3-1997

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records

Recommended Citation
http://digitalcommons.wku.edu/dlsc ua_records/1398

This Newsletter is brought to you for free and open access by TopSCHOLAR®. It has been accepted for inclusion in WKU Archives Records by an authorized administrator of TopSCHOLAR®. For more information, please contact topscholar@wku.edu.
VIP Visits VUB
Rep. Ron Lewis visits WKU Campus

In January 30, U.S. Representative Ron Lewis visited Western Kentucky University's TRIO programs. While in Jones-Jaggers Hall, the congressman met with participants of all the TRIO programs (for more information about TRIO, see What is TRIO, Anyway?, p.3).

Students from VUB spent about 20 minutes describing to Mr. Lewis how VUB has helped them enroll in and achieve in postsecondary schools. Hugh Joiner, Vince Adams, Chad Nukols and "Doc" Faulkner each gave his testimonial, while the congressman and his staff listened.

Rep. Lewis went on to applaud the work done by TRIO programs, and he emphasized the importance of education to the future of our country. He then said that the federal

Student Spotlight:
B. "Spike" Spikberg

Spike attends Sherry Reid's Tuesday/Thursday night classes. Spike is a retired U.S. Army/Artillery disabled veteran who has survived a spinal chord injury (SCI), a direct result of a training exercise in which he was thrown from the back of a truck that he was riding in and was ran over by his own gun section's 105mm. howitzer which was being towed behind the truck. Spike must now ambulate in a power wheelchair.

Since his injury, Spike has been contributing to the disabled community by becoming involved in programs such as The South Central Kentucky Wheelers, a local SCI support group. He is currently the Public Relations & Travel Director for The National Alliance Of The Disabled (NAOTD).

Spike was referred to VUB last August by Teresa Winkler of Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Through the help of the VUB staff, Spike is now preparing to attend WKU. Spike's future goals include: attaining a Public Relations Degree, helping to make WKU's campus more handicapped accessible, and helping Western comply with the

Above: U.S. Representative Ron Lewis greets B. "Spike" Spikberg during a reception for the congressman in Jones-Jaggers Hall, while VUB advisory board members Andy Perrin and Dr. Sam Evans look on. The congressman visited all of WKU's TRIO programs.

(Continued on page 2)

(Continued on page 3)

inside...
What's Up, Doc?
Notes and News
The Director's Desk
What Is TRIO, Anyway?

page 2
page 2
page 3
page 3
Greetings fellow Vets.

I can always tell when I have had enough of winter. Last night, as I was putting some boxes away in the basement, a strange thing happened. Suddenly I was surrounded by camping and fishing gear. Sleeping bags, tackle boxes, waterproof matches, and my trusty Coleman lantern materialized out of nowhere, and I began a mental inventory.

This late winter scenario has been played out at my place for over twenty years. As winter begins to lose its icy grip, allowing spring to burst forth with new life, I tend to surround myself with the tools I require to face the challenge of enjoying the season to come.

Sure, my “toys” may have changed over the years. From hiking boots and canoes, to motorcycles, to family style camping equipment, my late winter ritual never changes. As though brought on by some ancient, unseen force, I simply must take stock of what is on hand, and make a list of what still must be acquired.

Take a look at your own situation. Where are you in regard to where you want to be? What equipment do you need to get there? Being able to identify your needs, as well as taking stock of what is already on hand are very important steps. Following through is equally important.

All of us need more education. If you are reading this, you’ve shown that you feel education is a priority. Scores of professional instructors await your next move, and are standing by to assist you with whatever you need.

With each spring comes a new opportunity for a better life. Believe me, there is never going to be a better time to begin working toward the one you deserve. Winter is almost over. Take inventory of what you’ve got, and then see what it is you need, and let’s get going.

Till next time,

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

Notes and News

- Congratulations to Bobby Smith, a former participant and current WKU student, who is getting married to Lisa Alexander on March 22, 1997.

- Sherry Reid, formerly our Tuesday/Thursday nighttime instructor, now teaches nighttime classes Monday through Thursday. She took on the extra nights after Jeanette Prerost, former Monday/Wednesday night instructor, moved into the daytime instructional position.

(Continued from page 1)

budget deficit was still a potential threat to our future economy, and in the attempt to balance the budget, all programs, even popular, successful programs, will be looked at to see what fat could be trimmed. But, he emphasized, that as important as education is, as long as TRIO programs are successful there should be a place for them.

After Rep. Lewis wrapped up discussions with VUB, he went on to tour the rest of the programs in Jones-Jaggers Hall. Later, a reception was sponsored by the College of Education and Behavioral Sciences. Again, students had the opportunity to discuss concerns one-on-one with the congressman.

Rep. Lewis was invited to WKU by Nancy Carwell, Educational Talent Search Assistant Director and Kentucky Association of Equal Opportunity Program Personnel president. His visit was timed to preceded National TRIO Day.

THE TOPPER is published quarterly by the Veterans Upward Bound Project at Western Kentucky University. VUB is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education (Fiscal Year 96-97: $222,981). The opinions expressed within this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of either the U.S. Department of Education or Western Kentucky University, and no official endorsement should be inferred.

http://www2.wku.edu/www/veterans/vub.html
The Director's Desk

Hi. It's the middle of the spring semester and VUB is asking for your help. We need to reach more potential students, so I am asking each person who reads this newsletter to think about your friends, neighbors and co-workers and spread the word that we are now accepting applications for classes. In an upcoming COUNTRY PEDDLER many of you will see a flyer advertising the program. Please post it or give it to a veteran you feel might be interested in VUB.

We are currently planning our spring trip, and we expect to visit the Tennessee Aquarium in Chattanooga, with a stop at 101st Airborne, a restaurant in Nashville, on the way home. If van reservations work out, and we do not see an ark on the horizon, we will take the trip on April 19, 1997. All participants who were active between October 1, 1996 through present are eligible to attend, and you may invite a spouse or significant other, space permitting. With only 28 seats available, participants get first choice of available space. If you wish to attend, call the office (collect if necessary) and make a reservation right away.

If you are interested in going to school next fall, now is a good time to begin the application process. The signs are good that the Pell Grant may increase in the near future, so watch the news in the summer for that decision. VUB can help you apply for school, so contact us if that is your interest.

The annual Awards Banquet is being planned for May 23, 1997. Watch for an announcement in the mail. Again, we will go to the University Plaza Hotel for a great time and some of the best food around. This banquet is in honor of those participants who have completed their VUB classes this year. More news will follow in April.

It is time to POST-ASSESS if you have not already done so. Every participant who completes the VUB program (that is, those who go on to postsecondary schools) needs to post-assess by taking a test like the one you took when you entered. This will not harm your reputation in any way, but having the score is critically important for VUB, because we need the numbers (not the names) to write federally-required reports to keep our funding. Without funding, VUB will fold up and all the veterans who were never in the program won't have the chance to use our services. As a reward for taking this test and doing your best on it you will receive a back pack/bookbag worth over $30. If you have not tested, please contact Martha Kenney right away. We need the numbers before September.

Remember that VUB has two non-academic services for your benefit. Martin Schenck, a volunteer VA representative, can help you cut through the red tape that so often ties up people when they deal with various service-related organizations. Doc Faulkner, a DAV workstudy student, is here to give advice to vets coming to WKU and to act as a mentor as they prepare to attend the university. Martin (a WKU student himself) is in the office after his classes most days, while Doc is in only on Mondays and Tuesdays. Call if you need their help.

Have a great spring and don't let the spring fever bug bite. "Keep your powder dry".

Randy Wilson

What is TRIO, anyway?

On every newsletter, on every correspondence, on everything sent out from VUB, a triangular logo with the word "TRIO" appears somewhere. But what does TRIO stand for, anyway?

TRIO programs are a group of federal projects which help traditionally disadvantaged students achieve in a postsecondary school setting. Started in 1965 with a "trio" of projects (Educational Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Upward Bound), the TRIO programs soon grew to encompass several other areas. Although the original number has grown, they are still referred to by their original name, TRIO.

(Continued from page 1)

Americans with Disability Act (ADA), a task which includes making "The Hill's" physical barriers more accessible for other disabled students. Spike is also donating his resources to the local community by pursuing a position on the mayor's counsel on Employment and Accessibility for The Disabled, along with becoming an "active advocate" for the disabled community through his contacts with the Disabled Veterans of America or on the internet. Spike can be reached by e-mail at:
BLUES55WING@aol.com

If every newsletter, on every correspondence, on everything sent out from VUB, a triangular logo with the word "TRIO" appears somewhere. But what does TRIO stand for, anyway?

TRIO programs are a group of federal projects which help traditionally disadvantaged students achieve in a postsecondary school setting. Started in 1965 with a "trio" of projects (Educational Talent Search, Student Support Services, and Upward Bound), the TRIO programs soon grew to encompass several other areas. Although the original number has grown, they are still referred to by their original name, TRIO.
Important Numbers and Dates

| Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green | April 6  | Begin Daylight Savings Time |
| VA Regional Office, Louisville                  | April 19 | VUB Chattanooga Field Trip |
| VA Medical Center, Louisville                   | April 22 | Passover begins Earth Day  |
| VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN                | May 4    | Holocaust Rememberance Day |
| Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville | May 8    | Last day for VUB Spring classes |
| Military Records Branch, Frankfort              | May 16   | Deadline to register for June 14 ACT |
| Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore               | May 17   | Armed Forces Day            |
| American Legion, Louisville                     | May 23   | VUB Awards Banquet          |
| AMVETS, Louisville                              | May 26   | Memorial Day observed       |
| Disabled American Veterans, Louisville          | June 2   | VUB Summer classes begin    |
| Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louisville            |          |                              |
| Vietnam Veterans of America                    |          |                              |

Please call early for information on 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.