Veterans! Ever thought to consider starting a business or joining a start-up as a viable career option? The unemployment rate for veterans is three times the national average, although veterans own 14.8% of America’s small businesses. "I know of no other career field better suited for those who served," according to Carl Schramm, president and CEO of the Kauffman Foundation, the largest institution focused on entrepreneurship. "They bring exceptional focus, leadership, and tenacity." From founding a company yourself, buying a franchise, or joining a start-up, there are many ways to take the entrepreneurial plunge. The University of Houston Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship (WCE) and the Veterans’ Services Office have partnered to bring new focus on veterans and employment. If you want to get a taste of getting down to business, we suggest the Wolff Center for Entrepreneurship, the largest and most rapidly growing entrepreneurship program in the United States. Between 2005 and 2008, an average of 65 percent of WCE students started a business while in school or shortly after graduating from WCE's certificate or degree programs. Veterans, we have what it takes. Let’s provide true leadership in the business world with our skills and knowledge. Call 713-743-4752 or go online to wolffcenter@uh.edu.

New Military Family Support Group

The Veterans’ Services Office is offering a Military Family Support Group program. The mission of this group is to support students who have loved ones currently serving in the Armed Forces, with an emphasis on those with loved ones who have been or will be deployed overseas. The group will also include students whose family members have discharged from the military and are adjusting to life after military service.

We welcome students whose family members are serving or have served in all the branches of the military. The Military Family Support Group includes wives, husbands, moms, dads, grandparents, siblings, family and friends of active duty military personnel and veterans. The support group will create an atmosphere of fellowship for families who are facing the challenge of having a loved one overseas. It will also share news from our military men and women and inform students about community resources that help them and their loved ones make a smooth transition from military to civilian life.

If you are interested in joining the Military Family Support Group, please stop by the Veterans’ Services Office in Room 268 of the University Center and complete a membership form. For more information, contact

Olivia Christina Bush in the Veterans’ Services Office at (713) 743-5490 or (832)212-4297. Stay tuned! New member orientation will be in late August 2009.

By Olivia Christina Bush
If you are wondering how the new Post-9/11 GI Bill disburses payment, the answer depends on each individual’s circumstances. The percentage (%) you receive of the maximum benefit allowed is based on time served. According to VA Pamphlet 22-09-1, you may be eligible if “you are still on active duty or were honorably—

◊ discharged from the active duty; or

◊ released from active duty and placed on the retired list or temporary disability retired list; or

◊ released from active duty and transferred to the Fleet Reserve or Fleet Marine Corps Reserve; or

◊ released from the active duty for further service in a reserve component of the Armed Forces”

For military personnel completing active duty after September 10, 2001 and post-9/11 reservists, consider the following variables.

- At least 36 months —100%
- At least 30 continuous days and discharged due to service connected disability — 100%
- At least 30 months but less than 36 months — 90%
- At least 24 months but less than 30 months — 80%
- At least 18 months but less than 24 months — 70%
- At least 12 months but less than 18 months — 60%
- At least 6 months but less than 12 months — 50%
- At least 90 days but less than 6 months — 40%

Eligibility remains effective “for 15 years from your last period of active duty of at least 90 consecutive days.”

For further clarification and additional information, go to:
http://www.gibill.va.gov/GI_Bill_Info/benefits.htm#CH33.

1-800-827-1000
Houston
1-888-GI-BILL-1 or
1-888-442-4551

GI Bill Calculator

Veterans who are currently using the old Montgomery GI Bill educational benefits package and are also eligible for the new Post 9/11 GI Bill will need to make a major decision. They must decide which of the two benefits packages they will choose.

The decision you make could mean the loss of educational benefits, putting your graduation and career plans in serious jeopardy. There is a website that developed a GI Bill Calculator for the purpose of helping you compare the cash value of each benefits package. According to Military.com, “...the choice between GI Bills involves more than money…” Learn other factors to consider, and take advantage of this tool at

The Veterans Collegiate Society (VCS) has been working with The Bush Cares Project over the summer on a project to raise money for scholarships. The “Leave No Veteran Behind” scholarship will provide tuition assistance to veterans who are no longer eligible for the G.I. Bill. The “Laptop for Heroes” scholarship will put a laptop in the hands of a veteran attending college, and the “You Served, We Served” scholarship will pay the tuition and books of spouses and children of veterans.

Our first project will be a concert at the Butterfly High Lounge on August 14, and we have potential performers willing to participate in our concert. Although it started as a dubious endeavor, we are excited for our first project to be realized, and we are confident the concert will be a success. After this initial concert, we will continue as a concert series over the fall. If we are successful in raising enough money for the scholarships, the concert series can be an ongoing event in subsequent years that can provide a lot of money for our veterans.

As a student organization, VCS is proud to keep our mission to help veterans smoothly transition into college with many opportunities to volunteer, network, have fun, make new friends, and learn about resources and other support. Mark your calendars on August 14th and purchase a ticket to support the scholarship program. We (student-veterans) are all potentially eligible for these scholarships, so party with a cause.

Upcoming Events

VET FEST
Sponsored by The Bush Cares Project
Friday, August 14, 2009
Butterfly High Lounge - 302 Capital
to Purchase Tickets, Go To http://houstonvetfest0814.eventbrite.com

Welcome Back Luncheon and Resource Fair
Thursday, September 10, 2009
University Center
Houston Room (2nd Floor)
10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century Veterans Program
November 10-11, 2009
Save the Date
Time and Place
to be
Announced Later

How to Avoid Dropped Classes

Missing the tuition payment deadline can result in a student being dropped from his/her classes. To avoid this, you must apply for an emergency loan. There is no fee or interest on the loan. This is only a way of holding your classes until the VA issues payment to the school.

To be eligible for these loans, a student must NOT have ANY outstanding indebtedness to the University or have a current history of outstanding Short-Term/Emergency Loans, returned checks, financial stops, or other University debts. In order to apply for the loan:

- You must be registered for classes, and
- Your fee bill must be posted to your account.

To apply for the loan, go to my.uh.edu and log in. Then select 1) student financials, 2) payment plans, and 3) emergency loan.
WHAT WE OFFER OUR UH VETERANS

- Referrals for credit evaluation of military training
- Referrals for VA health benefits.
- Assistance with transition and adjustment to civilian life
- Unlimited, free access to computers, local telephone calls, and facsimile transmittals
- 200 photocopies or computer print-outs per month
- A quiet study room

268 University Center
Houston, Texas 77204-4024

Phone: 713-743-5490
Fax: 713-743-0680
vets@mail.uh.edu

www.uh.edu/veterans

Program Director:
Allen Grundy
713-743-5493
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"Veterans Helping Veterans"

Editor: Sandra Glass

Graduating Veterans & Veterans’ Dependents

We’d like to help you celebrate this milestone in your life. If you’re graduating this semester, let us know so that we can recognize you in the next issue of The Reveille. In addition, do you have words of wisdom that you’d like to pass on to the student-veterans you are leaving behind? If so, let us know in 300 words or less. The following are a few examples for a topic:

- What I Learned in the Military That Has Helped in College (or Civilian Life)
- The Importance of the UH Veterans’ Services Office While I Was a Student
- My College Experience As the Dependent of a Military Veteran

Keep in touch with the VSO after graduation. We’d like to know how you’re progressing with your career so that we can spotlight your successes and use them to encourage others. To be considered for inclusion in the next issue, submit an article at least three weeks prior to the first day of the scheduled publication month. The article should be in MS Word format and sent to vets@mail.uh.edu.

Congratulations Graduates

Rockie Daniel Ventura
B.S. in Hotel & Restaurant Mgmt.
Magna Cum Laude Graduate
Commissioned 2nd Lt; Army Reserve
December 18, 2008