



# The Husky Vet Gazette

~ Deployed since 2012 ~

Vol II, Issue V



## Submit Your Form D!

You want your benefits on time next semester, right?

Then submit your form D to the office in Arjona 345, or electronically to [veterans@uconn.edu](mailto:veterans@uconn.edu), or fax 'em to 860-486-5283. That's three easy ways to get paid on time in the spring—so take a moment and get this checked off the list. No advisor signature is required, but accuracy counts! Get paid on time!

## Free Lunch!!!

Come take a break before Finals begin on Friday, December 5<sup>th</sup>. Stop into Arjona 339 between 11a.m. and 2p.m. for some delicious (and free) food and catch-up with your colleagues before the fall semester ends. We can't wait to see you!

For more information or questions contact Nikki Cole at

[Nikki.cole@uconn.edu](mailto:Nikki.cole@uconn.edu)

## Military History

### Class in Spring '15

INTD 1820 – Military History

(1 credit, Spring 2015):

Tuesdays 11:00-11:50am; Arjona 343 INTD 1820.016 #11097

'Military History' covering topics on the theory of war and American military history. Was it terrorism or guerilla warfare that won the Revolution? How did State loyalty affect cadets at West Point during the Civil War? These questions and many more will be answered during this fascinating course. Contact Doug Pence to hold your seat:

[student2448@ad.uconn.edu](mailto:student2448@ad.uconn.edu)

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## This Edition of the Gazette...

...is special for a few reasons. First off, I managed to sit down with our very own Cyle Backus to learn about his time in the Coast Guard (p4). It's a great look at the time one of our fellow veterans spent in the service. I'd like to continue the "I was there" feature, but I'll need your help. Any veteran who would like to speak about their service can email me at [logan.wagner@uconn.edu](mailto:logan.wagner@uconn.edu).

Finally, I'd like to say thanks to all those who supported the Gazette this semester. You rock!

# Veteran's Day Ceremony

This year, in honor of Veteran's Day, UConn's president, Susan Herbst, gave a short but emotional speech that reminds all of us of the sacrifices made by so many. As veterans, we are already keenly aware of the effort it takes to preserve and defend our way of life. But we give our time and effort as part of something larger, and it was that aspect of our contribution that was addressed.

Despite the fact that UConn was much smaller at the time, more than 600 members of the college (faculty and staff) joined the war effort during World War One. The Husky commitment to our men and women in uniform has only grown since then. As most of you know, we have several areas that are here just for us, along with a fantastic support staff in Arjona.

Let's never forget that more than 200 students and alums have made the ultimate sacrifice to uphold our freedom. The next time you walk past the memorial, take a moment to reflect on the lives of your companions in uniform—past, present, and future.



## Get Hired at Goodwin as a Veteran Coordinator!

The folks down at Goodwin College are looking for a motivated veteran to lead other veterans to academic and professional success.

Goodwin is a private college in East Hartford that specializes in career focused education. This is a fantastic opportunity to help other veterans make the transition from military to civilian life and beyond.

Check it out: <http://www.goodwin.edu/pdfs/jobs/VeteranCoordinator.pdf>



## Study lounges in Arjona Open Over Weekend Before Finals

**Looking for a place to study for Final Exams this weekend?**

This Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 6th & 7th, the main lounges and computer lab in Arjona (Rm. 339, 341, & 343) will be open during the day. Please feel free to come in and use the study areas, coffee, printer, etc. over the weekend to prepare for Finals.



# Historically Speaking



## Michael “Hell-roaring” Healy

Sometimes the expertise of one man can make a vast difference in the form an empire takes. For the United States, the empire was Arctic and Alaskan oceans, and the man was Michael Healy. Renowned for his exceptional seamanship and navigational abilities, Healy bravely pioneered one of the harshest environments on earth. He did it while gaining the respect and loyalty of a crew still divided over the pain of our nation’s Civil War.

His most famous exploit came while he was the commander of the cutter *Bear*. In 1888, one of the fiercest gales of all time smashed through the frozen waters of the north. Several ships sought shelter behind a stout sand bar at Point Barrow, Alaska. They secured their ships and made ready to wait out the storm—but nature had other ideas. With little warning, the winds shifted, causing ships to collide and thirty foot waves to swell up and angrily pound at the remaining vessels. The stage was set for one of the worst natural disasters of maritime history to occur—but then Healy arrived on the scene. Roaring orders in a voice that would later earn him his nickname, Healy disregarded his own safety and managed to save 160 of the sailors who would have otherwise certainly been lost.

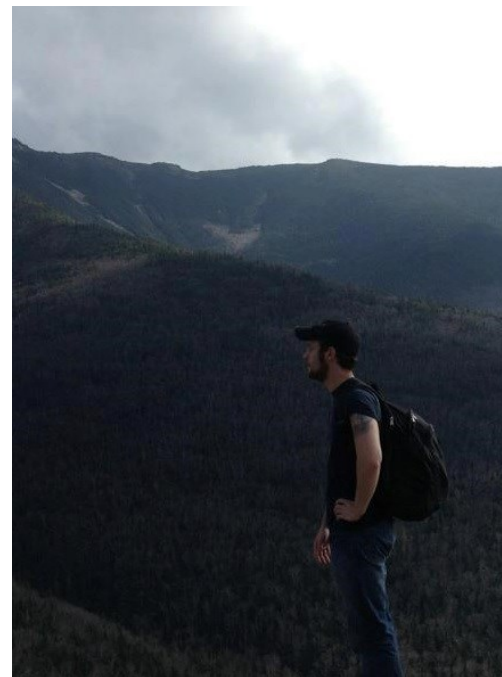
Healy was well-known to be fair in his dealing with all men, and widely respected because of it. His sense of duty and hard work made a substantial contribution to winning the American North West.

# Veteran of the Month

Scott served as a Petty Officer, second class in the U.S. Navy, as a nuclear machinist mate.

Scott is currently a Junior at UConn in the Chemistry Program.

He works in Dr. Angeles-Boza’s labs researching novel antimicrobial peptides. In addition to Scott’s work in the Chemistry Department, Scott works in the Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs. His role in the office is to help fellow student veterans with their questions about G.I. Bill Benefits and the State of Connecticut’s Tuition Waiver. Scott has been serving in this role on-campus for the past two years, helping to process student veterans’ educational benefits.



*Scott atop Franconia Ridge in New Hampshire*

# I was there...one vet's story

Want to share your story? Email the editor: [Logan.wagner@uconn.edu](mailto:Logan.wagner@uconn.edu)

The year was 1980. A peanut farmer was in the White House and Cyle Backus was a nineteen year old NY state certified EMT. He had spent the entire summer preparing for his entry into the United States Coast Guard, specifically the obstacle course. He was convinced that he could complete it in record time, but it was not meant to be.

"The week before I got there, someone fell off and got hurt. So I never did get to try it out. I still ended up with a nearly perfect Advanced Fitness score, though."

After boot camp, he was sent to damage control school on Governors' Island.

"It felt sort of primitive at times," he admitted. "Fire fighting was completely different back then—there was no kind of breathing protection. You were issued rubber rain coats and flash hoods. I've been close enough that some of my gear ended up melting, but was lucky to never get injured."

The rest of school wasn't as exciting:



"We had to build a box without using any nails, and did ten days of intense welding training. It was a beautiful spot, though—every morning I could look across the bay at the statue of Liberty and the twin towers."

His first duty station was the USCGC Jarvis, out of Sand Island, Hawaii. "I was thrilled to get those orders," he recalled. "Then I found out that our mission was to patrol the Bering Strait. So much for sunny beaches!"

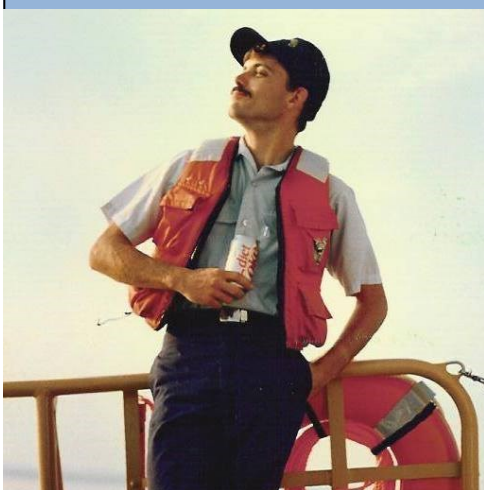
The geography may have changed, but his attitude didn't.

When the Jarvis was called upon to medevac a severely injured fisherman, Cyle was ready to go.

"I'd been an EMT, so I'd seen my share of blood and guts. This guy was mangled pretty bad. I dove right in, administering what first aid I could. Meanwhile, the guy with me couldn't stop puking. You never know how you'll react until you're in that situation, I guess. I managed to stabilize the patient and we dropped him off at Midway."

If that was the most exciting part of his service, some moments were less profound. "One time, in port, I plugged a minor hull breach—I was the only person skinny enough to fit into the bilges. When I crawled out, I was covered in all sorts of hazmat, so my chief ordered me to strip down. I had no sooner done so than both Pearl Harbor admirals arrived and insisted on a debriefing. They didn't even give me a blanket."

Thanks for serving, Cyle!



One the left:  
Seaman Backus during his brief stint as a Diet Coke spokesman.

One the right:  
Chief Backus receives one of the many awards that decorated his service



# 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
Bravo Delta Consulting	Dawn McDaniel	dawn@bravodeltaconsulting.com
Cigna	Jim Wiggs	jimmie.wiggs@cigna.com
CT Public Broadcasting Network	Michael Komrosky	mkomrosky@cpbn.org
Disney/ESPN	Kevin Preston	kevin.preston@espn.com
EMC	Lou Candiello	lou.candiello@emc.com
Enterprise Holdings	Carrie Smith	carrie.l.smith@ehi.com
Frontier	Karlian Brown	karlian.brown@ftr.com
GE	Joe Beal	joseph.beal@ge.com
Johnson & Johnson	Derek Dalmalin	ddalmoli@its.jnj.com
Marymont	Steve Dumont	sdumont@marymont.com
MassMutual	Marybeth Maino	mmaino@massmutual.com
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.	Douglas Yeager	douglas.yeager@ml.com
Pepsico	Marty Kanengiser	marty.kanengiser@pepsico.com
Prudential Financial	Nadine Krause	nadine.krause@prudential.com
Raytheon	Jeff Lance	jlance@raytheon.com
Sikorsky	John Donovan	john.donovan@sikorsky.com
Stanley Black & Decker	Sally Bartas	Sally.Bartas@sbdinc.com
The Hartford	Brian Fresher	brian.fresher@thehartford.com
Travelers	Casey Neff	cneff@travelers.com
United Technologies	Dan Ward	daniel.ward@pw.utc.com
U. of Connecticut - Human Resources	Robin Lessard	robin.lessard@uconn.edu
US Trust	Doug O'Donnell	douglas.odonnell@ustrust.com
Verizon Wireless	Alissa Belcourt	alissa.belcourt@verizonwireless.com
Wal-Mart	Ron Ealey	ronald.ealey@wal-mart.com

