



STRIPES



The Veterans' Educational Opportunities Program (VEOP) Newsletter

-- VEOP, in its third decade of service to our nation's military Veterans --
 VOLUME 20, ISSUE 1 SPRING - SUMMER 2008

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S CORNER

Again, during the past year, VEOP has been faced with uncertainties, surprises, and elations.

Last summer, we faced the possible lay-off of all VEOP staff and termination of all student services. This was due to the long delay of the Federal Department of Education's notification of the funding status of our **new grant** for program year 2007-08. I am glad to say that VEOP was awarded funding for another four-year cycle. What does this mean? It means that our doors will stay open for another four to five more years, and all VEOP staff, community supporters, as well as students can be proud of what they have accomplished. The competition for these grant funds is fierce, and to be successful is a great accomplishment.

On a lighter note, VEOP has embarked on a **Learning Community (LC)** concept for veterans to improve VEOP Veterans' retention, persistence, and graduation from post-secondary educational institutions. The evolving techniques and approaches used by this community of Veterans have impacted their motivation to remain in school/college. Contact your VEOP assigned counselor for more information if you would like to join. We are currently establishing our 2008-09 participant list.

A **new GI Bill** is being proposed to provide Veterans, who served after 9/11/2001, the most comprehensive education benefits since the GI Bill's inception. Under the 21st Century GI Bill, eligible Veterans will receive full tuition to attend a university, a monthly housing stipend of approximately \$1,400 a month, and a year's stipend to spend on books and other supplies. The new bill will also give Reservists and National Guard members, who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11, the chance to receive the same benefits. To be deemed eligible, you must have served a total of at least 90 days on active duty.

Here is a breakdown, highlighting the differences between the current Montgomery GI Bill and the proposed new GI Bill:

| | Montgomery GI Bill Chapter 30 | Post 9/11 GI Bill Proposed - Chapter 33 |
|---|---|---|
| Payment Rate for Full-Time Student | Annually set - nationwide - monthly payment rate. Set to increase to \$1321 for 2008-2009. Paid to the student each month. | A payment indexed to full in-state tuition for public schools. A lump sum paid directly to the school each term. |
| Duration of Program | 36 Month entitlement. | 36 Month entitlement. |
| Additional expense payments | No additional payments for expenses. | Living Expenses - stipend based on local BAH for E-5 with dependents - paid monthly avg. amount app. \$1,400 a month. Books and Fees - Up to \$1,000 a year. |
| Eligibility Requirements | Those who entered the military service after June 30, 1985. | Active-duty service since Sept. 11, 2001. |
| VEAP-era Eligibility | No - Except those who elected to convert in the past. | Yes - those who meet the eligibility criteria above. |

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| Benefit Expiration | 10 Years after separation or discharge. | 15 Years after discharge or separation. |
| Transfer benefits to families | Limited - Currently Limited to Army for Critical MOS only. | Yes - Although the details are still to be released. |
| Enrollment fee | Yes - \$1,200 | None - Those who have not yet completed paying their \$1,200 for the MGIB may elect to stop further payment. |

For more information about the benefits of this newly proposed GI Bill, please visit:

<http://education.military.com/essential-intel>

It is VEOP's mission to provide innovative and creative educational services to our Veterans who have selflessly given to this country and others as the protectors of freedom, at home and around the world.

From your Editor.....annelies davis (counselor-coordinator)

I am pleased to announce that this year I am celebrating my tenth year as editor of STRIPES, serving our veterans as advisor/counselor and English Writing/Composition instructor. As a native of The Netherlands, it has been my privilege to have become a small part of this nation and the American Veterans' community, and serve you in my position here at VEOP, at Wayne State University, in the heart of Detroit, Michigan.

Given this anniversary, I just want to offer our readers some of life's best-ever rules, written by one of your countrymen. I often reflect on these great rules and have tried hard to abide by them, to the best of my ability. And for the most part, they have ensured my spot under the sun and have brought me this far. You may recognize them! If not, perhaps they will help you too to unfurl the mysteries about how to live life, in

general, and do so with a smile. But I trust that you already know most of these rules and that they may continue to guide you. Be well, in every way.... (I hope to give you more of the best that I can offer, and who knows, perhaps for another decade?)

"All I ever really needed to know I learned in Kindergarten"
by Robert Fulghum, Sept. 17, 1986.

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"Most of what I really need to know about how to live, and what to do, and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some, and draw and paint and sing and dance, and play and work some, every day. Take a nap, every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup? The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody really knows how or why, but we all are like that. Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in that plastic cup -- they all die. So do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there, somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation, ecology and politics, and sane living. Think of what a better world it could be if we all --the whole world-- had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock, every afternoon, and then lay down with our blankets for a nap. Or if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found

them, and clean up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together." *^*^*^*

VEOP means to share information pertinent to, and achievements of our military Veterans in and around Detroit, Michigan. As always, we welcome items submitted by our Veterans. Every consideration is given to include all items, however, the editor reserves the right to edit them for content, clarity, and space limitation.

Submissions should go to Ms. Annelies Davis, in person, by snail- or email at ab4717@wayne.edu

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Special Notice:

In the last year and a half, two of our Vets and former employees, John McGrath and Lonnie Wymes were deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. In addition, our on-campus certifying Veterans Representative and Undergraduate Academic Advisor and Reservist Mary Valleau, has been sent to the region as well. John returned last year to his family and has since earned his degree. Lonnie returned this spring. Mary will serve for an undetermined period. Please keep her in your thoughts; she and all our troops and Vets deserve our continued support. adavis==

VEOP STARTS NEW LIBRARY

In the fall of 2007, I requested that one of VEOP's rooms be designated as a library. The idea

was welcomed, a proposal written and accepted. Since this project would receive very limited funds, I received book donations from various sources; one was the used book room of WSU's Undergraduate Library. Thanks to Miss Wurm and her staff there, I've received more books, each month. I've also bought some at the Detroit Public Library's used book sale, and VEOP staff and students have donated several.

Many of VEOP's Library features are unique. For one, the library runs on the honor system, so books are not formally signed out, but it is understood that if you take a book, you bring it back for someone else to read and enjoy too. Also, it has a reference section with subjects relevant to our students, such as business, government, social, political, and physical sciences, career advice, and job information. Furthermore, I place surplus paperbacks on a table for people to keep. Fiction books lean towards the classics and notable novels. Another unique feature is the "Word of the Week"; when a quote, often referring to education or learning, is written on the blackboard each week for students to contemplate or study.

The main purpose for starting the library has been more than realized. We got students to read for pleasure and more so than before. We have donated more than 40 books, and many more have been read and returned. I hope that our students will come for even more books, and that more organizations and individuals will donate some. If you have any old classics, please bring them in; they will surely be put to good use! My sincerest thanks to those who have already donated so many books since last fall.



Sandra Scheffler, NCBA-VEOP at Wayne State University ~~~

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The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of VEOP, ACCESS, or Wayne State University.

More Vets Making The Grade!!

It sometimes seemed that our computer lab was overflowing, and our students in Spanish class were having too much fun. But we are happy to report that during our last academic year, September '07 until July '08, the following number of certificates have been awarded for the subjects listed below:

- English Grammar, levels 1, 2, and 3: 22;
- Basics of Writing: 1 (and 3 pending)
- Mathematics 1, 2, and 3: 22;
- Computer Basics 32;
- Advanced Computer Skills: Word: 22;
- Excel: 6; ACCESS: 6; PowerPoint: 7;
- Totals: 33.
- Spanish, levels 1,2, and 3: 5.

And yes, dear readers, that's a grand total of 126!

If you have earned one or more of these, and many of you did, applaud yourselves (as we hope we've done), and celebrate the knowledge that ...Yes! You can!

Ewart Jarrett/annelies davis ++++++



Defying the Odds...All of Them!

In 1999, Army Vet, Cris Fortson-Brown had earned her Associate's degree but still felt at a loss. With too many personal problems, her cousin Ralph urged her to see VEOP.

Paul Rease, director and counselor advised and mentored her, and soon she took classes at Wayne State U. When she expressed an interest in our profession, VEOP employed her and all of us coached her. She then got registered with the WSU office for disabled students, and with the V. A. Vocational Rehabilitation program's help too, she improved even more, and each semester.

Then 2003 arrived. Cris entered the WSU Interdisciplinary Studies Program (ISP), met Dr. Andre Furtado and found an additional tutor and mentor in him -and against all odds-- earned an "A" in his math class. Now Cris felt truly inspired! She majored in the ISP and earned her degree in December, 2005. We were ready to celebrate with her, but Cris remained on a mission! Such tenacity!

She immediately entered the WSU Rehab. Counseling Master's Program, in the College of Education. To date, she's finished her classes, will complete her practicum soon, and then will serve an internship as clinical therapist, while completing her thesis project. She expects to graduate December 2008, and start her career! Congrats to you Cris, you're an extraordinary woman and Vet! May you continue to defy the odds and inspire many! annelies davis ==