Marching forward

VETS will receive a full-time coordinator

By: Cole Haag

“Only a life lived in the service to others is worth living,” said Albert Einstein and serving people is what veterans of the American armed forces have committed their lives to. Willing to sacrifice their lives in the line of duty, men and women of the armed forces are willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice so the people of America are free to follow their own pursuits such as obtaining a college education. At Baylor University serving people is what the Veteran Educational and Transition Services, or V.E.T.S, does.

Founded in the fall of 2012 by senior lecturer in Educational Psychology Dr. Janet Bagby, V.E.T.S was created as an academic support program for student veterans attending Baylor University. A support program built to help veterans transition into college life at Baylor, V.E.T.S offers transition coaching, new student experience courses, mentors, and career development.

Building the program from the ground up, Dr. Bagby has led from the front as the coordinator since the program’s inception in 2012. But with being a full-time employee at Baylor University, Dr. Bagby has only been able to help in a part-time capacity.

As the program has grown, Baylor University is now seeking a full-time program manager, for V.E.T.S, whose sole purpose will be to serve the student veterans attending Baylor.

“I am totally and completely thrilled that the university is creating a new position and a full-time position,” was Dr. Bagby’s response when asked about her view on the new hire.

“It’s a way of institutionalizing and I think we can see the services and support really exponentially increase,” are some of the hopes that Dr. Bagby has of the V.E.T.S support program with the addition of the addition of the new program manager.

Baylor Veterans run the line at McLane Stadium with Baylor President Ken Starr and Bruiser on Nov. 14 at the blackout football game against The University of Oklahoma.

With an Army veteran husband and an active duty Marine Corps son, Dr. Bagby understands the importance of helping student veterans receive services that help them integrate into a college lifestyle easier.

“Obviously I have ownership; I have a passion but I think I have done what I need to do to lay the foundation.” Hoping for her successor to build upon this foundation, Dr. Bagby will continue to serve veterans as the faculty advisor for the student organization Veterans of Baylor along with helping oversee the transition of leadership to the new V.E.T.S program manager.

Even if it is just providing services that help veterans adjust to college life as a starting point, hopefully Baylor University can start to pay back the veterans for their service with organizations like V.E.T.S.
Always Treading Water

By: Christina Soto

Katy Humphrey is a South Dakota native and has been a member of the Marine Corps for 14 years. She has traveled and lived all over the world. In 2012, she lived in Afghanistan for 8 months and it was there that she found her true calling.

Humphrey lived on one of the largest bases. She was a Pashto linguist in the intelligence field. However, the job she held there was very demanding and she wanted a change.

“I wanted to do something that would help people directly. That’s why I wanted to switch careers,” Humphrey said.

On base she met a physical therapist that informed Humphrey of the US Army-Baylor University Doctoral Program in Physical Therapy where Katy later applied and was accepted. Humphrey was welcomed with open arms by the interim coordinator of the Baylor Veterans program, Dr. Janet Bagby.

“I knew the moment I met Katy that she would be successful in her academic pursuits and a leader on our campus,” Dr. Bagby said. “She personifies the best qualities of our military service members - strength of character, humility, maturity and perseverance.”

During her time at Baylor, Humphrey has juggled a 5-month-old daughter, a job and being a full-time student.

“Katy is unstoppable,” Baylor Veteran Christopher Strange said.

Humphrey said that she often gets the question of “How do you do it?” She says that she lives one day at a time.

“You tread water, Humphrey said. “You adapt and overcome and just keep going.”

Humphrey has had to bring her daughter, Millie to class several times and it has never been a problem. Her professors understand that she is balancing motherhood and fulfilling her calling and they are more than willing to help.

“Baylor is blessed to have Katy on our campus, and our Veterans of Baylor student organization has benefitted in many ways from her dedication and commitment,” said Dr. Bagby.

The Baylor community is helping Humphrey follow her dreams, so she can help others in following theirs.
Marine takes the road less traveled and attends college after serving

By: Cydney Marco

Robert Athey Jr. is one of “The Few and the Proud” to have joined the United States Marine Corps voluntarily and for reasons beyond himself. He is a sophomore from Augusta, Georgia, and joined the Marines after graduating from high school, he understood attending college wasn’t the best fit for him at that time.

“I figured I needed to put my professional career on hold and go become a better person so I could be well-rounded and have these experiences because that’s something I will be able to carry with me for the rest of my life,” Athey said.

Athey said that the most difficult part of transitioning into college was the culture difference from the military life to the college life.

“I think that a common struggle with a lot of military guys is that they get out and expect people to tell them well this is the time they need to be somewhere,” Athey said. “You have a lot more freedom but you also have to have a lot more initiative.”

Athey explains that in some situations coming to college after being under your parent’s roof is a lot like transitioning from the military because in college freedom is thrust upon you.

“You have a lot more freedom but you also have to have a lot more initiative.”

Senior lecturer of the journalism department Mr. Maxey Parrish states that the best way to transition into college is by getting involved.

“In college there are several organizations you can join so get involved in those and then till will start to structure your life so you don’t put assignments off till tomorrow,” Parrish said.

Athey states whether you got to college from high school or after the military both paths are similar because they’ve shaped us into who we are today.

Baylor Veterans throw a sic’em with former President George W. Bush at his ranch.

Baylor-bound

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Veterans give a coin to those individuals such as faculty, staff or students who go above and beyond for them.

“If you have a professor that has gone above and beyond you present it to them and then every fall they do a ceremony where they invite all the students and professors who have given out a coin. It’s a really neat thing to just kind of recognize professors that kind of stand out,” freshman Alex Loya said.

Q: Who gave you the Veteran’s coin?
A: I received two, one from Edwin Davila and the other from Katy Humphrey.

Q: What did it feel to receive it and how has it impacted you?
A: Incredibly honored and humbled once they told me about the background and significance of the coin. It has made me become even more aware of the various needs, understanding, and support that my students typically needs, not just my veteran students, but all students, and that simply always being willing to be there to help, support, and understand their needs is paramount to their learning.

“Last year, I was given my beautiful Baylor Veteran's coin by Dolly Elliot-Hames-Hubbard. Participating in the ceremony, hearing the tradition behind the coins, being with such an honorable group of veteran students and receiving this honor was one of the highlights and most humbling experiences of my 30 ½ years of service at Baylor,” Lillian Rountree said.