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WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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Charles Dillon, a student in the VUB evening program, is featured in this month’s Student Spotlight. Charles has been a participant in the program since June of this year, working with Sharon Koomler and the other "Upside Down" veterans who make the evening class a dangerous place to be. Still, Charles and his comrades insist great ideas spring from their antics, and Sharon concurs. At last report Charles was mastering geometry, taming computers, and undertaking the daunting task of applying to college.

Charles is a native of Cleveland, Ohio and served twenty years in the Army. Since retiring from the military in 1993, Charles has lived in Bowling Green with his wife, Cheryl, and their two children, Angela and Charles, Jr. He is now working with the Circuit Court Clerk, Drivers License Division, and making plans to attend WKU in the fall.

In his spare time Charles enjoys tennis, racquetball, and basketball, as well as all the pursuits common to a self-disclosed "computer junkie." We at VUB have enjoyed getting to know the Dillon family and wish Charles well in college.

OFF TO COLLEGE

Special recognition goes to the VUB students beginning postsecondary studies at WKU this fall:

- Russell Berry
- Jenny Covington
- Charles Dillon
- Brian Garmon
- Tom Moyers
- Martin Schenck
- Troy Williams

CONGRATULATIONS...

...to Rick "Doc" Faulkner and his new bride, Gayle! The Faulkners, of Bowling Green, were married earlier this summer, just as they moved to a new residence and Doc began studies in social work at WKU. Sounds hectic! Doc was a participant in the VUB Program last spring and works as a DJ. Gayle is a hairstylist at JCPenney and a supportive friend of the veterans in our program. We certainly wish the best!
FROM THE DESK OF THE DIRECTOR

Veterans Upward Bound at Western Kentucky University has enjoyed a successful second year of service and has received assurances from surrounding communities and agencies for continued support of the program. More importantly, feedback from our students has been positive, and we all are pleased with the accomplishments of those who have completed our curriculum.

The staff at VUB is working hard to prepare for our fall semester. Once again we will be offering a flexible schedule of individualized classes, and we have added to our curriculum several new subjects. We now offer classes in literature, composition, math through pre-calculus, word processing, foreign language, and science with lab. If you have not already registered with Martha for fall classes, or if you know someone who may be interested in our educational services, please call us collect at 745-5310.

Gary Gray
Program Director

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Now is the time to make your educational and entertainment plans for the coming months. Listed below are some dates to keep in mind.

August 17:
   ACT Exam at WKU
August 18-19:
   Fall Registration for WKU
August 22:
   VUB Fall Session Begins
   WKU Fall Classes Begin
September 3 (tentative):
   Beach Boys Concert
September 17:
   Bardstown Dinner Train
October 22:
   ACT Exam at WKU
December 10:
   ACT Exam at WKU
December 16:
   VUB Fall Session Ends
'94 SUMMER FUN

It has been a busy summer on the VUB social calendar. As the May newsletter went to press, students and staff were off to Washington D.C. for three days of sightseeing. Reflections from the big trip are printed in this newsletter on page four.

In June we and our families enjoyed a day at Picnic Pops, an outdoor festival of events highlighted with a Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra performance. Participant Dean Pace (a devout University of Louisville fan) especially enjoyed the three-point basketball shootout, where UK's Travis Ford suffered a loss at the hands of an eighth grader. Secretary Debra Cooper and several others braved the hot air balloon ride, while Director Gary Gray is rumored to have danced. Photos of the event are on display in our office.

Two weeks later a group from VUB invaded the Opryland Theme Park in Nashville. There, in between the long lines and afternoon thunderstorms, we rode the roller coasters, ate funnel cake, and listened to the musical performances. The day was capped with a concert by popular country singer Suzy Bogguss.

July was highlighted by a return to the WKU Dinner Theatre and a trip south to the Nashville Zoo and Grassmere Wilderness Park. The dinner theatre was once again a favorite event among the VUB participants and an excellent opportunity to impress our dates and spouses! Twenty-five guests feasted on the buffet dinner and enjoyed the comedy of "You'll Love My Wife."

The zoo, meanwhile, was a relaxing trip and a fitting finale to the summer program at VUB. We set off from Bowling Green in the morning and spent an entire Saturday chatting with the animals. Participant Ray Harrington insisted this was the best conversation he had experienced as part of the Veterans Upward Bound Program...but we let him ride back with us, anyway.

Upcoming events, in the planning stages, include a Beach Boys concert at the National Corvette Museum opening; a ride on the dinner train in historic Bardstown, Kentucky; and a return visit to the Horse Cave Theatre. Instructors will provide further information in class.
This past May twenty VUB staff and participants flew to Washington D.C. as part of our cultural programming. Following are some of the student reflections on the trip.

**Tom Moyers:** Everything about the city was a poignant experience. To be able to see all the famous memorials and buildings in person was extremely exciting.

The two places that interested me the most were the Vietnam Wall and the Holocaust Museum. The wall was a most moving experience. I wasn't ever in Vietnam, but I remember the shame and disgust I felt watching and hearing our brave soldiers being defiled and hated for doing their duty. The wall was a fitting memorial for these brave men who fought, died, and are missing in action.

I was also deeply moved by the Holocaust Museum. The displays are arranged in such a way to depict the things that actually happened in these camps. As you travel through the exhibits you realize you are seeing the same things the prisoners of this terrible place were seeing....

**Ray Harrington:** While I was there the most important place I visited was the Viet Nam Veterans Wall. That's really all I had in mind to see.... The only regret I have about that trip is Sunday afternoon I lost my camera and a roll of film. Who ever has it now should be real happy, because they have at least one picture of me....

**Martin Schenck:** The most heart-wrenching place was the Holocaust Memorial. This is a place everyone should see. The way it is set up gives you the feeling you are part of the picture. When you take the elevator to the fourth floor, you are crammed into a dismal gray box, like a cell. It gives you the feeling that something evil is going to happen to you....

I have seen these camps in Germany, with partially burned bodies in the ovens. I have seen the five mounds at Camp Belsen, holding the remains of fifteen thousand Jews under each mound....

Seeing this place brings back memories of those times. But people never learn, the same things are happening today and no one cares or is willing to do anything. People sit back and watch it happen just like before. I believe I fought for nothing....

---

"A Name on the Wall"
by Tanya Feagins

I wonder who Raymond James II was. Was he a short man who was considered too tall as a child, Until he stopped growing at the age of 13? Was he a trouble maker, who was given the option of Either joining the army or going to jail? Did his mother press hair for a living? Did his father own a bank? Did Mr. James leave a wife, a girlfriend, or both? I wonder if Raymond II is being missed by a child Who would be about 30 and still waits for his or her father to come home Did he save the life of a friend, Or did a medic try in vain to save his? Does his mother miss him, Or is he just another name on the wall?
In June VUB took a vanload of students down to Nashville's Opryland Theme Park. Michael Bowles had this to say:

Our recent visit to Opryland was special to me because I hadn't been there as a visitor (or tourist) in twenty years. Some of the rides and exhibits didn't even exist 20 years ago. One that I especially enjoyed was Rock 'n' Roller Coaster. We were actually lucky that it didn't rain earlier in the day, considering the humidity. I and the other classmates were fortunate to enjoy the sounds of Suzy Bogguss and her band in the evening. For a rockin' country time, I would recommend Opryland to any visitor to the southeastern part of the country.

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I AM A SLOW WALKER.
BUT I NEVER WALK BACK...

-- Abraham Lincoln

Participant Russell Berry was one of sixty veterans from around the country selected for study this summer at the Math and Science Initiative in Arcata, California. At the end of the intensive, six-week program, Russell came away with straight A's and some great memories. In our next issue of "THE TOPPER," Russell will share his impressions from this once-in-a-lifetime experience.

In July the program sponsored a trip to the WKU Dinner Theatre. Below are the responses of two who were there.

Martin Schenck: "You'll Love My Wife" is a play about a family that lives together on a ranch outside the town of Cumby, Texas.

The father is a nut that gets carried away with religion. He picks up a bum who pretends to be a guru named Mufti. The father, believing everyone is a sinner, brings the bum to his house. He has a daughter, Adelaide, a dumb blonde who can't make up her mind about anything. The guru tells her she must marry him because her father said she would.

Then there is the stepmother, named Mattie Grace. She seems to be hooked on Valium. Mufti makes several passes at Mattie Grace, but she gets away....

Finally the deputy sheriff arrests Mufti. The father, seeing his mistake, pretends that he knew Mufti was a fake and apologizes to his family.

The players in the show were all great. The part played by Heather Riffel as Mattie Grace, I thought was the best.

Tom Moyers: The play I watched was something I had never experienced before.

I was impressed by the acting ability of the cast, their body movements (especially the blonde's), and their ability to remember their lines. The plot was pretty thin, but I think it was what is termed a farce, so being funny with a thin plot is probably OK.

As I said at the start, this was my first time to see a live play, and I think I would enjoy seeing another, if it was as relaxed and informal as this one was.
"The Eagle"
by Mark E. Swinney

What is an eagle? He is grace, power, a symbol of freedom, and a majestic animal all in one.
When you see him soaring through the air, you see his grace and freedom. The grace within him, is the way he flows through the air at ease. The symbol of freedom is the way he can go from place to place, and he is not held down by any one or anything.
When he plunges down to the earth, that is when you see the majestic, and powerful part of him. The power is the way he soars downward to the earth, breaking through the wind at ease. The majestic part of the eagle is the grace, power, and the symbol of freedom all as one and harmony for everyone to always see.

"The Shadows Grow"
by Russell Berry

The shadows grow, as day pales into dusk. The eve's last hours; the finale of light.
Like shadows over my heart, as memories from love fade.
Indian legend tells of the continual battle between night and day.
The darkness fights the light for control, But the moon intercedes and does not let it win
An ongoing battle, and the shadows grow.
And I pass from life unto death as the shadows grow, Growing longer over my grave until finally all light is cast out; eternally out.
And the shadows grow.

Dedicated to the memory of
Emily Dickinson

"Remember Me"
Anonymous
Submitted by C. J. Dillon, Sr.

Remember me and all the fun we had. The trouble we got into for being bad. We used to come in late yet it started with a single hand shake.
Remember our summer sunshine days. We went horseback riding and kissed in the hay.
Remember the day you asked me to go steady. I said all right that I was ready.
Remember the party we threw for Don the realist of parties that lasted till dawn.
Remember our friends Bill, Robin and Joan.
Remember at last when we were alone.
Remember the first time that we broke up. We couldn't stand it so we made up.
Remember the kisses we used to share.
The time you told me you'd always care.
Remember the night we went all the way. You must remember I'm the one to pay.
Remember the time you started looking at others. Now I'm in the home for unwed mothers. But why should I care it's not you who cares. There's only one burden I must bear. I am in the hospital fighting the pain.
I'm keeping the baby he needs a name.
The doctor came in a few minutes ago. He said there was trouble, he didn't know. I found out he was telling no lie. The nurse told me I was going to die. The baby she said would be all right. I love you darling take care and good night. Remember me.

This poem was written by a person in the 7th grade, 1969.
A career is more than a job. Landing a job may take a couple of weeks, or even just a couple of days; your career lasts from now until retirement. Do you know what you want to be doing twenty or thirty years from now? What are you doing to get where you want to be?

THE CAREER CAMPAIGN: GETTING STARTED

RECORDS YOU'LL NEED...

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WHAT TO CONSIDER...

1. YOUR EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Take account of the duties you have performed, responsibilities you have assumed, and accomplishments you have earned. These comprise your experience. Now think about what you know and what things you can do. These are your skills. Your experience and skills may be a direct result of your military and employment histories, but they can also stem from volunteer work, church or organizational involvement, hobbies, or other aspects of your life.

2. YOUR WORK PREFERENCES AND VALUES

Your work preferences involve where you want to work, how much you like working with others, and how you respond to different situations. Your work values tell you what is important to you in a job.

3. YOUR GOALS AND NEEDS

Goals may be short-term or long-term and may relate to work as well as other aspects of your life. Setting goals lets you take control of your life and gives you direction. Your needs, like it or not, begin with money. Regardless of how you value money, you will need a certain amount to survive and reach your goals. Decide in advance the salary and benefits you will need in a job.
IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

KY Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville
(502) 595-4447
Military Records Branch, Frankfort
(502) 564-4883
Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore
(800) 928-4838
VA Regional Office, Louisville
(800) 827-1000
VA Medical Center, Louisville
(502) 895-3401
VA Medical Center, Nashville TN
(615) 327-4751
American Legion, Louisville
(502) 582-5825
AMVETS, Louisville
(502) 582-5594
Disabled American Veterans, Louisville
(800) 333-1720
Military Order/Purple Heart, Louisville
(502) 582-6926
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Louisville
(502) 582-6445
Vietnam Veterans of America
(606) 432-4953

Veterans Upward Bound is continually seeking to serve new participants. Our outreach extends through ten counties (Allen, Barren, Butler, Edmonson, Hart, Logan, Metcalfe, Monroe, Simpson and Warren), and we have a flexible class schedule on weekdays. If you know veterans who could benefit from our free training, please urge them to call us collect at 745-5310.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

Veterans Upward Bound
Western Kentucky University
1 Big Red Way
Bowling Green, KY 42101-3576