



Room at the Top

REFLECTIONS OF SUMMER ACADEMY 2001

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Summer Academy 2001 proved to be a great success for both the students and staff. Everyone involved in Project First/Upward Bound. This issue will reflect the actual students' experiences in the Summer Program. It is so exciting to see the development of everyone. Students had a chance to really grow and be away from the regular securities of home. It is exciting to see how fast the students grow in a few short weeks.

Upward Bound is up and running for the 2001-2002 school year, seniors get ready for all of the wonderful opportunities that await you. Parents are more important today than ever before. We hope that the Upward Bound parents will continue to give support to the students and staff of the program. We know how important it is for them to help all students succeed. There is no greater feeling a child can have than seeing parents who care about students cheer them on in their pursuits through their presence at events and through their support at home.

The Upward Bound Students had an opportunity to choose their own t-shirts this year. Most wore them proudly while others discovered that the democratic process only seems democratic when your vote wins.

Our Summer Residential staff was absolutely fabulous with the students, they included: DeAnna Reese (Resident Hall Director), Tyrone Gethers Jr., Mary Guerra, Comfort Ibe, and Leon Johnson. This staff worked together on the rough day to day activities that they had to endure to keep the resident life together. The students were able to gain valuable information from the staff about their college experiences.

Our instructors were awesome as usual. They included: John Swartz, Math, Wes James, Science, LeAnn Ames, English, Elmer Cunningham, Social Science, Rakesh Punjabi and Sachin Sood Computer Science, Eulala Jennings, Japanese, Dr. Emmanuel Sowemimo, Leon Johnson, Visual Arts, Charles Carter, Martial Arts, Vanessa Gibbs and Bird



Upward Bounders looking great in their chosen Summer Academy 2001 T-Shirts.

Fleming, African Dance and Drumming, and Jennifer Carnicom for the Bridge Component VSI Program.

The Upward Bound staff would like to thank the Upward Bound students that embraced the children of the UB staff this summer as we worked long hours and did not want to miss our own children.

WAKE UP SENIORS!!!

- Have you received your Senior Seminar packet during Evening Academy?
- Have you started applying to at least 10 colleges and /or universities?
- Have you began your 50+ scholarship search?
- Are you having fun?

Summer Academy 2001 Academics

By: Keyonna Williams, Senior, Central High School

There were six core classes that provided us with a huge amount of information. The classes were English, Math, Science, Social Science, Computer Science, and Foreign Language. The students maintained focus and took advantage of the limited computer space provided. Since, there was not a wide range of computers to choose from. These cores were presented and the students performed well. Ms. Ames, the English teacher taught students time management skills and guided us through basic lessons for both high school and college levels. Math class on the

other hand with Mr. Swartz gave the students basic guidelines to enlighten our new horizons to different methods of learning mathematical problems. Mr. Swartz encouraged us to stay focused on math test exams and the ACT. Every class that Mr. Swartz began each day with a positive attitude. Science for example was a hands-on class taught by Wes James. We enjoyed learning in non-traditional science ways, this made science fun to us that did not like science. Mr. Cunningham taught Ethics, and it dealt with a lot of issues that we face in

today's society. Our ideas and beliefs were challenged. In Computer Science we advanced our computer skills and helped us to learn more about different types of software. We also had two different foreign languages, Japanese and Yoruba. In both courses we learned to speak, write, and understand these languages and cultures. In conclusion, Summer Academy 2001 was a great learning experience, I look forward to being a Bridge Student next year. I know that every Summer Academy I have attended so far will help me with the true college experience.

Residence Hall Living

By: Adalicia Hill, Junior, Paseo Academy of the Fine and Performing Arts



Sycil Proffitt and Keyonna Williams strut their stuff at the Global Village Fashion Show

During Summer Academy 2001, Upward Bound students stayed in the University of Missouri-Kansas City campus residence halls. The facilities were wonderful, but not exactly what you would call home.

Some new students, and their parents were a bit weary of the long stay over the summer. But after a couple of weeks, your dorm room becomes a second room. You eat, sleep, and study in your

room, just like you would do at home. The Resident Assistants (RA's) were like surrogate parents. They were also your friends, who laughed and joked with you all summer.

Students also began to form friendships with people they had never met before. Mainly because it took you out of your comfort zone, and introduced you to new and interesting people.

Although it took

some getting used to, the residence hall living is an excellent experience! I would recommend it to all seniors, and students who plan on going to college. You never know, your roommate in college, may end up being your boss or colleague life in later.

On another note, I was able to get an autograph from Maya Angelou from one of our Career Day speakers, that was a highlight of a summer.

Upward Bound Martial Arts

By: Louis Byrd, Junior, Paseo Academy for the Fine and Performing Arts

The Martial Arts class was very helpful and inspiring. Master Carter taught us a multitude of ways to defend ourselves. Our classes were three hours long each Friday which is equivalent to three class sessions through the week. Master Carter gave the best two students out of the class a two month free scholarship to attend Renshi Combat Martial Arts Academy. I was fortunate to be one of

the students. The Martial Art class is great because you do not only learn self-defense, you also learn self-control and respect. Everyone at the dojo (Martial Arts Academy) is very friendly, as a matter of fact we are like family. I plan to keep training at the dojo until I leave for college.

I feel fortunate because Martial Arts was not something I would have studied on my own. How-

ever, this opportunity has helped me gain an appreciation for Karate and has peaked my interest in other forms of Martial Arts.

Mr. Carter shared with us that he, "...wants to return next summer to teach again. It is enjoyable to work with youth to help them develop on their way into life and hopefully to become successful college graduates."

"The community is that grounding place where people come and share their gifts and receive from other."

—Sobonfu Some



Closing Ceremony Mistress and Master of Ceremonies, Amanda Moore and Louis Byrd

Art Class

By: Isaac Brooks, Sophomore, Hogan Prep Academy

The 2001 Summer Academy Art Class was a wonderful experience for myself. This course was very enlightening.

Throughout the summer we learned to draw to the rhythm of music. The music we listened to brought out a different artistic side of everyone in

the class. Our instructor, Mr. Leon Johnson, UB Alum a current student at the art institute taught us some very exclusive material that will help me through out my artistic journey.

Mr. Johnson told us, "I hoped to give the students a feeling of freedom of expression, through another

artistic medium. We focused on the findings of accidents, they were very experimental, it brings out the artist in everyone. This was a way to conquer the fears of shy students that felt they couldn't draw." I think that did happen in the class and all of us became artists for a while.

The Scholar Bowl Challenge: Avila Attacks

By: Jessica Hodge, Senior, Hogan Preparatory Academy

Do you know what Scholar Bowl is? Scholar Bowl is a competition between Avila and UMKC Upward Bound Programs. The winning team gets a plaque that's placed at the winning school. The Scholar Bowl Competition has been with these two programs for several years. The moderator asks a series of questions in the

areas of math, science, history, and TRIO trivia. On a positive note, me and my fellow Upward Bounders would like to thank Avila for hosting us at their campus. We all played a good match and everyone put forth the Upward Bound effort. This was my second time being at scholar bowl. The first year UMKC won

and Avila won last summer and the summer before. Avila did a lot of studying and put in a lot of work as well as UMKC. But Avila came out as the victors of this competitive match. Next year, it is my goal to bring the plaque back to UMKC.



UMKC Upward Bound Students have some friendly competition from the Avila Upward Bound Program. Avila proves victorious.

Summer Academy Special Events

By: Raashida El-Scari, Junior, Central High School

This summer was filled with special activities that were a success. We had a variety of events such as Global Village, the annual car wash, basketball games, Career Day, Teen Summit, the Starlight Theatre, the birthday party, and the Talent Show. First off, I had the honor to be the Mistress of Ceremony of the talent show along with Janell Harrison, a fellow Central Eagle. I must say I was a little nervous but I relaxed and it went smoothly. We had a lot of participants and great acts that brought out laughter, excitement, and many emotions. The Gear-Up students even joined the talent show.

Second, the car wash was a fundraiser to help us with the extra expenses of the Reward Trip. Saturday morning we were up early until noon with bubbles, music, and water. We made a nice amount of money. Also, we had a birthday party for the UB students who had birthdays in the summer and could not be at home. With just a little food and music it was a nice time.

Another event was the basketball game against R.A.P. (Releasing Academic Potential), another academic residential pro-

gram. Arriving late we still took the lead of pushing and dribbling on the court. This was a night of excitement and freedom from the hard week of work. Next, we had Career Day which Avila Upward Bound was invited to. We discussed all sorts of issues that may occur with us in our future careers and how we should handle them.

In addition, we had Global Village which seemed like a culture day to me. There were two languages Yoruba and Japanese that we shared with our Avila Upward Bound guests. We learned about cultural norms and my favorite, fashion. We were all able to dress in traditional clothes for that region for special ceremonies. We had a huge feast of food from that region.

Finally, our last two events were Teen Summit and Starlight Theatre. Teen Summit was about several different topics, but some of the hot topics were our educational choices, urban versus suburban, and whether we would attend a Historically Black College/University (HBCU) or a Predominately White University (PWU). We also discussed how much popular music had an effect on our per-

sonal lives and our relationships with each other. Everyone participated and gave their opinions. Mr. Tyrone moderated the discussion with another Avila resident assistant.

The presentation of Aida was a very interesting sight to experience. The characters, plot, and conflict all connected which started out as a scenario. There were plenty of emotions running through everyone's bodies who attended.

These were all the activities that intrigued our learning experience and to also say plenty of socializing. I am sure all of my peers are looking forward to having a summer full of great activities again.

Last I would like to say that this was my first summer living in Kansas City. I came from Lufkin, TX during my sophomore year. Upward Bound helped me to make my transition to living in a new place, with a different part of my family and a new school. I am glad I had Summer Academy 2001 to help make my life in Kansas City, Missouri a success.

"Sharpen your eye, and tune your ear, so you know what you see, and understand what you hear."

-Listervelt Middleton



Summer Academy 2001 Carwash, students working hard to help clean cars.

September 11, 2001



Brittany Holly will one day make a difference as a lawyer to help make this world a better and safer place to live.

There are no words to express the pain that this country has seen. The effects of the tragic bombing of the World Trade Center still affects us today. The United States of America will forever have to look at itself as vulnerable and possibly guilty for events from the past.

Regardless of our views on the September 11 event, it has changed how we

do and look at things from receiving our mail to the way we travel. Every generation has a life changing or defining moment, and this would definitely have to be the defining moment for young people in Upward Bound Programs across the nation.

The United States Army is 40% African American, this is astounding, considering that African Americans only make up 13% of

the total U.S. population. This is history that continues to show how important people of color are to America.

It is a good idea to speak with your children, friends, and family about the way this tragedy makes you feel. Many times healing comes from sharing and at least contemplating the very simple but difficult to answer question, why?

The Senior Illness: Senioritis

I know, I know, another year of Evening Academy and cultural activities, Reflections, and all other sorts of things. More teachers to listen to ramble, more parents that grumble without reason. There is also a lot of costs involved in the Senior year. Senior pictures, dues, activities, and other unforeseen expenses often keep

students thinking about jobs more than school. In many ways, Seniors float between the adult and child role in their homes and at school. "I am too grown for this!" is probably what most seniors are feeling right about now. It is not unusual for Seniors to feel slower and even down about having to drudge through yet

another year. While seniors may feel it is time to rest, just the opposite is true. They must take advantage of parents' good advice, and other resources available to them. Now is the time to place into action all the things that Upward Bound has taught students. Shake off the apathy bug and claim your prize!

If you know of any UB Alumni that we have not heard from, from any year or school, please pass our information on to them, we would love to share their success with everyone.



2001 Upward Bound graduate Anthony Jackson accepts Bridge Graduate Award

Update on the Class of 2001

It is nice to see dreams become realities when we hear of past Upward Bound students on the rode to success. Just to update you on all the changes and successes we have heard about from our students.

James Harrison, Lincoln University

Natavia Brown, Central State Uni-

versity,

Anthony Jackson, Grandview College

Eric Riddle, Longview Community College

Gieselle Taylor, Central College

Oletta Radley, Central College,

Reggie Martin, Paine College

Stephen Merritt, Central Missouri State University

We look forward to seeing these students over the Holiday breaks that are fast approaching. Congratulations, Upward Bound newest alumni. We know you will each carry the great legacy of Upward Bound success.

Off to Texas

By: *Amanda Moore, Junior, Blue Springs South*

During the Summer Academy all the Upward Bounders experienced an exhausting summer on UMKC's campus that was filled with work, work, and more work, on top of that. However, for being such a great group of students and ending it on a successful measure, we were privileged to a Reward Trip to Galveston, Houston, and Texas City, Texas.

Before arriving to our actual

destination, we made a few stops. First, we went to the Oklahoma City Memorial and witnessed all of the depressing memories that occurred on that tragic day of April 19, 1995. It was just a devastating tragedy that brought tears to my eyes and made me realize how precious life is and to never take it for granted.

Next, we were on our way to Galveston. Everyone was so eager to get there, it was like

we couldn't wait any longer. From nights in hotels, to spending days at the beaches and colleges, was the best trip I have had so far. We were able to visit some of the universities and learn more on an educational basis. We definitely can't forget some of the great meals we enjoyed either, especially at Joe's Crab Shack and the Authentic Mexican restaurant. This reward trip was certainly great, and anyone who missed it missed out on



Upward Bound Martial Arts Class gives an outstanding demonstration at the Closing Ceremony.

Hubbard Street Dance Chicago

By: *Taukia Parker, Junior, Paseo Academy for the Fine and Performing Arts*

On a warm November evening, Upward Bound attended a performance at The Lied Center of Kansas on the campus of Mr. Derritt's alma mater University of Kansas. We go to several performances there a year and it is wonderful because regardless of where you sit, you can see the action on stage. The Hubbard Street

Dance Company was an awesome performance. I loved to see how the dancers enjoyed their jobs. The way they danced just made me want to try to dance with them. I liked how they interacted with the audience. Their performances made people laugh and sometimes made people think. It made me think of how much

dedication goes into being a dancer, that all parts have to go together, not just the mind, but the body also. It was a great show, if they were to come back I would recommend that everyone go see this group of multi-cultural dancers.

"If I can see it, then I can do it, if I just believe it....I believe I can fly, I believe I can touch the sky..."

—Robert Kelly

UB Staff Attends Transformation Workshop

By: *Shawn Derritt, Project Director, Project First/Upward Bound*

On September 17th, 19th, and 21st, Mr. Derritt and Ms. El-Scari boarded a magic yellow bus charter by the Chancellor of UMKC, Dr. Gilliland. The bus took us on a trip that allowed us to gain a new insight regarding the culture of UMKC. This was a metaphor used from the changes ahead we are facing. We met other UMKC staff members like Paris Saunders from the office of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs. By joining our minds with partnering

UMKC staff, we explored the ground work that would help to establish the framework of UMKC's future. What other people discovered was that Upward Bound already does the things that the Dr. Gilliland wants to see for the university, like: Education First, Discovery and Innovation, Cultural diversity, and energized Collaborative Communities. Ms. El-Scari was a big hit for the workshop leaders, she kept the days serious but enjoyable. We look forward

to continuing to collaborate with our fellow UMKC workers on the projects we started. What I learned is that we all have to be willing to keep the things that work and get rid of the things that do not work.

Upward Bound has always been a community-based program and now that we are a part of a campus without borders we are excited about the additional resources that we will be able to provide through this campus wide initiative.



African Dance and Drumming infect the Closing Ceremony audience with rhythms from the Motherland with a high energy performance!

University of Missouri-Kansas City, Project First/Upward Bound

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The Residence Hall Staff takes a quick break from the 24/7 duty of Summer Academy. Pictured: DeAnna Reese, Resident Hall Director, Tyrone Getthers Jr., Mary Guerra, and Comfort Ibe. Not pictured here Leon Johnson. Thank you so much for your dedication to the program, we look forward to seeing you all again.

KUDOS & Calendar of Events for the Spring 2002

CONGRATULATIONS to Marva Smith and Keena Benton were united in marriage on October 26, 2001 at Swope Parkway Church of Christ. Ms. Smith, now Ms. Benton, is the parent of Brian Smith, Senior at Lincoln College Preparatory Academy.

CONGRATULATIONS to Louis Byrd, who received his GREEN BELT from Renshi Combat Martial Arts on November 12, 2001. Louis is also ranked #1 in his class.

CONGRATULATIONS to Ms. El-Scari, who will be published in the literary magazine, *Black Magnolias* in the Spring of 2002.

CONGRATULATIONS to Brian Smith, Senior, Lincoln College Prep who made his first 4.0 GPA this quarter since entering LCPA.

WELCOME!!

EVENING ACADEMY STAFF
GRACE MERCER, English Instructor
WILLIAM NAVES, Math Instructor
LEANN AMES, English Tutor
and Student Assistant, KIM SEVEDGE

December 2001

Evening Academy held unless specified

8th College and Career Day at KU Leave from the SASS at 7:30 am **Mandatory**

17th, 21st, 24th, 27th, and 31st, No Evening Academy

January 2002

Evening Academy held unless specified

3rd No Evening Academy

7th Evening Academy Reconvenes

12th and 26th TEST PREP & SENIOR SEMINAR UC Rms 106 and 147, 9am-1pm, Mandatory

21st and 24th NO Evening Academy in Observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday.