If you can get past his carefully cultivated devil-may-care persona, and get to know Jesus—Vasquez that is—you’d know one of the finest students enrolled at Bryant & Stratton College.

In his 10th semester, Jesus graduated in 2015 with an associate’s degree in business and is now pursuing a bachelor’s in business along with another associate’s in accounting.

At only 30 years of age, Jesus has seen more of the world and known more sorrow than most will see in a lifetime. He spent six years in the Army as a reconnaissance team leader stationed at Ft. Bragg, and had four deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan. Along the way Jesus, a sergeant, E-5, lost 15 friends in combat, a burden of guilt he carries, wishing every day he could trade places with them.

His unit provided “force protection for towns and helped establish local governments and train local police,” Jesus said. The results of those efforts could be seen in local children playing outdoors and going to school. “I liked seeing the results of the hard work that we

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did.”

“Memorial Day hits hard because [maybe] I could have done that one extra thing...” he said. “Us combat vets—I don’t think for a second that we would hesitate to trade places.” He remembers especially his “right hand man,” Sgt. Kyle J. McPeters of Barstow, Calif., who he says “fought a good fight. Out of all my friends I think I took that one the hardest,” Jesus said.

“There isn’t a day that goes by that I don’t think about my brothers,” Jesus said. “It hits home knowing that you failed them. If it wasn’t for some of them I wouldn’t be here.” So “you try to live life the best that you can in remembrance of their sacrifice.”

One of Jesus’ most cherished memories, though, is the gratitude expressed by an Iraqi child in 2008: “At the end of our rotation I remember walking through this part of town and this kid ran up to me and held my hand and said ‘thank you mister.’ It felt great when the kids could come out knowing that you provided that blanket of freedom.”

But nothing beats being a dad to his own son Aiden, now 5.

“It was scary at first,” Jesus said about being a dad. But “it’s the best feeling in the world when you pick up your child from school and he runs to you [screaming] ‘Dad!’

“It’s also scary because you have a life you are responsible for. You can’t clock out as a parent. You have to put your personal needs and wants behind.”

Living for others is what it’s all about now for Jesus Vasquez. Being the best dad he can be is one way to honor the memory of his fallen friends; so is studying business at BSC. Eventually Jesus would like to start his own nonprofit organization to help other veterans express themselves and cope with life.

“I never thought I would be a numbers person,” Jesus said of his decision to finally take up accounting. He thanks professor Mike Delorm for sparking his interest in the field. “He’s amazing with explanations of where the numbers went—where did this money come from and where did it go? He’s the reason I went for a degree in accounting.”

Jesus talks also of adding a master’s degree in social work after BSC in an effort to further equip himself to reach other veterans. If he can help other vets recover from emotional scars then he will have honored the memory of his fallen friends.

“Nobody takes care of vets like vets,” Jesus said.
Sergeant seeks to transfer military skills to civilian life

By John S. Adams

Originally from Brooklyn, Candace Spellman settled in Central New York since Fort Drum in Watertown was her last duty station. Hard working and determined, Candace projects an air of confidence and quiet humility one gets from serving 14 years in the United States Army.

Candace enlisted in 2000, one year before the 9-11 attacks. During her years of service she was attached to the 101st Airborne out of Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, and more recently the 10th Mountain division out of Ft. Drum. She was deployed to Iraq twice, once to Afghanistan, spent a year in Qatar, and did two tours in South Korea. Today she remains in the Army Reserves and still reports for monthly drills.

A sergeant, Candace served as a food inspector, monitoring government contractors to ensure proper food safety and hygiene. The biggest problem she found was civilian contractors getting “lackadaisical” with hygiene. Scheduled monthly inspections made it hard to catch violators, so she had to resort to random audits.

Candace attributes her success in the Army to “wonderful leaders” who wanted her to do well. “They saw the good in me so they always motivated me and pushed me and gave me constructive criticism,” Candace said.

Candace started at Bryant & Stratton College in May 2015 and is studying business. Her goal is to be a food service inspector in civilian life. For that she’ll need to also earn a bachelor’s degree in health science. Working as a food inspector in the civilian world will not be that different from in the Army, Candace said. The principles of food safety and sanitation are the same, although the particular regulations may differ. “You store food a certain way, and you heat and cool food a certain way, and you practice good hygiene.”

The most significant thing she has learned at BSC? “It is never too late to further your education. It starts with you,” Candace said. “So many of my instructors are willing to help—that’s what motivates me to keep going.

“Memorial Day means so much to me now after 9-11,” Candace said. “Police officers, firefighters, service members past, present, and future who paved the way for us—anybody who put themselves in harm’s way to save Americans—that’s what Memorial Day means to me.”

It is never too late to further your education; it starts with you.

Candace Spellman

Sgt. Candace Spellman still serves in the Army reserves and plans a career in food inspection and safety.
Corey Smith plans to use his business savvy and a knowledge of medicine to operate an old-school gym where people can go to get fit, not show off.

“Pretty much my whole life was geared toward hockey,” Corey said. “But it never panned out.”

He enrolled at Bryant & Stratton and earned an associate’s in business in 2009, then he and a buddy joined the U.S. Army. He served with the 1st Cavalry Division based at Fort Hood, Texas, and was deployed to Kuwait between December 2011 and June 2012 just as American operations were winding down. A specialist E-4, Corey was trained to operate UAVs, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles. His unit was the last out of Iraq.

Today Corey is back in school, but majoring in Medical Assisting this time. It may seem like an unusual combination of degrees—business and medicine—but he has no plans to work in any kind of medical facility. No, Corey dreams of someday opening a gym where people can go to get a healthy workout. He figures having business sense combined with a working knowledge of the body and medical issues would equip him to operate an old-school gym where people can go to get well rather than socialize.

A medical degree added to his business degree would “broaden [his] knowledge of everything,” he said. “I just want to have a place where people can go, lift weights and get healthy.”

Forget the rows of gleaming treadmills backed by full-length mirrors where spandex-clad people gather to show off their six-pack abs. Corey wants none of that. Just give him a converted brick garage with loud music blaring and serious people pumping iron.

“When I was here before I liked the atmosphere,” Corey said. “The teachers seemed to really care about the students.” That’s why he came back in January 2016, and when finished he plans to continue on for his bachelor’s in business.

And Memorial Day for this veteran? “To me it’s to honor the fallen soldiers and the fact that they gave everything for this country,” Corey said.
From Navy Corpsman to medical assistant

BSC student Richard Simpson learned basic medical techniques as a Navy corpsman and now seeks to use those skills in civilian life.

By John S. Adams

Growing up, Richard Simpson always wanted to be a policeman. He had a couple of good jobs out of high school with New Venture Gear and Crucible Specialty Metals, but the economy was poor and he got downsized. So as Richard put it: joining the military seemed like “the best option left.” Perhaps he could get into law enforcement by becoming a military policeman.

Richard chose to go Navy as his grandfather, Lawrence Kittle, had also served in the Navy. His grandfather, who had earlier been diagnosed with leukemia, died two weeks before boot camp, which provided Richard added motivation to honor the memory of someone he so dearly loved.

“He was someone I looked up to my entire life,” Richard said. “But ‘life took a different turn,’”

Richard said. The Navy had other plans for him, and they made him a corpsman instead of military police. Corpsmen provide medical assistance and look after the physical and mental wellbeing of sailors and marines.

Richard spent five years in the Navy and separated at the end of 2014. He was assigned at different times to the 3rd and 2nd Marine Battalions. This followed a two- to three-month stint in the Field Medical Training Battalion where he learned about field medicine, sanitation and hygiene, as well as how to be a Marine and use a rifle. Dur-

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Corpsman has always been a caring person

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ning his service Richard also worked for a time in a military ophthalmology clinic.

Following his service Richard enrolled in Bryant & Stratton College in the fall of 2015 to study Medical Assisting.

“It’s what I already knew,” Richard said. “I’ve always been a supportive person all of my life, so it kind of came naturally to me, going medical.”

“As a corpsman I did a lot more than I’ll ever do as a medical assistant,” Richard said. As a corpsman, Richard did sutures, gave IV’s, shots and SOAPS, Subjective Objective Assessment Plans, which doctors would sign off on—things medical assistants don’t do. He’s also Basic Life Saving Qualified, BLS. Someday Richard would like to work in an ophthalmology clinic, or similar practice where he feels he could “do more good” and make a difference in someone’s life.

Although Richard never saw combat, he got to deal with many Marines who had been forward deployed. He wishes he had been deployed so that he could have a better understanding of what those whom he served were going through. Richard lost five friends following their enlistments: two died from PTSD-related causes and two during motorcycle accidents.

So Memorial Day is especially poignant for him. “Memorial Day is to remember those who are lost, it’s not a celebration,” Richard said. It’s “to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice so that we could live the lives we want.”

As a corpsman I did a lot more than I’ll ever do as a medical assistant.

Richard Simpson

Navy Corpsman Richard Simpson carries a rifle on maneuvers in Japan’s northern island of Hokkaido in 2013. The 3rd Battalion, 6th Marines Regiment was on a training mission with Japanese soldiers. This photo was taken by one of Richard’s Marine Corps buddies, Pfc. Kasey Peacock.

Thank you veterans
By Meg Wickman

Recently, Meg Wickman’s COMM 115 class was treated to a presentation by Julie Zhu, head librarian at Syracuse North. Julie shared a number of tips about what both the physical and virtual libraries have to offer. For those not lucky enough to attend the presentation, here are some of the questions that Julie answered.

Q. How many books can someone check out?

Students can check out 10 items at a time, while faculty members are allowed to check out 20 items at a time. Reference books and reserved items are not available to be checked out. Students are also prohibited from borrowing instructor textbooks.

Q. How can students find the virtual library?

Links to the virtual library can be found on the Bryant & Stratton homepage as well as the Blackboard homepage. Some instructors have also established a link to the library directly from their classes on Blackboard.

Q. What happens when a resource is not available on campus?

If students let Julie know what resource they need, she might be able to have a copy sent from another college’s collection.

Q. How can the library help a student stay organized?

The virtual library includes a feature that allows students to create folders to store and organize the materials they find.

Q. Where can students turn for help with APA citation?

The Bryant & Stratton APA guide is available in the library, and the virtual library also includes tips on APA citation. Students can always ask Julie herself for help with incorporating APA into their papers.
Career Services Corner

Resume Etiquette
Do's and Don'ts for a Modern Resume

1 in 4
Hr managers receive
50
resumes per job listings

1.10
Hr managers receive
100
resumes per job listings

What are HR Managers Looking for In Candidates?

- 77% Relevant Experience
- 48% Specific Accomplishments
- 41% Resume was customized to the Open Position or not

HR Managers also look for **KEYWORDS** in Resumes

- Leadership 44%
- Problem Solving 56%
- Oral/Written Communication 40%
- Performance & productivity improvement 31%
- Team Building 33%