



VETERANS UPWARD BOUND

“Our goal is **YOUR** academic success”

Vol. 4, 09-10
East Central University

Daughter of Past-Participant Awarded Folds of Honor Scholarship



Charlse Foster (third from left), a freshman at East Central University, is the recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from the Folds of Honor Foundation.

Meeting with her are Jill Williamson (from left) of ECU’s Veterans Upward Bound Program; retired Maj. Ed Pulido, the foundation’s senior vice president of programs and veterans affairs; Gina and Bre Foster, Charlse’s mother and sister; and ECU President John Hargrave.

ECU FRESHMAN RECEIVES FOLDS OF HONOR FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

On July 1, Charlse Foster of Ada found out how she would spend part of her Fourth of July weekend – in front of thousands of people at a Tulsa Shock basketball game at the BOK Center.

The incoming East Central University freshman was introduced during halftime on July 3 as a recipient of a \$5,000 Folds of Honor Foundation scholarship. The foundation, a bank and radio station were honoring Hometown Heroes – veterans and military, police, fire and law enforcement personnel – who had received free tickets to the Shock’s game with the Washington Mystics.

Foster, accompanied by her mother Gina and sister Bre, was introduced on the court with five other scholarship recipients by retired Maj. Ed Pulido, the foundation’s senior vice president of programs and veterans affairs.

“It was pretty cool,” Foster said. “Major Ed talked and they showed a video (about Folds of Honor).”

Receiving the scholarship comes at a steep cost. Folds of Honor scholarships go only to children and spouses of military servicemen and women who were killed or disabled while serving their country.

Pulido had served 19 years in the Army before he was injured in Iraq in 2004 and lost his left leg. His two young daughters were awarded future-use scholarships by the foundation.

Pulido traveled to ECU in Ada on July 1 to meet Foster and talk about the foundation.

“This is an award for you, but it’s for what you sacrificed,” Pulido told her.

Foster’s father, John Foster, received severe injuries in Iraq in 2005 as a Navy Seabee attached to a Naval Mobile Construction unit. He is rated by the military as permanently and totally disabled. He previously served in Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

“John was an ECU employee and participated in Veterans Upward Bound. He was an ECU student but he had to withdraw in his first semester when he was called up to go to Iraq,” said Jill Williamson, an academic counselor for ECU’s VUB program.

“I told Charlse about this scholarship. Her dad was trying to help her get ready to come to ECU and wanted to make sure we would watch out for her,” she said. (cont. on pg.2) (cont. from pg.1)

The scholarship is renewable, and

Special Points of Interest:

- August 16 - Classes start
- September 6 - Labor Day - Offices closed
- October 21-22 - Fall Break - Offices closed

Inside this issue:

Folds of Honor Scholarship (cont.)	2
VUB Recruitment Service Learning Project	2
Sesame Street Resources	3
TRICARE Est. Smoking Quitline	3
Museums Offer Free Admission	4
Veterans Appreciation Day	5
American Legion Scholarship Winner	5
Veterans Workforce Investment Program (VWIP) Update	6
CVA Elects New Officers	6

her sister, Bre, a sophomore at Ada High School, also will be eligible for the scholarship, Pulido said.

Because of their father's disability, the sisters are eligible for some education assistance from the Veterans Administration, but getting a college education would have been harder without the scholarship, Charley Foster said.

"This is just awesome. It's a true blessing. It will help me get my degree and help me buy art supplies for my classes" she said.

Foster, who plans to major in graphic arts at ECU, said her father helped her fill out the paperwork for the scholarship.

He made sure his baby was taken care of," she said. "He preached to us since we were little, 'Go to college.' He was always on top of us about our grades. Our homework had to be done by a certain time.

"He'd say, 'Stay away from boys. Boys are icky. Focus on your schoolwork.' He's awesome. I love him."

FHF scholarships can be used when awarded or held by the foundation on behalf of young children until they enroll in a college or vocational program.

They can be used for about any appropriate educational expense.

"The Folds of Honor Foundation is only four years old," Pulido said. "We've raised \$5.3 million and given out 1,300 scholarships."

The FHF works with the Women's Basketball Association and received \$1 from every ticket sold for the Tulsa Shock game.

Most of the funds have been raised by golfers participating in Patriot Golf Day, the flagship fundraiser since 2007. On Labor Day weekend, golfers across the country are asked to add at least \$1 to their greens fees at participating facilities to support the foundation's mission.

The PGA of America and the United States Golf Association are founding partners of Patriot Golf Day.

The Folds of Honor Foundation, based in Owasso, was founded in 2007 by Maj. Dan Rooney, a decorated F-16 pilot in the Oklahoma the Air National Guard, a golf course owner, PGA professional and USGA member.

After returning from the second of his three combat tours in Iraq, he

witnessed a profound situation that drove him to create the Folds of Honor Foundation.

He was a passenger on a plane carrying the remains of a soldier who had died in action. The soldier's twin brother, also a soldier, was accompanying the flag-draped casket, and the pilot asked the passengers to remain seated to honor the soldier's sacrifice. Rooney watched as the casket was lowered from the plane and met by the family.

Rooney said he had to choke back emotion when he saw the soldier's young son clutching at his mother's leg. He vowed to make a difference.

Even though he couldn't change what happened to a fallen soldier, he could change the future of his widow or child through education. He could prove to military personnel that their sacrifices would never go unappreciated or unrewarded.

More information about the Folds of Honor Foundation is available at www.foldsof Honor.com.

VETERANS

You served your country, now let the Veteran Upward Bound Office help you in college or vocational school!

We offer the following services FREE OF CHARGE!!



- ★ Admissions and Financial Aid Assistance
- ★ Instruction in Math, Science, Computers, English, and Literature
- ★ Workshops in Reading, Study Skills, Time Management, and Goal Setting
- ★ Academic Counseling
- ★ Career and Program Information
- ★ Referrals

More than one location to serve you better!

East Central University
Education Building, Suite 9B
Ada, OK 74820
580-559-5459
www.ecu.edu/trio/vub

Cameron University
2800 W. Gore Blvd
Rm 312, S. Shepler
Lawton, OK 73505
580-357-5848

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VUB Recruitment Service Learning Project

VUB Participant, **Steven Fisher**, wanted to give a little back to the Veterans Upward Bound Program, so when thinking about a service learning project, he focused on VUB. Steven designed a flyer that "will draw attention" and that is exactly what we had hoped for. Using an old military recruiting photo, he created the flyer (left).

VUB staff thinks Steven should get an A+ on this project.

Thank YOU STEVEN!

We are preparing for the veterans to come pouring into our office.

Sesame Street DVD Resource Kits and USO Show

Military OneSource is pleased to announce the release of the new Sesame Street DVD resource kit, "Talk, Listen, Connect: When Families Grieve". The DVD kit features Elmo and the Sesame Street Muppets, along with the stories of families who have experienced the death of a parent.



The bilingual kit provides families with tools to support children coping with the death of a parent while also providing reassurance that together with their families, children can learn ways to be there for each other and move

forward. Please Note: This resource kit is designed specifically for families coping with death.

Service Providers can order the DVD kits using the material order form at the Military

OneSource Service Provider page: <http://www.militaryonesource.com/MOS/ServiceProviders/OrderableMaterials.aspx>. The maximum limit per order is 30 kits.

You can find more information on Military OneSource's Website: www.militaryonesource.com/WhenFamiliesGrieve.

Also, the USO will be hosting a Sesame Street Tour beginning in late April. Admission is free for military families and their children. The USO Sesame Street Tour will be performing at Tinker AFB on July 21 & 22. Please visit www.sesamestreet.org/tlc and www.uso.org for the most up-to-date tour information.

TRICARE Establishes Smoking Quitline

If you have been trying to reduce your smoking habit or even quit, then TRICARE can help!

TRICARE has recently set up the new Smoking Quitline. This is a 24/7 telephone support and referral service for all non-Medicare eligible TRICARE beneficiaries seeking help with smoking cessation. Those who call will receive an assessment and subsequently receive guidance for a plan that fits their current smoking habits. Users may also request materials be sent to them



through the U.S. mail.

While this new helpline is geared towards helping beneficiaries with cessation efforts only, there is assistance available for those who desire to

quit tobacco altogether. Those desiring to quit are encouraged to seek assistance and support from the DoD's award-winning Quit Tobacco website, www.u2canquit.org.

This is an interactive site that provides the user with training and live,

real-time encouragement from trained coaches via a 24/7 chat feature. It also offers them a chance to share information with other users through the website's blog and electronic bulletin board as well as links to TWITTER, Facebook, MySpace and YouTube pages.

For more information on this important new program please visit the TRICARE.mil website and check out the latest press release. <http://www.tricare.mil/mediacenter/news.aspx?fid=637>

Museums Offer Free Admissions to Military Families

More than 600 museums nationwide are offering free admission to military families all summer in a new partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.



people. "When the kids and I go to museums this summer, we know we're being welcomed. It will make us feel less alone."

The Defense Department is helping to promote the offer, and Roth-Douquet

said some military bases may coordinate bus trips.

The list includes some of the nation's premier art museums, including New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Art Institute of Chicago, as well as science centers, children's museums and other sites in all 50 states.

The program, called Blue Star Museums, is being announced Monday in San Diego, where 14 museums will participate. The offer for active duty military personnel and their families runs from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

It was the brainchild of Kathy Roth-Douquet, chairwoman of the group Blue Star Families. Her husband, Marine Corps Col. Greg Douquet, is on his third deployment to Afghanistan.

"You can feel a little alone in America right now, being part of the 1 percent that's involved in fighting these wars," she said, adding that the recession has changed priorities for many

NEA Chairman Rocco Landesman said he was surprised by how many museums joined the effort, despite the poor economy, from the Alaska Aviation Heritage Museum to the International Quilt Study Center and Museum in Nebraska.

"I think it is good karma for the museums," he said. "Long-term, it promotes museum-going and engagement with the arts."

The following museums in Oklahoma are participating in this offer:

- Cherokee National Historical Society - Tahlequah
- Fred Jones Jr. Museum of Art - Norman

- General Tommy Franks Leadership Institute & Museum - Hobart
- Guthrie Museum Complex - Guthrie
- Mabee-Gerer Museum of Art - Shawnee
- National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum - Oklahoma City
- Pawnee Bill Ranch and Museum - Pawnee
- Plains Indians Pioneers Museum - Woodward
- Price Tower Arts Center - Bartlesville
- Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History - Norman
- Sherwin Miller Museum of Jewish Art - Tulsa

- Toy & Action Figure Museum - Pauls Valley



For more information and full list of every participating museum visit

<http://www.arts.gov/bluestarmuseums>.

ECU Veterans Appreciation Day

Pictured clockwise: Many veteran organizations came out to provide information to veterans; Audience members gathered to discuss the workshops and visit in between speakers; VUB Staff, (pictured left to right), Naomi Roberts, intern; Sarah Head, Lawton Counselor; and Jill Williamson, Ada Counselor help serve patrons lunch.



American Legion Scholarship Winner



Pictured Left to Right— Jill Williamson, VUB Counselor, Steven Fisher, Scholarship recipient, Joe Nicolisi, American Legion Post 72 Commander, John Hargrave, East Central University President.

This past month, the American Legion Collegiate Veterans Association Scholar – Veteran Committee selected recipients for the \$500 book scholarships for the Fall 2010 semester. The winner of the civilian scholarship is Ashley James, and the winner of the veteran scholarship is Steven Fisher.

Ashley James is an Ada resident who is a junior majoring in counseling-rehabilitation. In his essay, he stated, “Service is the soundtrack to my life.” Ashley hopes to secure a job at the Veterans Administration assisting returning veterans with getting back on their feet and continuing their lives.

The winner of the veteran scholarship is former VUB participant and Air Force veteran Steven Fisher. Steven is a junior majoring in biology. He hopes to start a business working in regional and VA hospitals using computed tomography to give a comprehensive view of a patient’s status to medical staff.

American Legion Post 72 in Ada sponsors the scholarship competition for East Central University students. Applications can be picked up at the Veterans Upward Bound office in Suite 9B of the Education Building or at various other locations on campus. Deadline for the Spring 2011 scholarship is November 30, 2010. Scholarships are based on merit, academic potential, community service, and need. For more information, please contact Jill Williamson at 580-559-5740.



Go Green and receive the VUB
Newsletter electronically!

Email Clint Fisher at cfisher@ecok.edu and ask to be placed on our electronic mailing list. The Newsletter can also be viewed online at the VUB website listed above.

CVA Elects New Officers for 2010-11 Year

A Change in Leadership

It was time for a changing of the guard.

The Collegiate Veterans Association-Tiger Command held their last meeting for the Spring Semester on April 29, 2010. It was during this meeting that newly elected officers were seated.

Brad McEntire, who is an Army veteran, assumes the role of Commander.

His Vice Commander, **William Bellville**, is also an Army veteran.

Steven Fisher, an Air Force veteran, assumed the position of Communications Officer.

Kim Potter will take up the post of Finance Officer.

The new command staff has set the **next meeting of the CVA for August 23rd 2010 at 1500 hours**. The CVA welcomes all veterans and any students that love veterans to attend the meeting.

Veterans Upward Bound would like to thank the following
supporters and sponsors, who helped make
Veterans Appreciation Day possible:

Those making donations:

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OG&E
Polo's Mexican Restaurant
Prairie Kitchen
Sears
Solo Cup Company
The Home Depot
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And those providing a table of information:

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ECU Gold Program
ESGR
Folds of Honor & Veterans Family Network
Military Family Life
Military One-Source
Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs
OKANG Transition Assistance
OKANG Psychological Health
OKC Vets Center
OK Department of Rehabilitative Services
Oklahoma Women Veterans Organization
OSBDC - SBA
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Veterans Workforce Investment Program
Women Marines Association

VETERANS WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PROGRAM (VWIP)

VWIP received news from the
U.S. Dept. of Labor that
East Central University has been
awarded Grant funding for the
2010-11 year.

VWIP staff are currently working
on their training schedule and will
have that information posted on
their website as soon as possible.

www.ecok.edu/trio/vub/vwip
or call 580-559-5852

In compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1967, Executive Order 11246 as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Sections 503 and 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and other Federal laws and Regulations, East Central University (ECU) does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, handicap, disability, or status as a veteran in any of its policies, practices or procedures. This includes, but is not limited to admissions, employment, financial aid, and education services.

In compliance with Public Law 107-116 Section 507, the ECU Veterans Upward Bound (VUB) Program is funded 100% by the US Department of Education; the 2009 grant year awarded totaled \$275,153. This publication was printed by East Central University's Communications and Marketing Department as authorized by Title 70 OS 1981, Section 3903, and 575 copies have been printed at a cost of \$195.34.00.