Summer 2006

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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2006 Banquet Is A Success

On Friday, May 5, students, staff, and friends of Veterans Upward Bound gathered to celebrate the annual awards banquet. Dr. Luther Hughes brought greetings from Western Kentucky University, and Commander Don Mudd of VFW #1298 presented a check donated toward our scholarship fund.

Then the crowd settled back for the entertainment provided by special musical guests "J Squared," a duo made up of VUB alumnus Jeff Treece and John Zippay, husband to VUB instructor Cassie Zippay.

After dinner, special guest Dr. David Coffey, recently named director of the Educational Enhancement Programs, entertained the audience with tales of Colonel Spiller, shared words of encouragement, and congratulated veterans on winning awards.

Those veterans winning awards included John Oster, who won top honors as VUB Student of the Year. This award recognizes a current year participant who exemplifies the qualities needed to be a successful and effective learner at the postsecondary level.

Will King received the award for Alumni of the Year. This award is given to an alumnus of our program who has not only completed his degree but who has not forgotten the VUB program.

James Lane received the Dare to Dream Award, which is given to a student who has had to overcome obstacles to make his educational dreams come true.

Other awards were presented to John Oster (GED and Professional Certification Completer), Jacob Durbin, Kim Hibbard, Dorothy Isomura, and Glenda Murley (Associate Degree Completers), and Christopher Adair, Kelly Anderson, Kevin Brassell, Paul Clark, Will King, David Matthews, Doug Nelson, Scott Robinson, and Scott Wells (Baccalaureate Degree Completers).

Outstanding Effort in the Classroom awards were given to John Barry, Carlos Espino, Alan Hartley, and David Spencer.

The local VUB scholarship of $300 was awarded to Jeff Treece, and Carlton Potter was recognized as being nominated for a $500 national NAVUBPP scholarship. In June, NAVUBPP announced that Potter won his scholarship.

For more information on the banquet, see the Student Spotlights in this issue, as well as the pictures throughout the newsletter.

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James Lane
by Davy Stone (VUB Instructor)

_The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams._
-- Eleanor Roosevelt

Each year we give the Dare to Dream award to a student who has worked to build a future based on their dreams despite obstacles that some may find insurmountable.

This year’s recipient, James Lane, definitely overcame such obstacles. Almost seven years ago, James awoke to find his mother unconscious lying on her bedroom floor. Allow me to read an excerpt from an essay he wrote which is included in this year’s edition of Veterans Voices.

When we arrived at the hospital, all we could do was wait to hear about her condition. We didn’t have too wait long....

We were given a decision to make--leave her on a machine to vegetate or take her off so she could pass on....

We both were based our decision on what our mom wanted. Before this happened, she told us that if she was being kept alive on a machine that she would want us to take her off. We kept our promise. When we took her off the life support machines, I saw her one last time at her funeral.

James came to VUB in August of 2005 wanting to go to school but unsure of how to make it happen. He attended very regularly during his semester with us, at one point earning an award for having the best attendance. He enrolled at WKU this spring, and despite his busy school schedule, he has taken the time to give encouragement to former VUB classmates who have yet to start school.

James Lane has not only overcome obstacles, he’s making great strides and building his future by believing in the beauty of his dreams.

Will King
by Julia King (wife of Will King)

Will had been in the Coast Guard for two years before we met. The main reason he went into the military was to have help in attending college. Little did he know, it would also provide many life-changing, character molding, and belief-challenging events. After he had been in the guard for four years, he proposed to me during the time he re-enlisted and was sent to Kentucky. Six months later we were married.

During the next four years he was a TC in Group Ohio Valley and then was honorably discharged in 1999. He then became a Technical Instructor with a company called ED Learning which was acquired by SUN Microsystems six months after he began. After working with SUN for the next couple of years, he was laid off and then decided it was time to go back to college.

VUB was a tremendous encouragement and support for Will as he began the
process of applying, taking his ACT exam, and studying for CLEP tests. As a full-time husband and father of two children, he maintained a 3.5 GPA for the next 2 1/2 years, and graduated last December with Cum Laude Honors. He, of course, was given a big party to celebrate.

Currently, he is beginning training for his MSCE certification. Afterward, he plans to work on his Masters Degree in order to go back into teaching, which he loves and misses.

You can be assured that VUB holds a thoughtful place in our hearts because they were an important encouragement for Will when he needed someone in his corner the most.

I would like to urge all participants to set class attendance as a priority. I realize you have jobs and families, but if you do not attend classes regularly, then you won't be prepared to enter postsecondary school. Please strive to come to every class period and be prepared to work so that you can get the most out of what VUB can offer.

If you have not been to VUB for a while, please come back. You are always welcome. We are here to help.

I want to congratulate Carlton Potter for winning this years NAVUBPP scholarship of $500. He was one of five winners. For three years our VUB program has had a scholarship winner in the top five of this national organization. Sometimes people feel it is a waste of time to apply but this shows that it is worth while. If you do not ask or apply you will receive nothing, guaranteed, so do not be afraid to put in a little work to compete for money to help pay for school.

Cody Norris is a student worker who worked evenings last fall and spring. This summer Cody is working days and Kevin Crum, the other student worker, is off for the summer. In the fall both of these veterans will be back helping VUB provide services. They both attend WKU, so as you get ready to enter school, contact them. They have a lot of valuable information about their experiences after VUB to share that might help you.

We are still accepting applicants, so if you have a friend or relative who is a veteran, bring them by and we will offer them our services.

Our First Medical Doctor

- Congratulations to Brian Vincent, DO, who graduated from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine with a degree of doctor of osteopathic medicine May 27. Vincent received the Naval Health Professions Scholarship while attending WVSOM. He has a bachelor's degree in biology from WKU. Vincent is interning at the Naval Medical Center in Portsmouth, Virginia. Vincent was named our Alumni of the Year at the 2001 annual awards banquet.
## Important Numbers and Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 4</td>
<td>VUB deadline to apply for Fall 06 postsecondary classes</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 10</td>
<td>VUB Summer Classes End</td>
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<tr>
<td>Aug 18*</td>
<td>Registration Postmark Deadline for Sept 16 ACT Test Date</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 4</td>
<td>Labor Day — VUB Offices Closed</td>
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<td>Sept 5</td>
<td>VUB Fall Classes Begin</td>
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<td>Sept 16*</td>
<td>ACT Test Date</td>
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<td>Sept 22*</td>
<td>Registration Postmark Deadline for Oct 28 ACT Test Date</td>
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<td>Oct 28*</td>
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<td>Oct 29</td>
<td>Daylight Savings Time Ends</td>
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<td>Nov 23-24</td>
<td>Thanksgiving — VUB Offices Closed</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.