Welcome to our new newsletter
By: Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor
Upward Bound Public Relations Intern

It is our pleasure to present to the Upward Bound community a new quarterly newsletter and our newly designed website!!!

For the last four months we have been working hard to redo our website (upwardbound.msu.edu) so that it is user-friendly and more informative to anyone who needs to access information about MSU’s Upward Bound program. Whether you are a student, parent, alumnus, or community member there is something on the website for you. Throughout the year, we will be continually making changes, including updating the events calendar and highlighting our most important functions and student activities.

Look out for our newsletters every few months to stay up to date on everything happening with our students, staff, and parents!

You can also stay alert to Upward Bound news and events by joining our new public Facebook page – just search for us at “Michigan State University Upward Bound.”
By: Glenda Hammond  
Upward Bound Director

As I reflect on this year’s summer theme: “Looking Back and Moving Forward: Reinvesting in Access and Success”, I marvel at the many program changes that have taken place to provide more engaging, active learning opportunities. Science and Math teachers have partnered with the sailing center to teach math and science through sailing. Students are learning about opportunities in Golf as they experience this sport. Our study trips started at the Kellogg Biological Station (1975) and have evolved to include places like New York, Atlanta, Washington D.C., and this year they will study in Puerto Rico. Seniors are enjoying their work study experience as they job shadow a professional on campus or in the community. Students are giving back to their community through service learning. They are serving as role models for elementary aged children as they help them with reading, writing, sports, and other activities. The summer instructors are excellent educators and developed exciting, creative learning experiences for the students.

Our partnerships are increasing as we endeavor to provide creative ways to teach our students. A special thank you is extended to the College of Education-Teaching Fellows in Science, Lansing community centers – Building Child and Family Initiatives, Southside Coalition, and Boys and Girls Club, MSU Sailing Center, MSU Golf Club and many others who volunteered to give presentations, workshops, or volunteered their services in numerous ways.

This newsletter reflects the involvement of the students in this newsletter, the classes, the residential stay, the fun they had with students and staff, and the things they enjoyed most about this summer.

A special thank you is also extended to the newsletter committee for developing this newsletter.

STUDENT OPINION SNAPSHOT

Who is your favorite summer instructor and why?

- “Mr. Lessner – because he made learning literacy fun through analyzing music.”
- “Mrs. Figueroa – because she has fun; she teases but we have fun learning.”
- “Mr. Sanderlin – because he is a good teacher and has a cool personality.”
- “Ms. Moses – because she’s very laid back, easy to understand, and fun.”
The Upward Bound Students had the chance to experience the life of a college student, and stay in the residence halls at Michigan State University. The students moved in to Shaw Hall on Monday July 8, and stayed there until Friday July 12. During this week on campus they were served breakfast and dinner in Shaw Hall’s new cafeteria.

The college experience was enhanced more by them continuing to attend their summer classes and being responsible for their group projects and assignments. This experience was enjoyable for most of the students, especially those who were staying on campus for the first time like Breonna.

“I Liked how we got to stay in the dorms, because not many people get [that] experience before going to college. I also enjoyed one [of] the activities we did in the evening.” She said.

After they were done with their classes, the group of 25 students returned to the hall to eat a dinner, then reassemble to do different group activities each night.

These activities challenged their teamwork abilities and strengthened their bonding. One activity called the “human knot,” had each class level binding their hands together and collectively trying to undo the knot without letting go of each other’s hands. This activity had them using their best communication and teamwork skills, and proved to be more difficult than they thought, as only the seniors were able to undo the knot.

Life in the halls, cont.

Favorite activities of the week included basketball, ice-breakers, hawk island, IM West, a trip to the Dairy Store, the Human Knot, group activities, swimming, although the students do not agree as what was a favorite for some was the least favorite for others. The residential hall staff in general received a thumbs up from all the students who stayed on campus. Typical of most teens, the students indicated that they would like more time to “hang out” with their peers.
Working for the Future: Students take on work study during their summer session
By: Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor
Upward Bound Public Relations Intern

When most high school students think about summer, they think about enjoying time off and hanging out with their friends. At Upward Bound, students continue their academics 6 weeks out of the summer, and for a select few also get the opportunity to earn money and gain professional experience through a work study program at MSU during their afternoons in an attempt to gain skills and professional experience.

The work study program offered to Upward Bound students gives them a chance to get a head start in a professional environment and build a skill set that they can use throughout their college career, as well as future employment opportunities. These skills include: setting up and going to interviews, developing a resume, completing time sheets, and following deadlines.

Selena, a high school senior in 2013-14, works at the MSU Administration building on MSU’s campus, says she’s grateful for the experience and the benefits it awards her.

“I think it benefits me because it gives me more experience while I’m a student. I get to learn a lot about office work and it’ll help me with my career in the future,” she said.

These jobs also allow the students to meet new people and interact with co-workers in a way that can help them develop strong professional interactive skills. These skills can become the most rewarding parts of the experience.

Selena shared, “I’ve learned to communicate with people more, I’m always talking to people, asking if they need help with anything.”

Upward Bound students eligible for summer work study have a chance to earn up to $900.00 throughout their experience as young professionals. Not only is this an added bonus, but it also teaches them how to manage their finances and save money.

Puerto Rico – Here we Come!
By: Savannah Culpepper
Upward Bound 11th grader

Every year Upward Bound takes students who qualify on a trip at the end of the summer program. This year Upward Bound students, who have earned their way by meeting all program requirements, are headed for a fun vacation trip to PUERTO RICO!!!!

Nineteen students will be in the Caribbean for a week learning about culture, seeing the sights, practicing their Spanish, and eating new foods!

We all know it is very hot down in Puerto Rico, so what are the students planning to wear? Shorts? Basketball shorts? Medium length dresses? Long Dresses? What is in your closet to wear to an island that is 85 degrees and higher? How are you getting ready for Puerto Rico?

Grace says, “Bought new shoes, shorts, bathing suit, sunglasses, sunscreen and I’m researching some facts about Puerto Rico.”

“I’m keeping my style sporty like and summery shirts, so I can be comfortable,” LaTichia said.

Lauren added, “I’m probably going to wear dresses all thru the week.”

The students are very excited to go away, and experience something new. For most, this will be the first time off of the continent and away from their parents for such a long period of time.

STUDENT OPINION SNAPSHOT

What is your favorite dairy store ice cream flavor?
- Dashae: “Death by Chocolate – because I love chocolate.”
- Kaleb: “Buckeye Blitz – because I love peanut butter and chocolate.”
- Lauren: “Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough – because I love cookies and I think theirs is the best thing ever.”

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