



# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE



Preparing students for the future

September — December 2017

Upward Bound Math and Science Newsletter

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### UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS:

Saturday Sessions

MLK Luncheon

Union Station  
Light and Fire Show



## FALL ORIENTATION

After a break between summer and the academic year, UBMS classes resumed on October 14h. To kick off the academic year, we had an orientation to remind our students of what to expect from our program and to go over study habits and best practices for a successful academic year. This year, we focused on our students improving their academic records by thinking about life after high school.

Here at UBMS we want to help our students become college-bound, and since our

students are juniors this year, we want them to be ready for college, because it's just around the corner. In addition to our regular sessions, we spent some time discussing the ACT and having students prepare for them while a facilitator was there to help answer any questions.

Part of our orientation was also designated to reviewing the program's rules and policies on behavior, dress and attendance/participation. Septembere Lewis encouraged the students to attend Saturday Sessions, and she was sure to emphasize the importance of doing so. Mrs. Lewis also talked about the importance of developing good study habits and participating in extra-curricular activities—especially those that show that our students are thinking about the future. "Colleges look at this information and students want to put their best foot forward," she said. We couldn't agree with her more!

UBMS Saturday Sessions are held on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of each month. Staff will be sure to notify students if there are any changes. Attendance and participation at these sessions is critical for remaining in the program and goes toward stipend credit. This academic year students will be given classes in math, science, and English and ACT prep.

## 1.●○○ ACT/SAT PREP 2.○○●○

Students who plan to attend college will want to be prepared for the ACT, or American College Testing exam and the SAT, or Scholastic Aptitude Test. These exams are required for most colleges and can be stressful for students because much of the college acceptance application results hinge on the final score. Talk about pressure! However, these exams are no match for our students.

The first two Saturday Session of this year, October 14th and 28th, were spent working on the ACT and SAT. UBMS students attended workshops where they had to answer various questions from all the fields of the exam—reading, writing math and science and, after preparations, the exams that were needed.

Ms. Pamela Fetters from The Office of Education Outreach at SIUE took gave instruction and pointers to students and students performed drills and answered sample questions. Students

were also taught about the various strategies that could save them time, and help them stay calm, during the test. Students were then registered for their test—in a highly-secure process where information was collected and students were given specific instructions about testing day.

On October 28th, students took the tests and we're sure that they knocked it out of the park! Our UBMS students are going to be ready to can continue their future academic careers and stand up to the competition.



# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE COOL HAPPENINGS



## A visit from...Gabrielle Union!



We are always making sure that our students are reaching for the stars and as such, it's important for us to give our students positive role models to look up to. On October 28, two of our UBMS students, Kayla Dawson, and Kelsey Simmons got to hear the truth about life's challenges and also learn ways to improve themselves from popular actress Gabrielle Union.

Union, of *Ten Things I Hate About You* and *Bring It On* fame talked to more than 300 ladies about her *New York Times* best-selling book, *We're Going to Need More Wine: Stories That Are Funny, Complicated, and True* at the St. Louis County Library headquarters. In the book, the actress discusses the struggles of being a successful black woman in Hollywood, among other things, and she also recounts her story of surviving a rape. Union gave each audience member a copy of her book before autographing each one. "It was so awesome to meet her," UBMS Kelsey Simmons said. "I like to write myself, and I've seen her movies and it was just awesome."

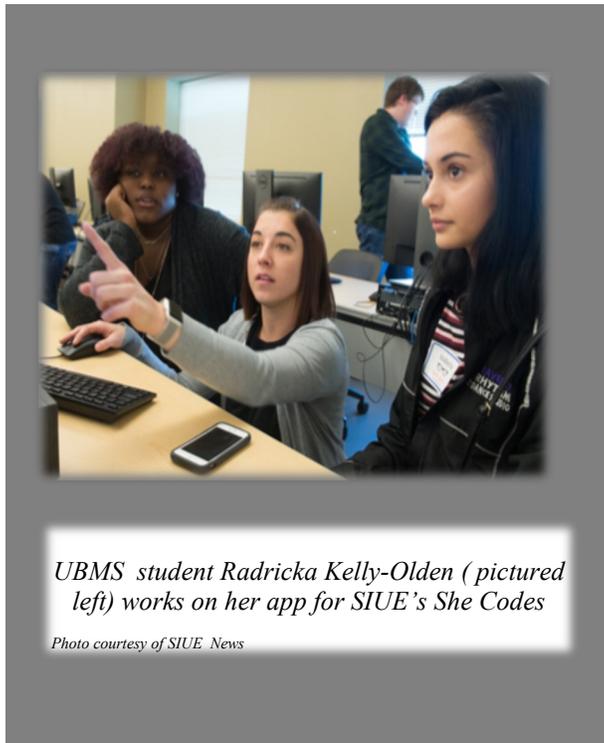
Septembre Lewis and UBMS director Elke Harris-McIntosh also attended the signing, and both ladies were pleased with the thoroughness and honesty of Union's presentation. "Students get to see an example someone who struggled as well—and made it through," Harris-McIntosh said. Septem-



*UBMS students, pictured with Gabrielle Union (center), from left to right: Kayla Dawson, Ti'Aja Fairlee, Shemiya Harris, Septembre Lewis, Kelsey Simmons, Dasha Darty, Marnajha Crosby*



## SheCode



*UBMS student Radricka Kelly-Olden (pictured left) works on her app for SIUE's SheCodes*

*Photo courtesy of SIUE News*

Most of us aren't strangers to the challenges that women face in their jobs, but there many fields that need changing and we often wonder which fields to tackle. How about the computer programming field? Before asking "why" consider this: women make up less than half of all computer programming and coding jobs. In addition to this, the few women in those jobs make around thirty percent less than their male counterparts for doing the same type of job.\* SIUE believes that if are more women interested in programming and coding, then more women will go into the field and change it for the better. In an effort to get more women into coding and programming, SIUE hosted a SheCode workshop.

On Friday, December 1st UBMS Counselor students to SIUE's SheCode workshop on the SIU Edwardsville campus and the women there took part in a day of workshops dedicated to teaching women the basics—and not-so-basic—components of coding and programming. The SOE Department of Computer Science hosted students, not just from East Saint Louis, but from Alton, Collinsville, Edwardsville, Troy and other regions. During the program, participants worked with a team of peers and a mentor to create a mobile application. Participants came up with their own idea, designed an app, and were able to bring it home to continue to develop it. UBMS student Radricka Kelly-Olden was glad to be there. "It was a great way to help me improve on what I already learned through UBMS robotics," she said.

\*fortune.com "Female Programmers..."

# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE SPECIAL WORKSHOPS



*Students enjoy a UBMS Holiday*

Our last Saturday Session of the fall term landed on December 9th. Our students listened to Maya Asard from ISAC, who lead students through college prep exercises focused on writing a great personal statement and checking off the items on an admissions to-do list. Our students are getting ready for college, and they'll be well prepared.

As part of our mission to further the education and experience of our students, we took the opportunity to get to know a little bit more about each other. Although we all live, work and go to school with one another, we also come from diverse backgrounds and celebrate different holidays. This year, we heard from two presenters—one who celebrates Christmas and one who celebrates Hanukkah.

Raffi Mikaelian was our Armenian Guest Speaker and Rain Jennings was our Jewish Guest Speaker. Mikaelian enlightened our students on how Armenians celebrate Christmas—on January 6th, by the Gregorian calendar instead of December 25th. He also discussed the benefits of being tri-lingual and how it can give students the opportunity to interact with people from around the world.

Rain Jennings discussed the Jewish tradition of celebrating Hanukkah and how there are eight days celebrating the rededication of the Holy Temple. Rain also talked about the importance of learning three languages. He also showed off his Ventriloquism skills, handed out gelt, or chocolate coins given out on Hanukkah; and discussed his experiencing going on a talk show with Steve

Harvey.

To round out the workshop, UBMS Students then had fun showing off their ugly Christmas sweaters. Kelsey Simmons won for best ugly Christmas sweater. Students also enjoyed an UBMS ice-cream cake in addition to other foods.

In light of the holiday spirit, UBMS students focused on the fact that their futures are intertwined with those of their community—whether that community be next door or halfway around the world. Our students know that giving back means moving forward. In taking such a lesson to heart, students took part in the HAITI-ED a 2017 Backpack drive. With this drive, students give gently used or new backpacks to those in need in Haiti. It's the season of giving and there's nothing better to give others than the chance to learn and reach for their dreams, so UBMS students donated bags and the collection of them is still filling up.

Still focused on our giving, we also took time to recruit members to join our UBMS family. On Dec 13th, Director Elke Harris-McIntosh and counselor Laura Jennings took part in Winter Wonderland Open House—a UBMS recruitment event, where UBMS stopped by East Saint Louis High School to let students know about the program. "Not all students are aware of the opportunities that are out there that can help them. So, we always want to make sure that they know we're out here" McIntosh-Harris said.



*UBMS Director Elke Harris-McIntosh shows off the recruitment board during the Winter Wonderland Open House on Dec 13th at East Saint Louis High School*

# Happy Retirement



*Renè Smith*



Renè Smith, our Office Administrator here at UBMS and TRIO, will be retiring in December. Renè has helped us stay organized and on schedule, and most importantly, she has helped us do so with a smile on our faces for nineteen years. We will miss Renè dearly and we hope that she enjoys her retirement and finds as much time as possible to smile because she has brightened all of our lives. Below, in her own words, is her

I would like to pay homage to some, if you all will indulge me. I would like to thank Lara Jennings, Counselor with the SIUE ESLC Upward Bound Math & Science (ECM) Program for asking me to give a few words prior to my retiring, which actually is turning out to be a “Special Edition”(smile).

When I first came to the SIUE East St. Louis Center, it was housed at 411 East Broadway. At that site, when I came in April 1999, it was one of AWE and EXCITEMENT because everyone was on the same page, and that was one of **“Shaping the minds of young people in hopes of a better life for all”**. This is our job, to shape the minds of young people in hopes of a better life for all. Is this still not the job?

I would like to stop, at this point, to say THANK YOU to Pat Harrison, former Director and Leader of the SIUE East St. Louis Center, for never letting me forget that. In all the years that I worked with Pat, regardless to what obstacles were in front of her, or the Center, she never lost sight of the reason why we were. She never let any of us forget that we were here to, **“Shape the minds of young people in hopes of a better life for all”**, no matter what. I would like to say THANK YOU to Elke McIntosh because her passion for what she does for the kids in the Upward Bound Math & Science Program has never wavered nor has the support she has shown me and all her staff, from April 1999 until today. Thank you Elke for staying true to who you are. Also, in the beginning, there was and still is Barbara Sams, who has been on this TRIO Journey

with me for over thirty years and one who always reminds you that when you believe in God, he’ll work it out. That’s a proven fact.

I can list SO MANY who have been very important and very instrumental in my being a team player. This type of team effort takes more than one, without giving it a second thought or looking for any accolades for doing what we were hired to do anyway, which is to accomplish the end result of **“Shaping the minds of young people in hopes of a better life for all”**. SMOOCHES to all of you from the SIUE East St. Louis Campus to the SIUE Edwardsville Campus. It’s because of these relationships that I am happy that I said, “Yes” to the offer of employment with the SIUE Upward Bound Programs.

I want to especially say THANKS to Elven Davis, Retiree, SIUE ESL Upward Bound Programs and whom I love dearly, because had it not been for him and his persistence in my applying, I would not be here to retire. I would also like to thank more of my immediate Upward Bound Supervisors who were always so supportive and understanding in many circumstances that would have had me probably pulling somebody’s hair out (LOL) and they are: Darryl Cherry, Derrick Veasey and Javonda Quinn.

I have to put this immediate supervisor separate because He was not Upward Bound, but Performing Arts, and the mission was still the same **“Shaping the minds of young people, through the Arts, in hopes of a better life for all”** and that’s Theo Jamison, former Director of the SIUE ESLC Performing Arts Program. When I first came to SIUE ESLC on Broadway, Theo was the one who actually set the tone for my induction, so to speak, into the SIUE East St. Louis Fami-

ly. Thank you Theo. I would be remiss not to mention Jack Williams, also of Performing Arts. Jack would always say to me, “don’t worry about it Nae, I gotcha”. Thanks Jack.

There are so many others that I would like to name, but know that I will miss somebody and I certainly do not want anyone to feel slighted. However, I must name Patricia Merritt, PR, SIUE East St. Louis Center and now at the SIUE main campus. Thanks Pat for still having my back. Although this next person gave me a run for my money, which actually kept me on my toes and sometimes had me wanting to pull her hair out, (LOL), I want to also say thank you to Dawanda Gresham, for never making it a dull day. I must stop here. No, I must say thank you to Barry Silva, because if it weren’t for him, I would have missed quite a few breakfasts and lunches as well. I’m going to miss that connection we had Barry. Also, Janina Turley, I’ll see you soon My Sista (smile).

Okay, I’m winding down now, but I must say to Mrs. Johnetta Haley, THANK YOU, for setting the standard for all of us at the SIUE East St. Louis Center. Last, but not least, I would like to wish Jesse Dixon, SIUE ESLC Director and Shavonda Mitchom, Associate Director, the best in their efforts to **“Shape the minds of young people”** by enhancing the services provided through the SIUE East St. Louis Center Programs.

In closing, I would like to thank you all for putting up with my moments of four (4) letter words or more, and please accept my apologies if you were ever offended.

**BUT, IN THE END, I AM-  
WHO I AM AND  
IT’S NOT BECAUSE I EAT  
ME SPINACH!!!**

## Happy Birthday

**September:** Aaron Thomas, Jason Lacy,  
Marnajha Crosby  
**October:** Antwan Glasper  
**November:** Le’Vauntez Conway,  
Shenaiya Harris  
**December:** Sharlena Hunter Owens,  
Kenyatta Gailes

### Director’s Desk

*“Our students bravely faced their testing this semester because they know it is necessary for success. Rosa Parks said that ‘you are not afraid when you know what needs to be done,’ and our students made me realize this was quite true.”*

—Elke Harris-McIntosh, UBMS Director



A year ago, Lara Jennings left UBMS to help the ESLC’s SIUE Learning Resource Center, but now she’s back to serve as counselor for UBMS. You can stop by to welcome her, but as we prepare for another great semester, you will surely be dropping by for testing and to keep up on the college-bound track. We’ll have a happy and productive semester as well as the comfort of a familiar face.



### NEW STAFF ALERT:

Be sure to stop by and say hello to our new GA’s Sudesh Thapa & Vinay Dantu!

## Meet Our Staff!

### Upward Bound Math & Science Staff

Elke Harris-McIntosh: Program Director  
Septembre Lewis: Counselor  
Lara Jennings: Counselor  
Rene Smith: Office Administrator  
**Fall Staff**  
Sudesh Thapa: Science Instructor /GA  
Vinay Dantu: Math Instructor /GA  
Azizat Danmole: English Instructor

### **Important Upcoming Dates:** **Saturday Sessions**

October 14th and 18th, November 11th  
December 9th, January 13th and 27th, February 10th and 24th, April 14th and 28th & May 12

**MLK Luncheon:** January 17th  
**Union Station Fire and Ice Show:** January 3rd

### Contact us

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### **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!