A Periodic Publication of Oakland University's **Project Upward Bound** 

www.oakland.edu/upwardbound

# "Putting in the Work to Capture My Dreams"

# Director's Desktop



Geraldine E. Graham, Director

Our 46<sup>th</sup> consecutive PUB Summer Academy is a wrap! Once again this year, I was unexpectedly out of circulation due to medical issues – but only for half the Summer Academy. My thanks to our fantastic PUB Team for carrying on!

In all of the years that I've been PUB director, one truth has remained constant for the Summer Academy: The Scholars initially "don't believe that fat meat is greasy" as my dad would say.

As is true with a lot of other PUB directors, early in my administration I struggled with how to motivate PUB scholars to make academics their first priority. It didn't take a genius to see that everyone wanted to go on the summer trip. But, from my perspective, the trip was too much of an investment to just give away or be ruined by inappropriate behavior. So,

by applying and evaluating the effectiveness of different methods, I developed a comprehensive structure whereby scholars could earn their trip seat. That structure is still in place today.

Scholars must demonstrate appropriate behavior throughout the summer. I will not take anyone on the road who cannot behave at home. They must have made A/B Honor Roll; after all, PUB's primary focus is academics. If they're not present and engaged, learning isn't taking place. So they must have met PUB's attendance and participation requirements. And finally, they must demonstrate that learning has occurred by improving over the pre-test on the post standardized test.

All of this is explained at orientation and at various other times throughout the summer; and it is printed in the summer and master handbooks. However, it never seems to "sink in" until I call a mid-term assembly recognizing which scholars are trip-eligible if they continue to perform as they have. The visual of having them stand up in the midst of the entire student body seems to make an impact. After that, there is a flurry of academic energy and activity. Behavior issues mysteriously disappear because everyone is trying to meet trip requirements - attempting to accomplish in the 2.5 weeks left what they should have been working on from the start.

Well, summer 2012 was no exception. It looked more dismal than ever at midterm; and even I got a little bit discouraged. Nevertheless, my faith that the scholars could prevail if they just applied their skills and abilities helped me to remain optimistic.

And I was not disappointed. When final grades came out, 91% of scholars had made academic improvement! But on the flipside, knowing that scholars could have done this from the first day didn't make it any easier when I made the announcement that eliminated 50% of them from the trip – because they waited too late to apply themselves so couldn't meet all of the trip criteria.

Scholars, take this as a lesson – you don't always get do-overs; and not applying yourself can result in worse consequences than not going on a trip! Don't wait too late to make a positive difference in your GPA and social involvement. It will make the difference in your eligibility for college admission, for scholarships, and in your lifetime earnings potential.

The silver lining is that all of the summer Scholars will enter the 2012 -2013 school year better prepared to succeed.

Geri Graham
Project Director



"A Federally Funded TRiO Program"



# THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!

Once again, PUB was able to surround Summer Residential Scholars with Upward Bound alumni who have been where current participants are trying to go. UB alumni were on the Administrative, Instructional, Academic, and Residential Teams. Scholars, we hope you took advantage of this great resource!



Raetoshia Hardy Algebra/Geometry Teacher



Cortney Hopkins-Dorris Tutor



Jaylynn Hunter Peer Mentor



Ane' Taylor Tutor



Larry Watkins Peer Mentor



Canei Womack Peer Mentor



Alexander Saunders Tutor



Charniqua Madden Office Assistant

IN FOCUS is a publication of OAKLAND UNIVERSITY'S PROJECT UPWARD BOUND COLLEGE PREP ACADEMY

261 South Foundation Hall Rochester, MI 48309-4401

G. Graham Director

C. Delia Academic Coord.
N. Clements Project Advisor
J. Sauseda Admin Secretary

Phone: 248-370-3218
Fax: 248-370-3217
Please enjoy the full color version
of IN FOCUS at PUB's website:
www.oakland.edu/upwardbound

Our Facebook Page: Upward Bound OaklandUniversity



Catherine Pannell Tutor



Stacy Motley Tutor



Sharita Williamson Head Tutor



Joi Turner Night Watch Person

#### **OAKLAND UNIVERSITY PROJECT UPWARD BOUND 2012 SUMMER ACADEMY OUTCOMES**



PUB SUMMER RESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS: STUDENT BODY COMPOSITION				
(41% Male, 59% Female)				
Pontiac School District	PAE* School District	Oak Park School District		
(PSD)	(PAESD)	OPSD)		
62%	25%	13%**		

- \* PAE=Pontiac Academy for Excellence
- \*\*Excludes 1 Oak Park scholar who withdrew from the Summer Academy
- **16%** of Summer Residential Scholars maintained **100** of **100** available behavior points all summer (Platinum Star Status); 56% maintained 90-99 (Gold Star Status).
- **78%** of Summer Residential Scholars completed the Summer Academy on the A/B Honor Roll: A = 22% B = 56%. Another 22% earned C's. None earned below a C.
- **88%** of Summer Residential Scholars' **standardized test scores improved from pre-test to post-test** using the lowa Test of Educational Development (ITED) to measure grade level improvement. In the 5.5-week teaching time frame, the range of improvement was from 0.09 (9 days) to 2.70 (two years and 7 months).
- **91%** of Summer Residential Scholars' classroom academic performance improved (as measured by grades) from midterms to finals (3% held static, 6% decreased very slightly). The range of improvement was from 2.5 to 14.4 percentage points.
- **100%** of Summer Residential Scholars earned Certificates of Completion in Character Education using the Guidance curriculum defined by the Michigan Model for Comprehensive School Health Education.
- **97%** of Summer Residential Scholars who started the Summer Academy were retained until the end of the Summer Academy and expected to return in the fall. (The 3% who did not complete the Summer Academy may also return in the fall.)

PUB SUMMER ACADEMY STATISTICS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT				
The statistics stated above are distributed among the school districts as follows. For example, scholars from OPSD contributed 14% of the overall 94% of classroom grade improvement.				
PROGRESS INDICATOR	PSD	PAESD	OPSD	
100 Behavior Points	80%	20%	0%	
A Honor Roll	71%	29%	0%	
B Honor Roll	67%	22%	11%	
ITED Improvement	61%	28%	11%	
Grade Improvement	58%	28%	14%	
Retained thru Summer Academy	100%	100%	75%	

# THE SCOOP ON A FEW PUB ACHIEVERS

#### MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!



Jasmine Fleming, Pontiac Central High School Class of 2007, graduated this year from Grand Valley State University.

Wisdom H. Milas, Pontiac Northern High School Class of 2007, completed her Bachelor's Degree at Rochester College, Rochester, Michigan.



Anthony Terry, Pontiac Northern High School Class of 2001, completed his Master's Degree at Bethune Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida. His Bachelor's was completed there in 2006.

Cameron Blunt, Pontiac High School Class of 2012. Special awards: Leadership Award Optimist Club, Outstanding Community Service, and 2012 Delta Fortitude Foundation Young Hero.





Darius Carter, Pontiac High School Class of 2012. Special awards: e-Profile Student of the Month for December, 2011, and 2012 Delta Fortitude Foundation Young Hero.

Congratulations to **Ane' Taylor**, Pontiac High School Class of 2010. In the Spring of 2012 she was inducted into





Jolinda Ingram, Pontiac High School Class of 2010, is a manager at Sears Summit Place and is up for promotion to Store Manager. She attributes her success to PUB!





#### **2012 MI-CAPP STUDENT LEADERSHIP SUMMIT DELEGATE IMPRESSIONS**

In February 2012, PUB sponsored delegates to attend the State Student Leadership Summit sponsored by Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel (MI-CAPP). MI-CAPP is the professional association for people who work in TRiO Programs in the state of Michigan. This insert contains articles written by some of the delegates and it is included here so that everyone in PUB can reap the benefits of the delegates' experiences.

#### **OUTSTANDING STUDENT LEADERSHIP BREAKFAST**

By Cameron Blunt

The Leadership Breakfast was truly an amazing experience. This was my first Student Leadership Conference; and it was nice being around leaders and having the opportunity to get to know all of the TRiO Programs. I received the Outstanding Student Leader Award from MI-CAPP (Michigan College Access Programs and Personnel)



for being an example of outstanding leadership in PUB.

Mr. Kevin Sanders, PUB's Head Resident and keynote speaker, spoke about being resilient. His speech was very thought-provoking and insightful. Mr. Sanders is really a true example of leadership to me. This weekend has truly been a humbling and life-changing experience. Thanks to Mr. Sanders and Ms. Theresa for a great experience and to Ms. Graham for a second chance to attend a conference.

#### **CHAMPION'S DINNER**

By JoVontae Butts

Over this weekend, I have heard many motivational speeches and testimonies. But there is one that stuck out to me (aside from Mr. Sanders'.) It was the speech presented to us at the Champions' Luncheon by Dr. Daryl Taylor, Director of Horizons



Upward Bound at Cranbrook. He is an African-American male who comes from the same situation as a lot of us in Pontiac: low-income, public schooling, and rough neighborhoods. Yet, he made it through. His speech reminded my PUB Family and me that there is still hope for us. The rest of the luncheon was equally as enjoyable. The food was out-

standing and the teens from the other projects were a pleasure to dine with as well.

#### TIME MANAGEMENT

By James Dixon



This weekend at the Student Leadership Summit has been a wonderful learning experience. We have done many



things such as the college tour, the college fair, many speakers, and

the various workshops. These workshops helped me to expand my thinking.

One workshop that was very important to me was "Time Management and Budgeting." The facilitator gave me many facts and told me many things to help prioritize my time. It has been a great learning experience, and I am thankful to be a part of it.

#### **COLLEGE FAIR & SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET**

By Renee' Thornton



Christian college where the study Christianity.

The College Fair was pretty interesting. I was given a lot of information by the different college representatives that we visited; some of the schools were large and some were small. There were also a lot of opportunities for scholarships which would be great financially. I learned that Aquinas College is a vast majority of students

The Scholarship Banquet was also nice. The students chosen were recipients who kept their grade point averages where they should be. Nine students received \$500 scholarships and two students received \$1,000 scholarships for studying abroad. Two winners who were great speakers were Raquel Perozo and Marlo Amaya-Velazquez. Both of them are from Central America but they have resided in the United States since they were very young. Mario plans to study in Italy.

#### MR. MAYOR

By Desmond Graham

It is appreciable that Mayor Bobby Hopewell took time out of his busy schedule to lecture at the Annual TRiO Student Leadership Summit. He connected to me, personally, when he explained to us about his earlier years of life. He grew up in a household with a single mother and multiple siblings. He has a great personality and sense of humor; and, from his



speech, I can understand how dedicated he is to creating a better environment.

I think that he is fit to achieve his goal. He has the traits of an excellent leader. He is unique in a way that you would not expect: He told us his purpose in life is service – particularly serving the State of Michigan.

#### **SUMMIT WORKSHOPS**

By Kayla Lee Mays

Out of the 4 workshops that I attended, two interested me the most: "True Colors: Personality Types," and "Stress

Management." True Colors helped me find myself and I met new people. It also helped me with respecting other people more.



The Stress Management workshop interested me the most because of the fact that presenters interacted with us. They showed us ways to relieve stress by doing yoga.

Learning yoga stretches was

very stress-relieving and fun. We learned about eating therapy and guided imagery which helped us to relax our whole body from head to toe.

Even though Stress Management was my favorite, all of the 4 workshops I attended were helpful to me and answered a lot of my questions. This leadership conference was my first and I enjoyed it.



#### THE ROAD TO SUCCESS

By Talisha Williamson

The MI-CAPP Student Leadership Summit was held at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, Michigan. We all went to workshops and my favorite was "Secrets to Success" because it told me how I could be successful in 3 steps: never stop dreaming; we cannot succeed alone; and, be and do your best.



I feel that the speaker, Dr. Griscombe, was right about these steps. I will definitely remember these steps on my road to success.

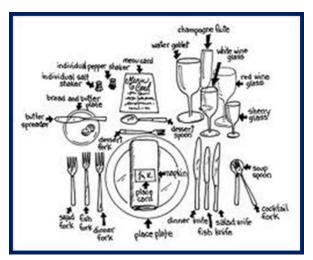
During my time at the TRiO Student Leadership Summit, I got the opportunity to explore the campus of Western Michigan University. My PUB group members and I were led by a tour guide named Jose` who took us to WMU's library and science center. He shared with us many interesting facts about WMU.

I also attended 4 workshops. The one I admired most was "Adjusting to College Life." I learned how to balance my social and academic lives and how to have good study habits. In my opinion, it was very interesting and informative. I would love to visit again.





## ET-TI-KIT OR EH-TUH-KWIT?



In preparation for the Summer Academy trip, on Monday, July 23, all Summer Residential Scholars participated in Dining Etiquette Training. It was a sit-down, 4-course meal – a step above your usual cafeteria fare; but well worth the investment. On the pretest, scores ranged from 11% to 42% correct answers. However, on the post-test, 99% of Scholars' scores for correct answers ranged from 68% to 86%. Even the lowest-scoring Scholar showed 68% improvement from pre-test to post-test. This training was useful not just for the trip; but it gave scholars the knowledge and confidence to be able to appropriately consume a meal in any social or business Now at proms, weddings, open houses, interviews, meetings, cocktail hours, and other activities involving eating, proper dining etiquette will not be a source of anxiety for these Scholars. Our thanks to the Oakland Center staff for the set-up and the Chartwell's staff for the tasty preparation and timely serving of each meal course.



# INTRODUCING MRS. NICOLE CLEMENTS



Mrs. Clements joined the PUB Team on Monday, June 4, and is a welcomed addition. She comes to PUB with work experience in two of our target school districts – Oak Park and Pontiac. Raised in Detroit, she overcame barriers similar to those faced by PUB Scholars to reach her educational and professional goals thus far. TRiO is the right place for "Mrs. C." because her passion is making a positive difference in the lives of youth. And she did just that this summer

when she moved into the dorm. It didn't take long for scholars to embrace her as though she had been here all the time. So stop by, call, Tweet, or send a Facebook post to introduce yourself. You'll be seeing a lot of her!





# WHERE DID YOU GO TO ON THE TRIP THIS YEAR?

Asking that question has become an August tradition at Oakland University. All of our fellow Student Affairs professionals know that part of the intrigue is to keep the trip destination a secret until exactly one week before departure at the end of July.

Do you live in one of those locations where people come from all over the world to visit, but you haven't seen it yourself? Well, that was the case for PUB's southeast Michigan urban population. So this year, we explored "home." We went from southeast Michigan on a route that took us northbound up the eastern coast to the Upper Peninsula. From there, we came southward down the west coast and back eastward to home. Our stops were just long enough to introduce us to the diversity and newness of each experience in hopes of generating the motivation in Scholars to position themselves (educationally and career-wise) to return on their own to these or similar settings.

Some of the major stops we made along the way are displayed in the photos that chronicle our journey: Frankenmuth, Saginaw Valley State University, Mackinaw City, Mackinac Island, Soo Locks, Shipwreck Museum, Tahquamenon Falls, Pictured Rocks, Lake Superior State University, Boyne City, Sleeping Bear Dunes, Ferris State University, Michigan Adventure, Kalamazoo Air Zoo, Jackson Historic Prison Tour, and The University of Michigan – Ann Arbor.









## **CONGRATULATIONS TO 2012 SUMMER ACADEMY AWARD RECIPIENTS**



Juan Reyes-Marcucci

**MALE ROLE MODEL** 



Sylmaira Y. Brooks

**FEMALE ROLE MODEL** 



Sabrina M. Eaton

**SPIRIT OF UPWARD BOUND** 

## ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE CERTIFICATES

For Earning 3.80-4.00 in the Class

#### **Stephanie Bell**

Biology, Dance, Spanish, and STEM Projects

#### Sylmaira Brooks

Biology, Spanish, and English Composition

#### **Ciara Brown**

English Language Arts, Guidance, Music, and Performing Arts Leadership

#### **Brandon Burton**

Drama II

#### **Christopher Davis**

Drama II and STEM Projects

#### **Larry'Shea Davis**

English Composition and Drama I

#### **Sabrina Eaton**

Biology, Music, Spanish, and STEM Projects

#### **Kasianique Greene**

Spanish

#### Paul Hall

Drama I

#### **Taylor Harney**

English Composition and Spanish

#### Stephenson Kent Jr.

Drama II

#### **Shane Pfeiffer**

Music

#### Juan Reyes-Marcucci

Drama II, Spanish and Performing Arts Leadership

#### **Jessica Shelton**

English Composition and Math I

#### **Hope Williams**

Biology, English Language Arts, Guidance, and STEM Projects





























# ACADEMIC YEAR REMINDERS FOR SCHOLARS AND PARENTS



College Clubs (after-school tutoring) began the week of Monday, September 17 at all schools.

Monday: Oak Park High School (OPFA students take the bus to the high school)

Tuesday: Pontiac High School (Tech students take the bus to PHS)

Wednesday: Pontiac Academy for Excellence High School

Tutors will be in last year's College Club rooms when the bell rings. New this year: The first hour will be Study Skills and the last 2 hours will be help with homework and projects.

**Returning & New Scholar Orientation:** Scheduled for Saturday, September 29th in room 156 North Foundation Hall - Juniors & Seniors at 11:00 a.m.; all others at 9:30 a.m. ORIENTATION IS FOR SCHOLARS AND THEIR PARENTS. Please put it on your calendars now. The following dates will be announced at Orientation.

- \*Saturday Academies (Including Senior Seminar) (October March)
- \*College Seminar (January-March)
- \*Study Skills Workshops
- \*PUB Clubs
- \*Parent Association Meetings: Dates will be announced at Orientation
- \*Community Service Activities (PUB Make-A-Difference Days)
- \*College/Career Day
- \*Graduation/Recognition Banquet

**Admission:** PUB is admitting new Scholars. So if you have siblings, friends, or acquaintances who may be interested, have them contact Mrs. C. Also contact her if you want to volunteer for the Admission Interview Committee (for which you can accumulate community service hours).

#### TASTY TIDBITS

- PUB will be featured in an article in Oakland University's next Research Magazine.
- Mrs. C. will be working to help PUB Alumni enrolled at Oakland University start a student organization.
- 100% of PUB participants scheduled to graduate in 2011 did actually graduate from high school. Of those, 85.3% enrolled in postsecondary education in fall 2011.
- If you did not receive a hard copy of the *In Focus* Special Edition prepared by participants in the 2012 Summer Academy, go to PUB's website to view the electronic version.

# **PARENT POWER**

PUB is more effective because of strong parent involvement. During the Summer Academy, the PUB Parent Association has 4 primary projects: Family Fun Day, Scholarship Gospelfest, Dorm Nightwatch, and attending weekly meetings. To all of the parents who were involved in these efforts, PUB APPRECIATES YOU!



On Parent Appreciation Day, not only did PUB acknowledge parents' contributions, but PUB Scholars each stated several reasons why they appreciate their parent(s). The following parents were awarded appreciation certificates:

#### FOR NIGHTWATCH SERVICE

#### Jessena Marcucci **Carol Carter** Attaria Woods Lillie Burton Fred Cowser **Audrey Michael Glovell Grandberry** Nikki Jernagin Marjorie Dempsey Kennett Mullen Kimberly Fant Tanika Tate Zondra Tolbert Charlene Taylor Sharae Pennyman Diana Bell Henrieka Mabry John Curtis Kuressa Barents-Kerr

#### FOR PERFECT ATTENDANCE

Kuressa Barents-Kerr Antoinette Johnson
Diana Bell Lun Johnson
Kim Fant Charlene Taylor
Margorie Dempsey Tamika Kemp
Kenneth Mullen Eileen Carson
Sharae Pennyman

# AT LAST WE CAN EXHALE ...

Last fall and winter was wrought with stress because of uncertainty surrounding the Upward Bound grant application process. We were on pins and needles for an entire year from May 2011 until May 2012. The source of the stress initially was that the U. S. Department of Education had not published UB grant competition dates within the usual time frame.

Everyone breathed a sigh of relief when the competition dates were finally announced at the end of 2011. More relief came when PUB's application was submitted 4 days ahead of the February 1 deadline. Then the worry became whether our grant application would be approved at all and whether we would know before the existing grant expired on May 31, 2012.

## WHEW!

Just as we were easing into a comfort zone, we received the March 7 notice from USDOEd that they had made an error and we had to make adjustments to our application because of the error. Stress levels shot up again. Now it would be mid- to late March before our application even got read which meant we probably would not hear the outcome until at least the end of April – and that was optimistic! So we had to proceed under a cloud of uncertainty with new student recruiting and summer staff hiring.

# WHEW!

The end of April came and went with still no word. Understandably PUB employees, especially those who are single heads of households, began to consider seeking employment elsewhere. That, of course, would put the Summer Academy in jeopardy. It was not until May 16, 2012, that PUB received a call from Congressman Levin's office that our grant application had been approved. Cheers went up and we could breathe again!!!!

# PROJECT ADVISOR'S CORNER

I would like to start by giving a BIG "Thank You" to our Director, Ms. Geri Graham, for selecting me for this position. I would also like to thank the Summer Academy Scholars of 2012! Thank you for being my first summer residential experience. Every last one of you holds a special place in my heart.

Well, this summer has brought a lot of new and exciting challenges for me as I embarked on my career with Project Upward Bound. I jumped right into the action and learned many things along the way. This summer has been a very rewarding endeavor - not just for the Scholars, but for me as well. I look forward to continuing the journey as the academic year starts.

This year I would like to hear from PUB Scholars as much as possible; and I will be very active within the schools and on Facebook as my schedule allows. I am excited to have discussions with Scholars, take educational field trips, learn a new concept and continue to help Scholars on their journey to college and degree attainment. Thank you again for sharing a small piece of yourselves with me and allowing me to share myself with you! Let's have a wonderful 2012-2013 School Year!

THE BIG TRIP!

The excitement mounted as we filled the motor coach with all of our belongings. Scholars were abuzz with all of

the different things they hoped to see and do on the Summer Trip to tour Michigan! Our first stop in Frankenmuth had some Scholars wondering how they never knew about a place that was so close to home. They enjoyed the activities and marveled at the old world charm of the



small village. Shake off the nerves Sabrina! It's time for our first boat tour! Our Cass River tour was smooth sailing as we fed ducks and learned about the history of the surrounding area. We almost got sprayed by antique fire trucks....good thing we were on the other side of the boat (smile). Of course we couldn't be in the Saginaw area without stopping in on Saginaw Valley State University. "They have the best dorms I have ever seen!" stated one of the Scholars.

Our next destination was Mackinaw City and Mackinac Island! The Scholars were able to witness a reenactment at Fort Mackinac, ride horse-drawn carriages, eat on the island and experience riding in under the Mackinaw Bridge on an Island Ferry.

The week proceeded with moment after moment of beautiful Michigan landscape like Tahquamenon Falls, picturesque waterways on Lake Superior, and gorgeous summer retreats in Boyne City. We also toured Lake Superior State University, Ferris State University, and The University of Michigan to keep scholarship in the forefront of Scholars' minds. We were fortunate to experience the Magnificence of Michigan thanks to Project Upward Bound!

# **Inspirational Thoughts:**

If YOU have the courage to change one thing about your situation, YOU have the POWER to change your life for the better. It all starts with TODAY!

## ?!What's Happening!?

Student Success Plan **(SSP)** meetings are being held now. If you were here this summer and you haven't had yours, I need to hear from you.

**Attention Returning Scholars** who DID NOT attend the 2012 Summer Academy,

we need to meet! You can reach me:

By Phone: 248.370.3270, (no texting to this number)

By Email: clements@oakland.edu

By Facebook: Upward Bound OaklandUniversity

By Tweet: bluecouture6

If you can't reach me...... you're not trying! LOL





Non-Profit Org. US. POSTAGE PAID Rochester, MI Permit No. 17



# In Memorium: Gregory Lee Dokes

