

Spring 2002

## UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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# THE TOPPER

WINTER/SPRING 2002

Volume 8 Issue 3

## A World Wide Web of Financial Aid Info

**F**inancial Aid. These two words can send even the most serene college student into a panic-stricken tailspin. But it doesn't have to be that way. Thanks to the internet, there is now more financial aid information at your fingertips than ever before.

### The FAFSA

The most important financial aid website is <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. The acronym FAFSA is used when talking about financial aid, but just what does that stand for, anyway?

The FAFSA, quite simply, is a "Free Application for Federal Student Aid." Every student seeking financial aid must fill out either the FAFSA or the Renewal FAFSA. Fortunately these can be completed on the computer.

There are also paper copies available



for those who wish to submit it by mail.

There are people out there who would like you to pay them for this free service, but remember the first "F" in FAFSA stands for "FREE." No fee is associated with this service (see "Warning!" below).

### OTHER SITES

Mike Hills, the veterans financial aid counselor at Western Kentucky University, suggests two other financial aid websites.

First, WKU's Financial Aid website (<http://www.wku.edu/Info/FinAid>) provides a great deal of information on applying for financial aid and scholarships. Although some of this information is specific to students attending WKU, much of it is very general in nature and can be helpful for anyone.

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## Student Spotlight: Robert Beam and Teresa Compton

**P**erhaps it was destiny that brought Robert Beam and Teresa Compton together.

Both their families have strong ties to the military. Robert, who is originally from Holland, Michigan, comes from a long line of veterans; his brother served in Desert Storm; his father in Vietnam; and his grandfather served during World War II. Teresa, originally a coal miner's daughter from Pocahontas, Virginia, also had a grandfather in World War II, as well as several uncles who were in the Marine Corps. So like their progenitors, both Robert and Teresa joined the Marines and were soon headed overseas.

In 1994 Robert, who worked in supply, and Teresa, a Transportation

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### Warning! FAFSA free, but not everywhere

People trying to fill out the **FREE** Application for Student Financial Assistance (FAFSA) online should be careful. Several websites using addresses misleadingly close to the official FAFSA website (<http://www.fafsa.org>) charge anywhere from \$50 and up for services that would otherwise be free. These sites use misspellings and different domain names from the real site, and they are in no way affiliated with the US Department of Education or the FAFSA.

Remember, the official FAFSA website is <http://www.fafsa.org>, and you will be required to pay **NOTHING** to fill out this form.

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## Veterans Voices 2002 Preview

This May, in conjunction with the annual awards banquet, VUB will publish the fourth biennial "Veterans Voices," a book highlighting the unique voices of our veteran participants. Through poems, essays, letters and short stories, our students relate their experiences and share their insights while practicing the writing skills so important to postsecondary education. The following poems are a sample of some of the works to be published.

*Below are two Haiku, Japanese poems with three unrhymed lines of five, seven, and five syllables.*

### Kaleidoscope

Edwin Phelps

Our Kaleidoscope  
All we've heard, said, and done is  
The sum of ourselves

### Poetry Angst

Mary Clark

Reading these words I've  
Developed a headache now  
What a pain this is

### You & Me

Anthony Johnson

How do you think this world would be  
If there was no difference between you and me  
You'd look around and all you'd see  
Is you and you and never me

We'd walk and talk and act the same  
So there would be no use for the blaming game  
Cause there wouldn't be anyone else to blame  
Now wouldn't that be a crying shame

Imagine the whole world like this too  
There would be no he's nor she's, only you  
Everyone walking around and feeling blue  
Now what is it that we could do

How do you think this world would be  
If there was no difference between you and me  
You'd look around and all you'd see  
Is you and you and never me  
How dull and boring our lives would be

## Notes and News

- VUB Alumni who achieved the Fall 2001 WKU President's List (a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0 for full time students): **Alison Anderson, David Angle, Marisa Duarte, David Embrey, Kyle Hines, Scott Robinson, Kimberly Smith, and Jimmy Williams.**
- VUB Alumni who achieved the Fall 2001 WKU Dean's List (a GPA of 3.4 to 3.79 for full time students): **Jodi Madison.**
- Honorable Mention—**Deidre Stewart** achieved a 3.33 GPA for Fall 2001--missing the list by only .07 of a point.

**CONGRATULATIONS to all those who achieved these outstanding grades. We are very proud of your accomplishments. Keep up the great work!!! (And keep us informed when you have attained goals that make you proud!) You can reach us by e-mail or at 745-5310 or 745-5024.**

Please excuse any omission that may have been made in this list.

- Congratulations to **Kim Smith**, who earned an Associate's Degree in Automated Industrial Systems Technology from KCTCS in Bowling Green, KY.
- Congratulations to VUB Administrative Assistant **Joan Harrison** and her husband Barry on the birth of their daughter. Katie Sue Harrison was born February 11 at the Medical Center in Bowling Green, KY.



*(Financial Aid: Continued from page 1)*

The Department of Veterans Affairs has a website (<http://www.gibill.va.gov>) which helps explain and answer questions more specific to VA educational benefits. Some important features include a list of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and their answers, as well as a way for veterans already receiving VA benefits to verify their enrollment status online.



Finally, remember that financial aid monies are limited, so it's important to file early to ensure that you are considered for all possible aid. According to the FAFSA website, the priority deadline for filing in Kentucky is **March 15.**

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**WWW -- <http://www.wku.edu/vub/>  
e-mail -- [Veterans.Upward.Bound@WKU.edu](mailto:Veterans.Upward.Bound@WKU.edu)**



## The Director's Desk

(Student Spotlight: Continued from page 1)

Management Officer, met while both were stationed in Japan during their first year of service. They became a couple and stayed together until 1996, when they were transferred to the 1st Force Service Support Group in California. It was there that they married.

After separating from the Marines in 1997, they had to decide where to live as civilians. They finally decided to use a map to determine the location of their future home. When Teresa closed her eyes and pointed, her finger landed on Bowling Green which they felt was a good choice because it allowed them to live equally distant from both their families. They eventually settled in Scottsville, just a few miles from Bowling Green.

Robert first learned of VUB from a public service announcement on TV. He attended VUB instructor Marlys Garman's evening classes, for which he received an Outstanding Effort Award at the 2001 VUB Awards Banquet. He enrolled at Western Kentucky University in the fall of 2001. He currently is pursuing a degree in Financial Management and Corporate Communications, with a minor in Financial Planning.

After Robert moved on to WKU, Teresa decided to take advantage of the opportunities that VUB offers. She joined VUB the same semester that Robert began university classes, and she currently attends the same evening classes her husband had attended almost a year before. Teresa plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education, with the hope of eventually teaching 3rd grade.

Robert and Teresa have two children: Jessie, a 4-year-old son born in California, and Lauren, a 2-year-old daughter born in Bowling Green.

I have just submitted an annual report to our funding agency in Washington, DC, and it shows that Veterans Upward Bound is quite successful. We served more participants last year than in recent years, and we are thrilled to reach so many deserving people. However, we would like to reach even more veterans who want to go to college or vocational school and need to refresh their academic abilities before they do. So please help put the word out that VUB always has spaces open for eligible veterans.

It is time to apply for financial aid if you are planning to attend postsecondary school this fall or in spring 2003.

Many times people do not feel they are qualified for financial assistance and do not apply. A person can lose out on lots of help this way. The financial aid I am talking about is not tied to veterans benefits, so I urge you to file the application and just find out what is available for you. Call the VUB office at 745-5310 or the WKU Student Financial Assistance office at 745-2755 if you have questions. And if you are attending VUB classes at this time just ask a staff member while you are in the building.

Good news related to the above is that the Pell grant maximum has been raised by the House and Senate and if the President adds his signature the total Pell grant available for the neediest people will be \$4,000.

We have an important event coming up that I want to tell you about. An official letter will be sent later, but you can reserve this date on your calendar now. The annual Veterans Upward Bound Awards Banquet will be held on Friday, May 3, 2002, at the University Plaza. Any person who was in VUB



after the last banquet is eligible to attend, and we will also invite special alumni guests who have achieved success in post secondary school.

Wait for the letter to arrive and then

call the office at 745-5310 to reserve your seats. There is no cost to you if you attend but a reservation is required



in order for us to know how many meals to order.

In about a year VUB staff will be writing a new grant proposal to get money to continue the program for four more years. This is about the only time we can make significant changes in the program. If you have any feelings about what parts of the program are good or not so good, or if you have any suggestion regarding the way in which we do business, please let the director know. But remember, our money comes from the U.S. Department of Education, not from the V.A. so suggestions about veterans benefits are not what we are looking for.

Enjoy the spring, and as the weather gets nicer, remember that your education has to be a priority. Don't start missing classes to be out in the nice weather. Stay committed to your education and remain focused until you complete postsecondary school. If you start taking breaks you might lose your drive and never go to school or maybe never complete school so the best course is to just keep "plugging along".

Randy Wilson



# THE TOPPER



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Bowling Green, KY 42101

NON-PROFIT  
ORGANIZATION  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT 398  
BOWLING GREEN,  
KY 42101

## Important Numbers and Dates

Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green  
(270) 746-7425  
VA Regional Office, Louisville  
(800) 827-1000  
VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN  
(615) 736-5243  
VA Medical Center, Louisville  
(502) 895-3401  
VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN  
(615) 327-4751  
Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville  
(502) 595-4447  
Military Records Branch, Frankfort  
(502) 564-4883  
Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore  
(800) 928-4838  
AMVETS, Louisville  
(502) 582-5594  
Disabled American Veterans, Louisville  
(800) 333-1720  
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louisville  
(502) 582-6445  
Military Order of the Purple Heart, Louisville  
(502) 582-6926

Mar 11-15 VUB student spring break (classes will not be in session, although the office will be open)  
Mar 22\* VUB registration deadline for June 8 ACT  
May 2 VUB spring session ends  
May 3 VUB Awards Banquet  
May 27 Memorial Day — VUB offices closed  
May 28 VUB summer session begins  
Jun 8\* ACT Test Date  
Jul 4 Independence Day — VUB offices closed

\*Please call early for information on test dates. VUB may pay testing fees, but to do so we must have your application at least six weeks prior to the registration postmark deadline.