VetNet Matters
Chris Rose, Student Leader

In my time here at GCC I’ve seen a lot of events and activities come and go. They ranged in size from a small table with a few pamphlets all the way up to large ceremonies that covered multiple departments. Through all of it VetNet has been second to none in making an event memorable and special.

I started here on a barely envisioned concept of the future and the first impressions that I had were of the wonderful community that this college has. From my first introduction with Diane to just ask a few questions all the way through present when I hold a position as a co-Vice President at VetNet and President of the Student Senate.

As a new student, the open and welcoming community of this group was a helpful port in the storm of so many new experiences. As a VetNet member I have always been happy about how we have established ourselves as a professional and well thought of body.

As Vice President I have been proud to be acquainted with such a great collection of people.

As Senate President I have never had any cause to think twice about collaboration and connection with VetNet. This organization is a model that many have emulated. It is a store of experiences, skills, and knowledge that is always ready, willing and able to step up and be at the front of any movement or activity.

I have been proud to work with and serve you all and continue to look forward to the amazing things I’m sure we will all accomplish in the future.

Respectfully,
Chris Rose

A Fallen Soldier & Friend

This issue of Scuttlebutt is dedicated to Bradford E. Coolidge of Athol. Brad served in the United States Army National Guard for 38 years, including a deployment to Iraq in 2005 and one to Afghanistan in 2010. He was a Sergeant and member of Company “G” 186th BSB from Quincy, and was highly respected, an outstanding leader and a dear friend of VetNet Member MSGT Joe Young.

GCC Veterans Education & Transition Services (aka VETS) Center

The GCC VETS Center is the central hub for our veterans programming on campus. The VETS Center is conveniently located in the Main Campus building in the North End Room 215. The space provides a safe haven for veterans the family members and friends of veterans to gather.

If you haven’t already had a chance to stop by, please take some time to check it out. And if you have, feel free to come back anytime. EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

VetNet Student Club

VetNet is an official GCC Student Life club and VetNet Meetings are held every Wednesday @ 12:00 p.m. in the VETS Center in N215.

Everyone is welcome to the meetings and any GCC student can join by completing a membership form.

Please stop by the VETS Center for more information.

Check out Resources for Veterans on the GCC website: http://web.gcc.mass.edu/veterans
**CAMPUS BEST PRACTICES**

*Course Content*

Unresolved emotions from military service often continue for years in the lives of some veterans. Course content such as personal writing assignments, videos, and certain discussion topics may lead some veterans to experience painful memories and create emotional discomfort. It is not uncommon for writing or classroom discussions to act as a point of revelation about some of these life problems. Faculty should be ready to take time to talk with students whose homework or classroom behavior may reveal troubling emotions.

If you observe what may seem to be problems that are distracting to the veteran, find a way to talk with him or her when not in front of the other class members. Attempt to understand what it is that is causing distress, or the extent of its impact in his or her life. Let the veteran know that they are not in trouble, but that you hope to help them gain as much from the class as possible, and that if you can help in some way you hope to do so. It is not appropriate for the instructor to take the role of the counselor, but to refer such matters to a knowledgeable resource on campus.

In other cases, if might be very obvious that the veteran is struggling with a variety of concerns, and it would be totally appropriate to attempt to determine the extent of their distress. We have found that asking about sleep problems, depression, anxiety, ideas about self-harm, can lead the veteran to finding the help needed. Learn about the services on campus or in the community, and let the veteran know there are places and people who are dedicated to helping make things easier for them. If this approach is uncomfortable, seek immediate consultation with designated campus staff that attends to student services, counseling, and crisis. Diane O'Hearn, Academic Coordinator is available to help you and the student veteran. Diane can be contacted at 775-1825 and/or ohearn@d@gcc.mass.edu

**MILITARY TRIVIA**

**What does the acronym MASH stand for?**
- a) Military Assistance Support Headquarters
- b) Military Army Surgical Hospital
- c) Mobile Army Surgical Hospital
- d) Doesn't Actually Stand for Anything

**Whose picture is on the Purple Heart medal?**
- A) President Lincoln
- B) An unidentified soldier
- C) President Washington
- D) The First Secretary of Defense

**What does the military nickname “G.I.” stand for?**
- A) Government Identity
- B) Gentleman Inducted
- C) Government Issue
- D) Gallant Individual

---

**THE LOOP**

*Stay Connected*

**Every Wednesday**

**VetNet Club Meetings**

12-12:50 p.m.

VETS Center N215

PIZZA SERVED

3.14.12

**Student Movie Night**

6:30-9:00 pm

Feature: Dolphin Tale

Location: TBD

**4.28.12**

**Resetting Perspectives**

A Conference for Higher Education professionals serving veterans, women, and GLBT student communities.

A GCC/UMass Collaboration

Host: GCC

Watch for details

**SAVE THE DATE**

7.14.12

**TOUGH MUDDER**

Several GCC student veterans and college members have formed a team for the Tough Mudder New England at Mt. Snow

---

**GCC VET ALLY**

*With Gratitude*

The members of GCC’s Student Veterans Network Club has nominated a long time GCC staff member as having gone ‘above & beyond’ to consistently recognize the sacrifice, commitment and work that veterans do long after they leave their military posts.

This individual’s grandfather served in the Army during WW2, and his dad served 8 years in the Air Force.

He is constantly donating patriotic, like pens, pencils, flags, and pins to other GCC staff members and to the VETS CENTER. The most recent addition to the VETS Center is the American Flag tablecloth that is displayed on the entry table in N215.

Besides being a very good friend to so many on campus, this individual is very patriotic, loves his country, and is a great supporter of all Veterans.

**JOHN CANON**

GCC

Information Security Officer

Class of 1990

Stars 🌟 🌟 🌟

---

*It is the soldier, not the reporter, Who has given us freedom of the press. It is the soldier, not the poet, Who has given us freedom of speech. It is the soldier, not the organizer, Who has given us the freedom to demonstrate. It is the soldier, Who salutes the flag, Who serves beneath the flag, And whose coffin is draped by the flag, Who allows the protestor to burn the flag.*

~ Father Dennis Edward O'Brian, USMC