



# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE



Preparing students for the future

January— May 2018

Upward Bound Math and Science Newsletter

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### UPCOMING SPRING EVENTS:

- Summer 2018 Session
- UBMS Summer Field Trip
- Summer Orientation
- CTBS Testing

## MLK LUNCHEON



*Dr. Shonta Smith speaks during the annual MLK Celebration Luncheon*

Here at UBMS we pride ourselves on celebrating Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He fought for a peaceful future and our UBMS students are a part of that future. On January 17th, our students attended the annual SIUE MLK Luncheon in celebration of Dr. King.

The celebration luncheon took place on SIUE main campus in the Meridian Ballroom, and guest speaker Dr. Shonta Smith, of Dr. Shonta

Smith International LLC, followed through by speaking on the future Dr. King had in mind as she emphasized the afternoon's theme: "Intelligence Plus Character-That is the True Meaning of Education." During her speech, Smith emphasized the importance of education and spoke about how education helped her push herself to start her business—which focuses on empowering schools around the

precipitate the education we receive," Smith explained. She encouraged all students, and their mentors, to value education and use it to further themselves in the future and she tied this in to the theme of her work. The mission of Smith's company is to help provide institutions with high quality education— Smith is also associate professor in the Department of Elementary,

Early and Special Education at Southeast Missouri State University, so she has seen the difference that education can make in the lives of young people.

Our UBMS students enjoyed the talk and agreed with Smith about the importance of education, "In everyone's life education helps you become successful" UBMS student Darielle Odom said.

**"We often don't value, honor, or appreciate the education we receive."**

world. Smith spoke in terms of how we can become complacent with the idea of education. "We often don't value, honor or ap-

## SIUE: Arts & Issues

Our UBMS students always love to take advantage of opportunities to explore the STEM field with the masters, so when SIUE hosted astronaut Dr. Guion "Guy" Bluford, Jr.—the first African-American in space—on February 19th, our students were ready to go!

During his talk on the future of the Space Program and International Space Station, Dr. Bluford highlighted the importance of being flexible in one's field of study. He discussed the changes that he went through, moving around and travelling through Europe to work with scientists as he

worked his way into the upper echelons of aeronautics. He said it was important to remember that he was a scientist and as such, scientists had to be adaptable. "Everyone knows about me being in space, but I got

**"Everyone knows about me being in space, but I got that opportunity later. I was a scientist, first."**

that opportunity later. I was a scientist, first," he said. Dr. Bluford, who was inducted into the International Space Hall of Fame in 1997 and the U.S. Astronaut Hall



*UBMS students, pictured with Dr. Guion Blueford Jr. (center), from left to right: Kelsey Simmons, Ti'Aja Fairlee, and Rodricka Kelly- Olden*

of Fame in 2010, has achieved great things by going with the flow, and has gave out students some useful advice that they can use in their future endeavors.

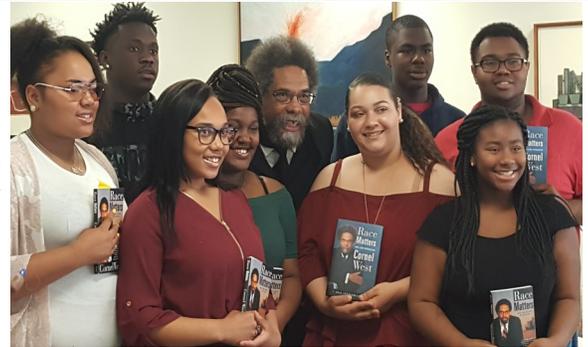
# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE COOL HAPPENINGS

## DR. CORNELL WEST

On May 17th, UBMS was honored to attend Dr. Cornell West's presentation at the SIUE East Saint Louis campus. Dr. West, a prominent civil rights leader and scholar, spoke about the necessity of love in the community. Dr. West, told students that the community needed more love and that all of us are our brother's keeper. Dr. West said that it was up to the young people of underprivileged communities to love themselves. "You can't walk around with dignity unless you are loved. Unless you love yourself and are loved by others," Dr. West said. He stressed to the young people of UBMS the importance of leadership. "You guys are the young generation and you can show people how to love

**"You can't walk around with dignity unless you are loved. Unless you love yourself and are loved by others."**

and how to lead," he said. Dr. West, author of *Race Matters*, a study on race in America, also mentioned the current unrest in society in terms of race and politics and reiterated that youths would be the ones to show those of us who are older new leadership styles. West mentioned the controversial music video for Childish Gambino's "This is America," and the recent March for Our Lives campaign as evidence of how young people were beginning to shape American attitudes for the better. "Young people are giving us a lot to think about," he said. During the talk, UBMS student Kelsey Simmons took advantage of the Q&A session to ask how students could improve society. "Keep



UBMS students Damien James, Kelsey Simmons, Jermaine Watson and Jarryd Hardaway pose with Dr. Cornell West (center).

your young brothers and sisters with you," Mr. West replied. "There is strength numbers." Our UBMS students may be scholars, but they are also part of the world and we at UBMS hope they extended the kindness we know they possess in helping their community. "It was pretty cool. He gave us a lot to think about," student Jarryd Hardaway said in his reflection on the event.



### UBMS ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION: COLLEGE



Students discuss college finances with counselor Lara Jennings (far left)

UBMS prides itself on students not only *knowing* about college, but in giving students the tools to make decisions and ask questions about college. Throughout the semester, students have been prepped on how to test well, write great personal statements, and get thorough letters of recommendation for college. On January 27th, UBMS stu-

dents participated in a round table discussion on how to pay for college.

Armed with snacks from Hard Rock Café and knowledgeable resources—UBMS staff members—students were fueled and ready to tackle the finances of college. Students learned how loans, although they can be paid back, could accrue so much interest that you could easily pay at least twice the amount of your principal (original amount of the loan) if you take years to pay it back. Due to our discussion, UBMS students understood, and will continue to consider financial options that do not have to be paid back before diving into loans. Students will know what they might get into before they get there—which will give our students a way to make smart choices and avoid financial pitfalls.

## Youth Government Day

On April 21, students took part in the annual Illinois Youth Government day when schools from across Illinois travel to the state capital, Springfield, to learn about the inner workings of government as well as exploring the chamber floors of the house and senate. Dasha Darty and Jarryd Hardaway attended the event. Dasha Darty enjoyed touring the capital. "I loved the entire experience. I learned a lot [about] politics. I even got a chance to send a letter to Illinois State Representative Clayborne," she said. She also mentioned the paintings on the ceilings of each room that depicts the history of Illinois State Government. "My favorite part was looking up in every room and the ceiling revealing something different and fancy. It was really mesmerizing!"

# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE

## COOL HAPPENINGS



*Kelsey Simmons, Damien James, Kenyatta Gales and Chanae Ferrell enjoy the show*

### Fire and Light Show: Union Station

Despite the cold and drizzly weather, on January 3rd UBMS students took some time out from winter weather to attend St. Louis Union Station's "Fire and Light" show. This exhibit of pyrotechnics and light takes place in the center lake in Union Station. The show features a 100-foot-long waterfall with 50 nozzles that sprayed water 40 feet down into the lake.

Students learned how understanding the behavior of light—which is both a particle and a wave—is essential to the show's success. Engineers carefully measure how the light behaves on the reflective surface of the water to produce the desired effects and still be safe. "You see the end results, but I'm sure a lot goes into this," UBMS student Kelsey Simmons said.

### Counselor's Corner

**Dear Students,**

We've been gearing up to dive into college prep work and really get students learning about all aspects of admissions, financing, applying, and selecting schools to be informed, college-ready students. You are all working toward applying to schools. As a group, we've started individual Common App accounts, talked about financial aid, heard from various admissions officers, and gotten a head start on our personal statements. Our shared goal is that all UBMS students will have a solid personal statement written and have applied to three colleges before this summer ends. It is not something that you can do overnight, but all of our UBMS students are on their way. Our goal is to be college-ready students who can identify student-ready colleges.

**--Lara Jennings, UBMS Counselor**



### RETURN OF THE ALUMS!!

This summer, UBMS alums return to work with students!



*Paris Patterson*

**Your favorite thing about UBMS:** making new friends,

**On being a UBMS alum:** Since UBMS, I have had a successful college career.

**Favorite summer activity:** Interacting with people!

**On the upcoming summer with UBMS:** I'm excited about being able to inspire the UBMS students.

**If you could be anyone:** I would definitely be Bruno

Mars. He is so lively and talented. On a more serious note, I would choose to be my future self. I am curious about my future.

**Your favorite thing about UBMS:** I am honored to be a UBMS alum!

**On being a UBMS alum:** Upward Bound was some of the best times of my high school experience!

**Favorite summer activity:** My favorite summer activity was definitely bowling!

**On the upcoming summer with UBMS:** I'm super excited about hanging out with UBMS students.

**An unknown fact about me:** I love to camp!



*Darwin Harris*



*Martell Cotton*

**Your favorite thing about UBMS:** It helps you aspire to help future students as they embark on their journey.

**On being a UBMS alum:** It has expanded my interest in STEM.

**Favorite summer activity:** My favorite summer activity has always been anything that I can put my hands on. I am the type of person who loves to use all of their senses to the maximum!

**On the upcoming summer with UBMS:** This upcoming summer is the students final one before they head off to school! I have so many tips that I want to share with the students before they head off.

# UPWARD BOUND MATH & SCIENCE SPECIAL WORKSHOPS

## COLLEGE ADMISSIONS VISITS



*SLU Admissions Officer, Javon Smith talks college admissions*

On Saturday mornings from 9-10 a.m., we host workshops geared towards college prep where UBMS students address how they plan to approach the future. As part of reaching our goal of applying to three colleges by the end of the semester, UBMS invited admissions counselors to come to campus and talk to students — providing them with the inside scoop on applying to college.



*UBMS students listen to Washington University Admissions Officer Adrianna Masden*

On February 10th Jovan Smith, a Saint Louis University admissions officer, gave instruction and pointers to our students concerning college. He walked them through each part of the admissions process clarifying how much weight was put into each category from the ACT scores to the personal statement, and letters of recommendation. Our students even got to be admissions officers for the day and go through an actual application and vote on whether they would admit the student into

the university or not. Also, just for fun, Mr. Smith added the bonus of opening and closing his workshop with a *Hamilton*-esque rap about visiting UBMS. Needless to say, our students were pumped and ready to meet other admissions officers.

On February 24th Officer Leslie Parker from Harris-Stowe State University came to tell our students about the importance of following your passion in college.

Mr. Parker started off asking students what they were passionate about. Many students were eager to answer this question, and every profession from doctor to visual art was named among our array of students. Mr. Parker then stated that passion and field of study are two different things: “People who don’t make it through college or drop out in

the middle or only get a few semesters in—they lack passion,” he said. “You need a passion that can drive you all the way through. Even if your major changes, you still have that particular passion.”

In the midst of talking about why passion was important, student Dasha Darty brought up a concern: “What if you have to spend too much money following your passion?” she asked. It was an important question, as financial hardships are behind many of the obstacles that college students face.

“You need to use that as fuel,” Mr. Parker said. “Make sure that passion stays in place even when other things change.”

Mr. Parker told students that when he was young, his passion to help

others played an important role in his education. He changed his major multiple times and was still able to finally major in economics plus two other fields.

Mr. Parker was very receptive to questions and students were able to ask their questions and shape the discussion during Mr. Parker’s presentation. Students asked general college questions about financial options, community colleges, and entrance exams as well as asking questions



*UBMS students pose with Harris-Stowe's Admissions Officer Leslie Parker*

about Harris-Stowe State University and the campus life there. UBMS students thoroughly enjoyed the presentation and were excited to begin following their passions in college. “You really think about what you want to do and why you want to do it,” UBMS student Chelsea Brookes said.

Our last college visitor, who followed officer April Young from UMSL, was officer Adrianna Masden from Washington University. On March 10th, she gave a presentation on the advantages of using electronic college apps. Washington University (Wash U), is one of many colleges that uses an app for their candidates and our students are now in the know on how to apply to Wash U using The Common Application—a popular admissions application site. Now that our students can use the app to apply to Wash U they have a shot at applying for the 18th top college in the country, according to *US News*’s “Top Colleges of 2018.” Our UBMS students will be able to take advantage of the best local educational opportunities.



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

### ***New Staff!***

Another awesome counselor joined us this semester—**Mr. Percy Bean**. Mr. Bean will be guiding our students and helping them on their path to success.

UBMS also welcomed our new Mathematics Instructor **Ali Arab**, who has made math instruction fun for our Saturday Sessions!

## **NAACP: ACT-SO**

Afro-Academic, Cultural, Technological and Scientific Olympics (ACT-SO) is an annual talent search put on through the NAACP. UBMS student Kelsey Simmons was a participant this year—as a vocalist performing Rhianna's "Love on the Brain." She was awarded a participation certificate for her performance going up against stiff competition from all around the area—including an *America's Got Talent* contestant. "I met some awesome and incredibly talented people [who were] very welcoming. I'm happy I could be apart of it. I enjoyed myself," Kelsey Simmons said of the event. All of us here at UBMS are very proud of her and we hope she keeps up the hard work. Great job, Kelsey!



### ***New Students!***

This semester new students **Carl Moore**, **Kameron Williams**, **Jarryd Hardaway**, and **Darrien Miller** are joining our team. Welcome to UBMS, guys! We hope you have fun and learn new things as you work and grow with us.

## **Meet Our Staff!**

### **Upward Bound Math & Science Staff**

Elke Harris-McIntosh: Program Director

Lara Jennings: Counselor

Percy Bean: Counselor

Charlene Geiger: Office Administrator

### **Spring Staff**

Sudesh Thapa: Science Instructor /GA

Ali Arab: Math Instructor /GA

Azizat Danmole: English Instructor

# CLOSING NOTES

## Director's Desk!!

"Anatole France said 'Nine tenths of education is encouragement,' and that is what we want to do here. Students need the encouragement and empowerment to apply for colleges and know that they can succeed."

—Elke Harris-McIntosh, UBMS Director

## IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

\*Summer Orientation  
June 7th @ 6:00 PM

\*Summer Session  
June 25-July 27th

\*CTBS Testing  
June 11 -12  
9:00- 12:00 PM

\*Summer Field Trip  
July 29- August 3rd

### Contact us

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Math & Science Cohort 2019

## *Acknowledgments*

We would like to extend a big thank you to all the stakeholders, students, parents and mentors who have worked with us this semester and over the past years. We would not have had the extended success that we currently enjoy without your generous support.

You are appreciated!

We'd also like to extended a special thanks to Saint Louis University Office of Admissions , University of Missouri-St. Louis Office of Admissions, Washington University Office of Admissions, and Harris Stowe State University Office of Admissions for setting up ties between your institutions and the students of Upward Bound Math and Science. It's a connection that is greatly appreciated by our faculty and students. Thank you for your time, energy, and contributions to our students' success.