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UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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VUB Veterans' Day Celebration
Scheduled for November 8 and 9

Do you know much about Veterans Day? How about its predecessor, Armistice Day?

Armistice Day, the forerunner of Veterans Day, was proclaimed in 1919 to honor the end (at 11 A.M. on November 11, 1918) of World War I. On the first anniversary of the truce, U.S. President Woodrow Wilson issued a proclamation eulogizing fallen Allied soldiers and referring to November 11 as Armistice Day. It became a holiday in the United States, France, Great Britain, and Canada.

The holiday acquired its present name, Veterans Day, and a broadened significance in the U.S. in 1954. Currently, Veterans Day is observed in honor of all those, living and dead, who served with the U.S. armed forces in wartime. Some states observe the holiday on November 11 and others on the fourth Monday of October. In Canada it is known as Remembrance Day, and in Great Britain, as Remembrance Sunday.

This year, Veterans Day falls on a Saturday, so VUB will be holding two celebrations: Wednesday, November 8 and Thursday, November 9. These days were chosen so that students who are attending classes on those days will be able to participate in the celebration.

On both days, we will be hosting open house receptions, and we invite all current and past participants to join us. For more information, please call our offices at (502) 745-5310.

Student Spotlight:
Don Gray and Dempsey Henderson

The spotlight this issue falls on not one, but two students who have recently joined the evening class. They are highlighted together because that is how they are often seen — together! Donald Gray and Dempsey Henderson work together in Western’s maintenance department. They entered evening class at the same time, giving Sharon a run for her money in remembering who was who! (Thank goodness their names are on their work shirts!)

Dempsey Henderson is a native Kentuckian. He served in the United States Army from 1969-1971. He is married, and has four children and three grandchildren. In addition to his full-time work at Western and part-time studies at VUB, Dempsey is also involved in a family farming operation. He has completed a number of classes at Western previously, and hopes to return to finish a degree in the near future. In what little time he finds for fun, Dempsey likes to do a little two-stepping.

Donald Gray is also a native Kentuckian. He served in the United States Army from 1961-1963, during the construction of the Berlin Wall. He is married, and has two children. Don worked for Ashland Oil before coming to Bowling Green in 1969. Actually, he came here on vacation, and a brother-in-law said something about buying a farm together, and before very long, Don found himself in Oakland, Kentucky! He continues farming, working full-time at Western, studying part-time at VUB, and still finds time to be involved in some Beef Association that takes him away from class early some days, for those “mandatory” dinners! Don has also completed some college course work and hopes to complete a degree at Western.

Don and Dempsey add a lot of character to the evening class. I am sure they keep Western hopping during the daytime hours!
What's Up, Doc?  Jenny Does a Cartwheel and Doc Does a Do Over

Rick Faulkner is "Doc," a VUB alumn who now serves as our VA work study student. He majors in Social Work. All advice given here is un-official and sanctioned only by the School of Hard Knocks, from which he holds a PhD.

It's Saturday afternoon, and while the rest of the civilized world is watching the ballgame on tv, or better yet, out playing one, I am working on the third re-write of a research paper.

My wife is at work, my 14 month-old daughter wants to eat and my seven year-old daughter wants to play. My instructor wants the perfected version of the assignment by Monday and my wife wants me to do a load of laundry. I want to bang my head on the table. I do -- it doesn't help. So, rubbing the bump that is rising on my aching head, I step outside for a breath of fresh air.

The first thing I notice is how refreshing the autumn breeze feels against my face. Bump and all, already my head begins to clear. I see the fall colors and watch as my beautiful, healthy daughters play among the fallen leaves. Jenny, my seven year old is trying to teach her little sister how to do a "cartwheel" (a feat that is tough for a seven year old, almost impossible for someone just over one). Each time the baby fails, Jenny says "it's ok, you get a do over."

A "do over." Suddenly it dawns on me. My decision to return to school was a do over. A chance to go back to where I stopped (educationally speaking) and start all over again. Like cartwheels, sometimes the education process can be frustrating. But the feeling of accomplishment when you earn a good grade (or perform the perfect cartwheel) is worth the hassle.

Frustration is part of the learning process. When we let it get the best of us, the learning process comes to a complete halt. There are enough strategies for coping with frustration to fill a library. We just have to test out a few and find which ones suit us best. What works for me is getting away from the source of my frustration for a while, remembering that I have had as much good luck as bad luck (most of us have if you think about it) and realizing that "do overs" are just as important to living (and learning) as they are to doing cartwheels.

Finally, as you know, our director, Gary Gray has accepted a new position at a college in Illinois. I think it is fair to say that the VUB program would not exist in its present form (probably not at all) at WKU without Gary's foresight, knowledge, and unwavering sense of fairness. Gary is my mentor and friend. I will miss him very much and wish him all the best in his new position.

Till next time,

Jenny Does a Cartwheel and Doc Does a Do Over

License Plates Statistics

In 1994 there were 2,952,888 vehicles registered in Kentucky. Of the 41 categories of license plates authorized, only five are veterans plates.

- POW - 427 plates
- Purple Heart - 1,476 plates
- Handicapped Veteran - 1,501 plates
- Medal of Honor - 4 plates
- Pearl Harbor - 84 plates (one belonging to our own Martin Schenk)
- Total 3,492 vehicles registered with veteran plates.

The environmental plate was registered on 2,168 vehicles.

Reprinted from Kentucky Veteran News, V.6, #5.
Rain Doesn’t Ruin Picnic

By Gene Bates

Gene Bates is currently a student in the Tuesday/Thursday daytime class. He moved to Butler County after living in Florida for several years. He is an expert on everything, and the class bard.

Gene attended the VUB family picnic with his wife Amanda, and two daughters, Renee and Niki.

The rain did little to dampen the spirit at the first annual (hopefully) Veterans Upward Bound family picnic, held Saturday, September 16 at Kerelakes Park. Blustery weather kept the attendance low, but the merriment ran rampant.

The event was organized by “Doc” Faulkner, who attended from afar. The task of hosting, and therefore, grilling rested on the capable shoulders of Susan Johnstad.

Door prizes were awarded by Debra Cooper. For these, much thanks goes to Domino’s Pizza, Papa John’s, McDonald’s, Wendy’s, O’Charly’s, Hardees, Arby’s, Lemox Bookstore, and our own College Heights Bookstore.

The masters of ceremony chore was handled well by the team of Davy Stone and Martin Schenck. Current students, alumni, friends, and families were also represented.

Thanks again to the organizers and donors, and let’s hope that all the other VUB picnics are even more successful.

Notes and News

• VUB has purchased a copier with funds from the Veterans Service Foundation in Indiana. The copier will help speed up paperwork for veterans working with our local Veterans Service Officer, Martin Schenck.

• VUB has applied for a renewal of a grant from the Microsoft corporation. Last year’s grant brought VUB more than $6000 worth of educational CD software, including Encarta ’95, Works, Publisher, 500 Nations, Art Gallery, and Ancient Lands.

• Our classroom computer lab will soon be connected to WKU Online, a campus-wide computer network. Students will have access not only to the internet, but also a variety of other updated programs and utilities.

• VUB will be going online through the World Wide Web. Veterans from around the world will be able to find out more about our program by connecting to our address on the internet. Look for more information about VUB and the internet in the next issue of The Topper.

The Director’s Desk

As some of you are aware, I have resigned as Director of Veterans Upward Bound. Before I depart, I wish to express my thanks to the following for their support of the program: VUB participants (current and past), faculty/staff at WKU, community agencies, public school personnel, USDOE personnel, TRIO people, NAVUBPP people, my Washington contacts, and, finally, my staff.

I want to encourage your support of the new director for the program. She or he will need to understand the purpose and needs of the area, and you can provide that information. Though the program is running smoothly, the next few months will be ones of transition for the staff and participants. Please support the office during this time.

In retrospect, there has been much accomplished in this office (besides the accumulation of a lot furniture and equipment). There is still lots of good work to do. I wish everyone the best of luck in their educational pursuits and goals.

Again, let me say how much I have appreciated the outpouring of support and encouragement from you.

If you wish to contact me, listed below are addresses:

HOME:
Gary Gray
530 W. Vine St.
Taylorville, IL 62568
(217) 287-2030

WORK:
Gary Gray, Director
Lincoln Land Community College @ Taylorville
800 S. Spresser
Taylorville, IL 62568
(217) 287-7081

—Gary Gray
Important Numbers and Dates

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 8-9</td>
<td>Veterans' Day Celebration—VUB</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 10</td>
<td>United States Marine Corps Birthday</td>
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<td>Nov 11</td>
<td>Veterans Day</td>
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<td>Ceremony, Old Capitol—Frankfort</td>
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<td>Nov 21</td>
<td>GED Test Date</td>
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<td>Dec 7</td>
<td>Pearl Harbor Day</td>
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<td>Dec 9</td>
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<td>Dec 9</td>
<td>Career Planning Program Test Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 12</td>
<td>GED Test Date</td>
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Please Call for more information about test dates.

ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED

If the address listed above is not your correct address, we'd like to know. Just write to us at our address above with your new address, or call (collect) at (502) 745-5310.