

Veterans Education in New Jersey: Serving Those Who Served

Fairleigh Dickinson University

April 13, 2011

Co-Sponsored by the Independent College Fund of New Jersey (ICFNJ) and Fairleigh Dickinson University (FDU) with support from the Wal-Mart Foundation and the American Council on Education Office of Military Programs.

Registration & Continental Breakfast	9:00 to 9:30 am	Dickinson Hall Lobby
Welcoming Remarks Joseph Kiernan, Fairleigh Dickinson University John (JB) Wilson, New Jersey Independent College Fund	9:35 to 9:45 am	Wilson Auditorium
Legislative Update: What's New and What's Coming? Charles Rowe, NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Douglass MacPherson, US VA Regional Office	9:45 to 10:30 am	Wilson Auditorium
Featured Speaker: The State of Veterans Education in NJ Captain Benjamin Stoner, NJ National Guard	10:30 to 11:15am	Wilson Auditorium
Break	11:15 to 11:30 am	Dickinson Hall Lobby
Veteran Students Panel: Sharing Experiences Jeffrey Dunn (Chair), Fairleigh Dickinson University Ben Choe, Stevens Institute of Technology Jesse Figueiredo, Seton Hall University Orley Pacheco, Fairleigh Dickinson University Paul Lazaro, Middlesex County College Lauren DelRicci, Rowan University	11:30 to 12:30 pm	Wilson Auditorium
Veteran Services Panel: Sharing Practices Arial (AJ) Luna (Chair), Fairleigh Dickinson University Garland Foster, Seton Hall University D.N. Lombardi, Stevens Institute of Technology Stefanie Ulrich, Fairleigh Dickinson University Paul Duffy, Felician University Bruce Hurwitz, Hurwitz Strategic Staffing	12:30 to 1:30 pm	Wilson Auditorium

Lunch & Networking	1:30 to 2:30 pm	Dickinson Hall Lobby
Breakout #1: Post-9/11 GI Bill 2.0 Joan Edwards, NJ Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Arial (AJ) Luna, Fairleigh Dickinson University	2:30 to 5:00 pm	Wilson Auditorium
Breakout #2: Evaluating Military Education Experience Meg Krause, ACE Office of Military Programs Denise Hart, Fairleigh Dickinson University	2:30 to 5:00 pm	DH 2135
Breakout #3: Military Culture 101/Combat to Classroom Stefanie Ulrich, Fairleigh Dickinson University Jeffrey Dunn, Fairleigh Dickinson University	2:30 to 5:00 pm	DH 2245

THANKS

Thanks to Mahesh Nair, Dolores Stasion, Brian Choi and Andrew Frenkel from the Office of Global Learning for their volunteer efforts.



Directions

From North or South: Garden State Parkway to Exit 161, Route 4 East. Exit at Hackensack Avenue South. Turn left at second light on to Temple Avenue. Dickinson Hall is at the end of the street on the left hand corner of University Plaza Drive. Parking is available in the lot on the right hand corner of Temple Ave. Wilson Auditorium is on the first level facing the river.

From West: Route 80 East to Garden State Parkway North. Proceed on GSP to Exit 161 - Route 4 East. Follow Rt. 4 to Hackensack Avenue South exit. Make left at second light on to Temple Avenue. Dickinson Hall is at the end of the street on the left hand corner of University Plaza Drive. Parking is available in the lot on the right hand corner of

Temple Ave. Wilson Auditorium is on the first level facing the river.

From East: George Washington Bridge; follow signs to Rt. 4 West. Exit Rt. 4 at Hackensack Avenue South. At second light, make left on to Temple Avenue. Dickinson Hall is at the end of the street on the left hand corner of University plaza Drive. Parking is available in the lot on the right hand corner of Temple Ave. Wilson Auditorium is on the first level facing the river.

Parking

Parking will be available in unrestricted sections of the Rothman Center parking lot and the Edward Williams Hall parking lot. Uniformed public safety officers will be available to direct you. Please tell them that you are attending the Veterans Education conference.

PRESENTERS

Ben Choe, USMC(R) is a Veteran of the United States Marine Corps and a student in engineering management at Stevens Institute of Technology. He was the first Veteran in Stevens history to receive a Technogenesis Scholarship, which he utilized to conduct research which helped frame the strategic plan for the Stevens Veterans Office. He is a New Jersey native, a former cook at an Italian restaurant who is currently also a staff coordinator for the Stevens Healthcare Educational Partnership (SHEP), which provides training and education to urban hospitals across our state.

Lauren DelRicci, a veteran of the United States Navy, joined the service shortly after graduating high school in her hometown of Medford, NJ. Her military service included tours on the USS Blue Ridge LCC-19 in Yokosuka, Japan, and onboard the aircraft carrier USS Nimitz CVN-68 in San Diego, California. While on active duty, Lauren took numerous college courses and nearly earned her associate's degree before her transition into civilian life with the rank of Machinist Mate Third-Class Petty Officer. Upon return to New Jersey, Lauren pursued her education at the local county college and eventually found her place studying at Rowan University. Lauren served as president of Rowan's Veteran Student Organization and as a VA work-study student in the veterans' affairs office. She graduated in May 2009 with a bachelor's degree in public relations. Since graduation, she has worked in various capacities serving New Jersey's veteran student population, primarily as the Outreach Specialist for Operation College Promise. She looks forward to furthering her education in the near future.

Paul Duffy Sr. is an undergraduate student at Felician College, studying Criminal Justice. Paul served six years in the United States Navy, from 2002-2008 as an Operations Specialist. While on active duty, he was deployed to Iraq in 2003 and 2005-2006, in Support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. After he left the military, he became a single father, and moved back to New Jersey. He enrolled at Felician College in 2009. Currently in his third semester he is on the Dean's List with a 3.9 GPA. Mr. Duffy Sr. works as the Veteran Specialist for Felician College. He initiated the first Veteran Organization at Felician College which falls under the Student Veterans of America. He is a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a member of the Color Guard in Nutley, NJ.

Jeffrey J. Dunn is a graduate student at Fairleigh Dickinson University currently pursuing his MBA. He is a veteran of the United States Army, having served on active duty from 1999-2006 and in the New Jersey Army National Guard through the fall of 2007. While on active duty, he deployed to Iraq as part of the invasion force in 2003 and again in 2005. After leaving the military, he has earned an A.S. in Business Administration from the County College of Morris and a B.A. in Business from Fairleigh Dickinson University. Both degrees were earned with honors. Mr. Dunn currently works as a Graduate Assistant in FDU's Office of Veteran Services and is involved with numerous organizations that are oriented towards veterans and scholarship.

Jesse Figueiredo, USMC(R) is an undergraduate student at Seton Hall University. He returned home to the Garden State after earning an A.A. from the College of Southern Maryland. His academic interests include the law and criminal justice areas with a minor in sociology. He served in the United States Marine Corps on active duty from 2002-2006 as an Ammunition Technician (2311). In those four years Mr. Figueiredo traveled to several states domestically and internationally on several occasions with two deployments to the Middle East. He received an honorable discharge as a E-5/Sgt. Presently, Mr. Figueiredo is employed by Michael Stapleton Associates and volunteers for the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in Jersey City. Future career paths may include working in federal law enforcement, such as the DEA, local law enforcement, or possibly the United States Coast Guard. He is also considering graduate study.

Garland Foster holds two major responsibilities as Financial Aid Counselor at Seton Hall University's main campus and Veteran Coordinator for both the main campus and the law school, where he has increased enrollment while maintaining retention of undergraduate and graduated veterans. Mr. Foster was Honorably Discharged from the United States Marines where he served as a squad leader providing security for the United States Advanced Weapons Systems at Washington Bangor Naval Base. Mr. Foster has co-authored papers on the veteran student experience, one of which includes "Citizen Veteran of Generation X". He is currently writing his first book, "The War Within The Heart and Mind". Mr. Foster is a candidate

for his Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in Psychology with a minor in Business and English. Additionally, Garland mentors young men at the Essex County Youth Detention Center in Newark, NJ. Mr. Foster is married with two sons and two daughters.

Denise M. Hart, M.S., Ed.D. has spent nearly four decades in higher education. She has taught at Middlesex County College, NJ and at Fairleigh Dickinson University (NJ) in the College of Dental Medicine, the Sociology department, and the School of Education, Metropolitan (Teaneck) Campus. Hart created and administers the University's baccalaureate adult learner program, "**Success**" since 1985. She continues to teach and advise undergraduate, adult students, and oversees all aspects of the University's assessment of experiential learning. Dr. Hart serves as a resource to the University community on issues affecting the adult learner. Most recently, she authored the only text of its kind, including models for Portfolio Assessment, **Prior Learning Portfolios: A Representative Collection** (2009) with Dr. Jerry H. Hickerson (recently retired from WSSU). She has a wide selection of publications, professional presentations and consults with various audiences in general and interdisciplinary studies, adult and continuing higher education.

Bruce A. Hurwitz, Ph.D. is president and CEO of Hurwitz Strategic Staffing, Ltd. (www.hsstaffing.com), an executive recruitment and career counseling firm located in Manhattan. HSS's mission is to promote the hiring of veterans of the US Armed Forces and Merchant Marines. An honors graduate of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel, where he obtained his doctorate, he is the author of over 100 peer-reviewed and journalistic publications. A recognized authority on issues of recruitment, career development and employment, he has been cited in over 135 publications, nationally and internationally, since May of 2010 including *USA Today*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *The Star-Ledger*, *New York Post*, *AM New York*, *Crain's New York Business*, and *The Chronicle of Philanthropy* to name but a few. He is also the host of *Bruce Hurwitz Presents* on BlogTalkRadio (www.blogtalkradio.com/bhp).

Meg Krause is the associate director of military programs at the American Council on Education. In this role, Meg supports A.C.E. veteran initiatives such as the A.C.E./Walmart Success for Veterans Award Grants and the Serving Those Who Serve program. Prior to this, she consulted on America's Heroes at Work, a U.S. Department of Labor education campaign focused on helping veterans invisible injuries succeed in the workplace, and the National Resource Directory, a website developed jointly by the U.S. Departments of Defense, Labor and Veterans Affairs that provides information and assistance to wounded, ill and injured service members, veterans and their families. Meg has served more than nine years as a medic in the United States Army. During her five years of active duty, she served in two overseas tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and now continues her service in the Army Reserve.

Paul Lazaro, 27 years old, was born in Englewood, NJ. He is presently double majoring at Middlesex County College in Journalism and Communication. He hopes to attend Rutgers University for bachelors in Journalism and Media Studies or New Jersey City University for bachelors in National Security Studies. While at Middlesex CC, he has served as Editor-in-chief of the campus newspaper, *Quo Vadis*, president of the Middlesex County College Veterans and Servicemembers Association, and works in the Department of Counseling and Career Services at MCC as a student worker. Paul enlisted in the New Jersey Army National Guard in October 2002 and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom from May 2004 to November 2005 and January 2009 to January 2010. He received a Purple Heart in August 2005, awarded the Air Medal in October 2009. Paul is currently enrolled in the New Jersey Army National Guard's Officer Candidate School.

Donald N. Lombardi, Ph.D., USMC(R) is the Director and Industry Professor of the Stevens Healthcare Educational Partnership and the Academic Director of the Veterans Program at Stevens Institute of Technology. He has written eleven books, including, "Handbook for the New Healthcare Manager" and holds more than 50 U.S. copyrights on organizational planning, management, and development systems for text, on-site and on-line delivery. As the youngest officer commissioned in the United States Marine Corps during the 1970's, Dr. Lombardi instituted numerous educational and management systems which were lauded by both military and civilian experts. He is a Senior Fellow in the Governance Institute, has acted as a healthcare advisor to several members of Congress, and has implemented strategic plans, educational systems and organizational development programs for SUNY Stony Brook Medical Center, four VA VISN Organizations, VNACJ, the Shore Health System of Maryland and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

Arial (AJ) Luna is the current Director of Veteran Services for Fairleigh Dickinson University. He is a veteran of the United States Army, having served on active duty from 1999-2002 and in the New York Army National Guard through the summer of 2006. While on active duty, he deployed in Iraq Freedom II as a military policeman from 2004-2005. After leaving the military, he has earned a B.A. in Television and Radio from Brooklyn College. He was part of the group, Student Veterans of America, which helped campaign for

the Post 9/11 G.I. Bill. He has assisted over 1200 veterans in New York and New Jersey for higher education. Mr. Luna has been working with veterans in higher education programs for over 7 years.

Douglas T. MacPherson, M.A., is the Education Liaison Representative (ELR) at the Newark, NJ VA Regional Office. He is charged with processing (in conjunction with the State Approving Agency), the approvals of all facilities and their programs within the State for the training of veterans and other eligible persons and for keeping schools informed on all aspects of the VA education programs. He is also currently assisting the Cleveland, Ohio VA Regional Office with approvals. Mr. MacPherson received a BS Education (1965) and MA History (1967) degree from the University of Dayton. He served (was drafted) in the US Army from April 1969 to April 1971, spending 15 months in Heidelberg, Germany. He joined the US Department of Veterans Affairs (then Veterans Administration) in September 1972 as a Contact Rep. He moved to the Education Services Unit in 1974 and achieved his current position in 1993.

Orley J. Pacheco is a first generation Latino, New York City native and Operation Iraqi Freedom Veteran who honorably served with the United States Marine Corps as a member of the Black Knight's Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 264. Orley's squadron participated in Combined Joint Task Force – Haiti/ 8 in response to the civil unrest with the departure of Haitian President Jean- Bertrand Aristide. Mr. Pacheco shortly thereafter, deployed to Al Asad in the northwestern Anbar Providence of Iraq. Orley and HMM- 264 returned proudly to New River, only to be tapped to assist in the Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Orley served with the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Program and Diversity community outreach programs with various Fortune 500 Companies. Today, Mr. Pacheco works at Prudential Financial in Agency Distribution and serves as the Vice President of Corporate Development with ALPFA's New Jersey Chapter board. Orley also serves on several non- profit advisory boards that vary from his time with the military, diversity and inclusion, as well as education.

Charles Rowe is Bureau Chief State Approving Agency in the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs in the Division of Veterans Services. Mr. Rowe has served as Bureau Chief in the State Approving Agency since 2002. The State Approving Agency is responsible for the inspection, approval, and supervision of programs of education and training under the various GI Bills. Prior to being selected as Bureau Chief, Charlie served as education program specialist in the State Approving Agency for 17 years. He is also a former adjunct faculty member having taught at the college level in New Jersey for 25 years.

Captain Benjamin Stoner is the State Education Benefits and GI Bill Manager for the New Jersey National Guard. He joined the New Jersey Army National Guard in 1992 and graduated from Rutgers University in 1998 with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology and Criminal Justice. Since graduating from Officer Candidate School in July 2001 he performed numerous state and federal missions in support of the Global War on Terrorism. Captain Stoner most recently served with the 50th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Baghdad, Iraq. Captain Stoner began his career in the NJARNG Education Office in 1994 as a VA Work Study Student and was hired full-time in 1999. Captain Stoner's accomplishments in the education office include: Building the first Education Benefits website for the NJARNG; Assisting National Guard Bureau with the development of the iMARC database which is now the GI Bill database of record for all Army National Guard Soldiers; and producing a comprehensive NJARNG Education Services Brochure Booklet.

Stefanie Ulrich, PhD, is the Director of the FDU Center for Psychological Services, and the Center's Clinical Services for Veterans and Families, a program that has provided specialized services to combat veterans and their families for over 25 years. She is a member of the FDU Veteran's Advisory Board, and she chaired its Psychological Services Taskforce. Dr. Ulrich is a member of the State PTSD Taskforce and she helped train dozens of NJ mental health clinicians to provide psychological screenings and briefings to over 2,000 NJ National Guard troops returning home from the war in Iraq in 2009 and 2010. She is a licensed Clinical Psychologist with 20 years of experience in assessment, treatment, supervision, training and program development in acute, sub-acute and outpatient settings in both psychiatric and medical contexts. She is currently conducting surveys of student attitudes towards veterans on campus, and of the experiences of FDU's student-veterans.