Welcome to our second newsletter. We have settled into our new location and soon will have a very nice sign near the street so we will be much easier to find. We have been added to the official BSU map that is available at the Parking Services Office as well.

We have developed a more structured class schedule in the past few months. Our classes now run for 6 weeks. Our hope is to allow new participants to start classes more quickly and for a group to start together and stay together for that 6 week class.

We have been part of many new and exciting initiatives on the BSU campus that hopefully will make the campus more veteran friendly. Those are described later in this newsletter.

The new GI Bill has brought many vets back to school. We are proud to be a part of the effort to make that return a successful one. By offering our services to vets, we hope they will be more prepared to make that transition back to school.

We are very thankful for the support from our many community partners. We will highlight one in each future newsletter. Their energy, support, and services they provide allow us to serve veterans in a way that would not be possible without their help. We appreciate them a great deal and want to recognize them and share information about their work.

We look forward to continuing our services to vets in our area. Thanks to all of you for your service to veterans and their families.

New VUB classes are starting!!!!!

**Writing 100**
- April 5 T/TH
- June 6 M/W
- June 28 T/TH

**Math 100 (T/TH)**
- April 19
- June 7
- July 26
- September 6

**Computers 100 (M/W)**
- June 6
- July 25
- September 12

**Math 225 (M/W)**
- Call to find out!

**Spanish 100 (M/W)**
- Call to find out!

**Skills Tutor (online)**
- Math
- English
- Reading
- Science

**Reading Skills**
- Join today!

**Literature**
- Join today!
Veteran Highlight: Peggy Croteau-Glasgaw

Peggy was born in Fort Eustis, Virginia, where she spent her youth running wild on nearby Civil War battlefields with her siblings.

Peggy started her military career in the Air Force and then switched to the Coast Guard where she served for 26 years. When asked what her most memorable experience was, she said, "There are so many, I can’t just pick one because the people I served with were like family. I still keep in touch with many of them through Facebook and consider them all friends."

Peggy joined VUB in the fall of 2010, taking classes in both math and writing. It was not long before Peggy’s relentless work ethic came to the surface; she never once missed class (even in the heart of winter), showing up in her arctic gear topped with blue and orange-rimmed glasses. She has been and continues to be an enthusiastic, genuine individual who never fails to see the positive side of life and share stories of her past with fellow classmates.

Peggy is currently enrolled at BSU and is still deciding between pursuing a degree in either Psychology or Social Work. She hopes to continue to earn both a Masters and a Doctorate degree—a goal that reflects her drive and dedication to her education.

Veteran Highlight: Billy Stewart

One of our success stories, Billy Stewart, comes to our program from a long career in the Army (20 ½ years) that ultimately led to his coming to Boise. It is not an exaggeration to say that the entire VUB staff is glad that he did. With a smile on his face and a smooth southern drawl, Billy brings more than just his love of the Auburn Tigers to our program.

Billy first began taking math classes at VUB in the summer of 2010, but after starting Boise State in the Fall of 2011, Billy has been giving back to his fellow classmates by taking on the role of a mentor/tutor. With his passion for history and journalism perfectly combined with his patient, easy-going nature, Billy has gone above and beyond anything we could have asked of him, helping other veterans in our program who struggle with what comes so naturally to him.

It did not come as a surprise to his teachers, then, when Billy began to excel in his college courses and was asked to become a teaching assistant for his history professor. When I asked him about his educational goals, he replied, “My educational goals are to attempt to excel in every class that I undertake… I guess I believe that since our government is paying for me to go to school, I should make every effort to succeed and not waste their money.”

Billy is pursuing a double major in Political Science with an International Relations emphasis and Communications/English degree with a Journalism emphasis and plans to accomplish this within three years.

He has a few words of advice for his fellow servicemen and women: “Strike while the iron is hot” and “There's nothing to it but to do it!”

We are so proud of Billy and all of his accomplishments, but his positive attitude and sense of humor are truly what makes him such a great member of our program.
Meet our Teachers: Linda Kimura

Linda was born and raised in the Treasure Valley area. She attended BSU and graduated in '94 with a BS in Sociology. She also started a Masters program in Mental Health Counseling at ISE but changed her mind.

In her senior year of college, a friend talked her into doing an internship at the BSU Canyon County Center’s ABE program. After one semester as a tutor, Linda was “hooked!” She spent the better part of the next 13 years as a tutor and instructor for the GED program, eventually becoming the GED Coordinator.

Linda then joined the VUB program in December of 2009 and was the first teacher on the team. Linda is the Math 100 teacher, teaching arithmetic and basic math skills. When asked what she loved about VUB, she said, “I love the people! Veterans, administrators, and staff….it’s a phenomenal environment! It’s a great place for veterans to get together and share information….to network.”

Linda loves spending time with her family and friends and especially taking walks with her dog. She loves being outdoors and listening to all kinds of music as long as it’s loud!

Meet our Teachers: Amanda Carmona

Amanda, from her obsession with boots to keeping class entertained with crazy stories, is one of the liveliest individuals at VUB. She is a junior at BSU studying English and hopes to continue her education and earn a Masters degree. She is the student instructor for English and Literature and brought her talent to VUB when she joined in July 2010. She created a new curriculum for the Writing 100 class. A few revisions later, she created a solid 12 week program covering material students can expect to encounter at the college level.

When asked about her favorite memory at Veterans Upward Bound, Amanda says it’s the stories and experience that students bring to class. “I love that over time, many students feel comfortable enough to share who they are and where they have come from. They are what make it all worth it, and their individuality is what makes our program so special.”

When asked about the legacy she wants to leave at VUB, Amanda says it’s about pushing students past their comfort zones because until they reach this point, learning hasn’t really begun. “It is important to understand that when students are challenged and supported, they are capable of creating beautiful results – written or otherwise. I think if we all approach our work like this, students will continue to graduate the program feeling empowered and confident”.

Besides teaching and learning, Amanda likes listening to classic country music, running, collecting old books, and riding her bike – the “Purple Nurple.”

Meet our Work-Study Student: Steven Rodriguez

When he is not planning out his fantasy football team or helping Stephanie keep the program running smoothly, Steven spends his time pursuing a degree in Entrepreneurship Management at BSU.

After graduating from Bishop Amat HS in California in 2008 and then becoming the youngest person to graduate from Citrus College in 2010, Steven came to BSU, a raging Bronco fan, already bleeding blue.

His educational and career goal begins with his desire to use his entrepreneurial knowledge and creativity in the world of e-commerce and build his presence online. Ultimately, he would like to move to the nation’s capital and become a politician, implementing change one day at a time. In the spare time he does have, Steven also works for the University Pulse radio station as a DJ.

Steven’s role at VUB is a broad one. While he spends much of his day doing everything from filing paperwork to swapping stories with students, Steven describes the work he does with the sincerity we appreciate more than he knows. He says, “I like working here, whether it’s helping someone with their FAFSA or helping with their homework. This isn’t just a work-study job—it’s more than that.” He says his favorite part of the program is the community that has been built by everyone involved. Steven has been an active part of this community since the day he joined the team last fall, and not a day goes by when he hasn’t made at least one person smile.
Veteran Student Support Group Updates

As mentioned in the Director’s Corner, we have been part of a group at BSU working to develop some activities and programs that support veterans returning to school. We wanted to highlight the results of this work. Many people across the campus and in the community have been working very hard together for many months. It has been a wonderful and fruitful partnership.

1. A break out session for Veterans attending the non-traditional student orientations will start in April 2011. Veterans will be invited to attend a separate session just for them with a panel of campus and community representatives to let the vets know what is available for them and to answer question the vets may have about becoming a student.

2. Through a partnership with BSU, the Veterans Affairs Regional Office, Idaho Division of Veteran Services Office of Veterans Advocacy, and the Disabled American Veterans, a veteran’s benefits expert will be on campus the first Tuesday of the month. This will start April 5th. Any veteran will be able to see a benefits expert without an appointment and ask questions about any of their benefits, not just education.

3. University Health Services and the Vet Center are establishing a partnership. Vet Center staff will provide counseling services for veterans on campus. University Health Services will provide the space and support on campus. This is expected to start in the spring of 2011.

4. BSU has established a class for veterans returning to school. It is a semester long class modeled after an existing class for incoming freshman. The class will provide information on skills needed to be a successful student a student and how to use the resources and services available on campus. This class will start in the fall of 2011.

5. A veteran’s resource guide has been developed that provides information on resources available for veterans on campus and in the community. This will be published and distributed in the spring of 2011.

It has been gratifying for us to participate in the work involved in developing these programs and activities. It is an example of the wonderful partnership that is possible and how collectively, people working together can make good things happen.

All these developments were possible because some outstanding people across the campus and in the community were committed to providing veterans an opportunity for a successful experience returning to school.
IMPORTANT DATES!!!!!

BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY

March 28-April 1 – Spring Break

May 6 – Last day of classroom instruction

May 9-12 – Final Exams

May 14 – Spring Commencement

May 17 – Grade reports due on Broncoweb

June 9 – last day to apply for August graduation

July 4 – Independence Day – BSU closed

August 22 – first day of Fall 2011 classes

COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO

March 17 – Future Student Session

March 28-April 1 – Spring Break

April 1 – Future Student Session

April 21 – Future Student Session

May 6 – Future Student Session

May 13 – Spring Commencement

May 19 – Future Student Session

July 4 – Independence Day – CWI closed

August 22 – first day of Fall 2011 classes

VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

A free program to help eligible US veterans prepare for success in higher education. We offer refresher classes and many other services. For more information, please contact us. 208-426-3632 or vub@boisestate.edu