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UA35/8 The Topper

WKU Veterans Upward Bound

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VUB surfs the World Wide Web

The future is here. How many times have you heard that? How many times did you believe it?

Thanks to new technology, perhaps I can say the future is here and mean it. One of the fastest growing areas of computer technology is the internet, and VUB is jumping head first into this new area of information exchange.

The internet is a series of interconnected computer networks, all using similar commands to make usage easy. The sudden explosion in internet usage, however, is due to the world wide web (WWW).

The world wide web provides computer users an easy, graphical way of exploring the internet without previous knowledge of commands. It also allows for easy programming, making the web accessible to just about anyone who can get his or her hands on a computer.

So VUB now has its own space on the internet, called a homepage, which allows users world wide to access our information from their own home computers. Feel free to browse our page (address below) if you're already online.

http://www.wku.edu/www/veterans/vub.html

Student Spotlight: Richard Burnette

Richard Burnette is a student in Jeanette Prerost's Mon/Wed night class. Instead of telling you about Richard, we're letting Richard tell you about himself. Here's what he had to say.

I n 1958 I dropped out of the University of Virginia to join the Army. I applied for an intelligence branch of the Army, was accepted, and after some intensive training found myself in Japan working with the Japanese Self-Defense Forces trying to "turn" Japanese spies working for the Russians.

When the commander of our station learned I played shortstop in college, I dropped my military duties for two summers and travelled all over Japan playing military baseball teams—in addition to Japanese pro, semi-pro and college teams.

I lost my top secret clearance in 1961 when I put in marriage papers, but I was married to a wonderful Japanese lady and we've been together going on 35 years. We have an actress daughter living in L.A. and a son who lives in Hamburg, Germany running his own company that arranges for American rock bands to tour Europe.

Continued...
See Student Spotlight, p.2
What's Up, Doc?

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 un-official and sanctioned only by the School of Hard Knocks, from which he holds a PhD.

Here we are again, friends. A new year has begun and it's time to get back to work. I am glad to be able to (they declared me "nonessential" there for a few weeks.) I hope the government's antics have not affected you too severely.

Something happened to me late last year that I believe is worth mentioning. I got tired. That's right. Tired. I was tired of school, tired of work, tired of being tired. My attitude was really going to the dogs, and though I knew it, I could not seem to shake off the fatigue, or get enough rest to make me feel better. I began to question my reason for returning to school and my ability to finish what I had started. I concentrated on what I did not like about my instructors more than the work at hand. In short, my attitude had gone to hell in a hand basket, and I really was too tired to care.

At this point you are thinking, "What does this have to do with anything, Doc? People get tired all the time." Not this kind of tired. I was rapidly approaching pack-it-up-and-run-home-to-mama-tired. The kind of fatigue that cannot be fixed with a good dose of sleep and a pep-talk. I, my friends, was in desperate need of a Major Attitude Adjustment.

I went to see a friend of mine to whom I have always felt a particular closeness. I told him about my problem and he started laughing. "So, you are human!" he managed to say between the gales of laughter. "I was beginning to wonder."

My friend knew that getting tired is just part of the educational process. A process he had been through often. "You wouldn't believe how many times I have threatened to quit" he said, "but I never do." Getting tired, he went on to say, is a natural phenomenon that occurs after the job at hand is finished. By its very nature, the educational process has many such endings, followed immediately by the beginning of a new unit of material. Some of us take longer to tire than others. For some, it takes longer for the "new to wear off" of the material to be mastered.

Hearing my friend talk about his own experience made me feel better. Knowing that what I was feeling was a normal part of the educational process, and not some sign that I was "losing it" was all it took to begin my road to recovery. During Christmas break, I forgot school for a while. I traveled to visit family, played with my girls and got reacquainted with my wife. Even being declared nonessential did not get to me. I know that what I went through was scary. I also know that it will probably happen again some time in the future. Next time though, I will recognize it for just what it is: nature's way of saying "take five, friend, job well done."

Till next time,

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Recently Enrolled

We'd like to congratulate our students who have recently enrolled at WKU:

Scott Bradshaw
Judy Case
Teresa Gilbert
Don Gray
Dempsey Henderson
Melissa Lebo
Scott Lowe
Steve Jackson

Student Spotlight (cont. from p. 1)

We lived in Long Island, New York for 30 years. The first part of my career was in sales and marketing, while I later went into manufacturing. In 1992, I moved to Bowling Green as a Japanese interpreter.

My hobbies are gardening, raising fish, golf, writing poetry, building furniture, and the study of Japanese kanji, the ideographs used in written Japanese. It takes the mastery of 1,850 of these to be able to read a newspaper. I'm still learning something new everyday. VUB appeals to a guy hungry to learn more about what makes the world go around.

The "nonessential" Doc finally gets tired

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Why I Want to Become A Teacher
by Taresa M. Gilbert

Taresa was a student at VUB last semester, and she is currently finishing a degree in education. Taresa is married and has a daughter, Adilyn.

Ever since I can remember, people have asked me the age old question, "What do you want to do when you grow up?" Everyone answers this question differently, but the most frequently given answers are, "Policeman, Fireman, and Doctor." Very seldom do we hear the word, Teacher. Growing up, I can remember wanting to become a policewoman, not a Teacher.

As the years passed by, views and opinions change. People can be swayed by other individuals’ actions and acts of compassion. I might say that is how I decided to become a Teacher. My 12th grade English Teacher, Mr. Cooper, was a man of total conviction and compassion. He had the capability to sway my prior convictions about becoming a policewoman.

As a high school student, I would look forward to Mr. Cooper's class. He proclaimed himself as a "Full-time Preacher, Part-time Teacher." During the course of his class, students gained a self-worth that was unmeasurable. On top of all that, he made learning fun.

Mr. Cooper had his own style of teaching that, by many, was unorthodox. He would not spoon feed us all the information we needed; instead, he placed the burden of learning on us, the students. We gladly accepted the challenge from him.

Upon further reflection, I can remember how he kept us interested and motivated when it came to literature. He would assign a poem for us to read, then we would recite the poem to the class. Depending upon the poem, especially if it was a really romantic poem, we would recite the poem to the opposite sex. The poems, "Love Is like a Red, Red Rose" and "How Do I Love Thee," come vividly to mind when Mr. Cooper would pair students up and say, "Recite the poem to them like you really love them!" Mr. Cooper was in the habit of pairing students together for the express purpose of having the students write about their courtship, proposal, marriage, or break-up. These exercises helped us to really think about other people and their feelings. They helped broaden our horizons on the opposite sex.

Today when someone asks me, "What do you want to become?", I simply answer, "a Teacher." When they ask, "Why?" I simply say, "Because over the years, no one has ever really influenced me like my Teachers. The one Teacher that stood out in the crowd was my 12th grade English Teacher, Mr. Cooper." Then I tell them about his teaching style and resourcefulness in helping us to achieve a well-rounded education. As a Teacher, I can only hope to inspire students like Mr. Cooper inspired me.

Notes and News

- Tutoring is available by appointment to former participants in the office on Fridays from 1:00 to 4:00. Call Susan or Davy at (502) 745-5310 to set up an appointment.
- Minority Teaching Scholarships are available to WKU students with 30 hours and a 2.5 GPA. Call us at (502) 745-5310 for information.
- Martin Schenck, a VUB graduate and the Veterans Service Officer for the VFW 5th District, will be in our office on alternate Fridays beginning January 12. Call (502) 745-5310 for information or to set up an appointment.

Postsecondary Progress

- Race Stork stopped by to inform us he got a 4.0 GPA during his first semester at KATC.
- Jim Payne's wife Benita stopped by to let us know that Jim has the highest scores ever at Frank's School of Barbering.

Let us know how you're doing in school.

The Director's EMPTY Desk

This is Davy Stone, Adult Education Specialist at VUB. The position of Director is not currently filled here at VUB. Gary Gray, our former director, left us on January 2 and moved to Illinois to direct a community college.

A committee is currently reviewing applications for a new director, and hopes to have one in place by the first of March. The committee has completed telephone interviews, and expects to bring candidates to campus for personal interviews sometime in the next few weeks. In fact, there's a good chance that someone will have been chosen for the position by the time this newsletter is mailed.

So in our next newsletter you'll get a chance to meet our new director. If you can't wait until April or May, stop by sometime to welcome a new director to VUB.

Davy Stone
### Important Numbers and Dates

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<th>Date</th>
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<th>Contact Information</th>
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<td>Feb 12</td>
<td>Hospitalized Veterans Week</td>
<td>VA Regional Office, Louisville (800) 827-1000</td>
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<td>Feb 14</td>
<td>Valentine’s Day</td>
<td>VA Medical Center, Louisville (502) 895-3401</td>
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<td>March 17</td>
<td>Saint Patrick’s Day</td>
<td>VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN (615) 327-4751</td>
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<td>March 25</td>
<td>Medal of Honor Day</td>
<td>Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville (502) 595-4447</td>
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<td>April 13</td>
<td>ACT Test Date (register by March 15)</td>
<td>Military Records Branch, Frankfort (502) 564-4883</td>
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<td>May 8</td>
<td>V-E Day</td>
<td>Kentucky Veterans Center, Wilmore (800) 928-4838</td>
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<td>May 18</td>
<td>Armed Forces Day</td>
<td>American Legion, Louisville (502) 582-5825</td>
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<td>May 27</td>
<td>Memorial Day (observed)</td>
<td>AMVETS, Louisville (502) 582-5594</td>
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<td>June 8</td>
<td>ACT Test Date (register by May 10)</td>
<td>Disabled American Veterans, Louisville (800) 333-1720</td>
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Please call 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.