



THE TOPPER



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

Our goal at VUB is to help veterans improve their lives through higher education. One way we do that is by providing community-funded scholarship opportunities to help veterans attend the postsecondary school of their choice. **The 2015 scholarship deadline is Friday, April 24th**. The recipients will be announced at our awards banquet in May.

To be eligible, the applicant must:

- Be a current or past VUB participant who plans to enroll in school by the fall semester
- Complete the scholarship application along with an essay entitled, “How Veterans Upward Bound Has Benefited Me in My Pursuit of Higher Education.” This essay should also address your financial need for this scholarship. It should be no more than two typed, double-spaced pages.

The application and additional information is available on our website:

http://www.wku.edu/vub/scholarship_application.php

These scholarships would not be possible without the generous donations of our local military organizations, such as the Cumberland Trace chapter of Military Officers Association of America, the Veterans of Foreign War Post 1298, and the American Legion Post 23. We want to thank them for continuing to provide financial support to help deserving veterans further their education.

If you would like to support future scholarship opportunities please visit our website for more information. Any and all assistance is greatly appreciated.

http://www.wku.edu/vub/scholarship_donations.php

Vet to Vet Tutoring

In response to the changing needs of our participants we have implemented a new tutoring program. Now veterans can receive 1-on-1 tutoring assistance from a fellow veteran. To setup an appointment please contact Beth England at 270-745-5024 or mary.england@wku.edu.

We are proud to have three student veterans serving as our tutors: Joseph Hunter, Gretchen Manco, & Philip Parsons. Tutoring hours are available Monday – Friday at various times throughout the day.

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Coming Home to Damaging Stereotypes

By DAVE PHILIPPS

Chris Marvin began to believe veterans might have an image problem when he went out to his mailbox one morning and found a check from a wounded veterans charity for \$500.

“I didn’t know them,” said Mr. Marvin, 35, a retired Army helicopter pilot who broke his legs, an arm and bones in his face in a crash in Afghanistan in 2004. “I didn’t ask for it. I started to wonder, what is this for?” “It really started to bother me,” he said. “I didn’t need charity. I needed a new sense of purpose.” To Mr. Marvin, he was being stereotyped by what he believes has become the dominant image of veterans on television and in Hollywood today: the “broken hero,” as he puts it, “who once did incredible things but is now forever damaged and in need of help.”

“The truth is, 99 percent of us are neither heroic nor broken,” Mr. Marvin said. “We are people — people the public has invested in who have a lot of potential. And it’s time to get over the pity party.”

Now, veterans like Mr. Marvin and veteran-run nonprofit groups are pushing back against the stereotype, often by urging fellow veterans to volunteer in their communities. And his organization, [Got Your 6](#) — a fighter-pilot phrase meaning “got your back”

— is essentially the marketing arm of that movement, going behind the scenes in the entertainment industry to push writers, television networks and Hollywood executives to present characters that show the full scope of veterans’ experiences. Last week, his organization received a major boost from Michelle Obama and the actor Bradley Cooper. Both of them joined Mr. Marvin to announce plans to give a seal of approval called “6 Certified” to movies whose makers consult with veterans in production and then portray them in a fair and accurate light, as judged by a panel of producers and veterans. “We believe the way veterans are portrayed on the screen is the way they will be thought of in the living room and the way they will be treated in the community,” Mr. Marvin said at the gathering of hundreds of producers, writers and veterans in Washington. “We need to make sure everyone sees them as assets and encourages them to continue to serve in the community.”

Mr. Marvin asserts that film portrayals of veterans tend toward the extremes: John Rambo in “First Blood” (1982), a former Special Forces soldier who terrorizes the authorities in a small Washington town, or Staff Sgt. William James in “The Hurt

Locker” (2008), a battle-hardened bomb technician unable to readjust to civilian society after the horrors of war.

“The middle ground just isn’t there,” Mr. Marvin said. Television has not been much better, he said, often depicting veterans as berserk because of post-traumatic stress disorder or as emotionally shaky and struggling with drugs and alcohol. The portrayals may color the public’s perceptions, causing people to think that veterans are more likely to be unemployed and to commit suicide than their civilian peers, which Mr. Marvin insists is not true.

A number of veterans groups say that some employers are afraid to hire veterans because they fear they could become violent, perhaps as a result of portrayals in the media. “It’s gotten to the point where people think all veterans are ready to snap and could be dangerous,” said John Roberts, an executive vice president at the [Wounded Warrior Foundation](#).

The Hollywood image of combat-scarred veterans struggling to reintegrate into society has some roots in the post-Vietnam era, when veterans pushed for wider recognition of the psychological toll of war. But now that post-traumatic stress disorder is widely accepted, veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan are making a more nuanced point:



Not all veterans return with psychological wounds, and people with post-traumatic stress disorder can still contribute to their communities.

“People see us as people who have made tremendous sacrifices but now should be pitied,” said [Sidney Ellington](#), a retired member of the Navy SEALs who recruits veterans for Teach for America. In part, public sentiment is a response to veterans’ being ignored and mistreated after Vietnam, he said. “It comes from a good place, but maybe we’ve overcompensated a bit.”

For the rest of the article visit: <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/02/06/us/a-veteran-works-to-break-the-broken-hero-stereotype.html?emc=eta1& r=0>

A version of this article appears in print on February 6, 2015, on page A11 of the New York edition with the headline: Coming Home to Damaging Stereotypes.

Have you completed the FAFSA?

One of the most daunting aspects of pursuing higher education is the cost and how to pay for it. It is important that you complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aide). In addition to any VA benefits you may qualify for, the FAFSA provides you with any and all federal & state student aide programs that you qualify for based of off income.

The priority deadline for FAFSA applications was March 15th. If you have filed please do so as soon as possible. While you can submit your FAFSA later, financial assistance is awarded on a first come first serve need basis. The earlier you submit the more assistance you may receive.

If you have any questions or need assistance completing your FAFSA please contact our office at: 270-745-5008.

Coming Soon!

Workshops for Veterans on various topics of interest: study skills, how to use your graphing calculator, etc. **Our first workshop is “Resume Writing for Veterans” and will be held on April 8th at 5:00pm in the VUB Classroom.**

If you are interested in attending or if there is a topic or workshop you would like to see offered please contact our office at: 270-745-5310.

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Notes and News

WKU GLASGOW IS PREPARING FOR A VETERANS RESOURCE CENTER

After several meetings in Glasgow, university administrators and military officials are well on their way to bringing a veterans resource center for college students to fruition on Glasgow’s regional campus of WKU.

“We have a specific location on campus. We have people in place to staff it, and we have tremendous interest among our active duty military, National Guard and veterans who are either attending WKU Glasgow or are planning to enroll,” said Tonya Archey, United States Navy Retired and director of WKU Military Student Services in Bowling Green.

More information coming soon.



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WKU[®]

The Director's Desk



Greetings! This month, I'd like to tell you a bit about how VUB keeps its funding from year to year, and how you can help.

VUB is funded by a 5-year grant from the Department of Education. We are required to submit an annual performance report to prove that we are achieving the goals we laid out in our grant proposal. For each goal that we meet, we are awarded points which will help us keep VUB funded when we write our next grant proposal in 2017.

What kinds of goals do we have to meet? We must show that certain percentages of our students:

- 1) Improved their academic skills;
- 2) completed the program or continued with the VUB project;
- 3) Enrolled in postsecondary school (either college or technical school);
- 4) Completed a program of postsecondary within 6 years.

So how can you help?

Current year students should make sure to take a posttest before starting school. When doing online tutoring through SkillsTutor, make sure not to skip the posttest at the end of each lesson.

If you're a previous participant who is enrolled in school, keep us posted about your progress. Let us know how school is going for you, and whether or not there have been any changes to your program.

Also, if you have returned to active duty, let us know. Students who return to active duty don't count against our goals, but in order for that to happen, we have to report that fact on our annual performance report. We can't do that if we don't know.

To give us an update about your status, or for more information about post testing, call or email Rick Wright (270-745-5008; Rick.Wright@wku.edu). With your help in reaching our goals, VUB will have a better shot at being refunded in 2017.

Davy Stone
 Director, VUB at WKU

Important Numbers and Dates



Schella Smith, WKU VA Certifying Official (270) 745-3732	April 8	Resume Writing Workshop @ VUB
Stephanie Gabbard, VA Voc-Rehab, B.G. Office (270) 846-2092	April 15	Taxes Due
Military Student Services, WKU (270) 745-5837	April 18	ACT Test Date
Carrie Orning, BGTC VA Certifying Official (270) 901-1003	May 8	Registration Deadline for ACT, Jun 13
Department of Employment Services, Bowling Green Don "Mac" McGlothlin (270) 746-7265	May 22	VUB Awards Banquet
VA Regional Office, Louisville (502) 566-4482	May 25	Memorial Day, VUB Closed
VA Regional Office, Nashville, TN (615) 695-6384	June 6	Pushups for Charity @ Total Fitness Connection—Three Springs Rd. 10am-Noon
VA Medical Center, Louisville (502) 287-4000	June 13	ACT Test Date
VA Medical Center, Nashville, TN (800) 228-4973	June 13	Pushups for Charity @ Crossland Community Church 9am-Noon
Military Records Branch, Frankfort (502) 607-6040		
American Legion, Bowling Green (270) 781-3574 Veterans Service Officer		
Veterans of Foreign Wars, Bowling Green (270) 781-1872		
		*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.