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THE TOPPER

SUMMER 2004

Volume 11 Issue 2

VUB Awards Banquet Success

The Veterans Upward Bound program held its annual awards banquet on Friday, May 7, 2004, at the Holiday Inn University Plaza Hotel in Bowling Green, KY. Attendees included 2003-2004 program participants, VUB alumni, TRIO programs' staff, and community and veterans affairs supporters. Dr. Luther B. Hughes, Jr., Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs for Enrollment Management, offered greetings on behalf of Western Kentucky University.

The guest speaker for the evening was Congressional Representative Ron Lewis of the second district in Kentucky, who was introduced by Ken

Dyrsen, Director of Educational Enhancement Programs which include federal TRIO programs like VUB. Congressman Lewis spoke about recent military developments in Iraq. He also spoke about the importance of education and urged the veterans to continue their education. His words provided encouragement and inspiration for improving their lives through education.



Above (l-r): 2004 Student of the Year Gary Jessee with United States Congressman Ron Lewis.

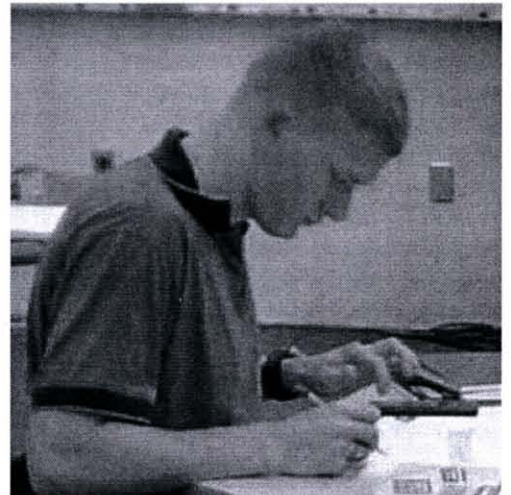
Commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Don Mudd attended the event and presented a check to the VUB program which raised the amount the VFW and American Legion have donated to over \$3,000. These local donations provide funding for the

(Continued on page 2: Banquet)

Student Spotlight: Kevin Crum

Seeing refuge from a drug-torn family, I left for basic training ten days after high school graduation. After graduating with honors in basic training from Ft Jackson, SC, I went for training at Ft Huachuca, AZ, specializing in Ground Surveillance Radar Operations. Once I finished with the MOS training I received orders to go to Korea where I spent a year overseas and received two army achievement awards. From there I was sent to Ft Campbell, KY, where I completed air assault school and was promoted to SPC in February 2002. On March 2, 2004, I was deployed to Kuwait. We moved into Iraq a few days later. After a month I was sent home due to medical reasons. Those medical issues resulted in a medical chapter discharge. On January 22nd, I was honorably discharged from the United States Army.

(Continued on page 3: Student Spotlight)



Recruitment Request

We are getting closer to the end of our grant year, which means we need your help with recruitment. Before October 1 we need to enroll more people in VUB. If you know any veterans who might have an interest in either starting or returning to

school, please tell them about us. If you belong to a group or organization where you can either place brochures around for people to see or else talk to the group about our program, we would appreciate your help in spreading the word about our program.

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Banquet Photos

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annual VUB Scholarship. The winner of the 2004 VUB Scholarship is Kim Mack, a single mother who works full time and is preparing to enter WKU this fall.

The first ever National Association of Veterans Upward Bound Project Personnel scholarship was awarded to Will King of Bowling Green. King is the recipient of a \$500 academic scholarship that he will use this fall at Western Kentucky University. This was the first year the scholarship has been awarded and King was one of only four selected from across the continental United States and Puerto Rico.

During the awards section of the banquet, staff members spoke about each award and its recipient. **David Rippy** and **Bill Martin** received standing ovations from banquet attendees as they came forward to receive their Dare to Dream awards. **Gary Jessee** was also recognized as the 2004 VUB Student of the Year.

A number of other participants were recognized for outstanding achievements and completing post-secondary degrees. Many participants spoke about the need and importance for programs such as Veterans Upward Bound. **Kyle Hines**, the 2004 Alumni of the Year, who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering the day after the banquet, told the crowd that he hoped Congressman Lewis would continue to vote for increased funding for VUB because the program is great and really



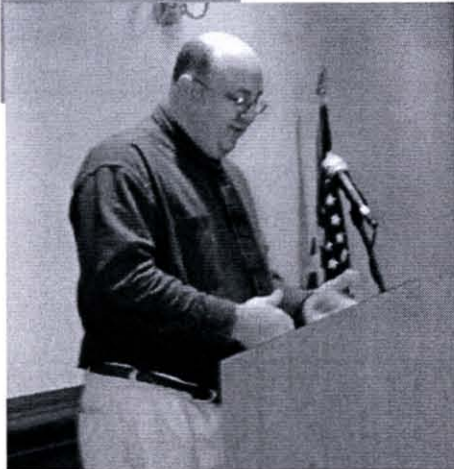
*Clockwise from top: Instructor Cassie Zippay presents **Bill Martin** with one of the Dare to Dream awards; **Kim Mack**, the VUB Scholarship winner, with one of her children and Instructor Marlyns Garman; VUB Alumni of the Year **Kyle Hines** is presented with his award by Counselor/Coordinator **Martha Kenney**.*



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e-mail -- Veterans.Upward.Bound@WKU.edu



Above (l-r): Instructor Davy Stone presents the Outstanding Effort awards; Dare to Dream co-winner **David Rippy** shakes hands with U.S. Congressman Ron Lewis.



(Student Spotlight: Continued from page 1)

A concussion changed my life in a matter of seconds. I began to experience numerous medical problems that compromised my life significantly. I became a father a month before I was discharged. It was the best thing that has ever happened to me and occurred at a time when I was a little down on my luck. My luck began to change as the love of my life, my daughter's mother, was taking care of me. She was strong and stayed by my side the whole time. She didn't complain when I couldn't get out of bed to help her with our daughter. I was taking thousands of dollars of medications a week, I couldn't drive anywhere, and I had to be taken to doctor's appointments. The doctors couldn't tell me what was wrong. They ran test after test and still found nothing. Finally they found out I was allergic to one of my medications.

The medical complications started to resolve themselves, so I began to look toward the future. With my fiancée by my side and my daughter in my arms, I began to search for another career. I received a phone call and a letter stating that I would be awarded the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. Life was actually looking up for the first time in a year. My fiancée

and I decided that now since things had calmed down we would set a date for the wedding. On October 1, 2004, I will marry my best friend, love of my life, and the mother of my child.

I was ready to move on and have a wonderful future for my daughter and my soon-to-be wife. On my quest for a new career I came upon an advertisement for Veterans Upward Bound. I called and set an appointment and started classes. I have been receiving unbelievable help from the teachers and staff at VUB. So much help in fact that I will begin college on August 23rd, pursuing a major in Exceptional Education. With this degree, one day I hope that I can help children with disabilities as I was helped along the way.

The Director's Desk



TWO ALUMNI TO WORK AT VUB THIS FALL

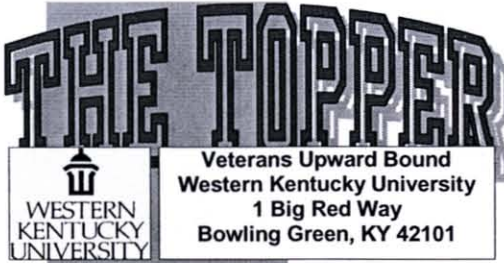
Marisa Duarte, a former VUB participant, works full-time as a teacher while also taking classes at WKU. To complete the requirements of her Master's Degree program in Student Affairs she will be working as an intern in the VUB office this fall. She will work closely with Martha Kenney in the area of counseling, especially in career matters, and will also be involved in other aspects of the VUB program. We are happy Marisa has chosen this location for her internship and we expect that she will be a great asset to participants during her stay.



Another alumni who will be working with VUB starting this fall is **Kevin Crum** (see *Student Spotlight* on page one). Kevin will be working as a DAV (Disabled American Veteran) workstudy student while attending school. He will be here between his class times so you may see him in the day time or at night. Kevin will assist both in the classroom and the administrative office, so please look for him after classes start this fall.

News and Notes

- The following students have applied to and have been admitted to postsecondary school this fall: **Jim Bronson, Kevin Crum, John Enlow, Mike Hayes, Kim Mack, Allen Martin, Bill Martin, Neal Taylor, Shana Thomas, and Bill Van Hook.**
- The following VUB alumni were on the Dean's List for the Spring 2004 semester: **Gary Jessee, William King, Kyle Hines, and Geoff Thompson.**
- The following students were on the President's List for the Spring 2004 semester: **David Angle and Scott Robinson.**
- Did you make the Dean's or President's lists and we missed your name? Call us at (270) 745-5310 and let us know about your success.



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Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green (270) 746-7425 Debbie Brizendine, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office (270) 783-8038 VA Regional Office, Louisville (800) 827-1000 VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN (615) 695-6372 VA Medical Center, Louisville (502) 895-3401 VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN (615) 327-4751 Kentucky Center for Veterans Affairs, Louisville (502) 595-4447 Military Records Branch, Frankfort (502) 564-4883 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	Aug 20* Registration Postmark Deadline for September 25 ACT Test Date Aug 23 VUB Fall Session Begins Sept 6 Labor Day — VUB Offices Closed Sept 17* Registration Postmark Deadline for October 23 ACT Test Date Sept 25* ACT Test Date Oct 23* ACT Test Date Nov 2 Election Day — VUB Offices Closed Nov 5* Registration Postmark Deadline for Dec 11 ACT Test Date Dec 9 VUB Fall Session Ends Dec 11* ACT Test Date
*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.	