



# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE



Preparing students for the future

January — May 2017

Upward Bound Math and Science Newsletter

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### UPCOMING SUMMER EVENTS:

- Parent/Student Orientation
- Residential Summer Session
- End of Summer Trip



Here at UBMS we are starting the new year with fresh activities to enhance our ongoing Math, Science and English focused Saturday Sessions. This semester, our students will embark on a journey to discover what they want for their future. With more field trips and chances to explore the careers and educational fields that

are out there today, students can decide what they want earlier and start making plans to actively seek out information about their chosen career field.

Some of the activities for this semester include a movie trip, guest speakers, celebrations for MLK day, attendance at SIUE speakers' series Arts and Issues, and a Government Day workshop where students will get a chance to visit SIU in Carbondale, Illinois to see how the branches of government work with one another and to possibly discover new career avenues.



## SIUE ANNUAL MLK LUNCH CELEBRATION



(Above): UBMS students pose with Septembre Lewis—recipient of the Community Humanitarian Award

It is Black History Month here at UBMS and we want our students to understand the accomplishments and dedication of African-Americans that helped shape the country. On January 18th, students got the opportunity to attend MLK's Birthday Celebration at SIUE's Edwardsville Campus. Guest speaker Yemi Akande-Bartsch, the president and CEO of FOCUS St. Louis, gave a speech about the importance of keeping Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream alive. During her speech she stressed that, while people of color should move forward, keeping the past in mind helps us improve ourselves.

After the speech we were treated to a step show where the young men of SIUE's Alpha Phi Alpha stepped in honor of King's Legacy. The set consisted of two shows where one APA brother did a solo step before the other brothers joined him in a group step. The brothers then explained that Dr. King was one of the youngest pledges to the fraternity and that his future civil rights work and community involvement helped the fraternity gain a reputation for cultivating strong leaders.

Right after the step show, awards were handed out to outstanding community leaders. Our counselor and UBMS alumna, Septembre Lewis, was the recipient of the Community Humanitarian Award for her work with Bre's Umbrella, which she founded in 2013 as a way for wellness practices such as yoga and nutrition awareness to make its way into the less-aware communities. When asked about a recent Bre's Umbrella success, Mrs. Lewis recalled the joy she felt at bringing a yoga class to the Collinsville library and having a packed house. She is an example of how UBMS students can thrive and be successful in their future endeavors.

## FIELD TRIPS...TO SPACE!!!



*Dr. Mae Jemison speaks to SIUE*

Here at UBMS, we believe that well-rounded students know how to apply academic achievements to whatever field of study they wish to pursue. If that dream is going into space, than this semester's field trips were certainly a treat!

On February 20th, students went to the theatre to see *Hidden Figures*—a movie about three little-known African-American scientists— Katherine G. Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson—who worked to send men into space at NASA during a time when most women, of all colors, were excluded from the aerospace field. These three women overcame racism and sexism to prove that they had exceptional intelligence. “The movie was really uplifting,” according to UBMS student Kevin Strader.

On Thursday, March 16th, we took a trip into the field of aerospace once again when we had the honor of attending SIUE to see Dr. Mae Jemison speak. Dr. Jemison was the first African-American woman in space, and she reminded our

students that solving problems in outer space is just as important as solving problems here on earth. To illustrate her point, we participated in a survey where, by show of hands, we decided what types of fabrics, medical supplies and foods people in space could use to travel to our closest star outside of the sun—Alpha Centauri A—which is more than four light years away. It turned out that the quantities of the things we needed for the journey such as fabric for clothes, medical supplies for emergencies, and food for eating were what was needed to sustain one human life here on earth.

Dr. Jemison then told us about project 100-Year Starship, that aims to use space technology to one day travel to the nearest star. What we learned from that trip will be used to help foster sustainability and improve the lives of the global community.

## GUEST SPEAKER: JOSHUA RAMSEY—EXPLORING ST. LOUIS



*Joshua Ramsey explains how plans can change*

We believe it is important to give students the skills to move forward in their career goals. So we dedicated March's first Saturday session to guest speaker Joshua Ramsey, of the Exploring program. Exploring is a career development program, through the Boy Scouts of Missouri, that focuses on helping students make informed decisions about their career goals and decide if the path they choose will be right for them.

Mr. Ramsey asked our students what they wanted their careers to be and stressed that they had to start implementing the means to achieve their career goals immediately. By exploring their fields of interest early, students would have the time that they need to change their minds. UBMS student Kennedy Bishop got more info than she bargained for. “I feel like I should be doing more,” she said, “But it's nice to have time to catch up.”

## PAUL SIMON YOUTH GOVERNMENT DAY

Every year, the Paul Simon Public Policy institute invites community college professors, high school teachers, guidance counselors and principals to select students to participate in Youth Government Day. Youth Government Day inspires high school and community college students to explore careers in government. And UBMS was up for challenge!

On April 8th, eight UBMS students went to Springfield, Illinois to participate in this annual event. They heard from The Honorable Rep. Jeramey D. Anderson — a democrat from the Mississippi House of Representatives as well as Representative Avery Bourne, a Republican member of the Illinois House of Representatives.

When not engaged by speakers, students explored the Capitol Building, visiting the Senate Hearing Halls and House of Representatives chambers to see how the rooms aided in the law-making process. Students also toured the Capitol Grand Lincoln Museum—a monument to Abraham Lincoln—the sixteenth president and Illinois native. In the afternoon, students even attended a session with Sonia Mathew from the Robert R. McCormick foundation. “It's interesting to see how involved the process is” UBMS student Tremaine Jack said of the trip.



*Darielle Odom and Chelsea Brooks in the House chambers*



## SIUE Science & Engineering Research Challenge



*Dimitri Ennis and Ti'Aja Fairlee*

Our outstanding science students here at UBMS, did experiments for the SIUE Science and Engineering Research Challenge to answer questions, that could help us someday make strides in fields such as health sciences or sustainability. Their research answered questions such as “What objects make the best crystals?”, “Do dark colored drinks really stain your teeth?”, and “Is it possible to make salt water drinkable?”.

The experiment that discovered which objects make the best crystals, spearheaded by Dimitri Ennis of Cahokia High School and

Ti'Aja Fairlee from East St. Louis High, focused on how to form crystals using alum powder—an aluminum and potassium compound. A pipe cleaner, metal washer and rubber band were put into an alum solution and students recorded how well they formed crystals. In the end, the pipe cleaner, with its larger surface area, formed the best crystals. The experiment was a hit and was awarded the first place ribbon!

Speaking of minerals, making salt water drinkable in a way that can be mass produced and safe is a goal that scientists are working toward. Fresh water is not an infinite resource and many of Earth's fresh water sources are reaching their limit. However, our UBMS students were up for asking, and answering, important questions about desalinization, or removing salt from water. The students who tackled this experiment, Joshua Wright and Tremaine Jack, received an outstanding ribbon, as well as two additional special awards: The American Meteorological Society Certificate of Outstanding Achievement and the Stockholm Junior Water Prize Regional Water Prize Award. The importance of having drinkable water was summed up by Wright and

Jack. “Water is the only substance that helps people survive”, Wright said. Tremaine Jack also added, “Water is the best thing on earth.” Jack’s sentiments are probably shared by many people around the world.

Also probing into questions that focus on health, students experimented on whether or not coffee, soda and tea stain your teeth. Students hollowed out three eggs and left each one to soak in coffee, soda and tea respectively. Not only did the experimenters see an increase in stains over a three-day period, but they also found out that soda, particularly cola, was the worst offender of all. The egg that was soaked in cola, once white, was a dark brown by the end of three days. This experiment shows that consumers should make smart choices. Let’s all think twice before reaching for that next soft drink.



*From left to right Jason Lacy, Kevin Strader, Darielle Odom and Jevon Clark*



*Joshua Wright and Tremaine Jack explain how, with the right techniques, salt water can be drinkable.*



### East Saint Louis NAACP : ACT-SO

The NAACP's Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics is an achievement program designed to recruit, stimulate, and encourage academic and cultural achievement among African-American high school students. On April 15th, the East Saint Louis Chapter of the NAACP hosted this event.

UBMS student, Joshua Wright, participated in the event to showcase the experiment that he worked on that studied desalinization entitled “How to Make Saltwater Drinkable” . At the event , dinner was held in honor of the students whose works were recognized ,and Wright had a nice time. “It was good,” he said, "I got to meet new people.” Way to go, Joshua!



*Joshua Wright*

## THE WINNERS ARE ...

Students always need to know that achieving their goals is within their reach. With hard work, these students were able to achieve goals that will help them build their paths to success

### March Reading Marathon

March is reading awareness month and this March we decided to give UBMS students a challenge for both their minds and their bodies. The SIUE East St. Louis Learning Resource Center gave away two Fitbits to students and staff member who entered into a drawing. In order to enter, one had to read and exercise for 780 minutes a piece. So, students and staff members hit the books and the gym! The student who won the drawing was D'Arthur Singleton. He was surprised by the win. "I couldn't believe that I'd won. There were times when I almost gave up. I'm glad I didn't," D'Arthur said. The second winner of the drawing was our STEM Coordinator, Mrs. Candice Johnson. We are proud of all the hard work our winners put in!



*D'Arthur Singleton*

### MLK Black History Month : A Display of Voices



*Kenyatta Gailes*

During Black History Month, the SIUE East Saint Louis Learning Resource Center challenged our students to write an essay on how far their voices reached when expressing ideas related to Black History and culture as part of "A Display of Voices."

Kenyatta Gailes won a Kindle Fire for her essay on what she would say if she could ask Rosa Parks one question entitled "If I Had One Question." Kenyatta worked through multiple drafts until she got it just right.

"I had fun with the assignment, and I didn't think I'd win, but I'm glad I did," Gailes said. When asked if she would write more in the future, she smiled shyly and said "Yes. I have to make time to do it, but yes." Congratulations, Kenyatta! We hope you keep on writing!

### It's LIT : UBMS Literary Spotlight

Here at UBMS, in addition to math and sciences, we value the humanities. "It's LIT" brings a spotlight feature from one of our students who has come up with an original written work and/or art piece. In this issue, we have a haiku from Shenaiya Harris. A Haiku is a Japanese poetry form, usually about nature, that has three lines where there are five syllables in the first line, seven syllables in the second line, and five syllables in the third line. "The Hummingbird" is a great example!

#### **The Hummingbird**

By Shenaiya Harris

I am a hummingbird  
that sings sweet songs in the trees  
My melodies ring



*Shenaiya Harris*

# Meet Our Staff

## Upward Bound Math & Science Staff

Elke Harris-McIntosh: Program Director

Septembre Lewis: Program Counselor

Candi Johnson: STEM Coordinator

Rene Smith: Office Administrator

## Spring Staff

Mohith Kondakkagari: Biology Instructor

Surya Srujan Patneedi: Math Instructor

Azizat Danmole: English Instructor

## It's LIIT: UBMS literary spotlight

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS:  
STUDENTS, FACULTY & STAFF

Do you want your writing  
(poetry, essays or flash fiction) to appear in the  
UBMS newsletter? Be sure to send submissions to  
Azizat Danmole's inbox: [adanmol@siue.edu](mailto:adanmol@siue.edu).  
SUBMIT NOW!

## East Saint Louis History Fact

UBMS is part of the East Saint Louis community and, as such, we should know about some of the people from the community who did great things for the country.

Dawn Harper-Nelson, an East Saint Louis native and professional hurdler, was born on May 13, 1984. Upon graduating from East Saint Louis Senior High School and earning her Bachelor's degree in psychology, she participated in the 2008 Beijing Olympics where she won the gold medal for the 100-meter hurdles. As a result, then-governor Rod Blagojevich declared October 6th as "Dawn Harper Day." Harper-Nelson went on to compete in the 2012 Olympics and won the silver medal for the 100m hurdles.

# Happy Birthday

## Shout out to all our spring birthdays !

Kevin, Kelsey, Joshuwa, Ti'Aja, Jevon,  
Kennedy, Chelsea, D'Arthur, Morwin, Kayla,  
Tremaine, Radricka, Jhakel, Dimitri, Mya,  
Aaron, Nate, She'Miya, Aniyah

## Director's Desk

"Malcom X correctly stated 'education is a passport to the future' and through our program, students will enhance their future as well as the future for the next generation."

—Elke Harris McIntosh, Program Director

## Important Upcoming Dates

### Summer 2017 Program Dates:

Parent & Student Orientation: **June 8th**

CTBS Testing: **June 13 & 14th**

Summer Session: **June 26-July 28th**

End of the Year Trip: **Jul 31-August 2nd**

## Acknowledgments

We would like to extend a thank you to all the stakeholders, students, parents and mentors who have worked with us this semester and over the past years. Thank you for your time, energy and contributions. You are appreciated!

### Contact us

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