America Ushers In A New Era With The Election Of Barack Obama As The 44th President.

What do you want? Ask yourself the question, and search deep.

“The depth of passion is the distance between what is desired and what is pursued.”

Jere Lorenzo Miller

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The Warrior’s Journal Statement of Purpose

The Warrior’s Journal newsletter serves as a vehicle to highlight program events and student accomplishments, and provides an empowering forum for creative expression within the Veterans Upward Bound community.
Hello VUB Students –

Welcome to the Spring 2009 cycle of the TRIO Veterans Upward Bound Program at the University of Pennsylvania. You will find that the VUB Program is one that will offer you a true opportunity to grow. You will learn, you will make friends, and you will discover aspects of yourself that you never knew existed. You will be on a path towards success, but what does “success” mean to you?

Success is often defined as attaining fame, power, or wealth, or being viewed highly by others. Success is defined as meeting a goal and having a sense of self-worth for that accomplishment. It is defined as growing or improving in one’s life or in relationships. People experience success in many different ways. At VUB students experience success step-by-step. You are successful simply by applying to the program and taking the first class. You are successful when you move forward to participate in tutoring or in a study group, or both! You are successful when you turn in your first paper or take your first quiz or exam. The grade that you receive may enhance the feeling of success but know that by just taking the exam is success in itself. Completing the semester is a true accomplishment and one that will give you an incredible sense of success. Moving forward and completing VUB, enrolling in college and eventually walking across a stage and accepting your college degree is truly successful.

Along with the success of academic achievement you will discover within yourself inner qualities and strengths that become stronger over time and propel you towards success. You will gain confidence with every accomplishment you attain, no matter how big or small. You will discover that you do have the ability to set goals and persist toward those goals. Developing and recognizing your inner strengths are truly successful moments that need to be celebrated.

According to Remez Sasson, (Achieving Your Dreams And Goals, http://www.successconsciousness.com/achieving_your_goals.htm, January, 2007), achieving your dreams and goals and being successful depends on several factors:

1. You should have a specific goal.
2. You have to be sure that you really want to achieve your goal.
3. You need to have a clear mental image of your goal.
4. You need a strong desire.
5. You need to disregard and reject doubts and thoughts about failure.
6. Show confidence and faith and persevere until you gain success.

VUB will be an amazing experience for you. The key is to set small goals for yourself and enjoy the benefits of many successes! Before you realize it you will be in college and on your way to a college degree! I am hopeful that your experience with the TRIO VUB Program will be one that is life altering, and certainly one that will lead you to success, in whatever way you define it!

Wishing you much success,

Diane Sandefur, Director

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**Veterans Upward Bound Memorial Scholarship Fund**

One way of making a positive difference in the life of a VUB graduate is to award scholarship monies that will help fund their college education. The TRIO Veterans Upward Bound at the University of Pennsylvania offers two scholarships annually in the memory of VUB participants, Stephen Garlanger, and L’Salle Harvey. Stephen Garlanger graduated VUB in 2000. He immediately began attending the College of General Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. Steve passed away in July 2005 after a lengthy illness. For the last five years Steve and his wife conducted the POW/MIA missing man ceremony at our annual graduation. His wife now continues this tradition and also presents a scholarship in his name. Finally, L’Salle Harvey was a student with VUB during the Summer ’06 cycle. He was tragically murdered on the streets of Philadelphia in August, 2006.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to either scholarship fund, please mail your check to: “The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania”, Attn: Diane Sandefur, Director of VUB, 220 S. 40th St. Suite 260, Philadelphia, PA 19104.
Chapter 33: The Post 9/11 MGI Bill
Just Like It’s Predecessors: Congressional Legislation
To Resuscitate The American Middle-Class

Starting August 1, 2009 the most comprehensive education benefits package since the original GI Bill, signed into law in 1944, will be available. All other educational programs (Chapters 30, 31, 32, 35, 1606, 1607) will remain in tact for the moment. The post 9/11 GI Bill is applicable only to those service members whose active-duty service included at least 90 aggregate days after September 11, 2001—or honorably discharged for a service-connected disability with 30 continuous days after September 10, 2001. The new bill goes well beyond helping to pay for tuition. Many veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, will get full tuition and fees, a new monthly housing stipend, and a $1,000 a year stipend for books and supplies. The new bill also gives Reserve and Guard members who have been activated for more than 90 days since 9/11 access to the same GI Bill benefits.

Senator Jim Webb of Virginia introduced the bill in June 2007. Though this bill is still undergoing fine tuning by Congress and the VA, it is the initial step in improving the status of America’s suffering middle class. The MGI Bill of 1944 has historically proven to have been not only the impetus for creating the mid-century middle class, but also the integral ingredient in transforming the country into modern America.

Renowned World War II historian, Stephen Ambrose credits much modern America to the MGI Bill of 1944: “Listen, that GI Bill was the best piece of legislation ever passed by the U.S. Congress, and it made modern America. The educational establishment boomed and then boomed and then boomed [again]. The suburbs, starting with Levittown and others, were paid by GI’s borrowing on their GI Bill at a very low interest rate. Thousands and thousands of small businesses were started in this country and are still there thanks to the loans from the GI Bill. It transformed our country.” Other historians and economists generally agree on the importance of the first MGI Bill to America’s rise in overall standard of living.

Though only in the early throes of the 21st Century, America’s economic climate has experienced incredible highs and disastrous lows. The plummeting stock market, the near doubling of the unemployment rate and a housing market that has brought a record number of foreclosures all appeared on the American landscape so quickly after a period of record growth early in the millennium. Though the effects of this economic down-turn has affected all Americans, hit hardest has been the middle-class. With more industry failures to come in the future, so to will more jobs be lost. What America needs (and the world for that matter) is a change, a new direction, a different way of thinking about industry and our needs. What America needs is more intense thinking concerning innovation and ingenuity. What America needs is more academic scholarship.

What this Post 9/11 Education Bill offers is simply this: here, now is the opportunity for individuals to attend higher institutions of learning—and with the advent of higher costs for that higher education—without the burden of struggling to pay for that education. This new education bill offers, along with the Yellow Ribbon Program (participating institutions offering more financial grants to recipients of the 9/11 bill), the ability of individuals to concentrate solely on education and not have to struggle financially or be strapped by student loans.

The Post 9/11 Education Bill could be that unheralded act of Congress that, in time, proves to be the most integral factor in restoring and resuscitating our struggling middle-class and along with it the rest of America and the entire globe. Kudos is due to Senator Webb and Congress as a whole.
It was a cold and blissful day, February 3, 2009. The temperatures ranged in the low thirty’s. A cold mist filled the West Philly air. Inside the warm VUB office I found my classmates’ spirits high and their emotions jubilant. The chattering amongst us was in anticipation of the events that were to unfold this day. Diane Sandefur, the program director, entered from her office to announce the itinerary. By 11 o’clock a.m. we would be travelling via the El to Old City and the Constitution Center; and then on to Community College followed by dinner and a play on Broad Street in Center City. The atmosphere was that of a high-school trip as we students gather around one another chatting about the events that we were soon to embark.

Our first stop was the 5th Street El station on Market Street. My heart raced with joy as I ascended the stairs to the street level. Even though I am from Philly, walking on the Constitution Center grounds made me feel as if I were seeing Old City Philadelphia for the very first time. I could hardly imagine the old as it meets the new as we entered the Constitution Center. We were met by a very accommodating staff inside the expanse of the large atrium. The nearly six-year-old building is only two blocks from the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall. After the clicking of cameras and posing were over, we were led to a high-tech interactive theater where we were to experience the presentation of Freedom Rising. The presentation features a live actor and multimedia elements explaining the history of the Constitution, and how the definition of "we the people" has expanded over time. At that moment I realized for the first time in my life that this nation was growing to understand the full meaning behind the words written in our constitution.

Also at the Constitution Center, as a special event presentation, was the Tavis Smiley production of America, I Am, on its first stop of a national tour. This historical jaunt led us to the belly of slave ships (original shackles and bidding included) that brought slaves to the American market. On throughout this exhibit historical depictions of newly Americanized Africans were displayed. I was flushed with a new appreciation of our history when I entered the Civil War section of this exhibit. To see how our ancestors participated our ultimate internecine event. What an experience!

Filled with a cacophony of emotions: joy, sadness, pride and anger we left the Constitution Center and ventured onward to Community College of Philadelphia. I was overwhelmed with excitement standing in the very halls of the school I would be attending a few months after graduating from VUB. Though I am on the path for my bachelor’s degree and CCP is yet a junior college, the school’s representative reassured my concerns. “It doesn’t matter where you go, it’s where you end up,” he said.

It was now late in the afternoon. The weather had worsened. The falling soft snow had now turned to sleet and frozen rain. To the amazement of myself and my classmates we were warmed from happiness and excitement that this experience had brought. Someone mentioned food and we were off to dinner. We arrived at Du Jour restaurant on Broad Street via the Broad Street Line train. Not once would I have thought that dinner would not be as great as the day was thus far; and it was and then some. We were seated in no particular order which became a serendipitous gesture. I sat with the director and Ms. Fran Jenkins, the counselor, and another student, Mike Rothenburger. Our conversation flowed, meanwhile I noticed that the chatter from
Exposing The Portrait Of A Family
By Michael Lantzy

An exciting way to look at the roots of any family tree is by unearthing the treasured snapshots of time which captured the very essence of our ancestors; slowly exposing them as they have transcended through the generations. If one could place themselves in the imaginary shoes of their forefathers, like my own family, in the years leading up to first arrival to these American shores, the clarity of the social events challenging the instinctive values of those individuals so dearly, that decisions once made, would hold them fast as they traversed the seas in the pursuit of a better life.

There is a real sense of reliving history when time is set aside to conduct a thorough research of a ship’s manifest, after dusting off its cover, before you can begin to turn back the pages of the Ages and reconnect with the vessel’s ports of call recorded in the Captain’s log of entries listing its passengers, freight, personal property, and dates of passage. No less intriguing, however, are the wild grass paths with polished steps that lead you up to old village church in their native homeland. The scent of centuries old stone steal away your attention in deciphering the town registers near perfect German Script in the year of our lord 1815. Favoring for their accuracy, quality, and quantity of information; both of these resources proved to be invaluable in unlocking many of the secrets of our past.

Understanding the religious, political, and economic climate out the time can also shine light as to the chosen country of refuge, whose calling beckoned many souls toward the shores of Liberty. It was from this perspective that I began to trace the steps of my Roman Catholic lineage as they had tread the sod, and plowed their fields before the journey from the fertile soil along the banks of the Rhine in present day Wallbach, of the Canton Aargau, Switzerland. A decade earlier, in 1806, the region had been ruled by Austria, then conquered by Napoleon and exchanged with the Royal Hapsburgs in order to sustain the ailing French army. It was from these war-ravaged crossroads that two brothers, Joseph, my namesake, and Jacob would apply in their native homeland. The scent of centuries old stone steal away your attention in deciphering the town registers near perfect German Script in the year of our lord 1815. Favoring for their accuracy, quality, and quantity of information; both of these resources proved to be invaluable in unlocking many of the secrets of our past.

I am sure that my brethren, if alive today, would understand how my impulse quickened upon the discovery of their birthplace and home still standing erect, identified by its #15, like a fine soldier in a pleasing column of similarly wood clad structures whose edifice was protected from the severe winters by the overhang of a properly bundled and trimmed Swiss thatched roof. The commonality of man had not been fully appreciated by myself (that the basic title of one’s name could be its character as well as when related to its region and trade) until a visit to the 5th floor of the University of Pennsylvania’s Van Pelt library. There a book on the origin of last names with the letters LAN and variations thereof, could be traced to those who worked the land. And so it was, the Encyclopaedia of Cambria County, PA published in 1896 read “Joseph Lantzy, arriving in Philadelphia on May 4, 1816 would marry Mary Ursula Bitters of Wallbach in Trinity Church on November 11, 1816 and take up farming in Lancaster County before settling in Western Pennsylvania on a large farm with his nine children.”

Letters found in a tin can on the farm where from Joseph’s son Phillip, now archived in a Civil War museum, a soldier with the Army of the Potomac writing home to describe a camp review by President Abraham Lincoln. The last letter shortly preceded Philip’s death on the battlefield of Antietam, America’s costliest sacrifice, in 1863. In remembering his loss, Joseph’s pride would swell in recalling happier times with Phillip in 1847 around the wedding table of his son John, attended by Simon Kirsch whom spoke of his grandfather, Mathias Kirsch of Alsace-Lorraine, France, who fought with General George Washington under the command of General Marquis de Lafayette at Brandywine in 1777. Now, I, too recite the same stories, as my grandfather is Walter Kirsch, the grandson of that endearing man who was the wedding guest of our family. As the circle continues, tin the small town of Spangler, PA. Walter Kirsch, a blacksmith by trade, would shoe the horses of his cross-town friend, my grandfather, Edwin Lantzy, who transported coal after leaving the farm. Together, at the wedding of their son and daughter in 1948, they would toast to these lasting bonds as the proud parents of Carl A. Lantzy and Marjorie Kirsch, with their wives, and my grandmothers who knew each other as members of the firemen’s auxiliary. But that is another story...
the other tables were gregarious and full of laughter. Everyone was having a good time. I could hear they were talking about the great experience we just had at Community College of Philadelphia. We talked about our goals and dreams and close they all seem now. Diane and Mrs. Jenkins were very supportive in our conversations.

Our four-course meal was coming to a close and it was still early in the evening, however, our day was far from over. Right next door to Du Jour was the Philadelphia Theater Company. We were on our way to see Daniel Beaty’s play *Resurrection*. I had never heard of the play and therefore had no preconceived notions. I was ready and willing to let this experience continue to take me on this unknown journey. We all took our seats and shortly after the play began. There was only one setting, the first floor of a home business: an apothecary. The play’s theme continued our own theme for the day. In the play six black men, representing six different generations, examine their roles in their lives and search for acceptance. Here in this theater my mind is caught up in live performance that begins to expand into life itself. The theme of a black man’s struggle to raise himself out of the pit of despair, only to have the solution within his grasp the entire time resonated with me and I am sure others in the audience.

The thoughts of the entire experience of that day linger with me now and I think will last for some time after. I know that all of my fellow classmates enjoyed the day as much as myself. My sincere thanks go out to Diane and the entire staff at VUB for creating such a wonderful excursion. We students of the VUB spring semester salute Diane and her staff for their hard work and dedication. Just like the writer of the play suggests: our solution is in our grasp.
## Summer 2009 Calendar

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed., April 29</td>
<td>Orientation I—Family Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thu., April 30</td>
<td>Orientation II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon., May 4</td>
<td>VUB Classes Begin</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Text book distribution day</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tues., May 25</td>
<td>Memorial Day</td>
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<td>VUB Offices Closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 20</td>
<td>Life Skills Workshop— “So you wanna go to college?”</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., May 27</td>
<td>Alumni/Mentor Night</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of June 1</td>
<td>Mid-terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of June 8</td>
<td>Mid-terms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., June 12</td>
<td>Class Trip to Rutgers University (subject to change)</td>
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<td>Wed., June 17</td>
<td>VA Home BBQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wed., June 24</td>
<td>Life Skills Workshop: CCP Representative, Michael Harry</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri., July 10</td>
<td>Class Trip to Temple University (subject to change)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Week of August 3</td>
<td>Finals Week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thur., 27</td>
<td>VUB Graduation</td>
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Veterans Upward Bound Program  
Department of Academic Support Programs  
University of Pennsylvania  
220 South 40th Street, Suite 260  
Philadelphia, PA  19104-3512

Cover sketch of the 44th United States President, Barack Obama  
by VUB student Robert Carroll