

Spring 2004

UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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THE TOPPER

SPRING 2004

Volume 11 Issue 1

Veterans' Voices

Every other year Veterans Upward Bound publishes *Veterans' Voices*, a book which gives our students a chance to publish their writing. Some writing is done as part of classroom work, while some is done simply because the author wanted to express a thought. *Veterans' Voices 2004* will first be available at the annual awards banquet (see below).

The following two essays are samples of the writing you'll find in this year's *Veterans' Voices*. We hope you enjoy them.

Alaska by Gary Jessee

During my tour of duty, I was fortunate enough to be stationed at Fort Greely, Alaska. Many people believe that Alaska is always cold and snowy, but it's not.

During the summer months it is very nice. The bright sun shines for hours on end. The longest day has 23 hours 45 minutes of sunlight. That's a lot of time for many fun activities. One of my favorite activities was fishing. There was one clear cold babbling stream that I used to fish and where



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The Ceremony by Shana J. Thomas

Standing on the back steps of the Chamberlin Hotel you can see the Continental Park surrounded by a field of green. If you come out early enough you can see the soldiers preparing for a ceremony of honor.

The soldiers rush around placing chairs, flags, and themselves exactly where they need to be. A huge gazebo built in the early 1900's sits in the middle of the field all alone. The Continental Army Band is in formation to the left of the gazebo. With the Drum Master front and center of his troops and the instruments shining like

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Student Spotlight: Kimberly Mack

I enlisted into the Army in 1998 and completed basic training at Ft. Leonardwood, MO. After completing basic training, I completed my MOS training at Ft. Lee, VA, where I graduated with honors. Luckily, my first duty assignment was an exciting one. Germany brought many changes for me. Learning the German culture opened my eyes to the world around me. I was honorably discharged as a Sergeant after four years and made my way back to Bowling Green, KY. Now a divorced mother of two, my desire to continue my education emerged. After hearing about Veterans Upward Bound, I eagerly enrolled. Since then, VUB has fueled my passion immensely.

Being a working single mother doesn't leave for much free time, which is why I live a very structured lifestyle. I am an active member of Third and Park Church of Christ, where I teach a

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Annual Awards Banquet in May

As another school year comes to an end, the time has come to celebrate our success stories from the past year.

On May 7, the annual VUB Awards Banquet will be held at the University Plaza/Holiday Inn in Bowling Green.

Classroom awards will be given to students enrolled during the previous year, and other special awards and door prizes will be given out as well.

Mark your calendars for May 7. Invitations will be sent out in April.

Martin Schenck: Gone but not Forgotten
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the white snow capped mountains seemed to touch the clear blue sky. I would go there when I wanted to get away from the hustle and bustle of the troublesome world. The soothing water gently flowing over the rocks, the birds chirping their sweet songs, a gentle cool breeze on my face, and the beautiful wild flowers giving out their refreshing aroma reminded me of who I was. The bold beautiful mountain range seemed to extend forever as I cast the bright red lure in the crisp cool water. The lure gave a rippling as it landed smoothly on the water.

As the days get shorter, the air gets colder, and we know that winter is near. I prepare for the long dark nights ahead. Snow begins to drift from the sky like feathers float. The streams are silenced by the thick hard ice. The mountains are covered

with sparkly white snow, and a team of sled dogs can be heard softly barking in the distance. The bright Northern Lights dance in the star studded sky, while snow blows briskly across the barren plain. A wolf howling in the distance pierces the night air. I begin to think of the days of ice fishing ahead.

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new, they patiently wait for the ceremony to begin. The Honor Guard stands at Parade Rest with their weapons in front of the gazebo. The Color Guard, six paces in front of the Honor Guard, are ready with the American flag and the Army flag waving in the gentle breeze coming off the sea. To the right of the gazebo are three cannons with two soldiers at every one, each standing tall and proud on either side, looking for the signal to fire the salute. Then there are about a hun-

dred chairs with names of Officers taped to them according to rank. Everyone is in position, standing tall. You can see the pride and valor they hold inside of them. Even if you are feeling down and out, you can't help but to smile as this feeling radiates to you.

The band begins to play and the person(s) being honored march to the podium at the front of the field. After a salute from the Color Guard the ceremony continues with a Pass and Review, then the cannons fire the 22-gun salute. Afterwards, the first shell fired is brought to the Honoree. He makes his way back to the podium to make his speech of his accomplishments. As he bows his head to say, "Thank you," anyone with any pride for their country stands and applauds the true "American Soldier" as he approaches his next journey in life.

Martin Schenck: Gone but not forgotten

It is with sadness but fond memories that I tell you that one of the first participants in the Veterans Upward Bound at WKU and a graduate of Western Kentucky University has passed away.

Martin Schenck was a retired veteran with service in both the Navy and the Army. He saw action at Pearl Harbor in World War II, and he also served in Korea and Vietnam. Martin survived several service related wounds and retired as a highly decorated veteran.

After retiring again, this time from a civilian job, Martin came to VUB to pursue his lifelong dream of earning a college degree. He earned that degree in

Anthropology in 2002 and was recognized by the President of WKU as "The Oldest Degree Seeking Student in His Graduating Class". When we thought Martin was done he continued on and in 2003 he earned a graduate certificate from WKU.

Martin kept veterans and Veterans Upward Bound in his heart and visited the program often. He was proud of his achievements and was also proud of his association with VUB, where he was the example for younger vets just starting into the program. Martin will continue to be an example and will be missed by all of us who knew him.



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(Student Spotlight: Continued from page 1)

Sunday school class. In addition, I host a weekly Bible study in my home for my peers; as well as a monthly ladies' Bible class. There is nothing like being with Christians to get you through the tough times.

My future holds endless possibilities. I've always wanted to write books, but now I have also found a love for teaching. In six years, I plan to be employed as an English teacher and working towards my Masters degree. Eventually, I will write a book about my experiences. I love a challenge and though my road is not an easy one to travel, God, my kids, and my family keep me motivated.

NAVUBPP Scholarship Winner



We are pleased to announce that Will King has been chosen to receive one of four \$500 scholarships offered by the National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel (NAVUBPP). The competition for this scholarship was national.

King is a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and is pursuing a BS in Computer Information Systems. In his application essay, King wrote that while he has been in school, VUB has provided him "with support and focus, instilling a can-do attitude and encouraging [him] that the goal of a college degree is not unattainable."

King is a veteran of the U.S. Coast Guard and is pursuing a BS in Computer Information Systems. In his application essay, King wrote that while he has been in school, VUB has provided him "with support and focus, instilling a can-do attitude and encouraging [him] that the goal of a college degree is not unattainable."



Below: VUB at WKU hosted the Site Coordinators of the newly funded VUB at Shawnee State College (Ohio). They came to Bowling Green to learn more about how they might run their new program. They were very complimentary of all the staff and the design of our program.



Above: Several VUB students and family members stand with author Silas House at a book discussion/signing at Barnes and Noble in Bowling Green. House's book, *A Parchment of Leaves*, was read community-wide in Bowling Green as a part of the "One Campus, One Community, One Book" project. Several VUB students took part in the project, read House's book, and attended the book discussions and signings.

THE TOPPER



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Important Numbers and Dates

Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green (270) 746-7425	Apr 3*	ACT Test Date
Debbie Brizendine, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office (270) 783-8038	May 6	VUB Spring Session Ends
VA Regional Office, Louisville (800) 827-1000	May 7	Annual VUB Awards Banquet; Registration Postmark Deadline for June 12 ACT Test Date
VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN (615) 695-6372	May 31	Memorial Day — VUB Offices Closed
VA Medical Center, Louisville (502) 895-3401	June 1	VUB Summer Session Begins
VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN (615) 327-4751	June 12*	ACT Test Date
Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville (502) 595-4447	June 24	VUB Open House — 5:30pm
Military Records Branch, Frankfort (502) 564-4883	Aug 5	VUB Summer Session Ends
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		

*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.