

Director's Desktop

Golden Anniversary Edition



Geraldine E. Graham, Director



Summer 2016 was absolutely exhilarating. On June 1, 2016, Oakland University's Project Upward Bound marked 50 years of developing students and transforming communities.

Planning and running the Summer Academy while planning and implementing the Golden Anniversary celebration was, as they say, "more than a notion." But thanks to a dedicated Administrative Team, a supportive supervisor, and a Planning Committee of alumni and former staff, the celebration was a sight to behold.

It was so wonderful to see previous staff, alumni, and former Parent Association members mingling with current staff, scholars and their parents at the cookout on Saturday, July 16. Then Sunday's Black-and-Gold Gala was *magical*. For one night during the Summer Academy, we were all glamorous as we stepped into historic Meadow Brook Hall draped in all of our finery.

It was so good to see and listen to the comments from 3 former directors and the children of 2 of the 3 deceased directors.

For me, seeing former staff and hearing the testimonies of PUB's TRIO Achievers and other alumni was an affirmation that my 21 years as PUB director and 5 years as assistant director have been time well spent – gratification that I have succeeded in my quest to broaden students' awareness of their potential, to illuminate students' paths to greater opportunities, and to mentor effective professionals.

I extend my personal thanks to the Educational Opportunity Association and the Mayor of the City of Pontiac who recognized the occasion with proclamations, to Dr. Arnold Mitchem who traveled from Washington, DC to keynote the occasion, and to MI-CAPP President Rhondo Cooper for supporting the Gala not just by attending himself, but by bringing a delegation of Grand Rapids Community College Upward Bound participants to experience an evening of history, culture, and class.

PUB had a table of rising seniors who looked fabulous in their evening wear. But, due to limited seating, all summer scholars could not attend. So one of the greatest highlights of the night was when

the Gala was all over and it was time to turn off the lights. Not wanting to completely leave our students out, the Administrative Team went over to the dorm and did a little fashion show for PUB's Summer Residential Scholars. It was so much fun as we strolled through their "Soul Train" lines and busted a little move here and there. That was the perfect ending to a perfect evening!

To all of the other TRIO/EOP projects out there celebrating significant milestones, PUB congratulates you – especially our sister project at Michigan State University which marked 50 years this summer also. Finally, a word of advice to all: Be sure to send celebration-related documents to your host institution's archive so that what your project achieves becomes a part of the institutional history.

We hope you'll enjoy the pictorial feast that's been prepared herein for your viewing pleasure!

Geri Graham

PROJECT UPWARD BOUND

Golden Anniversary

EVENT AGENDA

"PUB FAMILY" REUNION DAY **Saturday, July 16**

11 a.m. – Noon **Oakland University Campus Tour**

Take a ride on the Bear Bus
to see how Oakland University's main campus
has grown over the years.

1 – 4 p.m. **Cookout at Fitzgerald House**

Come dressed for play
and enjoy food, games, music
and renewing past acquaintances.
Pick up your pre-ordered T-shirt
and change in Fitz.

7 p.m. – Midnight **Dancing through the Decades**

In your comfortable casual attire,
come show how you used to
"get down" back in the day.
Live DJ, dance contest,
karaoke, photo booth, snacks,
PUB photo gallery and
PUB paraphernalia display.

BLACK AND GOLD GALA **Sunday, July 17**

*Join us for this black tie/formal event
at historic Meadow Brook Hall.
Come for the entire event or only
for the Memory Lane Afterglow.
Seating is limited.*

5:30 p.m. **Champagne Reception** Meadow Brook Hall foyer and gardens

6 p.m. **Awards Banquet/Formal Program** Christopher Wren Dining Room with Keynote Speaker Dr. Arnold Mitchem

7:30 p.m. **Silent Auction Stroll** Tour Meadow Brook Hall and bid on auction items to raise scholarship money

8:30 p.m. **Memory Lane Afterglow** Enjoy coffee and dessert while reminiscing with PUB team members.

GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY SCHOLARSHIP GOSPELFEST

Thursday, July 21 | 6 – 9 p.m.

Meadow Brook Theatre (Wilson Hall – Main Campus)

PUB REUNION COOK-OUT



Cook from Unique Food Management



Mrs. McDowell, PUB Academic Coordinator and Ms. Blunt get lunch



Nou Cheng getting lunch



PUB participants Jesus Hernandez, Patricia Rucker, and Ajahnae Lee



Alumni LaChelle King (who traveled from Maryland) and James Kelvin Huddleston



PUB participants:
Left to right at table: Mariane Oliver, Danya Hill, Angelica Tibbitts, Shaniya Jacob, Cayla McClendon, Ajahnae Lee
Left to right standing: Johnnie Davis, Alonna Sistrunk, Paige Watkins, Wang Chang, Ruby Houston



Nicole Clements, Project Advisor, and Alumnus Desmond Graham



D & T Music Entertainment DJ, Derrick Donaldson



PUB participants and staff enjoying the music



Current participants, staff, and alumni playing ball outside Fitzgerald House



Jesus Hernandez and Vincent Lor



Participants Alonna Sistrunk, Kendall Wright, Capri Gabriel, Ruby Houston, and Paige Watkins



Alumnus Tonya Jones and Ms. Graham



PUB participants Angelica Tibbitts, Xeng Cheng, Danya Hill, and Ashley Xiong



PUB participants Johnnie Davis and Ruby Houston



Peer Mentors
Cierra Bardell,
Desmond Graham,
and Tierra Thomas
(far right) with
participant Mariane
Oliver (Desmond
and Tierra are also
PUB alumni)

Mrs. McDowell



Ms. Graham with alumni Lakesha Ross, Latoya Smith and Ashante' Latimore



Mariane Oliver, Capri Gabriel, Ms. Graham, Desmond Graham, Danielle Moffitt



Jesus Hernandez, PM Ms. Desirae, Alonna Sistrunk, Nou Cheng



Head Resident and Alumnus Marcus Webb takes a selfie with alumnus Cameron Blunt (in the forefront right) and PUB participants and their siblings



Alumnus Renee Thornton gets selfie with Ms. Graham



Vincent Lor, Jesus Hernandez, Charlie Lopez, Taylor Smith



Former Peer Mentor Michelle Guy Southward and Alumnus Jess Caswell



Residential Team: Cierra Bardell, Danielle Moffitt, Mr. Webb, Desmond Graham, Desirae Scott, Tierra Thomas



Former Head Resident Andrea Robertson, Alumni Joshua Guy, Head Resident Marcus Webb, Former Peer Mentor and Project Assistant Tamarus Southward



Ms. Graham with Parent Maquiba Fletcher



Jeremiah Pettiway, Roshawnda Broyles, Ruby Houston, Sanna Sisawo, Kendall Wright



Front Row-Alumnus/former Head Resident Raetoshia Hardy; alumni Beatie Love, Sylvia Sturgis, Tonya Jones, and Sandra Boykins (former HR). Back Row-LaChelle King, former Director Kevin Williams, Alumnus/former Head Resident James Huddleston, alumnus Nalo Bain-Farquharson



Alumni Parents Marjorie Dempsey and Eileen Carson



Front Row:
Andrea Robertson,
Amber Briggs,
Marcus Webb
Back Row:
Joshua Guy,
Cameron Blunt



PUB 50TH ANNIVERSARY BLACK & GOLD GALA MEADOW BROOK HALL



Marcus Webb, Head Resident; Geraldine Graham, Director; Ava McDowell, Academic Coordinator; and Nicole Clements, Project Advisor outside of Fitzgerald House.



Elizabeth Copeland Glass Foundation Board members—Far left: Charles (Duke), Shannon (OU Alumnus), Sandra Battle, Sherman Barton, Herman J. Glass, Linda Van Buren, and Attorney and Mrs. Darryl Glass



Upward Bound Directors: Dr. Doris J. Mason (93-95), Mr. Sherman C. Barton (early-mid 70's), Ms. Geraldine Graham (1995-Present), and in back, Mr. Kevin R. Williams (89-93)



The Pierson Family: Dudley Pierson, Allison Chavous, Donna Chavous, and Edwin Chavous



PUB TRIO Achiever Honorees: John Bueno, Jess Caswell, Janet Sowell, and Damon Blakemore



Williamson Family: Alumni Sharita, Elise, Eddie (Father), Monet, Talisha



Nicole Clements, Alumna LaTisha Baker, Geraldine Graham and Alumna NiNesha Baker



Ms. Graham with Alumna Parent NiTasha Harmon



Grand Valley State University Upward Bound Director Rhondo Cooper (center back) and GVSU Upward Bound participants



Dr. Arnold Mitchem, keynote speaker, and Ms. Graham



PUB participants Capri Gabriel, Wang Chang, Alonna Sistrunk, Taylor Smith, Ashley Xiong, Roshawnda Broyles, Angelica Tibbitts, Christian Martinez, and Nou Cheng (all rising seniors)

Proclamations & Awards



Glenn McIntosh, OU VP for Student Affairs, makes remarks and congratulates Ms. Graham



MI-CAPP President Rhondo Cooper surprises Ms. Graham with a proclamation from the Educational Opportunity Associate (EOA)



City of Pontiac Mayor Dr. Dierdre Waterman presents proclamation to Ms. Graham



Diana Bell accepts award on behalf of her daughter, Stephanie Bell, PUB's first Gates Millennium Scholar



Ms. Graham presents Dr. Arnold Mitchem with a 50th Anniversary Appreciation Award



PUB TRIO Achiever Honorees



Damon Blakemore, Regional Manager, Mercedes Benz (Houston, TX)



Attorney Janet Sowell, Sowell & Associates (Detroit, MI)



John Bueno, VP & Sr. Fin. Analyst, Wells Fargo LLC (Birmingham, MI)



Jess Caswell, IT Specialist (Farmington, MI)



Ms. Graham introduces honorees and refers audience to souvenir booklet for alumni impact statements



Sherman C. Barton, former Upward Bound Director



Alumnus Theresa Delaney (50th Anniversary Gospelfest Chair), Ms. Graham and Will McNeal, son of deceased PUB math teacher Matthew McNeal



Wang Chang and Taylor Smith unfurl souvenir blanket



Alumni Cameron Blunt and Ane' Taylor



Alumnus Raetoshia Hardy announces one-time scholarship to a PUB student to honor her grandmother's memory.

PUB APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT OF ITS GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY FESTIVITIES

Golden Anniversary Planning Committee

Geraldine E. Graham, Chair

Cameron Blunt

Marian Renee Blunt

Sandra Boykin

Nicole Clements

Selina Hall

Raetoshia Hardy

Harold Harris

J. Kelvin Huddleston

Tonya Jones

Ava McDowell

Marcus Webb

Kevin Williams

Regina Woodard

Mariah Kelley, Campus Tour Guide

Ta'Quanda Allen, Gala Hostess

Oakland University Departments

Vice President for Student Affairs

Office of the President

Communications & Marketing

Printing Services

Kresge Library Archive

Meadow Brook Hall

University Housing

Center for Student Activities

Campus Facilities & Operations

Student Business Services

Swag Bag Contributors

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Inez Goodman, Artist

Marian Renee Blunt

Marriott Centerpoint Parkway (Auburn Hills)

Marriott Renaissance Center (Detroit)

Oakland University Credit Union

Oakland University Golf Pro Shop

Royal Park Hotel (Rochester)

Sony Pictures, Dana Terry

Starbucks—University Drive at Squirrel Road

Traci Lynn Jewelry—Tonya Jones, Independent Consultant

Vendors

Oakland County Parks

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All Star Awards

4imprint

Oriental Trading

Prudent Productions



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College Prep Academy**

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SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI



These are some of the PUB Alumni who attended the Gala: Front Row—Monet Williamson, Elise Williamson, Renee Thornton, Jordan Cowser, LaTisha Baker, Amber Briggs, Nalo Bain-Farquarson, Jess Caswell, NiNesha Baker. Back Row—Sharita Williamson, Talisha Williams, Mariah Kelley, Cameron Blunt, Ane' Taylor, John Bueno, Joshua Guy, Theresa Delaney, Janet Sowell