May 2012
Vol. 2, Issue 2

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Veterans Upward Bound
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Veterans Upward Bound is a part of the Center for Multicultural and Educational Opportunities
http://education.boisestate.edu/multicultural/

We have been very busy as the spring winds down and the summer gets close. More veterans continue to head back to school and that is exciting to see. We are thankful to be part of that. We are now helping vets get ready to enroll in school this fall. We will offer our classes during the summer as always so the vets will be more successful as they enter school this academic year.

We are featuring two wonderful friends of veterans in this newsletter - Steven Woods (BSU Associate Registrar) and Mary Kelly (Transition Assistance Advisor for the Idaho National Guard). We are very lucky in this community to have them. They are compassionate and dedicated and they get things done for vets. We are so appreciative of their support for our program and the veterans we all serve. Their efforts make a big difference for veterans successfully heading back to school.

We are sad and excited to announce we are losing Stephanie to a new and exciting chapter in her life. She will be married and moving to Boston late this summer. We are sad to lose an incredible person but also very excited for the start of this exciting journey for her. Stephanie has been a wonderful part of our team and has such a passion for serving vets. Her energy and her smile will be greatly missed. If you get a chance, tell her thanks and wish her well in this great new adventure she is about to embark on.

Thanks so much for all that you give every day to veterans in our community. Education is life changing and we are so thankful to be part of that journey for the veterans in our program.

-Mark Heilman
Project Director

Director’s Corner

Workshops at VUB
Summer is the perfect time to attend our VUB Workshops. More information on time and dates will follow soon.

June: Math & Test Anxiety
July: Smoking Cessation
August: Career Inventory

If you have any suggestions about information you would like to have covered in a workshop, please let me know. jostensaas@boisestate.edu

These workshops are for your benefit so it is important that we provide the information you need!
New VUB classes are starting!!!!!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Dates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Writing 100 (M/W 1:30-3:00)</td>
<td>May 7, June 18, July 30</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math 100 (T/TH)</td>
<td>June 5, July 24, Sept 11</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computers 100 (M/W or T/TH)</td>
<td>Call to set up time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computers 200 (M/W or T/TH)</td>
<td>Call to set up time</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math 100 at CWI (M/W)</td>
<td>June 4, July 23, Sept 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Math 225 (M/W)</td>
<td>May 30 (1:30-3:00), July 16 (3:00-4:30), Sept 5 (1:30-3:00)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature 100</td>
<td>Join today!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spanish 100 (T/TH)</td>
<td>June 5</td>
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Skills Tutor (online)
- Math
- English
- Reading
- Science

Veterans Upward Bound at Boise State

VUB Class: An "Upgraded" Computer Basics Class

Have you ever noticed that people either love their technology or they hate it? How about you? Do you love your computer or want to bash it to pieces? Well, if you find yourself trying to do everything else besides sitting down and looking at the monitor and using the mouse and keyboard, I have some good news for you! VUB is now offering an "upgraded" computer class!

Recently, the Idaho Division of Veterans Services donated 9 computers (only 3 years old) to the VUB program. The College of Education Technical Services set the computers up with the latest programs and software. The Computers 100 class now teaches Windows 7 and Office 2010, giving students the opportunity to learn how to use the most recent technology available on campus.

Another upgrade is smaller class sizes. Because many have different levels of computer knowledge, Computers 100 is now offered one-on-one (though students may take a class together if they like).

Students also have the opportunity to study Word, Excel, and PowerPoint more advanced level via www.gcflearnfree.org.

If you find yourself frustrated, join this class and learn how to master the computer! Call 426-3632 for more information!
Veteran Highlight: Katrina Karcsinski

When Katrina first joined VUB, she knew she needed to upgrade her math skills but did not want to take the class. "Math and I are not friends." However, Katrina’s goal to go to school motivated her to take on this mountain.

Katrina was raised in San Francisco, CA but finally left when she joined the Air Force and completed her 20 year career. She travelled all over including South Carolina, Hawaii, Korea, England, Panama, and finally retired at Mountain Home. She loves the West Coast and especially Idaho with all of its outdoor scenery which is perfect for her hobby in painting murals of landscapes.

Along with her passion for the outdoors, Katrina loves making jewelry and has created her own business out of this passion. You can find her and her creations at the local pow-wows and at the Christmas Expo.

Katrina has set her sights on earning a Liberal Arts degree. But first, she wants to be prepared for college level classes. “I started my VUB class with no confidence in my study skills, especially math. I'm amazed at my own progress and how Linda (the math teacher) has helped me build that up.” It's a common occurrence to find Katrina still doing math problems even after the class has finished. That's what the VUB staff likes to see!

Veteran Highlight: Iliana Reyna*

She named her cats Trouble and Terrible and it gives you an insight about what Iliana is like. She loves to ski at Bogus Basin to keep things local and white water rafts during the summer. Iliana hails from Corpus Christi, TX and joining the Army to see the world. Her 7 years include assignments in Spain, Amsterdam, and Turkey. Sometime later Iliana joined the National Guard and was stationed at Gowen Field. Her adventures included two tours in Iraq with the 116th Unit who returned in September 2011.

Iliana chose Boise, Idaho because of its outdoor activities and the VA hospital was known for its excellence. When she first arrived, it was simple to find a job but not after returning from her deployment she has found it very difficult. “So I decided to go back to school.”

Her goal is to start college this Fall 2012 at CWI and become a X-ray technician or study respiratory therapy.

Iliana joined the VUB program to improve her skills in writing and math. “Amanda taught really good pointers for writing. Linda gives me the confidence to overcome fear and strive for my goals.” Sounds like Iliana will rock at being a college student.
The Registrar’s Office has been a big help to VUB, helping future students figure out class schedules and the degree programs offered at BSU. One standout has been Steve Woods, the Associate Registrar, who has a legendary-quality background with post-secondary education and has been essential in helping BSU become tremendously veteran-friendly. "I work in the world's best office, this hub of the university (The Registrar's Office) and consider myself fortunate to have been able to personally hire most of my staff, who I think are awesome...They ROCK!"

The Registrar's Office is a primary resource for policies and procedures for the BSU campus. They help with academic records, registration, enrollment data, and, of course, graduation.

Steve, partnering with Rick Jung, had a huge part in helping create the new BSU Veterans Center located at the Alumni Association building. He also led the effort for the breakfast breakout sessions at orientation, the transition class for veterans, and for developing partnerships between the University and the broader veterans’ community.

Steve hails from Lincoln, Illinois. Steve earned two undergraduate degrees in Communication/Ministry as well as Missiology/Applied Anthropology from Lincoln Christian University. Steven then chose to attend Seminary and also holds a Divinity degree and ordination. But Steve wasn't done yet. After graduating, he worked for several years in campus ministry in Pittsburgh, PA. Steven then chose to return to school at the Illinois State University and received a Master's degree in Higher Education Administration in 2003. "I'm a higher education geek because I went to college at age 18 and have never left the campus environment since."

While attending college, he married Michelle and, later, had two children - Mitchell and Mackenzie. He enjoys sports and running with his wife, and spending time with his kids.

Mary Kelly is the Transition Assistance Advisor (TAA) for the Idaho National Guad and is the only TAA Advisor, not only at Gowen Field, but in Idaho. The TAA provides many wonderful services for the Guard members and their families including guard entitlements and healthcare, rehabilitative care management, job searches, referrals for help on disability/compensation claims, and assisting with locating medical records and DD-214s.

Mary Kelly is quite extraordinary as she travels a lot for her job throughout Idaho. She loves working with the Army and Air National Guard and when the job became available, was delighted to get started. Idaho had never had a full deployment until 2004 and when the Guard began to return, a TAA program was definitely needed in Idaho. Mary herself comes from a military background. She was raised in Burley, ID and attended college at St. Mary of Wasatch in Salt Lake City studying Nursing with a minor in Education. She joined the Guard and retired as a light colonel. She also has experience working in hospitals, public works, as well as being a faculty member at ISU and CSI.

Mary is a part of a team at Gowen Field. She works with Family Programs, considering them the pulse of the soldiers coming back from their deployments. Mary also works extensively with the Yellow Ribbon program. With the TAA, Family Program, and the Yellow Ribbon, there is a lot of networking and caring for veterans at Gowen Field, throughout the Treasure Valley and Idaho.

Still keeping her schedule busy, Mary is heavily involved with the community. She is a member of the U of I Institute of Rural Health and Traumatic Brain Injury and serves on the Advisory Board for the Idaho Suicide Prevention Action Network. She also attends veteran meetings in Boise, Pocatello, and Lewiston as well at the Vet Court in both Ada and Canyon County. Her latest project is to work with Army OneSource and their Faith-Based initiative.

Mary has a big family spread throughout the United States. During her free time, she loves attending Philharmonic Symphony and playing golf.
# Veterans Upward Bound Important Dates!

## MAY 2012

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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>BSU/CWI Finals Week</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>14</td>
<td>BSU DEADLINE Summer &amp; Fall Application</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Memorial Day Office Closed</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
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<td></td>
<td>New Math 225 M/W 1:30-3:00</td>
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## JUNE 2012

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<td>4</td>
<td>New Writing</td>
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<td>New Math 100 (CWI)</td>
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<td>New Math 100</td>
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<td>New Spanish 100</td>
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<td>11</td>
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<td></td>
<td>VUB Workshop</td>
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Dwayne Patterson was born in southern CA and graduated from San Jose State in 1981 with a degree in sociology. In 1983 he joined the Navy. He left the Navy as an E5 after 5 ½ years of service. Most of his military service employment was in avionics and electronics technology. He served in the military in both Guam and Japan.

Working with the VA’s Vocational Rehabilitation program in Boise, Leslie Homer referred Dwayne to Veterans Upward Bound in the spring of 2010. Dwayne was eager to complete a college degree in a current competitive field. We explored various career areas and he was drawn to BSU’s health informatics and information management courses. He requested assistance in math from VUB. Dwayne’s math skills greatly improved with faithful class attendance and completed homework assignments.

Dwayne loved his time at Veterans Upward Bound, filling in some learning gaps and for college. When we talked about the classes he took, he said “I learned a lot from each teacher I worked with. Stephanie was a good computer teacher. I had been using an old office application and she taught me the new one. She assisted me in reviewing and picking up some new computer information which I used in my classes. Linda’s Math 100 class provides encouragement and upgrades the math skills of people who have either been out of school for a while or didn’t do well in school and Margaret taught the upper level math so easily. After taking my VUB math classes, I retook the COMPASS exam and I qualified for almost any level of math. In fact, I didn’t have to take any more math classes.”

Dwayne enrolled in BSU’s Health Informatics program. Dwayne has persevered with his studies receiving a 3.96 GPA. He graduated on May 11, 2012 with an Associate of Science in Health Informatics and Information Management. Dwayne has the distinction of being the first college graduate of BSU’s Veterans Upward Bound program which officially opened its doors in Oct of 2009. Congratulations, Dwayne!
**Important Dates!!!**

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<tr>
<th>BOISE STATE UNIVERSITY</th>
<th>COLLEGE OF WESTERN IDAHO</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>May 7-10</strong> – Finals Week</td>
<td><strong>May 7-10</strong> – Finals Week</td>
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<td><strong>May 12</strong> – Commencement</td>
<td><strong>May 28</strong> - Memorial Day (Campus Closed)</td>
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<td><strong>May 15</strong> – Application Deadline for Summer and Fall Semesters</td>
<td><strong>May 30</strong> - Summer 2012 Tuition and Fees due</td>
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<td><strong>May 28</strong> - Memorial Day (Campus Closed)</td>
<td><strong>June 8</strong> - Last day to apply for Aug 2012 Graduation</td>
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<td><strong>June 1</strong> - Last day to submit financial aid documents for 2012-2013 school year</td>
<td><strong>June 8</strong> - First disbursement of Summer 2012 Financial Aid</td>
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<td><strong>June 7</strong> - Last day to apply for Aug 2012 Graduation</td>
<td><strong>July 4</strong> - Independence Day (Campus Closed)</td>
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<td><strong>July 4</strong> - Independence Day (Campus Closed)</td>
<td><strong>July 16</strong> - Financial Aid Priority Date</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 23</strong> - Fall 2012 Tuition and Fees due</td>
<td><strong>August 2</strong> - Grades due on MyCWI</td>
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<td><strong>August 27</strong> - Fall 2012 classes begin</td>
<td><strong>August 3</strong> - Summer grades available on MyCWI</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>August 31</strong> - Last day to apply for Dec 2012 Graduation</td>
<td><strong>August 20</strong> - Fall 2012 Tuition and Fees due</td>
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<td><strong>August 27</strong> - Fall 2012 classes begin</td>
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**Veterans Upward Bound Staff**

- Mark Heilman – Program Director
- Stephanie Bradshaw – Admin Asst Computer/Spanish Teacher
- Margaret Norris – Math Teacher
- Marybel Cortez – Work-study Student
- Jo Stensaas – Education Coordinator Reading/Writing Teacher
- Linda Kimura – Math Teacher
- Amanda Carmona – Writing Teacher
- Kermit Hale – Math Tutor
For the 2010-2011 grant year, we served 120 veterans. Of those:
- 70 veterans have completed their VUB Education Plan and of those:
  - 66 veterans have enrolled in post-secondary education
    - 35 enrolled at BSU
    - 28 enrolled at CWI
    - 3 enrolled at other colleges
- 22 veterans are continuing in our program and are projected to enroll next year.

Classes offered at VUB:
- Basic math
- Beginning algebra
- Reading
- Writing
- Beginning computers
- Beginning Spanish
- Special topic workshops

Online classes include:
- Math
- English
- Science

Total Hours of Class per Week = 39
- Math = 20 hours
- Writing = 3 hours
- Reading = 3 hours
- Computers = 4 hours
- Spanish = 3 hours
- Open Tutor Time = By Appt
- CWI = 6 hours

*Special workshops offered throughout the year.

Ways of learning at VUB:
- Classroom instruction
- Online with Skills Tutor or Aleks
- Individual tutor sessions