

USVH Newsletter

*****VISIT US at www.usvh.org*****



Welcome Note from National Director

by Brian Inouye
NSVH National Director

Welcome back to the 12th year of USVH! With so much of last year's board already graduated, the current board is busy transitioning and continuing to expand USVH representation both at Stanford and nationally. For example, this year we have two returning board members (Jess Yee and Ting Qian) who have been most helpful in mentoring their replacements as the National Recruitment Director and Special Events Director, respectively. Andre Vanier, one of the founders, has also been integral in helping with the National Board, especially with national recruitment, giving us information such as contact information for starting a chapter in San Francisco.

Now, let me introduce the rest of this year's USVH Board of Directors. Malinda Lee is the Stanford Director and has been doing a great job running the local program and working with Brenda Barrios, the Menlo Park recreational therapist. Yun Chu, our Special Events Director, has already helped organize and launch two events: one showcasing Stephanie Le, our volunteer of the month, to play piano for the veterans, and another event on Veteran's Day. Arpeet Shah, Director of Volunteering, is also tirelessly revising carpool schedules to help accommodate all our volunteers' schedules. Tamar Berger is the Director of Issue Advocacy. Along with Jessie Tao, our National Recruitment Director, and Ting Qian, Director of Volunteering Orientation, the three are heading a Student Initiated Course during the upcoming winter quarter,

continued on page 2



Above: Veterans enjoying some Halloween music by fellow volunteer Stephanie Le.

Special Events Summary, and Look out for More Coming up!

by Yun Chu, Special Events Director

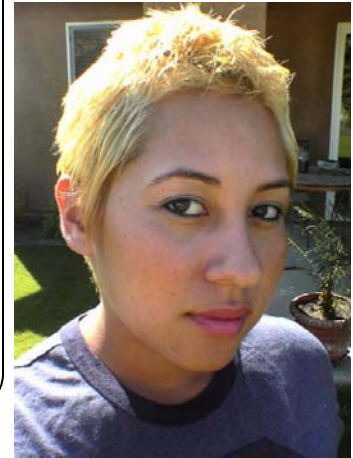
Special events this quarter kicked off with a musical performance starring Stephanie Le on the piano and with volunteers handing out flowers to our vets on Veterans' Day this November 11th, 2006. For USVH, special events are usually held at least three times per quarter to provide veterans with entertainment, food, and a glimpse of talented Stanford students who come to perform. We truly encourage all volunteers to attend these special events, because not only is it enjoyable to participate in the activities or watch the shows, but these events provide another opportunity for USVH volunteers to spend quality time with their veterans in a fun-filled setting.

Several winter quarter special events are in store: we are planning to have a Stanford a cappella show with Side By Side, Everyday People and Fleet Street. Furthermore, we hope to have the Stanford SiMPS come perform while we serve pie and sugar-free cookies to our audience. For Valentine's Day, we will be

continued on page 4

USVH proudly presents our
Volunteers of the Quarter
Fall 2006

**Stephanie Le
&
Erica Menchaca**



Their silent, firm handshakes surpassed any amount of applause I might have received elsewhere. After my first two hours of Chopin, Bach, and Liszt with a handful of veterans, I was thrilled to find the piano such a wordlessly wonderful conduit. USVH has been a moving marriage of two of my greatest passions: music and helping others. Interacting with the veterans melodically is incredible, and I thoroughly urge other volunteers to share their music with their veterans. Sometimes, all someone needs to hear is "Chopsticks" to smile. I have found the simplest tune can be enough to lift anyone's day if it is played with good intentions. =)

Random facts: I love the color purple and chocolate. Sadly, they rarely coincide. In my spare time, I co-direct the production of *Stanford Scientific Magazine*, squirrel-fish, and stalk inanimate objects with my camera in the sunshine (never in the shade!).

I feel that it is part of my calling as a follower of Christ to serve others. I volunteer with USVH because USVH provides a gateway to serving others. I really like that I can get to know the veterans, pray for them, sing songs with them, and more. Getting to know the wonder men and women there has been a blessing. I only hope that I have been a small blessing in their lives. They are amazing people and full of great stories. Participating in special events with the veterans has been an enriching experience.

My favorite color is pink and I like most anything with sugar. I'm in IVCF and go to ALCF when I'm at Stanford. I was born and raised in Bakersfield and I'm going to be sad when I have to leave the friendships that have been formed with the veterans and staff and the Menlo Park VA.

Welcome, *Continued from page 1* and leading an Alternative Spring Break to either San Francisco or Washington DC! To help finance all our events and trips is our Chief Financial Officer, David Aufhauser. And finally, USVH would not be so technology-savvy without Jeremy Lorber, our Chief Technology Officer, who runs our amazing website that everyone should visit to keep tabs on everything we do!

Yet, this organization would not be successful if it weren't for our volunteers, who have so much to give to their community. We had one of our strongest recruitments in years and got over thirty new volunteers this quarter, bringing our membership to seventy volunteers. USVH is also diversifying with alums, grad students, and friends from the neighboring area all volunteering with the veterans.

We are all geared up for the many goals we have set for the year. Currently, we have ten national chapters. With a National Recruitment Committee consisting of five enthusiastic fellow volunteers, we hope to bring our chapter count to at least fifteen. Locally, at the Menlo Park VA, we are experimenting with a lot of mini-special events like a bingo events or piano concerts held in specific wings by the volunteers who are attending on a specific day. It has been a blast working with everyone, and being in the position of National Director has put me in contact with a lot of amazing veterans and students. I can already see that USVH is about to make a huge leap on both the Stanford and national levels.

National Recruitment: How Are We Doing?

by Jessie Tao, National Recruitment Director

National Recruitment is off to a great start with its 2006-2007 National Recruitment Board busy helping to found new USVH chapters in universities across the nation. This year's board has taken a new focus, with members concentrating on recruiting interested student leaders from a designated region of the U.S near their home state. The process of setting up a new chapter is a challenging one. Currently, we are identifying potential leaders from schools such as San Francisco State, University of Washington, Emory, University of Florida, and Boston area schools. Then, the goal is to walk these student leaders through the chapter start-up process in coordination with an administrator or recreational therapist at a nearby VA hospital.

A map of all current USVH chapters and VA facilities has been placed in the Student Center, along with the contact information of all the members of the board (also listed below). If you know friends at other colleges who might like to start USVH at their schools, contact me or one of the board members. Check our map out to see where USVH is and where it's going!

2006-2007 National Recruitment Board members and their designated recruitment regions:

Lee Chang	leechang@stanford.edu	South/Southeast
Tina Christakos	athena00@stanford.edu	Northeast
Stuart Jenkins	stuartj1@stanford.edu	Northwest
Amy Kaufmann	amylk@stanford.edu	California
Gabriel Pagani-Estevez	gpagani@stanford.edu	Midwest

Special, continued from page 1

hosting a card-making event where volunteers may use their artistic skills to create Valentine's with their veterans. For spring, Art in the Park will return with an entire morning of live performances, carnival food, and game tables. Perhaps Ting's Chopstick Challenge will make a comeback!

Our beloved veterans look forward to these special events hosted by USVH every quarter. Please take the time to attend these special activities and bring your veterans to come see the show or engage with them during arts & crafts sessions!



Can YOU Contribute?

Come across any interesting issues related to veterans' healthcare? Want to contribute and enrich this publication with your own works, poems, drawings and photographs inspired by your veterans? **Contact Jess Yee (National Communication Director) at jessyee@stanford.edu** if you would like to submit your contribution or suggestions to improve this newsletter.

Have any questions or suggestions about our special events or volunteering in general? Let us know too! VISIT US at www.usvh.org to find all directors' contact information and learn more about USVH!

OF COURSE!