Winter 2003

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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Financial Aid on the Web

Financial 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 stands for the "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.

OTHER SITES

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.

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.

Spring Classes Begin January 12

Attention all VUB students. The opening date for spring classes is January 12. Hopefully you've enjoyed the holiday break, but it will soon be time to make the commitment to get back to education. We'll be hitting the books for sixteen weeks this spring, and we hope you'll plan to be a part of our classes. And if you haven't been in class with us recently but are still interested in attending classes this spring, call the office at 745-5310 to sign up.

Student Spotlight: Lyle Hensley

I joined the Air Force in December 1961, serving four years. My position was a Jet Engine Specialist performing maintenance on gas turbine engines of T-33, F-100 and RF-101 aircraft. While stationed on Kadena AFB, Okinawa, I completed two temporary duty assignments with the 18th and 15th Tactical Fighter Wing at Tan Son Nhut Air Base, Saigon Vietnam in 1964 and 1965. My duty there was to support RF-101 Reconnaissance aircraft that flew dangerous unarmed missions over Vietnam.

After my four-year tour of service I returned to my small town in Iowa. After a few years' work and saving money I moved to Tulsa, Oklahoma, where I attended Spartan School of Aeronautics and obtained an Airframe and Powerplant License.

In 1973, I joined the Air Force Reserves (AFR) and became a member (Continued on page 2: Student Spotlight)
Veterans Day Parade 2003

Clockwise from top left: 1) VUB staff ride in the truck driven by Instructor Marlys Garman's husband Jim; 2) students, staff and alumni gather before the parade. Pictured left to right: Director Randy Wilson, Marshall Gilliam, instructor Davy Stone, instructor Marlys Garman, alumni Bill Basham, instructor Cassie Zipay, Bill Martin, Lyle Hensley, Dale Tompkins, alumni Juan Gonzalez and Office Associate Pat Ault; 3) students carry the VUB banner through Fountain Square.

(Student Spotlight: Continued from page 1)

of the Air Reserve Technician Program (ART Program) with a new squadron of C-130 Hurricane Hunters at Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Mississippi. During my stay at Biloxi I met my wife Connie and that is where we got married. Connie has enjoyed the experience of the many moves to new locations my career has taken us.

In 1979, I became an employee of the Defense Contract Management Agency (DCMA) as a Quality Specialist. In 1983 I took a Property Administration position at Saint Augustine DCMA office. Later I moved to a Contract Administrator position within the same agency, but after two years I moved back into Quality Assurance.

In 1993 we moved to Greenville, South Carolina, where I joined the DCMA team located at the Lockheed Martin Facility. Eventually I became the Program Integrator, coordinating activities between our government office and our customers.

In May 2002, I retired after having completing 32 years government service. As we have no children, Connie and I purchased a house in Bowling Green in December 2002 to be near her sister and brothers.

Since moving to Bowling Green, I have been looking for acceptable work. Considering my extensive background in the Quality Assurance field I thought I would have little trouble in finding a job here in some form of Quality Assurance position. However, this has not happened.

One day in my job search I saw an article in the Daily News about veterans attending Veterans Upward Bound program at Western Kentucky University. A couple of days later I stopped by their office and found a very helpful and friendly staff ready to provide me with much information. That visit sparked my interest to attempt to set a new goal for myself and I signed up that very day.

I am currently interested in continuing my education and hopefully attaining an Associates Degree. I have not decided on which field I will pursue but with the help and guidance from the understanding staff, I am sure it will come to me at the proper time.

It is a joy to attend a class with other veterans and listen to their experiences and at the same time have such helpful and knowledgeable instructors.

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WWW -- http://www.wku.edu/vub/
e-mail -- Veterans.Upward.Bound@WKU.edu
VFW Fire

The VFW has been very good to VUB by donating money for the VUB Scholarship, and now it is time to express our appreciation in their time of need.

Recently the VFW building burned to the ground. They have temporarily moved to a rented building at 3rd and College (formerly Ray’s Catering) in Bowling Green. They are working to collect money to get back into a building of their own. They have established an account at the BB&T Bank to receive donations from concerned citizens. If you have a few bucks to offer them, you can send it to:

BB&T Bank
Fountain Square Branch
432 E Main St
Bowling Green, KY 42101

Make sure to note that the donation is for the “VFW Building Account.”

According to Don Mudd, the Post Commander, the building was so old that it was underinsured. No help is expected from the national VFW office, so the local group is on their own to pay for a new space. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

West Nile Web Quest

The VUB instructors in cooperation with the Barren River District Health Department have created a web quest about the West Nile Virus. The web quest is an online activity in which students take on the roles of health department staff and investigate West Nile Virus from different angles.

The web quest is online and available to anyone to use. The URL is:

http://www.barrenriverhealth.org/WNV/Webquest/

NEW GRANT CYCLE

VUB started a new four year grant on October 1, 2003. The competition is becoming stiffer and was very close this year, but we are funded for this year and three more as long as money remains available from the government.

With this increasing difficulty to get money to keep the program running, it becomes even more important that VUB participants take the outgoing assessment before leaving the program. This way we can prove to the government that we are doing our job. They want proof that people improved their academic skills and that people went on into school and graduated after leaving VUB. When you think you are about ready to leave us, please contact a staff member about scheduling a post-assessment.

VUB PARTICIPATES IN VETERANS DAY PARADE

On November 8, several VUB participants and all the VUB staff took part in Bowling Green’s annual Veterans Day Parade. Check out the pictures on the previous page.

WHAT IF IT SNOWS?

As long-time Kentucky residents know, if you wait 5 minutes the weather is likely to change. With winter coming that means we might have snow problems even if they are not predicted. Our policy is to be open if Western Kentucky University is open. If you are in question about if we will be here, watch WBKO morning news. If you see WKU canceled, we will also be canceled.

But, we do not want you to drive to class if you feel it is hazardous. Just give us a call and let us know. The best numbers to call are:

Pat Ault (Office Associate) at 745-5310
Davy Stone at 745-6876
Cassie Zippay at 745-6570
Marlys Garman at 745-3487
or the Director at 745-5008

All off these staff have voice mail so if they are out you can still leave a message. In addition, if you have a computer with e-mail, you can send a note to Veterans.Upward.Bound@WKU.edu.

Notes and News

- October was attendance month at VUB. Eight students had perfect attendance for the month: Charles E. Hampton, Greg Allison, James Bronson, Lyle Hensley, Gary Jessee, Bill Martin, Dan Brown and Jake Jordan. Congrats to all these students. We appreciate your dedication to your education.
- In October Mary Clark was awarded with the Kentucky Association of Educational Opportunity Program Personnel (KAEOPP) Adult Learners Scholarship of $350. Congratulations, Mary.
**Important Numbers and Dates**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dec 11</td>
<td>VUB Fall Session Ends</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 13*</td>
<td>ACT Test Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec 19</td>
<td>VUB Offices Close for Holiday Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 2*</td>
<td>Registration Postmark Deadline for Feb 7 ACT Test Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 5</td>
<td>VUB Offices Re-open</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 12</td>
<td>VUB Spring Session Begins</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jan 19</td>
<td>Martin Luther King Jr. Day VUB Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 7*</td>
<td>ACT Test Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Feb 27*</td>
<td>Registration Postmark Deadline for Apr 3 ACT Test Date</td>
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*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.*

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**Important Numbers**

- **Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green**
  (270) 746-7425
- **Debbie Brizendine, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office**
  (270) 783-8038
- **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