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Oh, the Many Things We’ve Done...

Columbia University

Study Tables (Fall Workshop)
On stage at the Apollo!

ACT Prep Test (Fall Workshop)

Canoeing @ Stroud's Run

Barbie Bungee during the Summer

S'Mores

Math Class
A Few Words from our Director

Ayanna M. Jordan

One of Ms. Jordan’s favorite quotes:
“You were made an original; don’t become someone else’s copy.” ~Iyanla Vanzant

Putting your Passion into Social Action

I can’t say enough about how proud I am of the significant strides you made over the course of summer 2010. From overcoming your fears about living on OHIO’s campus to “buckling down” to study subjects that were completely new – you were devoted to making your involvement with Upward Bound matter! One of the most significant successes of your residential experience was diligently learning about social justice and recognizing that your commitment to advocacy makes a difference in the world.

Consciousness. Compassion. Connection. Action. These were not just “catchy” words to use on our summer t-shirts! Each one was chosen to thread a pattern of understanding about the meaning of social justice, and you most certainly understood the goal because the projects you created to reflect what you learned were phenomenal. They were proof that you are, indeed, conscious of diverse global issues realizing that the first step in becoming a change-agent is gaining more awareness. Your dedication to research and your compassionate reactions to what you discovered showed us that you empathize with those affected by the issues and you have a strong desire to help.

Whether your project was (1) aimed at shedding light on the devastation the oil spills caused across the Niger Delta and Gulf of New Mexico, (2) committed to empowering people to learn more about Invisible Children of Northern Uganda, or (3) created to raise funds to support Ronald McDonald Houses, you connected to your purpose and took positive action. And for that, I applaud you!

Now that the new school year is well underway, my hope is that you’re not only putting all the great study skills you learned to good use, but that you’re still tapped into one of the three projects you developed over the summer. So, my charge to you is simple (mainly because you’ve already done it) – stay involved in causes that are important to you.

Remember, it doesn’t always have to be a large national/international cause or endeavor; it can be in your own back yard! What issues are affecting your neighborhood or school right now? Do you need a better recycling initiative? Would you like to see healthier food choices in your cafeteria? Do you want your school to create a program that combats bullying? Whatever it is, if you have a desire to make a difference, join the local organization that’s creating change; and of course, if there isn’t an organization, by all means, start one. Put your passion into social action, because as you know, in your dedication to helping the community, you are also helping yourself.

Want to learn about how other students are taking action? Check out these sites:

www.dosomething.org
www.whatkidscando.org
OHIO’s Newest Appalachian Scholar by Victoria Jenei

Matthew Friend, a resident of Meigs County and graduate of Eastern High School, is the recipient of OHIO’s Appalachian Scholarship. He is the only student, out of 29 Appalachian counties, to receive this award for 2010. The program includes a full tuition, four-year scholarship while attending OHIO, as well as numerous educational incentives that will offer Matt opportunities to conduct research and attend conferences within his academic interest. “The application process was quite tedious,” Matt said, when asked about the challenges he faced. He explained that the process was long and complicated and that he worked on it for months, constantly sending drafts of his essays to Ms. Meghan and Ms. Jordan, UB’s assistant director and director, respectively. “My initial reaction was disbelief, and after learning that I was the only one I was completely shocked; that was of course followed by excitement and phone calls to everyone I knew.” The Appalachian Scholars Program required Matt to write two essays and he chose to write about his work ethic and his ties to the community because he believes that they are what make him a strong person; he also believes that the topics complement each other well.

“I want to be remembered as Matt Friend, that guy from a small town who broke the mold, went to college and accomplished more than was ever expected.”

Realizing the magnitude of this impressive accomplishment, we asked Matt how this scholarship program will impact his future and he said, “… now I have the means to carry out the dreams I’ve always had. I have been given a rare chance at college and I do not intend on wasting it.” Interested in becoming a physician, he is a biology major with a pre-medicine academic track. He enjoys the OHIO community because everyone is so friendly and that makes the campus feel smaller and more like home. Matt told us that his least favorite part is the second floor of Alden library. “They do not have enough tables; there is no place to sit even on Monday or Tuesday nights,” he said. As far as his biggest inspiration, he stated, “I would have to say anyone who works hard to achieve their goals, because they give me the drive and determination to pursue my own.” In the next ten years Matt envisions graduating med school and becoming a physician in his hometown. Post-graduation, Matt believes that he will definitely remain in Ohio. “I will leave to visit other places, of course, but why keep looking for someplace else when you’re happy where you are?”

We discovered a rather befitting end to our interview with such an amazing young man; we asked Matt how he wants to be remembered and he replied, “I want to be remembered as Matt Friend, that guy from a small town who broke the mold, went to college and accomplished more than was ever expected. To that end, I work hard every day and take advantage of every opportunity that I can to better myself.”

Matt at Ellis Island during UB’s End-of-summer trip to New York, Summer 2010.
Brady Ratcliffe, a resident of Chillicothe and graduate of Chillicothe High School, is the first UB student to receive the Dr. Ray Skinner and Marilyn L. Skinner Upward Bound Scholar Athlete Award (UBSAA). Brady has been an active member of the UB family since 2007. We got an opportunity to talk to him about the program and how it has helped over the years. “Upward Bound has greatly prepared me for college. It also helped me make a ton of amazing friends,” Brady said. He also told us about the various things he has learned about himself from being a part of UB stating, “I have learned that I can achieve anything that I want, with a little effort.” He shared how very different his life would be if he were not a part of UB, disclosing that if he had not been involved with the program he probably would have joined the military after high school.

Sponsored by Dr. Ray Skinner, UB’s founding director, and his wife, Marilyn L. Skinner, the UBSAA is given to UB seniors who have been committed to athletic activities throughout their high school tenure. Additionally, in order to be eligible, students must complete a minimum of 24 hours of community service, score 21 or higher on the ACT, and have consistent participation in UB activities, events, and advising during the academic year and summer residential components.

Dr. Skinner is a huge advocate for the program and we are excited about this generous scholarship opportunity specifically geared to support UB students. When asked about how it felt knowing that he was the first student awarded the scholarship, Brady said, “I feel extremely rewarded. I was definitely very pleasantly surprised when I was awarded the scholarship.” We also asked how the scholarship will benefit him directly and he said that it will help him pay for college. Right now, Brady doesn’t have any student loans and the scholarship helps with this.

In the next ten years Brady wants to be pursuing a career in criminal justice; and as far as post-graduation, he believes that he will, “either be in the U.S. Marshal [Service] or the FBI.” He also wants to “give back” by volunteering overseas helping people less fortunate than him. “I would love to go and help people that are victims of the constant warfare in Africa,” he passionately exclaimed.

Like Matt, we also asked Brady how he wants to be remembered and he said, “I just want to be remembered as a person that cared about everyone and did everything to leave this world better than it was when I was here. By being in criminal justice, I can at least put dangerous people where they belong, and by doing this I can leave the world at least a little bit safer than it was before.”
Simone’s Story

UB recently caught up with an alumna that is on the move in every sense of the word. Simone Savannah is an academic superstar climbing her way to the top of the higher education ladder. We spoke with her recently about her current graduate program, plans for the future, and ways UB helped her in reaching her goals.

Upward Bound: We’ve heard wonderful things about your educational journey! Can you tell us all about your graduate program?

Simone Savannah (SS): Yes, currently I am working on my Masters in Cultural Studies in Education. My focus is in African American Literature. I plan to write a novel or collection of poems that can be used in university classrooms (or high schools). I want my work to invoke some critical thinking about everyday issues! Also, I am the graduate assistant for the undergraduate Diversity Studies Certificate Program. I help with publicity and outreach for the program. I am planning to attend school to obtain my PhD in Creative Writing starting next year!

UB: What did you learn from UB that has helped you during your academic career?

SS: Upward Bound taught me so much about critical thinking and looking deeply at issues. My high school helped me with that somewhat, but Upward Bound gave me the real environment to do so. I was surrounded by people who didn't look like me which allowed me to gain multiple perspectives and to look at issues differently. The instructors urged us to use those perspectives and critically think about topics. When I was in undergrad, I was always looking to gain multiple perspectives on topics because I knew the world was so much more than just me.

UB: What is your favorite memory from UB — both as a student and as a staff?

SS: My favorite memory as a student would be the time I won the talent show. I did this freaky arm thing and surprisingly, everyone loved it! As a staff member, I love all of my memories! I love connecting with the students. But, I believe my favorite memory is when Ms. Yewande, Mr. Eric, and I tried to trick the students about the end of summer trip by dancing in pink and blue wigs to California Girls!

Always willing to help OUUB and create memorable events for our students, Simone dressed up for a skit at UB’s Annual Award Ceremony for our end-of-summer trip announcement.
Organization = Academic Success

Our UB students now have another semester of school finished. But, with yet another semester to go before the end of this academic year, we thought it would be a good idea to provide a reminder of helpful tips learned from the summer residential phase to keep students on the path to success.

1. Get your hands on some great supplies. Being an amazing student is hard work so you need to make sure you have the right tools to succeed. Grab those colorful folders, three ring binders, and loads of pens and pencils.

2. Create a folder for each and every class you are enrolled in. Folders are a student’s best friend so use them and make sure to keep all of your papers from each class safe, sound, and most importantly organized.

3. Perform routine organization maintenance on your binders, backpack, and locker. Every month or so it’s a good idea to go through all of your class notes, papers, etc. to reorganize and potentially throw out papers you no longer need. By doing this, you’ll find the important papers you need even easier.

** If you have papers that aren’t necessarily school related (e.g. drawings, social notes, etc.) create a separate notebook for these particular papers so they don’t “crowd” your papers and notes for class.

Source: http://www.peer2peertutors.com/services/study-skills

Senior Corner

Congratulations Seniors! It is your last year and it’s a time of celebration and reflection but it’s also a time to remain focused on your future. To help you through this busy time, we have not only created a senior packet (yes, we’re referring to that huge packet you received in the mail at the beginning of the year) we also have created an important timeline to keep you on track. Here’s what is coming up next...

January

⇒ Complete all financial aid information: Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), scholarship and grant application, etc.

February

⇒ Mail and/or bring copies of all financial aid information to the Upward Bound office.

March/April

⇒ Mail and/or bring copies of all acceptance/denial letters and financial aid award notices to the Upward Bound office

⇒ Student and parents/guardians should visit colleges/universities applied to.
A Big UB Shout-out Goes to...

**Ashley Bateman - Lee**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH
Lake Erie College  
Painesville, OH
Otterbein University  
Westerville, OH

**Ashley Dyer**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH

**Kortland “Ozzie” Flickinger**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH
Ohio Dominican University  
Columbus, OH

**Tess Marks**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH

**Miela Wellman**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH

**Sam Rice**
has been accepted to:
Hocking College  
Nelsonville, OH

**Racheal Stotts**
has been accepted to:
Marietta College  
Marietta, OH
Wilmington College  
Wilmington, OH
University of Rio Grande  
Rio Grande, OH
Alderson Broaddus  
Philippi, WV

**Jennifer Williams**
has been accepted to:
Urbana University  
Urbana, OH

Attention Seniors:
As soon as you get your college acceptance letters please share the good news with the UB Office.  
We’ll share your accomplishment(s) with the rest of the UB family!