An end to another great year
By: Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor

As another school year wraps up, I find myself lucky to still be a part of this program. I am amazed and inspired by all the hard work the students and their parents put in every year. As I gathered all the material for the newsletter, and learned more about all the activities the students are exposed to, it became more and more evident to me how crucial a program like Upward Bound is. Having spoken to several alumni this past year, and having seen how successful they are, it’s clear why programs like this have been around for so long!

It’s our pleasure to present to you the 2013-2014 Upward Bound Newsletter! We’ve also made some changes to the website. To find more information about our program and see more pictures of our students and academic events you can visit http://upwardbound.msu.edu/

Students were asked to design the Upward Bound sweatshirts for this year. Congratulations Aleah Smith for winning the contest!! The design cleverly combines Michigan State University and Upward Bound, as well as implements a quote that represents TRio programs and students very well. The sweatshirts were worn all year by students and staff and were a great representation of the program!
Congratulations to Selena Ledesma (senior) and Charm Perkins (Sophomore) for winning two $50.00 Visa gift cards for their hard work on the Comfit learning program. The program is designed to increase students' math, reading, and language arts skills. The online program also aims to help students become more academically proficient on the ACT. Both students finished at the top of their class completing the greatest number of lessons with proficiency!
A huge thank you goes out to the Parent Advisory Council, and parents and family’s of students who helped raise money at the Fazoli’s fundraiser. Josh Blake and his family were the biggest ticket sellers and helped raise the most money! As a result, PAC was able to present Darnell Taylor with a $500.00 scholarship at the Senior Recognition Gala.

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Last spring, Dr. and Mrs. Yokoyama generously gifted Upward Bound with it’s first endowment. The $50,000 contribution will be very useful for the program as we continue to orchestrate activities and events that will enrich UB students’ education. The money will be used for many things including:

- Partaking in college preparatory activities
- Study abroad experiences
- Programmatic needs
- Life skills development
- Initiatives that develop academic and leadership skills

Upward Bound staff would like to extend a huge thank you to Dr. and Mrs. Yokoyama, not only for the endowment, but also for everything they have done for the program throughout the years!

(Dr. and Mrs. Yokoyama pictured with Upward Bound Students in the Fall 2013 Issue of Developments Magazine)

Student Spotlight

Upward Bound student Brittanie Guilbeaux, pictured in the middle, while Lieutenant Governor Brian Calley signs legislature removing terms “mentally restarted” and “mental retardation” from state statutes.

PAC Achievements

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Darnell Taylor and PAC President, Jacqueline Clay, after he accepted his scholarship.
In his first State of the Union address and with those words, President Lyndon B. Johnson, launched a “War on Poverty”. This declaration would lead to several acts and bills that would create beneficial programs to help reduce poverty. The Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (EOA), which was the centerpiece of the “War on Poverty”, set in motion programs such as Head Start, College Work Study, and educational access programs like TRio’s Upward Bound.

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the “War on Poverty” and the EOA, which without, Michigan State University’s Upward program would not exist. One year after the EOA, the Higher Education Act of 1965 was established, and so was Upward Bound at MSU. Since then, the program has been providing Academic Enrichment to Lansing youth from the Lansing School District.

Without President Johnson’s actions Upward Bound wouldn’t be able to offer an educational program that promotes the pursuit of excellence, self esteem, and knowledge. A program that has graduated so many students and has helped them set up their futures and achieve so many great things.

**Alumni Opinion Snapshot**

*We love staying in contact with our alumni, and since it’s the 50th anniversary of War on Poverty and the Economic Opportunity act, it’s only fitting to hear from them what Upward Bound has meant to them after all these years.*

- “The Upward Bound Program at MSU was the instrument that helped bridge the gap between my starting point and where I wanted to go. I had no family members that could help me with homework, teach me about the college application process or expose me to important academic and cultural experiences that would lead to my professional growth and development. Upward Bound provided many experiences and ‘advantages’ that essentially cancelled out the disadvantages that poverty had bestowed upon me.”  
  **Angela M. Marshall, MD**

- “It's one thing for a child to have dreams and aspirations, but without an idea and tool of how to accomplish them, dreams eventually vanish. TRIO programs like Upward Bound gives guidance and mentor young students about difficult decisions like careers and colleges. Upward Bound did a great job in preparing me for college through the summer programs on the campus of Michigan State University. It allowed us to experience what college life was like and also taught us how to manage our time effectively in order to be successful.”  
  **Cheng Yang ECU-Quality Engineer**
Student Leadership Conference

By Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor

On March 3, 2014 MSU Upward Bound students joined more than 100 students affiliated with Trio programs at the Student Leadership Conference at Grand Valley State University. The students learned about the history of TRio programs, and put together a social media campaign aimed to get the attention of the White House and President Obama. The purpose of the campaign was to showcase the importance of TRio programs and how they effect the lives of students who participate in them.

As part of the campaign the students put together a video highlighting TRio alumni and current students, as well as facts about the history of the program. Students were asked to get the message out on March 19 by sharing the video as well as tweeting at the White House their thoughts on Trio and why it works for them. MSU Upward bound students were featured in the video saying “TRioworks for us because it gives us hope”.

If you’re interested in seeing the video, you can do so by going to www.youtube.com and searching #trionation.

Posters like the ones pictured above where used by Michigan State University Student Support Services Students to teach students the history of TRio.

Upward Bound Students at the Student Leadership Conference (from left to right) Youa Yang, Mariana Cavazos, Julie Guo, and Selena Ledesma,. All four students took part in a video about why TRio Works for them.

Student Opinion Snapshot

What has being a member of Upward Bound meant to you?

- “Being a Member of Upward Bound has meant a lot to me. I (have) been in UB since my freshman year and I do not regret signing up at all. UB has taught me a lot, and influenced me on a lot of things in life.” Teasha Robertson
- “To me being a member of Upward Bound felt like an honor. Being accepted to be a part of the program made me feel smart at the moment…being a part of the Monday sessions every Monday, it made me gain more motivation to make something out of my life.” Jesus Garcia
- “Being an Upward Bound student has meant so much to me and I have learned so much along the way. I am thankful for the opportunities and possibilities this program has given me” Selena Ledesma
Presenting the Class of 2014!!

Alvarado, Edward
Baptiste, Monicka
Beach, Alexis
Blocker, Myia
Brown, Daquan
Fisher, Alexzia
Garcia-Pil, Jesus
Gibson, LaQuecia
Guo, Juli
Hall Christopher
Henderson, Ayanna
Horton, Talisha
Howell, Geanna
Jones, Amber
Kamara, Fatu
Ledesma, Selena
Marrero Maribel
Patton, Marcus
Ray, Alleeah
Smith, Jhalyicia
Taylor, Darnell
Taylor, Latisha
Williams, Tameron
Yang, Canchai
Yang, Chenyee
Yang, Wendy
Yang, Youa

97% of our 2014 cohort is graduating from high school on schedule

97% of our graduating seniors have been accepted to college

“What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.”
-Ralph Waldo Emerson
Senior Valedictorians!

Youa Yang (Sexton High School)

Youa will be attending Michigan State University in the fall of 2014 with an interest in medicine. She aspires to finish medical school and eventually become a pediatrician. Her scholarships include: HOPE scholarship, Horatio Alger DELL, and Asian Pacific American Women’s Association Scholarship.

Julie Guo (Sexton High School)

In the fall of 2014 Julie plans to attend Michigan State University. She’s undecided in her major but knows that her future entails traveling around the world and helping different communities. She received several scholarships including: John and Anne Horbeck, Asian Pacific American Women’s Association, and Hope Scholarship.
Student Summer Trip Goes to Manhattan

By: Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor

The week of July 29–August 1, 2014 students who qualify and meet all the requirements will be off to The Big Apple! The week will be spent sight seeing and experiencing the best that New York City has to offer. Students will board a cruise to visit the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, where they will see the universal symbol of freedom and democracy that was gifted to the United States by France in 1886. Students will also be visiting The American Family Immigration History Center at the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, which contains manifest of 25 million immigrants, passengers, and crew member who entered New York Harbor between 1892 and 1924.

Trips to Ground Zero, Greenwich Village, Chinatown, Little Italy, and Time Square are also planned. On Thursday July 31, they will have the chance to be on TV while visiting the set of Good Morning America!! No trip to New York is complete without visiting Central Park and the Rockefeller Center, which will also be a part of the last day festivities.

With so many insightful and fun events planned, it’s sure to be a week to remember!

What to Expect This Summer Session

By: Rita Hourani, Newsletter Editor

Summer has arrived and for more than 75 students it’s time to embark on a six week, program designed to give participants a college life experience. Throughout the six weeks students will attend four morning classes and two afternoon ones. They will not only learn in the classroom but outside the classroom as well. Each grade will get to go sailing and learn how math and science help with sailing, as well as take golf lessons that will incorporate the geometry of putting.

Other activities outside of the classroom include one week residency at Michigan State University’s Shaw Hall. This will make the college experience all the more real, as students will be dinning and attending classes like college students do. For a select few students, they will also be participating in the Work Study program with the potential to earn $900.00.

The summer program has something for every student to enjoy that they will helpfully learn and grow from.