Culture of Helping and Caring*. The Division of Student Affairs has been identified as being responsible for implementing and coordinating action plans for this initiative. To help create this *Culture of Helping and Caring*, the Career Center identified student veterans as one of the key populations on campus to benefit from further outreach.

Melodie Cameron, the appointed liaison for student veterans at SJSU, now offers weekly appointments for student veterans to help them translate their military strengths into civilian terms as part of employment preparation and job placement services, further assisting with their transition into the civilian world. The Career Center also partners with the community at large to gather resources and information that can be disseminated to SJSU student veterans. To further create this *Culture of Helping and Caring*, a paraprofessional program was created and the Career Center hired two student veterans to help connect their peers to services offered through the Career Center.

The Career Center promotes *Unbound Learning* through *The Welcoming Warriors*

*Home Project*, a collaboration with Dr. Elena Klaw, from the Psychology Department and the Center for Community Learning & Leadership and Dr. Anne Demers from the Health Science Department. *The Welcoming Warriors Home Project* aims to support student veterans in their personal, academic, and career development as they transition into the civilian world.

## **TWO ISRAELI SOLDIERS TO TALK AT MLK LIBRARY**

On Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00 noon in room 225 of the Martin Luther King Jr. Library, at 4<sup>th</sup> and San Fernando Streets in downtown San Jose, Hillel of Silicon Valley, hosts two Israeli college students, who will discuss their experiences as reservists in the Israeli Defense Forces, participating in combat operations in Gaza and Lebanon. For more information call (408) 286-6669 or email [Israel@hillelsv.org](mailto:Israel@hillelsv.org).

## **BURDICK MILITARY HISTORY PROJECT UPDATES**

The Burdick Military History Project is located in Industrial Studies 235, and its collection of 5,000 books and other material is open Monday through Friday from 9:00 to 4:30. Books do not circulate, but the Project room is open to the public and all are welcome. The General Anthony L. Jackson Study Corner, located there is open to all, but especially to veteran students.

The Burdick project is a volunteer endeavor, and other than the room itself receives no support from the university or state. We are seeking volunteers, especially retired military officers and veterans, to assist in directing various of our initiatives, including our oral history project, maintaining and organizing our book collection, reaching out to local military history groups and planning lectures, symposia and other events.

To volunteer, contribute or for more information, contact BMHP's director, Dr. Jonathan Roth at (408) 924-5505 or [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu).

## **GENERAL FIL**

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After returning to Germany for several years service with NATO, in 2002, he became Commanding General of the National Training Center, and in 2004, he led the Civilian Police Assistance Training Team, Multi-National Security Transition Command in Iraq. In 2005, General Fil took over command of the First Cavalry Division that deployed to Iraq the next year, when General Fil also took command of the Multi National Division responsible for Baghdad during "the Surge". In 2008, he was promoted to Lieutenant General and assumed command of the Eighth Army and became Chief of Staff of the U.N. Combined Forces Command in Korea. Among other honors, General Fil has been awarded the Defense Superior Service Medal with Oak Leaf Cluster, the Legion of Merit with three Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Bronze Star.

## **PRICE OF LIBERTY EXHIBIT**

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display at the Cultural Heritage Center on the fifth floor of the Martin Luther King, Jr. library in downtown San Jose.

These artifacts, from one of the largest private collections of African-American military history in the country, will be on display until February 29<sup>th</sup>. The exhibit, entitled "The Price of Liberty: Artifacts of African-American Military Service from the collection of Anthony Powell," is cosponsored by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Library's Cultural Heritage Center and the SJSU History Department's Burdick Military History Project. An opening ceremony was held on Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Cultural Heritage Center, attended by about people, including SJSU's president, Dr. Mohammed Qayoumi. For more information about the exhibit, please call Dr. Jonathan Roth at (408) 924-5505.

**Back issues of The Spartan Salute are available at <http://scholarworks.sjsu.edu>. For more information, contact Dr. Jonathan Roth, History Department, San Jose State University, San Jose CA 95192-0117, tel: (408) 924-5505; email: [jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu](mailto:jonathan.roth@sjsu.edu)**

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