

# HIGHER GROUND

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## Hey Hey! Mr. & Ms. Upward Bound

Parents and new UB students turned out in large numbers to celebrate the academic success of Upward Bound students. Also present were CAD staff members Sheela Perumalla and Maureen Hurley, who took time out of her busy schedule to give a brief welcome on behalf of the Center for Academic Development. The UB staff unveiled the Mr. and Ms. Upward Bound award during its Honor's Reception on Monday, March 31. Awarding two students from each class based on 100% attendance of all mandatory events and optional activities, all UB requirements submitted, a 3.0 GPA or better, positive behavior and attitude, appropriate appearance, and UB spirit, this year's honorees were freshmen **Montez Malone** and **Shantel Hair**, Sophomores **Krystal Purnell** and **Elyse Davis**, Juniors **Isaac Brooks** and **Sycil Proffitt**, and Seniors **Janell Harrison** and **Raashida El-Scari**. Mr. Long dedicated an original theme song based off of Curtis Mayfield's classic "Freddie's Dead"

to the recipients of the prestigious award.

Also awarded were students who received up to a maximum of six consecutive semesters of a 3.2 GPA or higher while being an active member of the Upward Bound Program. For students who achieved 1 semester or higher for the Spring of 2002 were, **Cristina Canseco**, **Belinda Chappell**, **Kerra McCorkle**, **Amanda Moore**; for Fall 2002 were **Shantel Hair**, **Sycil Proffitt** and **SheRekka Scott**. For students who achieved two consecutive semesters with a 3.2 or higher included **Bulaine Alexis**, **Adalicia Hill**, **Krystal Purnell** and **Marnika Shelton**; for four consecutive semesters was **Raashida El-Scari** and **Levertes Ragland**; and for six consecutive semesters of 3.2 or higher were seniors **Louis Byrd** and **Janell Harrison** who were inducted into the UB Elite.

Finally, the ceremony honored all students whose attendance was at least eighty five percent or better. For the Spring of 2002

**Isaac Brooks**, **Raashida El-Scari**, **Aisha Godfrey**, **Janell Harrison**, **Juaquan Herron**, **Arthur Lewis**, **Taukia Parker**, **Sycil Proffitt**, and **Frances Ross** were awarded, and for the Fall of 2002, **Isaac Brooks**, **Norris Brown**, **Elyse Davis**, **Raashida El-Scari**, **Tamika Fulson**, **Aisha Godfrey**, **Shantel Hair**, **Janell Harrison**, **Adalicia Hill**, **Cara London**, **Montez Malone**, **Taukia Parker**, **Krystal Purnell**, **Frances Ross**, **Marnika Shelton**, and **Aaron Townsend** received awards.

Congratulations achievers!



The 2003 Mr. & Ms. Upward Bound recipients from left to right : Shantel Hair, Janell Harrison, Montez Malone, Sycil Proffitt, Elyse Davis, Isaac Brooks and Krystal Purnell.

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## TRiO Day Encourages Students To Think Outside of The Box!

On Saturday, February 15, 2003, the UMKC Upward Bound and Avila University Upward Bound Programs celebrated National TRiO Day in UMKC's Pierson Auditorium. The theme for the day was "Thinking Outside the Box", and the event was a sure reflection of the theme as it was an evening full of creativity and ex-

temporaneousness. Project Director Natasha Ria El-Scari and Academic Coordinator B. Michael Long hosted the event. Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs Dr. Pat Long, Director of the Center for Academic Development Dr. Glen Jacobs, and Academic Access Administrator Linda Carter were guest speakers for the youth. Dr. Long of-

fered the students advice given to her by her father for the youth and told them to "always work hard, believe in God, and always do your best". Dr. Jacobs offered praise and appreciation to the parents who support their students in the program, stating that the most successful

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### Upward Bound Affirmation

I will succeed because I choose to succeed!

Stumbling blocks will become my stairs to self-determination!

Positive words will be the foundation of my thinking!

Hard work will reap my personal & academic success!

I will succeed because I choose to succeed!

## BLACK HISTORY & WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH REFLECTIONS

The months of February and March are Black History and Women's History months, respectively. For Black History Month, which was founded by Dr. Carter G. Woodson [see picture], the Upward Bound staff presented two movies to the students. One was a documentary entitled *A Great and Mighty Walk*, which covered the life and work of Dr. John Henrik Clarke, produced and narrated by Wesley Snipes. The other was a film by African writer, producer and director Haile Gerima; *Sankofa*. Unanimously his most notable film, it depicts the experiences of enslaved Africans on a West Indian sugar cane plantation during the times of the TransAtlantic Slave Trade and legalized slavery. The students were asked to write a two paragraph paper about their reflections on the movie *Sankofa*. One student, Shantel Hair, had this to say about the movie; The movie *Sankofa* was a very inspirational movie. It showed what Africans had to go through in the past. Many African-Americans don't know their own history, and those who do know choose to neglect it. More people

should see this movie so they can know and understand what their ancestors went through and how America treated African people back then."

For Women's History month, Kim Sevedge, the UB Administrative Assistant, designed a wonderful poster board that highlighted important information relating to Women's History month. Historical personages such as Sojourner Truth, Aung San Suu Kyi, Gloria Steinem, Angela Davis and Maxine Waters were on display. Also, definitions for femi-

nism ("the commitment to work towards a world where women are treated better than they are presently treated), and womanism (a word coined by Alice Walker [see picture] in 1983, which she described as the "populist and poetic synonym of feminism for black feminist and black feminism) were posted. During the month of March, Mr. Long and Ms. El-Scari had opportunities to share some of their talents. Ms. El-Scari participated as a guest poet for *Sister Stew*, which was an evening of performances celebrating women where the proceeds were donated to the Hope House, which is a residential shelter home for battered women. Mr. Long also guest appeared as a poet at *Herstory*, a tribute to women held at Southeast High in honor of the women principals of the African Centered Education schools of Ladd and Chick Elementary, the Horace Peterson Academy and Southeast High. He also presented poetry at the "Remembering York" Swope Ridge Geriatric Center fundraiser hosted by Dr. Don Matthews of the Black Studies department. Interestingly, the month of April commemorates *National Poetry Month*.



Carter G. Woodson



Alice Walker

### UB students attend University of Toledo Student Conference

Eight Upward Bound students were selected to attend the University of Toledo Upward Bound's 5th Annual Ujima Kujichagulia Student Empowerment Conference from February 20-22, 2003 in Toledo, Ohio. The name of the conference comes from the West African language of Kiswahili and two of the seven principles of Kwanzaa. The words Ujima and Kujichagulia respectively mean collective work and responsibility and self-determination. It was

upon these two principles that the conference set about to empower the students in attendance.

The eight students selected to attend the conference were chosen based on attendance, academic performance, and behavior. In attendance were freshman **Montez Malone**, Sophomores **Krystal Purnell**, **Aaron Townsend** and **Frances Ross**, Juniors **Isaac Brooks** and **Arthur Lewis**, and Seniors **Janell Harrison**

and **Raashida El-Scari**. For five of the students, it was their first time flying on an airplane, and all of them said that it was an experience that they said they would never forget.

The conference itself consisted of five keynote speakers, which included the likes of Hip-Hop mogul Russell Simmons, University of Toledo Vice President for Student Affairs Tyrone Bledsoe,

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### Roots and Culture

The past three months have allowed Upward Bounders to reflect over some of the concepts and events that have taken place over the course of this school year. In January, the UB'ers attended a UMKC Project Shift/Gear Up sponsored "Teen Summit." Discussing issues such as the influence of the media, the demonization of hip-hop culture, teen pregnancy, teen drug use and other matters that affect teens,

the Upward Bound and Gear Up students spoke openly and freely to arrive at solutions. Also, UB attended the "Sisters For the Brotherhood's" screening of a documentary on black male and female relationships. The Upward Bounders said that the documentary highlighted many causes to the negative effects faced in black relationships that they have never considered before.

Finally, **Ms. Kimberly Morgan, Project Coordinator of the University of Kansas Educational Opportunity Center**, gave a Yoga demonstration to the students on March 3. She taught the student breathing techniques and stretches that relieve stress and tension as they prepare for dealing with the challenges of school and college life.

## Upward Bound Introduces Nine New Students

After one round of prospective student interviews, we are pleased to announce the addition of nine new students. One of which is **Quinton Howard** who comes to the Upward Bound Program as a recommendation by Ms. Unruh, Central Middle School's Librarian. Quinton is an eighth grader and says that he is a determined student and enjoys playing basketball.

Also coming to the program from Central High are **Allie Dorch, Makalia Finch, Erica Jones and Samuel Thompson**. Allie Dorch, a sophomore, says that one day she would like to become an author. Makalia Finch, a sophomore, says that school is extremely important to her and that she tries not to miss school for anything. Samuel, a freshman, enjoys reading, playing videogames and says that he pretty much stays to himself. Erica Jones, a sophomore, says that her favorite subjects

are Biology and History and that she plans on being an Architectural Engineer.

Coming to us from Paseo High, are freshmen **Robert Johnson** and **Sasha Nickerson**, as well as sophomore **La Tisha Hill**. Sasha, who is a highly involved student at Paseo and in the Junior Police Academy says that she would like to be either a forensic scientist or a military police officer. Robert, also a highly active student in extracurricular activities is a Black & Veatch Explore Post member and says he would like to be a mechanical engineer. La Tisha Hill, who says she loves to learn, has a passion for history and in particular the Civil Rights movement, and said she wants to be an entrepreneur. Finally, we have **Quayla Young** from Hogan Prep Academy. A persistent student, Quayla says that some of the issues that youth are challenged with today

identity, peer pressure, decision making and direction. She would like to one day be a journalist.

Please congratulate and welcome our new Upward Bounders!



From left to right: Allie Dorch, Quinton Howard, Erica Jones, Sammy Thompson, Quayla Young and Robert Johnson. Not pictured are Makalia Finch, La Tisha Hill and Sasha Nickerson.

## Ujima Kujichagulia continued

Motivational Speaker and founder of Inner Vision International Dewayne Bryant, NAACP National Youth Director Jeffery Johnson, and author, college professor, consultant, and a University of Toledo's pilot program Upward Bound graduate Dr. Karen Patterson-Stewart. Each of the speakers provided the students with insight as to how they personally achieved their ascent up the mountain of success, the importance of education and how self knowledge plays a vital role in fulfilling one's destiny in life.

The conference also provided the students opportunities to break out into concurrent sessions that covered topics of discussion that ranged from ACT/SAT test prep, entrepreneurship, time management to rap and poetry. Of all the different events, the students said that they enjoyed the concurrent sessions most because it gave them the chance to engage more in the discussion.

The students also toured the University of Toledo campus and were impressed with the range of undergraduate programs the university offered, as well as

the athletic facilities that were accessible to the student body.

After returning from the conference, the students were given an assignment of submitting a three page paper about their overall reflections of the trip. All of the students stated that they were very grateful to attend the conference and said that it has definitely helped them to understand how important Upward Bound is to students from a national perspective.

## TRiO Day continued

programs and activities for youth have high parental involvement and turnout. And lastly, Linda Carter provided the students with an in depth background to the history of the TRiO Programs and encouraged parents and students to continue to take advantage of the benefits that programs like Upward Bound affords.

It was a night of learning about TRiO history, hearing student comments about TRiO and Upward Bound, student recognition, and a display of talent. The program also received a

pleasant surprise as former UB Project Director Shawn Derritt shared his gift of voice and sang an inspirational song entitled, "Let's Build a Bridge."

Several students were also awarded with the *Most Improved Students* in the Upward Bound Program based on their improved participation in the program. These students were featured in *The Call* newspaper. Also in attendance were Associate Director Maureen Hurley, and Business Affairs Coordinator Sheela Perumalla.



Avila University Upward Bound staff members Brian Moore and Kennedy Musamali with their Upward Bounders.

**UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY  
CENTER FOR ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT  
PROJECT FIRST/ UPWARD BOUND**

University of Missouri-Kansas City  
101 SASS Building 101G  
5100 Rockhill Road  
Kansas City, Missouri 64110-2499

Phone: 816-235-5567  
Fax: 816-235-6557  
Email: longbm@umkc.edu

For any additions, comments, corrections or questions  
please contact Mr. B. Michael Long at 816.235.5567 or at  
longbm@umkc.edu.

**We' re on the web!!!**

**<http://www.umkc.edu/cad/ub>**

**TRiO**  
U P W A R D B O U N D

# REMEMBER THE TIME!!!

- Saturday April 5: SAT Exam Grade 11 & SAT Post Test Grades 9 & 10
- Monday April 7: Evening Academy-SASS Bldg. 3:00-6:00 PM
- Saturday April 12: ACT Exam Grade 11 & ACT Post Test Grades 9 & 10
- Monday April 14: Evening Academy-SASS Bldg. 3:00-6:00 PM
- Tuesday April 15: Last day to add or drop name for Summer Academy
- Friday April 18: No school-Good Friday
- Monday April 21: Evening Academy-SASS Bldg. 3:00-6:00 PM
- Wednesday April 23-Friday April 25: UB Offices closed: Staff Conference
- Monday April 28: Final Evening Academy-SASS Bldg. 3:00-6:00 PM
- Sunday May 11: Mother's Day
- Saturday May 17: Summer Academy Parent/Student Orientation-University Center Rm 106
- Friday May 23: Paseo's Graduation
- Monday May 26: No School-Memorial Day
- Tuesday May 27: Central's Graduation
- Wednesday May 28: Southeast's Graduation
- Monday June 2: Bridge Program begins
- Sunday June 8: Summer Academy begins

