

## Accolades

Report to the Board of Regents

March-April 2017

- **Edward J. Goodroe** is Del Mar College's new **Veterans Center Director**. Goodroe came to the College from American University, where he assisted with the oversight of their Veterans Services Department. Before pursuing higher education, he joined the U.S. Marine Corps after high school and served as a radio/satellite communications operator for six years with deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. After his discharge from service and during his completion of studies at both Northern Virginia Community College and George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, D.C., Goodroe worked with veterans pursuing higher education. While still studying at GWU, he began working for the Department of Veteran Affairs' Education Service, which oversees all education benefits administered by the VA. Thank you, EJ, for your service to our country and other veterans and welcome to Del Mar College!
- Seven **Nurse Education Department** faculty members are working together and pursuing their Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) Educational Leadership degrees from American Sentinel University. The cohort includes **Mary Borchardt, Sandy Dawod, Linda Earwood, Floyd Green, Darla Green, Helen Manibusan** and **Casey Moebius**, who represent over one-third of the College's Nursing faculty. In 2014, **Nurse Education Department Chair Dr. Vangie DeLeon** and **Program Director Dr. Jennifer McWha** attended a conference where the university presented and shared the opportunity and support with DMC faculty members. American Sentinel University delivers accredited online degree programs in nursing with the DNP program accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing in Atlanta, Ga. The university is accredited by the Distance Education Accrediting Commission in Washington, D.C. DMC faculty members will graduate from the program over the next few semesters, some as early as fall 2017. Way to go, everyone! Access and read the article on *The Sentinel Watch* web page: <http://bit.ly/2oDkvHj>.
- **Alan Berecka, Professor of Learning Resources and Reference Librarian with the William F. White, Jr. Library**, was honored with a Certificate of Commendation by the City of Corpus Christi. The certificate

named Berecka as “Poet Laureate of Corpus Christi” as part of the second annual People’s Poetry Festival. In 2012, Berecka envisioned a People’s Poetry Festival with the first event held in 2016. He has three published books of poetry collections to his credit—*With Our Baggage* (2013), *Remembering the Body* (2011) and *The Comic Flaw* (2009) — along with two chapbooks, *Each Man Has One Life* (2004) and *Beacons* (2011). Berecka’s work also has appeared in periodicals and anthologies. Congratulations, Alan!

- Congratulations goes to **Cheryl Sanders, Dean of Student Retention and Engagement**, for her selection and participation during the Student Affairs Professionals in Higher Education’s 2017 Institute for Aspiring Vice President for Student Affairs Officers. Organizers noted this year’s selection process was particularly difficult after receiving a high number of outstanding applications. Sanders joined a very talented group of administrators attending this learning and networking professional development experience. Content session encompass topics such as strategic thinking, leading change, planning for career advancement and work/life balance, among other issues. The institute was held in Tampa, Florida, in January.
- For a job very well done, **Purchasing and Business Services’ Print Services Department—Clara Garcia, Elizabeth Herrera and Irma Maldonado**—received the Salvation Army’s “Angel Tree Partner of the Year” Award for Del Mar College’s Adopt an Angel Program participation. The DMC family made Christmas for 146 “angels” brighter this past year, making the College one of the top three participants in 2016. Del Mar College’s annual participation began long before 2004 when Garcia says she began working at the College. Thank you, Clara, Elizabeth and especially Irma, for carrying on the tradition and encouraging the DMC community to make the holidays brighter for those less fortunate.
- Congratulations goes to the **Emergency Medical Services – Paramedic Program** with the **Public Safety Education Department**, including **EMS Program Director Melissa Stuive, Clinical Coordinator Kellie Reiger** and faculty members **Robert Ruiz** and **Filemon Lopez** for their hard work in obtaining accreditation. The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs recently sent a letter of confirmation based on the recommendation of the Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions for a five-year accreditation period, which runs Marcy 17, 2017 to March 31, 2022.

Department Chair Davis Merrell reported that the “EMS faculty have worked on this process over the last year, and their hard work and determination has finally paid off.” The program will celebrate this accomplishment at 1 p.m. April 26 in the Emergency Training Building on the West Campus and invites everyone to attend. Congratulations to all who worked on the EMS Program’s accreditation!

- **Dr. David Abarca, Associate Professor of Computer Science and Information Security Program Director with the Computer Science, Engineering and Advanced Technology Department**, was recruited by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) to lead a local group devoted to protecting the nation’s critical infrastructure. Dr. Abarca now leads the Coastal Bend Special Interest Group of the FBI’s Houston-based InfraGard program, which is an association of people from business and industry, academic institutions, law enforcement agencies and other fields who are dedicated to sharing information and intelligence to prevent hostile acts against the United States. On another note, Dr. Abarca was recognized in March by the American Cancer Society for his participation in Del Mar Rocks Pink Breast Cancer Awareness Month campaign in October as a “Real Men Wear Pink” ambassador. He wore his hair and beard dyed pink all month and raised 3,000 toward the cause. Congratulations for both honors!

## Events

- Thursday, April 13, 7:30 p.m., 43rd Annual Guest Artist Concert featuring Saxophonist “Blue Lou” Marini and Del Mar College’s MWF Jazz Band, Richardson Performance Hall, DMC East Campus, free: The concert marks the final formal concert under the baton of Professor of Stage Band and Guitar David Irving, who is retiring from teaching at Del Mar College after 45 years. “Blue Lou” Marini joins the Music Department’s MWF Jazz Band for an evening of cool sounds. Best known as a musician with the Saturday Night Live Band, The Blues Brothers Band and Blood, Sweat and Tears, Marini comes to Del Mar College for his fifth time as a featured guest artist. For more information, call the Music Office at 698-1214 or email [dirving@delmar.edu](mailto:dirving@delmar.edu).
- Thursday, April 27, 11 a.m., Viking Landing, Harvin Student Center, DMC East Campus, free: The DMC Viking is on his way and landing at Del Mar College on April 27! He’s been on a long journey to learn more about the

world. Now, he's finally sailing to Corpus Christi to make Del Mar College his home. For more information, call 698-1247.