

University of Connecticut
Center for Academic Programs

Upward Bound/ConnCAP Newsletter

Letter from the Director

SPRING 2007

Please Submit to the Newsletter:

*Information for the
newsletter is drawn
from the information
you provide to your Advisors
during Meetings.*

Please submit:

- Academic, Civic and Athletic Honors
- Original Writings: Short Prose, Poetry
- Issues or questions that you would like to see addressed
- Original artwork
- Community Service News, Community Involvement Community Activities
- School or Class News

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Hello to everyone.

We have just completed the recruitment process for admission to Upward bound this year. On behalf of staff of UB, I want to seize this opportunity to congratulate all the successful applicants and to welcome them into the program. We look forward to working with you! I also want to thank all the guidance counselors in the various schools that we work with for their support and encouragement during the recruitment process. Thank you all!

Susana M. Ulloa.

New Students—Welcome to Upward Bound

At the end of this year's process of recruitment, the following students have been accepted into the program:

From **Windham High school**: Joseph Cruz, Travis Koch, Susy Laboy, Andres Badillo, Mayliz Mercado, Sasha Yantin, Matthia Rogers, and Juan Velez.

From **Bulkeley High School**: Anthony Brown, Joshua Flores, Michael Greene, Ebony Haase, Mariangelly Alvarado, Fayola Charles, Amy Choi, Deshawn Hamlet, Meshach Ishmail, Angelo Lopez, Kisha McClellan, Luis Nunez, Franshesca Porrata, Melquan Hamilton and Ariely Seda.

From **James Hillhouse High school**: K-Mel Davis, Alexis Hargrove, Raheem Johnson, Brandin Jones, Tyshawn Caldwell, Raven Coleman-Tucker, Domingo Rodriguez and Racreisha Poteat.

From **Weaver High school**: Shaquana Cochran, Chasity Flores, Joseph Rivera-Benitez, Ramel Scott, Andrew Francis, Bassian Hanson, Jahneil Mamahon, Gevonne McIntosh, Kathryn Ruff, Niesha Smith, Shacoya Parkman, Benjamin Garnett and Kenneth Wilson.

From **Wilbur Cross High School**: Karina Bonilla, Renso C. Perez, Nydia Echevarria, Jonathan Rivadeneva, Darrius Oliver, Marangelly Oliveras, Ezekiel Howard and Amanda Russo. From **Hartford High school**: Kathy Pham, Danny Contreras, April Garcia, Kemonia Golding, Vanessa McKenzie and Anneddy Morillo.

MY IMPRESSIONS OF UPWARD BOUND

Angela Dunham

Sophomore, Weaver High School

“When I was introduced to the program, I was not intrigued by what it has to offer. For me, it meant school work during summer and perhaps, more importantly, no summer job. However, after being informed about the details of the program by my teachers and friends, I was excited. Therefore, When I got the news that I was on the waiting list, I was devastated. It meant the end of my dreams of going to college.

Surprisingly, some days later, I was informed that I have been accepted into the program. That was the turning point. When I got to Storrs on the first day, I immediately realized that the program is right for me. I worked hard in my classes and completed the summer component with 6 A’s and 1 B+. Now at school, I take part in class discussions and offer to help my fellow students.

If Upward Bound is to be abolished, It would destroy the impetus that keeps me going. Through its focus on academic work, it has made me less insecure and more independent. Moreover, it has given me a group of people that I can look to for support, advice and strength. I truly count my blessings for being a part of Upward Bound.

Ahj Meeks

Sophomore, Weaver High School

“Upward Bound is a very important part of my life. It prepares me for the classes I would be taking in the upcoming academic year. I like starting off the year having had prior experience of what I would be doing in class when school reopens and so Upward Bound works well for me.

I also like the college experience part of the program. Living on campus teaches me to be responsible for waking up in the morning and getting to class on time. I take care of my homework, go to study hall, and participate in recreation activities with me having to make the decisions on my own. This prepares me for the responsibilities of college life.

I also like the opportunity that the program offers to meet other students from other high schools all over Connecticut and to make new friends . Furthermore, the fact that even after the summer is over, students in the program can still get help from tutors and advisors is great.

LIFE AS A SENIOR.

“Life as a senior has not been all what I had expected it to be: freedom, less school work and homework, and getting away with things. I quickly realized that I was wrong. On the contrary, senior year has been the hardest year for me. Filling out college application and scholarship forms before the deadline expires, writing resumes and recommendation letters, and even getting in touch with my counselor proved to be difficult tasks.

In addition, balancing all these activities with school work and sports was also very hard. Even though I tried to organize and plan my activities, it still proved difficult to keep abreast of things.

I struggled a bit to be in control but finally made it through to the end. I have completed the college and scholarship application processes. It was a bit stressful but I guess it was worth it.

The good news? I got admitted to college and was awarded a scholarship!

Anonymous.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES!!!

SENIORS, please note!!!

What: Sony Wonder Technology Lab, Shopping & Dinner

When: Saturday May 5, 2007

Where: New York, NY

Please RSVP by May 3, 2007 @ 1 (800) 839-6869!!

See you there!!!

Hey Students!!

Watch Out for Academic Day!!

What: Academic Day

When: May 12, 2007

Where: University of Connecticut, Waterbury, campus.

Workshops would be conducted!

COLLEGE FAIR, MARCH 26TH, HARTFORD

By Francisco Abrev

My experience at the college fair was very positive. I enjoyed interacting with my friends and at the same time learning about places that I can attend to further my education.

The college fair gave me a chance to look at a number of choices and different colleges to choose from.

It also helped me find out what I need to do in order to complete the college application process and to get admitted into a college.

I realized that I need to focus more on my work and possibly take AP classes to get college credits.





By: Juron Riddick

The college fair that I attended with my fellow Upward Bound students along with students from all over the state of Connecticut provided me with an opportunity to speak to representatives from different colleges from all over the nation. I particularly liked the conversation I had with the people from the colleges, they really helped me understand the admission process.



Get Ready for Great Hollow Wilderness School

Each year, the incoming UB/ConnCAP class heads off to Great Hollow Wilderness School in New Fairfield, CT to spend three days in the 1,000 acre wilderness preserve. Great Hollow was founded by Wesleyan University in 1970, and is Connecticut's oldest not-for-profit outdoor education center. The program is dedicated to "the growth of individuals through the development of outdoor skills, self knowledge, and group awareness. Through experiential learning, participants discover untapped strengths—strengths that can make a difference in all areas of life."

Students hike through the preserve, learn to navigate high ropes climb rock formations, and face whatever nature sends their way. Although much of the activity is physical, students often focus on the emotional and intellectual impact of the experience. The trip fosters both self-knowledge and group cohesiveness, and is an excellent beginning for UB/ConnCAP students. It gives the new class a chance to learn about themselves and their classmates.

Recently, Ruth Valentine, Class of 2002, speaks of her experience at Great Hollow.

"I was full of joy on the day I arrived at the GHW school. It was my first camping trip ever. The students from Windham were the first to arrive. Later in the day, students from other schools arrived and my joy quickly turned to nervousness at the prospect of being separated from my friends.

That afternoon, all the students were put into groups and, as predicted, I was no longer with anyone I knew. I realized, as predicted, that we left for the woods and participated in various challenging activities as climbing rocks, walking on wires, swinging into the air, bathing in the river and crawling into caves. Apart from being recreational, it was both a physical and emotional challenge. At the end of the day, all the group members had become acquainted with one another.

At first many hated the experience, but once it was over its relevance became clear because it shaped our perspective of life. More importantly, it taught us the values of leadership and team work.

From this experience, I learnt that a leader cannot achieve a goal without collective responsibility and dedication".

Announcement:

The Summer Program begins on Sunday, June 24th and will end on Thursday, August 2nd.

****Please remember that students are not allowed to miss any part of the summer program****

Congratulations, Seniors!

College acceptances and scholarship notifications have arrived, and many of our students have been rewarded for their years of hard work.

The following students have been given admission to the **University of Connecticut**: Xavier Agron, Tayvia Alfred, Charity Brown, Danielle Cargill, Abigail Morales, Christine Morrison, Raquel Philip, Quang Truong, Shanado Williams, Shannon Brackeen, Schweing Harvey, Dani Selkridge, Brianna Triplett, Esmeralda Bardholari, Michael Barnes, Alicia Pittman, and Quyen Tran.

James Brown has been admitted at **Southern CT State University**, Ciyavah Daniels and Omar Crosby have been admitted at **University of Hartford**, Bianca DeJesus at **Manchester Community College**, Terrell Harts at **Brown University**, Akime Hughes at **Johnson and Wales University**.

Sandy Ulett has been admitted at **Atlantic Union College**, Vekena Webb at **Central CT State University**, Estefania Rodriguez at **Boston University**, Christine Hall at **Howard University**, Brittany Murray at **Gateway community College**, Joanna Carvalho at **Western CT State University**, Racel DiLonardo at **American College**, Elisai Echevarria at the **University of New Haven** and **Shamel Grimes** would be attending **Capital Community College**.

Congratulations to you all!

We wish you success in your academic endeavors!

Selected Alumni Updates

Class of 2001: Joshua Aleman, Southern CT State University, Jeanie Castings, Teiko Post University, Katrina Williams, University of Connecticut.

Class of 2002: Alex Jones, University of Maine, Carla Ward, Quinnipiac, Darissa Monroe, Eastern CT State University.

Class of 2003: Shelby Davis, Western CT State University, Andrew Lavana, University of Connecticut, Renee Martin, University of Connecticut.

Class of 2004: Audrene Dias, University of Connecticut, Shaun Levy, University of Connecticut, Samantha Smith, Trinity College.

Class of 2005: Jamie Bhairo, Western CT State University, Frances Dipini, St. Joseph College, Melissa Yennie, Central CT State University.

Class of 2006: Vahide Bytyqi: Western CT State University, Shanakay Batton, University of Hartford, Nicole Forzano, Elms College.

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Thank You to High School Personnel

We would like to thank the following high schools' guidance departments and support staff for assisting us in the recruitment of this year's Upward Bound/ConnCAP incoming class. Their time, energy, and support is invaluable.

A special thank you to the guidance counselors who supported students throughout the application process.

At **Bulkeley High School**, thanks to **Ms. Sullivan, Ms. DeGraff, Ms. Fialkoff, Mr. Legako, Ms. Simmons,** and **Ms. Guliano.**

At **Hartford Public High School**, thanks to **Mr. Kramer, Ms. Hutchinson, Mr. Adams, Mrs. Clermont** and **Ms. Lewis.**

At **Weaver High School**, thanks to **Ms. Nelson, Mr. Beare, Ms. Rhule, Ms. Lindquist,** and **Ms. Haynes.**

At **Hillhouse High School**, thanks to **Ms. Kelly, Mr. Firmender, Ms. Battle, Mrs. Cooke,** and **Mrs. Kapsinow.**

At **Wilbur Cross High School**, thanks to **Mr. Fendenco, Ms. Cox,** , **Ms. Duckrow** and **Ms. Joyner.**