

UPWARD BOUND  
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# UB NEWS

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## UB Students Dig Deep to Be the Change

It came as no surprise to their English teacher, Alexa McGuinness, that UB students this past summer would rise to the challenge to “Be the Change.” After all, the assignment was tied to a grade, and UBers tend to be academically motivated and successful. Just how readily and eagerly they met and exceeded her expectations, demonstrated an altruistic spirit, and searched their hearts (and pockets) to give something back to their community McGuinness could not have predicted.

The assignment was twofold. First, the students were required to research and present their findings on a non-profit organization. Second, the students were encouraged to spare whatever change they could to donate to the “winning” organization.

In groups, the students created thirty second “commercials” advertising their chosen non-profit. They shared these advertisements both in class and at UB Live. Students, staff, and parents voted on the organization that most deserved the donated funds.

Meanwhile, students were dropping change into the two “Be the Change – Spare Your Change” jars located in



Ms. McGuinness looks on as Osbelia Solis, Arturo Almanza, and former CASA student, Leah Bracamonte announce the recipient of their Be the Change/Spare the Change campaign at the UB Awards Banquet.

the UB office and English classroom. For teenagers, money is often tight. Yet the donations amounted to \$200, and

the “elected” non-profit was the Hope College CASA program.

Ms. McGuinness was pleased that a local organization benefited from her students’ hard work and generosity. It seems fitting that UB students, many of whom benefited from the CASA program, gave back to the children in CASA, some of whom will in all likelihood become UB students themselves.

“My goal,” said their teacher, “was for my students to have an opportunity to actually *be the change* in the world, rather than just learning about the theme in their courses. They proved to me – in just six weeks – that they are a force to be reckoned with! They are sure to change the world.”



CASA Executive Director, Fonda Green, accepts UB students’ check.

## ACE Connects Academic Classes to Future Careers



ACE (Access to Career Education) is the program's career component, which is designed to meet

**Cassie Hitsman (pictured) and Sampay Lat-savong spent time in surgery at their Zeeland Hospital internship.**

before their senior year. Students are placed in an internship in the community based on their career interests. This year, six students participated in internships at Zeeland

Community Hospital, CASA, John Ball Park Zoo, Harbor Humane Society, and Intercare Community Health Center.

" Being at the Zeeland Community Hospital was a great experience. Touring the hospital and observing the surgery made me want to become a doctor even more. The staff was great and the facilities top notch. It was a wonderful hospital and I would love to work there someday." - Cassie Hitsman



**Future teacher, Natasha Sanchez, reads with a CASA student.**

## TA's Help Students Adjust to Dorm Life

Each summer, UB students in grades 10-Bridge enjoy the opportunity to spend the first three weeks living and learning in Durfee Hall. During this time, students share many new and favorite experiences such as having a roommate, going to the Dow Center, eating in the cafeteria and studying in the lobby with one another and the Tutor Advisors.

The 2007 Tutor Advisor (T.A.) staff worked dili-

gently to help create and maintain a safe and welcoming environment for students and also planned a variety of evening activities such as Wiffle Ball and Capture the Flag.

We thank the T.A.s for their enthusiasm and for doing an excellent job of balancing their many responsibilities in the dorm and through out the day. We also thank Resident Director and UB alumna, **Yadira Marti-**

**nez**, for her leadership in supervising the dorm and the Bridge students. Her attention to detail and ability to build rapport with students and staff were appreciated.

This year's staff included: **Clinton Jepkema, Chelsea Miedema, Dustin Miller, Nicole Mulder** and returning T.A., **Efrain Munoz**. Thank you all for making Durfee Hall a great place to live!



**Phi Do moves in to Durfee Hall.**

## UB LIVE: A Showcase of Culture and Talent

Lights, Camera, Action! On July 19 Master and Mistress of Ceremony, **Ben Martinez** and **Mayra Roa** provided a lively narrative and introduction to the UB students, who performed live for parents, staff, and community members on stage at East K-8. Choreographed dance routines, fashion shows, poetry, signing, rap, and skits all were a part of this year's annual UB Live. In

just five weeks, students put together an outstanding show in which every student participated either on stage or behind the scenes.

Food is always an important part of every UB event, and UB Live is no exception. Parents and staff prepared their favorite cultural dish to share during the show's intermission. Egg rolls, enchiladas, rice, and

German potato salad were just a few of the offerings, which covered all the tables in the back of the room.

At the end of the show all that was left were empty dishes, full stomachs, happy students and an appreciative audience!



**Felipe Gonzales, Hector Elizondo & Caleb Hoffman perform an original rap song.**

# Chicago Trip Provides New Experiences



**Brenda, Mayra, Osbelia, Jessica, Sandra & Lupe pose in front of Hull-House**

*“The Shedd Aquarium, a cruise of the Chicago shoreline on the Mystic Blue, dinner at Giordano’s for stuffed deep dish pizza, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks over Lake Michigan viewed from the top of the Sear’s Tower were just a few of the highlights of the first day.”*

Getting up at 5:30 a.m. was not the best part of the trip for most, but all would agree that the Chicago trip was well worth the early wake-up call. On July 4, sixty four students and staff traveled to Chicago for a three day, two night educational (and fun) experience. Students received a “quiz” prior to each attraction, which served as a guide to the important aspects of the historical and educational sites in Chicago.

The Shedd Aquarium, a cruise of the



**UB students compare notes at the Shedd Aquarium.**

Chicago shoreline on the Mystic Blue, dinner at Giordano’s for stuffed deep dish pizza, and 4<sup>th</sup> of July fireworks over Lake Michigan viewed from the top of the Sear’s Tower were just a few of the highlights of the first

day. Another exciting moment was checking into the elegant Palmer House Hilton for our two night stay. After some initial strategic switching



**Marissa Arredondo and Priscilla Silvas enjoy the view from the Mystic Blue.**

of rooms assuring the best possible safety arrangements, we all headed to the pool to enjoy some downtime after a long day of walking the city.

In keeping with the summer theme of “*Be the Change*”, day two brought more new experiences, including a guided tour of the Jane Addams Hull House at the University of Chicago, where we learned about the important contributions of the Hull House settlement. The next stop was the Du Sable Museum of African American History where we viewed exhibits tracing the lives and accomplishments of several African American men

and women inventors, physicians, activists, and athletes. After lunch and some free time at the Water Tower Place and the hotel, we all enjoyed a live performance of the Blue Man Group at Briar

Street Theater (no, not blues music, but real live men painted blue!). Following the performance we were able to meet and pose with the “Blue Men” for pictures. Blue thumbprints adorned our shirts and faces, which was the Blue Man Groups’ form of an autograph. At least one of the girls swore she would never wash it off!

The next day, tired but happy, we



**Maribel Andrade, Mai Munoz, Magdalena Bramasco, Darlene Salas, and Vanessa Delgado enjoy lunch on board the Mystic Blue.**

checked out of the hotel and bid farewell to the largest city in the Midwest.

## Welcome New UB Students!

**Bryce Curry (9th grade, Holland High School)**

**Ondrea Holder (9th grade, West Ottawa High School)**

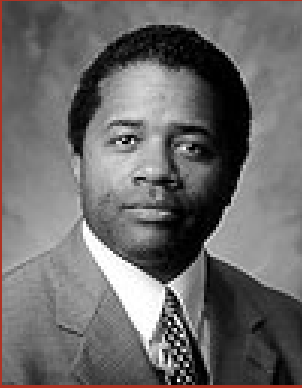
**Elizabeth Gonzalez (9th grade, Fennville High School)**

**Jose Luis Santana (9th grade, Holland High School)**

**Raul Solis (9th grade, West Ottawa High School)**

**Emmanuel Suarez (10th grade, Holland High School)**





Dr. Fred Johnson III,  
Hope College Associate Professor of  
American History

*"We are all privileged to say that we were a part of something: Upward Bound. Whether we joined this program to get help academically or just for having the feeling of 'fitting in', we are family."*



**2007 Hope College TRiO  
Upward Bound Bridge Class**

## UB Alumnus Opens Awards Banquet

*Upward Bound staff and students thank Dr. Fred L. Johnson III for providing the welcome address for the 2007 Summer Session Banquet. Dr. Johnson is an Associate Professor of American History at Hope College and is also a TRiO alumni. During his address, Dr. Johnson reflected on his own Upward Bound experience and the impact it had on his future. He then encouraged current students to value their Upward Bound experience and to realize the great opportunity they have to create better futures. Thank you, Dr. Johnson!*

## UB Bridge Students: A Fond Farewell

It was a bitter-sweet ending to an evening of recognition and celebration when the staff, students and parents gave the eleven Bridge students a standing ovation at the Awards Banquet. A traditional candle lighting ceremony symbolizing the students' transition from Upward Bound to higher education was followed by closing remarks written by all the Bridge students. With her fellow students standing behind her Sera Watthanathinsam delivered the following words of wisdom on their behalf: "So in the end of all of this, you may be wondering, 'Is this it? What was the purpose of this - being in Upward Bound, participating in summer sessions, even to having this banquet?' The purpose of this is for the memories. To be able to look back in time and remember all the encouragement and hard work

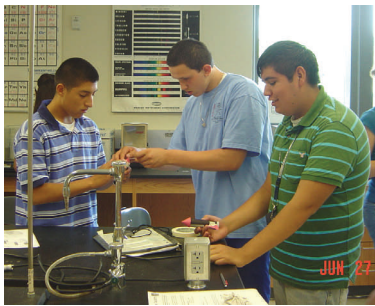
you did, and in the end to be able to say, 'I did it. I am where I want to be'. We are all privileged to say that we were a part of something: Upward Bound. Whether we joined this program to get help academically or just for having the feeling of 'fitting in', we are family. Like family, we have fun, we work hard, and at times we see the very best and worse qualities in each other. But like family, even though we go through hardships, we end up prevailing. We have a bond that is hard to break and easy to stick close to.

Today is not a day to just celebrate the Bridge students but also to celebrate you [non-bridge students] and your future accomplishments. We stand before you as proof of what hard work and participation in Upward Bound can accomplish. We are realizing our dreams of a col-

lege education. Stay committed to your education, take advantage of the help you get from Upward Bound, and you too, will follow your dreams."

Eight Upward Bound graduates, Monica Arismendez, Lexi Martinez, Cecilia Jaime, Sera Watthanasintham, Leo Martinez, Mauro Martinez, Paola Munoz, and Margarita Lopez are attending Hope College this fall. Thao Dinh is attending MSU, Alex Nguyen is at U of M, and Phi Dao and Amanda Yik are attending GVSU. UB graduates who did not participate in Bridge Program are enrolled in the following colleges: Steven Gonzalez, Northwestern Michigan College, and Elias Pena, Baker College. Congratulations to you all!

# UB Teachers Bring Meaning to the Classroom



**Gustavo Almanza, Ben Martinez, and Fredy Santiago work on a lab in Mrs. Dummer's Physics class.**

ers and group and individual study sessions aided in students academic and personal growth.

When describing her academic experience one student said, "Even though some classes were difficult, nobody gave up. With every laugh

and smile we learned something new. We know these classes will help us in the future".

Research, literature, composition, science labs, power point presentations, math, foreign language, history and economics all were a part of each student's daily life throughout the six week summer session.

Fourteen academic teachers incorporated the theme "Be the Change" into their curriculum and made the classroom material come alive for students. Hands-on activities, field trips, group work, speak-



**Math teacher, Mr. Janssen assists Lena Chao with Algebra II.**



**Yadira Martinez works with students in her Spanish I class.**

and smile we learned something new. We know these classes will help us in the future".

Every teacher went above and beyond to make the summer session a lasting learning experience for each of the Upward Bound students.

Thank you, UB teachers for your dedication and commitment to the students!

*"Even though some classes were difficult, nobody gave up. With every laugh and smile we learned something new. We know these classes will help us in the future."*

## Meet the Academic Year Tutors & Teachers

**Teachers:** Mr. Art Borja, Science; Mr. John Janssen, Math; Mrs. Mary Jo Henretty-Jornales, ESL.

**Returning Tutors:** Laura Cadena, Danelle Graves, Adam Irrer, Clinton

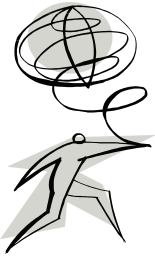
Jepkema, Elise LaRoche, Jeffrey Meyers, Joel Mulder, Nicole Mulder, Joanna Philley, Andrea Prater, Laura Scherer, Krista Stanton.

**New Tutors:** Jessica

Elizabeth Forsythe, Rocio Ibarra, Jay Martello, Maggie McBride, Chelsea Miedema, Aneida Pineda, and Luis Silva.



- **Tutoring is available throughout the month of September. Call the Upward Bound office at 395-7745 if you would like to be added to the schedule.**
- **Plan Testing is September 29 at 8:45 a.m. in VZN 102.**
- **Parent Orientation is September 29 at 11:00 a.m. in VZN 104.**
- **Tutoring starts for all students on Tuesday, October 2.**
- **ALL UB juniors need to register for and take the PSAT test! Check with your school counselor for registration dates.**



## Be the Change!

### Hope College TRiO Upward Bound

Hope College Upward Bound  
P.O. Box 9000  
241 Van Zoeren Hall  
Holland, MI 49422-9000

Phone: 616-395-7745

Fax: 616-395-7453

E-mail: Colburn@hope.edu;

Vega@hope.edu; Amireles@hope.edu

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### Hope College Upward Bound Fast Facts:

- Upward Bound served 80 students during the 06/07 academic year and 77 students during the 2007 Summer Session.
- Upward Bound had a 96% retention rate during the 06/07 program year.
- 100% of the UB seniors graduated from high school in 2007.
- 94% of the seniors are enrolled in a college or university this fall.
- From 1998-2007, 71% of the Upward Bound students are either still enrolled in college or have already graduated.



# UB Students In the Spotlight.....

**Paola Munoz ('07)** is the recipient of the University of Michigan Bio-Medical Scholarship. This includes tuition, room and board for four years at Hope, summer research, and tuition, room and board for four years at the University of Michigan Medical School.

Current UB senior, **Bich Luong**, participated in the Hope College REACH program this summer doing research in the field of Engineering in Dr. Roger Veldman's lab.

**Yadira Martinez ('03)** graduated from Hope College in May and is employed as a high school Spanish teacher with Muskegon Public Schools.

**Diana Vargas Delarosa ('03)** graduated from Hope College in May. She is currently doing her student teaching at Black River Public School.

**Do you know someone who should be in the Spotlight? If so, let us know! Call Debbie at 616-395-7745 or email her at Vasquez@hope.edu.**



**Jessenia Olmeda ('06)** is the recipient of a Congressional Hispanic Institute Scholarship and did a summer internship at Robert W. Baird.

**Delilah Welch Rodriguez ('99)** is a high school English teacher at Harlingen Public Schools in Harlingen, Texas. She is also a contracted consultant/trainer for the Spring Board program, which is produced by the College Board.

**Ezequiel Garcia ('01)** graduated from Michigan State University in May with a degree in Criminal Justice.

**Terra Gray ('96)** graduated from Western Michigan University in 2005 and is currently employed as a case-worker in a Kalamazoo Health Clinic.

**Vannessa Ortiz ('04)** is serving in the U.S. Army and is currently deployed to Iraq.