

Instructors

Barbara Kae

This spring we increased our instructor staff by two. Bryan Flores and Sherridyn Meyers returned to teach English skills and Spanish language respectively. Our two new instructors are Mike Stoller, formerly our VUB student assistant, and Samuel Amburgey. Mike taught Statistics and Algebra this spring while Samuel taught basic computer classes.

Mike is a US Navy Veteran who served two deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where his positions included division manager, work center supervisor, safety program manager, maritime search and seizure team member, and senior interior communications technician. He served aboard the USS Constellation and the USS Denver and was in the Persian Gulf when the war began in March 2003. Mike was born and raised in Wichita. While pursuing a major in economics at Wichita State University, Mike discovered a talent and interest in mathematics. He began with college algebra, moved to trigonometry and continued to increase his skills with several calculus courses and linear algebra. Mike plans to graduate in 2010.

Like Mike Stoller, Sam Amburgey, is a Wichita native. He graduated from the University of Kansas with a degree in Journalism. He has worked in the Wichita school system, worked at Cessna as a photographer/inspector for quality assurance, served a

year in AmeriCorps, and traveled in Japan for one month. "The internet is a huge source of information," says Sam. There are so many different ways to use computers; communication via e-mail, journalism is now all produced on computers, tables and graphs can be easily generated in Microsoft programs. Sam says that in today's world it is difficult to live without computers.



Bryan Flores, Sherridyn Meyers, Samuel Amburgey, Mike Stoller

Inside:

Director's Corner - pg 2
Cast Your Vote - pg 2
Summer 2009 Attractions - pg 3
Hot Job Opportunities in 2010 - pg 3
Update on New GI Bill - pg 4

TRIO Quest Winners - pg 4
Student Profile:
Amber Ivy - pg 5
Did You Know? - pg 5

Veterans Upward Bound



DIRECTOR'S CORNER

VUB Dear Veterans,

Fall is approaching rapidly. This is an excellent time to reassess academic and careers goals and solidify plans to achieve those goals. Educational opportunities and resources for Veterans continue to grow. With this increasing support there is no better time than now to add a bachelor's degree to that resume and grow your career potential.

Resources VUB connects eligible Veterans to include:

Student Veterans of America (SVA) – A National Organization that supports Veterans' transition from enrollment through graduation from colleges or universities through educating campus administrators and educators how best to support all Veterans. In addition SVA provides support materials and information about Veterans Services and Veterans benefits

Veterans with Disabilities Entrepreneurship Program- is a new initiative to provide the tools and knowledge necessary to start their own business through Oklahoma State University. This is a free program to eligible Veterans.

Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) - Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America is the nation's first and largest group dedicated to the Troops and Veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and the civilian supporters of those Troops and Veterans.

Scholarships, Grants and Loans – There is ample financial support available for Veterans (in addition to or in lieu of the GI Bill). The Federal Government as well as the state of Kansas offer ways to finance a college education.

Career Counseling/Educational Counseling - VUB participants are not limited to attending Wichita State University (WSU). Participants, however, can receive academic evaluations and career counseling from WSU paid for by the VUB Program.

There are too many services and opportunities to include in this article. VUB continually connects with more partners and services. VUB is here to support each Veteran to meet their individual goals and unique aspirations.



Lawrence Britton
April 24, 2009

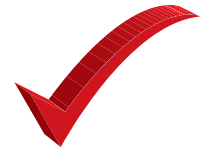
The Ballot

- The Advance
- Brain Cell
- The Ramparts
- The Upward Flight
- The Vanguard



VOTE NOW!!

Cast Your Vote



Now is the time to vote for your favorite name for the VUB newsletter. To cast your vote call **1-877-312-2586 toll free** or if you are calling from the Wichita area call **978-6742** or e-mail VUB at **veterans.upwardbound@wichita.edu**. Thanks to everyone who submitted names for the contest!

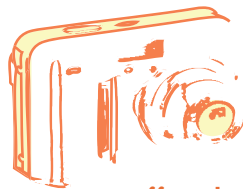
Summer 2009 Attractions

Barbara Kae

This summer VUB has added several new classes to our roster. One of the new classes is Conversational Spanish. Although most of the summer classes are scheduled during the morning and early afternoon on Mondays through Fridays, VUB will accommodate Veterans who need evening classes. One-week workshops, Dreamweaver and Photoshop & Digital Photography, were offered in June and July. The cultural and educational events will be announced later in the summer.

ONE WEEK WORKSHOPS

Photoshop and Digital Photography offered:



June 15 - June 19 (11:05am-12:00 Mon - Fri)

June 29 - July 3 (11:05am-12:00 Mon - Fri)

July 6 - July 10 (11:05am-12:00 Mon - Fri)

Dreamweaver offered: July 20 - July 24 (11:05am-12:00 Mon - Fri)

Hot Job Opportunities in 2010

Barbara Kae

The hot jobs for 2010 seem to favor two main fields; health care and computer technology. As the baby boomers approach their 60's, there will be more need for health care professionals. There are a variety of employment opportunities in the health care fields like fitness instructors and pharmacists. Rapid changes occurring in the computer industry will create new career paths that were nonexistent a few years ago. Flexibility, travel and the ability to learn new technologies are among the skills needed in this ever changing field. Other fast growing occupations include special education teachers, computer and information research scientists, and engineers.

The Top Ten

1. Network Systems & Data Communications Analysts
2. Physician Assistant
3. Medical Assistant
4. Medical records & Health Information Technicians
5. Computer Application Software Engineers
6. Physical Therapist Aides
7. Fitness Trainers & Aerobics Instructors
8. Database Administrators
9. Veterinary Technologists & Technicians
10. Dental Hygienists

Job Web sites

Military to Civilian Jobs:
Info to help find a civilian job www.gijobs.com

Jobs For Vets: Veteran & security clearance jobs
www.military.com

2009's Hottest Jobs:
Training info for hot jobs
www.CareerExplorer.net

Update on New GI Bill

The Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Benefits recently stated in a letter that they will begin accepting applications for the Post-9/11 GI Bill on May 1, 2009.

However, benefits will not begin until August 1, 2009. Basic eligibility for these new benefits are for Veterans:

- 1) who have served at least 90 cumulative days on active duty after September 10, 2001
- 2) who have served at least 30 consecutive days on active duty and were discharged due to disability

Maximum benefits are reserved for those who have served at least 36 months. Veterans who have served less are eligible for a percentage of benefits based on length of service.

Yellow Ribbon Program

The Yellow Ribbon Program allows institutions to enter into agreements with the VA to fund tuition costs above the highest in-state undergraduate tuitions

rate. The VA will match the institution's contribution toward tuition costs, up to 50% of the difference between the student's tuitions benefit and the total cost of the tuition and mandatory fees. Eligibility for this program are for Veterans:

- 1) who qualify for the Post-9/11 GI Bill based on 36 months of service
- 2) who were discharged to a service-connected disability after serving 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001

Additional information is available at www.gibill.va.gov.

RESEARCH

Before changing from the Montgomery GI Bill to the Post-9/11 GI Bill, Veterans are strongly urged to research each to ensure that they are choosing the right one for their needs because once the choice is made, it is **irrevocable**. In some cases there is a possibility of extending benefits under the current plan by as much as 12 months. Ask a VA representative about this extension by calling the VA at 1-888-GIBILL-1 (1-888-443-4551).



TRIO Quest 2009 Early PhotoEssay Competition Award Winners - Category: *Special Veterans Recognition*. Receiving medals and awards are Veterans Thomas Junkins Jr. (left) and Charles Magee (right) with instructor Bryan Flores in the center.

Student Profile: Amber Ivy

Barbara Kae

After hearing about Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) from the the Ark Valley News, Amber Ivy said, "Why not?" and with the same confidence that she has displayed throughout her nine years in the National Guard, she joined the program. This Park City, Kansas native enlisted with the Guard in her junior year of high school. As an high school honor roll graduate, she values education. "This program (VUB) has given me the confidence and study skills to pursue my college degree," says Ivy. She is planning to enroll at Wichita State University following her dream to be a psychologist.



Amber also served in Iraq where she worked as an intelligence analyst. Separation from her son was very difficult but current technology allowed her to see him which alleviated some stress. While in Iraq she met military personnel from all over the world and during down time Amber taught them the two-step.

Her service in the 891st Engineer Battalion contained a myriad of experiences. After September 11, 2001 her unit was activated continually. At Mid-Continent Airport she implemented the new screening process and guidelines with airport security. For a year she served at McConnell AFB assisting the Security Police under Operation Noble Eagle. After the devastating Greenburg tornado, her unit assisted the town by removing debris and rebuilding park structures. One of her favorite duties occurred in 2002 at the Kansas State Fair when she staffed a recruitment booth for the Guard.

Amber's concern for others was constant in spite of facing difficult things in life. While facing the "bad" in Iraq, she also experienced the "good." Her unit dropped off food and water to civilians. Amber personally gave candy and gum to the children and taught them how to blow bubbles. Amber's experiences increased her respect for the Veterans who preceeded her especially from the Viet Nam era. This Veteran makes it a point to say "thank you" whenever she encounters another member of this patriotic fellowship.



Did you know...

- ◆ that maintaining a security clearance after leaving military service can be considered an asset when applying for job positions
- ◆ that under the new GI Bill – a housing allowance and a stipend for books and supplies has been added
- ◆ that Veterans of OIF/OEF have an 11.2% unemployment rate in contrast to 8.8% of the general population as of March 2009
- ◆ that according to a new report from the US Census Bureau an American worker with a bachelor's degree earned about \$26,000 more on average in 2008 than a worker with only a high school diploma



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www.wichita.edu/vub

Mission Statement

The mission is to provide necessary training and support that will enable eligible Veterans to successfully enter into college or any other post-secondary institution.

Notice of Nondiscrimination

Wichita State University does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of race, religion, color, national origin, gender, age, sexual orientation, marital status, status as a Vietnam Era Veteran, or disability. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding nondiscrimination policies:

Director

Office of Equal Employment Opportunity
Wichita State University

1845 Fairmount St, Wichita, Kansas 67260-0205
Tel # (316) 978-6791; Email: ted.ayres@wichita.edu



Veterans Upward Bound-WSU

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Veterans Upward Bound-WSU is a 100% federally funded program.