LOOK AT WHAT WE’VE DONE!

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Ashley Bateman-Lee (sophomore) was selected as choreographer for her school’s play and she worked with three other students to choreograph “Wizard of Oz.”

Steven McClain (sophomore) received straight “A”s last fall!

Allie Love (senior) has been accepted to Brescia University and University of Cumberlands. She received all “A”s on every report card this year. Allie also gave blood for the first time on February 11th and she was cast as a lead in the fall play!

Zack Everhart (senior) has been accepted to Ohio University!

Quinna Bell (junior) is working on an event in Chillicothe, called “Hoops for Hope.” It will benefit orphan children abroad. She is also on a worship team at her church and plays the Saxophone in her school’s Jazz and Marching Bands.

Carole Armstrong (junior) made the honor role this year!

Brady Ratcliffe (junior), Zach Everhart (senior) and Nick Everhart (senior) performed in the annual Chillicothe High School Revue in January—their band’s name is Down with the System. Brady and Nick also performed with the Chillicothe High School Marching Band Drumline!

Tyler Nichols (sophomore) won first place for a website he created and presented at the Business Professionals of America regional competition.

Amanda Murphy’s (junior) studio art teacher entered her artwork in the Governor’s art show.

Sam Rice (Sophomore) got a part in a musical called Oh, What a Lovely War. She performed in London’s West end March 11th!

A big congratulations to all of our students for your accomplishments and successes! We are VERY proud of you!
Celebrating Student-Achievement, Staff Development, and Alumni Success
Ayanna M. Jordan, Director

Greetings, Upward Bounders, alumni, and friends, The Drum has a fresh, new look and we’re sending all your fantastic updates, achievements, and articles to you through a convenient e-newsletter. We want to keep the green momentum going from summer 2008 by remaining eco-friendly; our commitment doesn’t stop once the six-week program ends, right? It is our hope that you, too, are putting what you learned about living green into action by producing less waste, recycling, and reusing.

Speaking of new, we have three new faces on the Upward Bound team – Meghan Volk, assistant director; Marianne Richardson, academic advisor; and Becky Fox, our administrative associate. They are wonderful and experienced additions to the TRiO Family! In this issue, you’ll learn more about their diverse backgrounds and interests, as well their dedication to giving back to students and the community.

Our alumni are giving back too as contributing writers to The Drum! As you know, staying in touch with them is very important, because not only are they proof-positive that what we do leads to great things, they (or as we call them, TRiO achievers) are positive role models and mentors, inspiring you to reach your goal of graduating college! This quarter’s featured TRiO achiever is Billie Handa (UB ’99 – Trimble High School). Billie earned a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Ohio University in 2003. She has a courageous spirit and a very take-charge attitude – letting nothing stand in the way of her success. While in college she traveled to Mexico to become more fluent in Spanish, joined the Peace Corps after graduation, and when she returned moved to Florida for a few years. Billie is back in southeast Ohio and currently the director of development for the National Business Incubation Association in Athens. We look forward to you reading her article about how UB shaped her life experiences. Expect more exciting stories like Billie’s in the future from other phenomenal TRiO achievers!

The Drum is your voice, your positive outlet for self-expression; it is an opportunity to showcase the great things you’re doing at school and work, in the community, and of course, with UB. So send us what you’re most proud of because your achievements are our achievements.

Congratulations, Jahnna!
TRiO Achiever 2009

Jahnna Lydic was honored as our TRiO Achiever this year at our National TRiO Day celebration. She received this prestigious award because she always has a positive attitude and outstanding performance in her academics. Ms. Lydic is an extremely hard worker and a highly motivated student. She is a true inspiration to us all. Congratulations, Jahnna!

Beth Modrzakowski
UB alumnus and our guest speaker

Ohio University’s Upward Bound program celebrates National TRiO Day!
Ohio College Tours

On April 18th Upward Bound was outward bound. Our students boarded the college tour bus heading for Ohio Dominican University in Columbus and Wright State University in Dayton. Students got the opportunity to tour each campus and hear about what they have to offer.

Opening Doors
Marianne Richardson, Academic Advisor

“Wherever I have knocked, a door has opened. Wherever I have wandered, a path has appeared. I have been supported, encouraged, and nurtured by people of all races, creeds, colors, and dreams; and I have, to the best of my ability, returned help, support, encouragement, and nurture. This receiving, returning, or passing on has been one of the most amazing, joyous, and continuous experiences of my life.” — Alice Walker

This past autumn I received a phone call that brought me a great deal of joy; the call was an invitation to join the Upward Bound family at Ohio University as its Academic Advisor. You see, I was a member of the Upward Bound family at Oberlin College some years ago and the opportunity to return to such a program was truly a dream come true. While I have always been an advocate for young adults as a teacher and a counselor, I have found that Upward Bound is one of the best programs in the business when it comes to empowering prospective first generation college students in their quest for higher education. As a first generation college graduate, I wish I had known that such a program existed when I was in high school. I was fortunate to have individuals along the way—just as Alice Walker did—who looked out for me and guided my path; however, many obstacles I encountered in college could have been avoided entirely had I been involved in Upward Bound. With this in mind, I encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunity that has been extended to you. As in any situation, the more you invest, the greater your return. If you fully participate in all the academic year and the summer component activities you will be sure to reap great benefits. In fact, you may experience a sense of abundance that will compel you to “reach back” like so many TRIO professionals have done. After all, that’s what it’s all about, doing what we can to help others. Right now, the Upward Bound team is here to help you on your journey to empowerment. Soon it will be your turn, and through your participation in Upward Bound, you’ll be well equipped to handle the task ahead. Or as Dr. Seuss once wrote, "Will you succeed? Yes, you will indeed (98 3/4% guaranteed)."

“... I have found that Upward Bound is one of the best programs in the business when it comes to empowering prospective first generation college students in their quest for higher education.”
Billie Handa
Upward Bound Alumnus
The summer after my sophomore year was an extremely influential time in my life. I had to decide between pursuing new and unexplored experiences or settling for what was familiar and safe. Never before had I been given the opportunity to live away from home with my peers so I could grow academically, socially, and personally. I can’t remember the deciding factor to participate in the program, but I’d have to guess that it was the support of my mom; she always encouraged me to try new things.

Many of my peers weren’t thinking about their future beyond weekend plans. I was mostly exposed to individuals in situations similar to my own. Upward Bound was my first (but far from my last) exposure to the possibility of more. There were so many things for me to experience through UB and it opened up an entire new world of potential that I didn’t realize existed. Upward Bound demanded nothing short of respect for ourselves and others, as well as open-mindedness, honesty, and motivation. We were encouraged to explore new ideas, truly get to know other people and their experiences, and expect the best from ourselves.

Without UB, I never would have met some of the most incredible, influential, successful people that I am now lucky enough to call friends. The program gave me the confidence to believe in myself and the understanding that life is truly what I make it. I am thankful to those who gave me an opportunity to find my potential and provided mentorship even after the program ended.

“We were encouraged to explore new ideas, truly get to know other people and their experiences, and expect the best from ourselves.”

UB students came out in a big way at Ohio University’s Annual Hiphop Expo! Participating in various educational sessions—everything from tips on “greening” your life to exploring ways hiphop and media have organized against displacement caused by gentrification in cities around the nation. Affrilachian Poets didn’t disappoint with their cunning words while Majora Carter reminded us all of the importance of following your dream and persevering at all costs. The Expo allowed our students to explore how hiphop and sustainability can go hand in hand to make a difference in our world.
Creating Meaningful Change
Meghan Volk, Assistant Director

I recently came across a quote by Sara Bullard that I found inspiring. “By changing ourselves, we are doing the only thing we can do to change the world. To say that is not enough is a lack of will, a lack of faith. It must be enough for it is everything.” As you may already know, I am new to Ohio University’s Upward Bound program and the Athens area. Having experienced a tremendous transition myself, I started to consider the changes that you are going through as Upward Bound students and how you may impact the world around you. What you might not see now is that everything you are currently doing, even the little decisions you make, influence your future and the goals you have.

Coming from rural Indiana and being the first in my family to go to college, I had a bit of a learning curve when I attended my undergraduate institution. Although it was a huge period of transition for me it was also really exciting and I tried to take advantage of what I had been given—the gift of a college education. I now see that the friends I met, experiences I had, and decisions I made created the person I am today. There is another quote that I have in a frame on my desk in my office that says, “Love life, engage in it, give it all you’ve got. Love it with a passion, because life truly does give back, many times over, what you put into it” (Maya Angelou). This is truly what I have tried to do my whole life—follow my passion and in doing so, I have been led to each of you.

It is with an appreciation for growth and a desire to follow your passion that makes a person successful. I urge you to become an active participant in the process of growth and development; take time to reflect on the gifts you receive with each new change. Push yourself to grow into who you want to be and don’t allow change to wash over you like water over a rock until it has been worn into a new shape. Appreciate where you were, who you are now, and who you will become. Be intentional with the decisions you make and live your life with passion.

CFI is a non-profit organization that seeks to establish food security and promote self-sufficiency as it relates to basic food production, preservation and preparation. By establishing and managing community gardens, CFI distributes fresh produce to local free meal programs and low-income families. GEHM is a local group who provides food to food pantries, women’s shelters and other areas of need in the region.

Once again, UB students went above and beyond. In partnership with the national service fraternity, Alpha Phi Omega and the Office of Sustainability, our students poured their hearts and muscles into a service project to benefit Community Food Initiatives (CFI) and Good Earth Hunger Mission (GEHM). After serving their community, our students came back to McCracken Hall to explore four project themes around food: food justice, food as medicine, steps in creating a community garden, and the benefits from eating locally grown food.
Summer Residential Phase 2009!

We would like to recognize the students who have been with us this summer.

Bridge Students
Caitlin Aubin
Jahnna Lydic
Elizabeth Murphy

Rising Seniors
Christina Armstrong
Dennis Church
Leanndra Edmonds
Matthew Friend
Mariah Hatfield
John Huston
Chelsea Johnston
Allison Johnston
Sierra Lenigar
Amanda Murphy
Ariel Nitz
Brady Ratcliffe

Rising Juniors
Kristina Baisden
Ashley Bateman-Lee
Stephanie Berryman
Jacob Bradshaw
Keisha Duncan
Kortland Flickinger
Joseph Forester
Kellan Gamble
Ashley Hoalcraft
Tiffany Hoffman
Briana "Tess" Marks
Jade Massie
Steven McClain
Kelly McDowell
Chelsie McKee
Tyler Nichols
Amanda Perry
Sara Pugsley
Ravanne Reed
Samantha Rice
Hannah Ridgway
Zari Roush
Heather Scott
Brandon Snyder
Hayley Spradling
Racheal Stotts
Miela Wellman
Jennifer Williams

Scenes From Summer