Happy February, everyone! As we get into the swing of this winter quarter, we have a few exciting events coming up.

Reflections from January

Student Veterans Organization Meetings
At our two January meetings, we had the privilege having a few speakers with a couple different opportunities:

- Tom Johnson, manager of the Cal Poly graduate program called “Master of Professional Studies in Dairy Products Technology” spoke about opportunities for veterans in his graduate program. Please see the meeting minutes from the January 7th meeting or details. If you are interested in finding out more about this program, please email tjohns47@calpoly.edu.

- Matt Boer spoke to club members on behalf of ASI in regards to the UU referendum. A vote for renovation of the UU will take place on PolyLearn February 24-25th from 7am-7pm. Phase One of the UU renovation would occur between 2018 and 2020. It would increase the dues students pay for the UU about $200. Phase Two would be between 2020 and 2022 to renovate the old UU. You can find more information about this at createtheuu.com.

- Annika Yandell, SVO Treasurer, also took sign-ups for the new SVO Community Service and Fundraising Committees. If you would like to join either of these, you can email either the VSC at veteranscenter@calpoly.edu, or Annika at aiyandel@calpoly.edu.

Brand New Keurig in the VSC!
It has been an exciting month at the Veterans Success Center – we have added one more integral member to our VSC family: a brand new Keurig 2.0!!!!!
Come on in and help yourself to some free, fresh, steaming coffee if you are craving a pick-me-upper as we head into midterms season.
Congratulations to the Recipients of the Northrop Grumman Veterans Scholarship!
On behalf of Northrop Grumman and the Veterans Success Center, we would like to congratulate the two recipients of the Northrop Grumman Veteran’s Scholarship, Olu Sodipe and Ricardo Martinez-Escobar! These two applicants demonstrated an impressive dedication to their field and to Northrop Grumman’s mission of leadership, integrity, and excellence. Great job!!!

Upcoming Events

SVO Meetings this Month
The SVO Meeting dates have been revised since we sent out the January newsletter. Put these new dates in your calendar!

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Hike to Serenity Swing

The Student Veterans Organization will be going on a hike to Serenity Swing on February 6th at 10am! It is an absolutely beautiful hike at this time of year. We will meet at the gate at the entrance to Poly Canyon. (See map to the left.)

2016 T-Shirt Design Selected!
We have selected and sent in the design for this year’s SVO t-shirt! This design will be on the back. Stay tuned at the upcoming SVO meetings to find out how you can get your hands on the trendiest new February fashion.

Open House
This year at Open House, we will be partnering with ROTC to celebrate ROTC’s 100th anniversary in the U.S. We’d like to invite all veterans and ROTC or veteran Alumni back to campus for that weekend to take part in the festivities. The SVO will also have a booth at the Open House Club Showcase, and we will need your help running it. Open House this year will be April 15th-17th, so put it on your radar!
Happy Black History Month!

History is being made! This year, **Lieutenant General Nadja West** (pictured left) became the “first black female lieutenant general and the highest-ranking woman to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy. West became the first black surgeon general, Dec. 14, 2015. In 2013, West was also the first black female major general of the Army's active component, and was Army Medicine's first African-American female two-star general. West is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y., with a Bachelor of Science degree in engineering. She attended the George Washington University School of Medicine in Washington, D.C., where she earned a Doctorate of Medicine degree.”


**CLOSING THOUGHTS**

**A Word from our SVO President, Bryan Cochran:**

Entering February we’re starting our midterms. Time is getting booked, but let’s remember to let loose once in a while. This coming month I’d like to possibly link up with the Marksmanship club and have an event at the local gun range. In a month that's dedicated to love, let’s rekindle our love for shooting. If this interests you please come to the next meeting on Feb. 4 so we can hash out the details. Have a great month, good luck with midterms, and enjoy Valentine's Day with your loved ones. Semper Fidelis!

**Quote of the Month**

This month, we have some words of wisdom from our SVO treasurer, Annika Yandell:

“This February, I challenge you to be present. Rather than constantly think about upcoming midterms and assignments, focus on being here, now. Enjoy the moments of joy you are given daily. Bask in the sunshine on the lawn. Savor that smoothie. Invest yourself fully into that five minute conversation with an old friend. Go for a hike, run through the rolling green hills.

When you think about it, happiness is right at your fingertips. You just have to take it.”

If you would like to submit a quote for next month’s newsletter, please do so at http://goo.gl/forms/pQsKCE2dGu

**Have a fantastic February!**