Letter from the Director

I want to take this opportunity to welcome our new students and bid farewell to our graduating seniors. Congratulations to our senior class on all their accomplishments and recent college acceptances.

I also want to congratulate our new students and their parents/guardians on their acceptance into the program. It is always difficult to select new students—so many talented young people apply, and we can only offer admission to a small number. New students and their parents and guardians will attend Orientation on Saturday, May 19th. I’m looking forward to welcoming them to campus.

I would also like to thank all the high schools for making the recruitment process a success.

Sincerely,

Susana Ulloa,
Director

Welcome Class of 2015!

Congratulations to our newly accepted students:

**Hartford:**
Jordon Baez, Dynorra Brightly, Sharomeia Cade, Jesus Colon, Leslie Cruz, Javante Danvers, Katrina Figueroa, Kamara Garcia, Paola Hernandez, Lakyia King, Oneil Lewis, Janckarin Mendez, Melina Olszewski, Christopher Otero, Destiny Peele, Risher Pena Gomez, Gustavo Pizarro, Luis Rivera, Crystal Santiago, Tiffany Serrano, Dion Smith, Alicia Suragdeen, Erjona Tuda, Kiana Wilson

**Windham:**
Stephanie Duran, Ikeaguzman, Tatiana Hernandez, Rafael Martinez, Andrew Morales, Zuleyka Morales, Leandra Nolette, Aramis Perez, Dominic Rivera, Aviel Rosado.

**New Haven:**
Donya’e Broadnax, Enoch Cain Jr., Sydney Curtis, Alexa Davila, Alejandra Espinosa, Jose Gonzalez, Natashaia Hodge, Rhiannon Hoffman, Victoria Horne, Quijaon Johnson, Maya Moncrease, Yakira Ralda-Martinez, Robert Rivers, Akiel Smith, Denzel Walker, Valencya Williams, Shayenne Wright.
TRiO Day 2012

On February 23-24, 2012, the eleventh grade high school students from the Upward Bound/ConnCAP Program traveled to the TRiO Day 2012, held in Connecticut. National TRiO Day is a two day event promoting celebration, reflection and action around increased access to higher education for disadvantaged students. Federal TRiO Programs help low-income and first-generation students graduate from high school, enter college, and earn a college degree. Every year, high school and college students, teachers, Members of Congress, local officials, TRiO Program staff, participants, alumni and others: Celebrate the positive impact of federal TRiO Programs in our communities throughout the nation. Reflect on the importance of educational opportunity programs in creating a fairer society for all Americans. Act to protect and further access higher education for low-income and first-generation students. (source: Pell Institute).

At this conference, students had the opportunity to meet other Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, and GearUp students from all over New England and learn about why and how TRiO programs have been successful over the years. Crowne Plaza Hotel in Cromwell, Connecticut and participated in a variety of events, including a college fair, college preparation and informational workshops, tours of the Post University and Western Connecticut State University campuses, a dance party, games, movies, and a Scholars Bowl. UCONN Upward Bound/ConnCAP’s own summer instructor, Kevin Booker, presented an inspirational keynote speech along with his team of two performers: former Upward Bound/ConnCAP Tutor-Counselor, Sammy Colon and dance teacher, choreographer, and performer, Chinue V. Govan.

The last, but not least popular part of the trip was a visit by Congressman Christopher Murphy, U.S. Representative, Fifth District, CT. His speech was an uplifting and encouraging end to the weekend.

March Academic Day

On March 10th, the Upward Bound Program held their third Academic Day of the year. Students arrived at the University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus at 10 AM to find a continental breakfast awaiting them in the Center for Undergraduate Education (CUE). Immediately following, students broke into groups. Sophomore students attended a discussion about High School Planning held by Upward Bound Advisors, Lisa Brasile and Ruben Garcia in order to be able to select the correct courses for the summer and following year. Finally sophomores each created an online profile to sign up for scholarships using Fastweb.com. Junior students took an intense seminar to prepare for the SAT given by Anne Bonito from Your Ticket to College, LLC. Senior students attended a workshop presented by Upward Bound Director, Susana Ulloa, about transitioning to college from high school with the help of guest speaker and Upward Bound Alumnus, Shanado Williams.

Thank you to Anne Bonito and Shanado Williams for helping to make the day successful.
April Academic Day—“Mind Over Matter” Tour

On April 7, the Upward Bound program held our last Academic Day of the 2011-2012 school year. The “Mind Over Matter” Tour focused on issues relating to writing, performing, and arts. This interactive presentation gave Upward Bound students the opportunity to participate by writing and performing their own poetry.

The morning started off with a presentation from former Upward Bound student Brandon M. Graham, who is the author of *A Love Supreme: Amputated Feelings and Prosthetic Apologies*, a collection of poetry. He spoke about the importance of art as well as the process of writing and publishing a book. Jesse Boykins III then spoke, about the importance of music and the process of producing an album, from songwriting to recording. Students were given a chance to ask questions about both of these topics before breaking for lunch.

After lunch, Upward Bound students participated in an interactive poetry and songwriting workshop. After spending time writing, students got the opportunity to perform their work for the rest of the group. This “Rock the Mic” session showcased a number of interesting poems and raps from many of our students and even from staff. Hearing so many of our students be so creative made the afternoon inspiring.

Thanks to Brandon Graham and Jesse Boykins for making this day a fun and creative learning experience for our Upward Bound students!

Reflections on “Mind Over Matter” Tour

By Shanado Williams, UB Class of ‘07

It was my pleasure to join the current Upward Bound students in one of the most interesting academic days. The opportunity to meet and talk to the aspiring students was amazing. They all projected the light required for excellence. The seniors who will be joining our group of Upward Bound alumni friends very soon was super excited to become alumni to the program we take pride in.

Throughout the day I enjoyed the two motivational speakers, especially Brandon who inspired us all that “being mischievous” in a positive light can bring great rewards. I can remember him saying “if you don’t know something, look it up, because with modern technology, most of what we need to know is at our fingertips.” This personally reminded me that as a graduate student I should be inspired to “look it up” and then proceed to my professors.

After hearing Brandon’s very motivational words of being mischievous and making our dreams a reality, we all enjoyed the rest of the day writing our own poetry.

Writing my own poem was challenging because as a science student, the closest to poetry I’ve studied is, “GATC,” the four nucleotide bases of our DNA. However, as I sat and looked at all the students working really hard to finish their poems, I started to see inspiration and determination that I had at their age. I then started to remember how destined I was to accomplish my goals of finishing the program and proceeding to attaining my college degree.

At that instant, the content of my poem started unfold. I titled it, “I SEE ME IN YOU.” Essentially the poem expresses the potential I see in each of our students and why they should aspire to be the best of the best.
National History Day Finalists

Each year, more than half a million students participate in the National History Day (NHD) contest by choosing a historical topic related to the annual theme, and then conducting primary and secondary research. By looking through libraries, archives and museums, conducting oral history interviews, and visiting historic sites, students present the significance of their topic in one of five ways: as a paper, an exhibit, a performance, a documentary, or a web site.

This spring, Connecticut students’ work was entered into one of five local NHD contests where it was judged by professional educators and historians. The best work chosen was invited to move on to the state's NHD contest. Winners at the state level will be eligible to attend the Kenneth E. Behring National History Day Contest at the University of Maryland at College Park in June. This is where the best National History Day projects from across the United States, American Samoa, Guam, International Schools and Department of Defense Schools in Europe all meet and compete.

On Saturday, March 24th, Upward Bound students Brandi Marks and Jordan Ransom were among the students whose project was judged for NHD. Their team entered the New Haven district competition. Brandi and Jordan made a video documentary about how African American soldiers in World War II and African American citizens of the United States were treated in that time period. Their team, which also includes 11th grader, Khadijah Kenion, walked away with a 3rd Place award for their amazing film project, granting them a chance to compete in the CT State Contest.

On April 28th, Brandi, Jordan, and Khadijah again placed. This time, their team took 2nd in the State competition. Finally, they will travel to Washington DC on June 10th to enter the National History Day Contest.

Congratulations, Brandi and Jordan! We are proud of you!

Alumni Updates

We want to congratulate some of our current UB alumni who will become college graduates in the month of May. We want to celebrate the accomplishments of: Rebeca Gomez (UB 2006)

Rebeca has served on UBBAA’s executive board for 2011-2012 as Vice president. She will be graduating this May with her bachelor’s degree in History. However, Rebeca is not done with Upward Bound just yet; she will be with the Upward Bound Program for the summer of 2012 serving as a Tutor/Counselor.

Lavar Mitchell (UB 2007)

Lavar is from the UB class of 2008. Lavar will graduate from Eastern Connecticut State University on May 15 with his Bachelor of Science degree. He majored in Sports and Leisure Management and minored in Sociology. This summer he will be dedicating his time to the UB summer program as a Tutor/Counselor again.

Amber Morton (UB 2009)

Amber is from the UB class of 2008. She is currently attending Eastern Connecticut State University where she is pursuing her degree in Sociology along with a minor in Anthropology. She is very excited for the year 2012 because this May she will be receiving her degree and pursing her career. This summer she will be working with Educational Talent Search, a Trio program similar to Upward Bound.

Other Graduates: Shakera Gamble, Kally Moquete-Gonzalez, Kareemah Muhammad, Byron Rodriguez, Nhi Nguyen, Damiola Odumosu, Briana Triplet, and many more! Congratulations again!

An Alumnus’ Summer Pursuits

Angela Dunham (UB 2008)

This summer Angela will be interning for CIGNA in their Technology Early Career Development Program summer internship. The internship is designed to develop an individual’s IT and leadership skills, talents, and interests. She plans to participate in Business Analyst or Project Management Role. In addition, she plans to volunteer with community organizations in Hartford, CT and reengage with local politics.
College acceptances and scholarship notifications have just arrived, and many of our students have been rewarded for their years of hard work. Here is a list of some of our current seniors’ college placements.

Victoria Dixon
Mercy College
Keyanna Pettway
Eastern Connecticut State University
Ernesto Rivera
Eastern Connecticut State University
Jerrell Lee
Mitchell College
Alison Spencer
Bloomfield College (NJ)
Omira Edwards
Middlesex Community College (MA)
Imani Hawthorne
University of New Haven
Coral Orona-Baez
University of Bridgeport
Dennis Grimes, Jr.
Lincoln College of New England
Angellise Camacho
Gateway Community College
Frank Mitchell
Western Connecticut State University

We are still waiting for other seniors’ updates about their final college decisions!

Here is a sample of some of the colleges they have to choose from:
Southern Connecticut State University, Quinnipiac University, University of New Haven, University of Bridgeport, Eastern Connecticut State University, Western Connecticut State University, Three Rivers Community College, Manchester Community College

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
Ilva Llakmani, one of the winners of the prestigious Fox Scholarship Award, given annually to graduates of Hartford Public/Magnet Schools who demonstrate outstanding character, leadership and scholastic achievement. Ilva is also the salutatorian for Bulkeley High School.

How College Is Different From High School

Freedom, Classes, Professors, Studying, Tests, Grades

♦ Have to manage your own time.
♦ You decide whether to take care of priorities, if not you are responsible.
♦ Get to chose own classes of interest.
♦ Professors will most likely take attendance.
♦ Classes range from 20 to 400 students.
♦ Professors may not give out homework or will not always check it, but will assume you can perform the same tasks on the test.
♦ Professors are usually open and helpful, but most expect you to initiate contact if you need help.
♦ Professors my not even follow the text, they may expect you to relate the class to the readings.
♦ Should study at least 2 to 3 hours outside of class for each hour in class.
♦ Need to review notes and text regularly.
♦ Assigned substantial amounts of reading and/or writing, which may not even be directly addressed in class.
♦ It is up to you to read and understand the assigned material.
♦ Testing is usually infrequent and may be cumulative, covering large amounts of material.
♦ Some courses will only have 2 or 3 tests in a semester.
♦ A majority of the time make up tests are not an option.
♦ Professors usually schedule tests without regard to the demands of other courses or outside activities.
♦ Grades on major tests/papers usually provide most of the course grade.
♦ Watch out for your first tests. These are usually the “wake-up calls” to let you know what is expected—but they also may account for a substantial part of your course grade.
Thank you to all High School Personnel!

We would like to thank each high school’s guidance department 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!