

The UB Scholar's Digest

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2008

WELCOME!

- To all of our new students who were accepted into the program!
- To friends and parents of our NMH Upward Bound Scholars!
- To the generous donors who help make our program successful!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- UB Students in the News! 2
- Director's Notes 3
- Senior Spotlight! 4
- Applying to College 5
- Meet your new UB staff! 6
- Class Notes 7
- Contact Info 8

Forty Years of Upward Bound 1967—2007

The Upward Bound program at Northfield Mount Hermon School marks its 40th anniversary this year, and in commemorating this milestone we have much to celebrate. The program has helped prepare hundreds of high school students – young people who might not otherwise have had the opportunity – for success in college and beyond. For students from low-income families, Upward Bound's staff and funds help to navigate the confusing and expensive waters of the college application process; for first-generation college-bound students, attending

classes at NMH's summer academy may be the first time they feel like a college student.

But while Upward Bound's history and current mission provide inspiring examples of success, we ought not ignore troubling questions that the program's 40th anniversary suggests: Why, after 40 years, do we still need this program? Why do enormous gaps in opportunity and access to higher education, along class and racial lines, still exist? What has not changed about our underlying institutional priorities and policies? What needs to change?

Upward Bound was created over 40 years ago, along with an array of other similarly inspired, federally funded programs, as part of Lyndon Johnson's "War on Poverty." Coming on the heels of the Civil Rights movement, the legislation creating Upward Bound was a response to the growing realization that poor students, minority students, and students whose parents did not attend college were attending and completing college at much lower rates than their peers. Expanding educational opportunity—through government programs such as Upward Bound—was envisioned as an essential part of the solution to poverty.

However, the gaps we face today may be wider than the ones the Johnson administration sought to close forty years ago. State spending trends in the last quarter-century seem to favor other kinds of

"solutions" to poverty—namely, policing and incarceration. In 2003, Massachusetts joined a growing number of states whose prison budget surpasses their budget for higher education.

Budgets are a zero-sum game: when our government funnels money into a giant, back-end solution to social problems, this money has to come from somewhere else. As opportunities for quality secondary schooling and affordable higher education for our young citizens are removed or diminished, we are de facto creating pathways to other institutions. Eighteen- to 24-year-old male high-school dropouts are 31 times more likely to end up in prison than males who graduate from a four-year college; black males in that same category are 60 times more likely.

The choice facing our teens is not an easy one. Children from low-income communities are disadvantaged from the start and need a host of interventions to help them keep up with their peers from wealthier school systems. By the time students get help from Upward Bound in high school—and the few who do are among the lucky ones—they may already be years behind. Add to this disparity in early schooling and preparation a litany of other obstacles—for example, increased college costs and competition, intricate standardized tests and application processes, and a lack of support and models at home and in the community—and the necessity of a program

(Continued on page 3)

UB Students in the News



Frank Martinez '08 instructs fellow student Ebony Simmons '09 in a salsa workshop at Upward Bound's summer academy

INTERNSHIPS

The following students have received local internships towards development in a potential career field:

Nelson Barbosa at Margo Jones Architects (Greenfield), **Evelina Federyuk** at CVS pharmacy (Greenfield).



Cory Rodriguez '08 enters a successful dive.

Teddy Dunbar rose to the rank of Eagle Scout on Nov. 12th with the successful completion of his community service project. Teddy—managing a crew of about 15 volunteers—installed a sun shelter in Unity Park in Turners Falls. The shelter provides relief from the sun for park goers, lowering temperatures by up to 10 degrees and preventing exposure to UV rays.

Teddy organized a number of fund-raising efforts to help acquire materials for the project, and worked, along with the volunteers he recruited, for over 100 combined hours. Teddy is the first Boy Scout in the history of his Montague Elks Lodge sponsored Troop to make Eagle, the Scouts' highest honor.

This October, **Kibbs Fortilus** won an essay contest for the city of Springfield. The contest, called "The City Thinks: Hotel Rwanda, Lessons Yet to be Learned," asked students to respond to the following questions: "Consider the U.S.' response to the genocides in Rwanda and Darfur. What patterns do you see with the U.S.'s outreach to help the "other"? What lessons learned in Rwanda should be applied to Darfur? What is our responsibility to help now in Darfur and to prevent further genocides from occurring?"

As a winner of the contest, Kibbs read his essay at The City Thinks kick-off event on October 7. He also attended a private dinner with Presidential Medal of Freedom Winner Paul Rusesabagina—who was responsible for saving thousands of lives during the Rwandan genocide—on October 18th. Copies of Kibbs' essay were made available to all audience members at Rusesabagina's October 18th lecture, and he was publicly recognized at the event and in the press.

Evelina Federyuk and **Tatiana (Tanya) Olaru** were inducted into the Greenfield High School National Honors Society in November. At Turner Falls High School, three of the nine Honors Society inductees were also UB students: senior **Brittany Mazon**, and juniors **Amy Baxter** and **Theodore (Teddy) Dunbar**.

Frank Martinez and **Jennifer Espinosa**, certified Salsa instructors and current Holyoke High seniors, will lead a Salsa workshop at Northfield Mount Hermon's Latino Conference (March 1st-2nd). A number of other UB seniors are to attend the event, which will feature performing artist and activist Aya de Leon, and speakers Alma Martinez and Jorge Zaballos.

Despite having been diving for only three months, **Cory Rodriguez** is quickly making headlines. Cory travels to Harvard to compete in regionals this February, and is closing in on Springfield Science & Technology school records.

In wrestling, **Jorge Cruz-Morales** and **Kibbs Fortilus** are competing in regional finals for their respective weight classes.

INTERNSHIPS

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Nelson Barbosa at Margo Jones Architects (Greenfield), **Evelina Federyuk** at CVS pharmacy (Greenfield).

Forty years of UB (cont.)

like Upward Bound becomes painfully obvious.

In spite of the clear need to “level the playing field,” lest we face class divisions not seen for decades (and ones we are already approaching), the Bush administration has repeatedly attempted to eliminate Upward Bound and other similar programs. Advocates in Congress and in communities across the country have succeeded in reinstating funding, but, as always, the future of the program and the depth of our commitment to public education remain uncertain. As other countries con-

tinue to do a better job funding their public education systems, we risk compromising our global competitiveness, not to mention other correlates of a highly-educated populace, such as good health and higher civic engagement.

We are in an exciting political time right now, a time in which there is opportunity for great change, and in which we could also fall back quickly into old patterns of thinking. Educational opportunity needs to be a long-term investment and national priority; it needs to be at the center of our discussions about the economy, and especially at the center of our discussions about crime and “public safety.” During its 40 years of operation, Upward Bound has accomplished enormous gains, helping open doors for many young people with great potential but limited means. On this anniversary, we look forward to continuing to help young people access higher education with the hope that our leaders will address the deeper inequities that still make Upward Bound so necessary. ■

On March 8th, 2008, Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound will celebrate forty-plus years of helping low-income and first generation youth go to college. If you are interested in attending the dinner and reception, please email GLitalien-ub@nmhschool.org!

Notes from the Director

Greetings from snowy Northfield!

We are excited that our seniors have completed hundreds of college applications and are putting the final touches on financial aid applications. Our fall has been busy and wonderful as we welcome three new staff members and our AmeriCorps member. We are in the thick of recruiting new students, helping our students explore college and career options, planning our spring curriculum around the theme of immigration, recruiting summer staff, and planning our 40th anniversary celebration on March 8th at Alumni Hall.

We hope all our alumni, friends, and supporters continue to recognize the importance of educational access for all and work in small and big ways towards



that vision. Please send us your news and let us know if you'd like to attend our celebration. We hope to bring back lots of folks from the past twenty years and engage more friends and supporters in our important mission.

—Gisele Litalien, Director



SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



TANYA SANTANA

Holyoke High School

What has UB meant to you?

It's meant a lot. It's given me the opportunity to learn about the whole college process. I've gotten to know a whole diverse group of people. If it wasn't for Upward Bound, I wouldn't know half of the things I know how to do now. It taught me how to get out of my comfort zone, and I know that's going help me a lot in life.

What excites you most about college?

It means I'm growing up! And finally being able to do what I want to do in school. In college you get to start all over again.

What are you thinking about studying, and why?

Social work and/or sociology...I want to be a social worker, to provide social services and bring families back together.



What were the best and worst parts of the college process?

I'll do the worst first: when you have to admit some of the things that you don't want to admit...like if your grades aren't where you want them to be, even if you always played it off as if it were fine...The paperwork also gets tedious.

The best part...is when you're all done! And actually finding schools that you do like.

What is your favorite part of UB?

The summer. That's where you really get to know everyone, and learn how to write all the papers. It's where you learn what you need for the coming year, so you're one step ahead of everyone else.

Any advice to next years Seniors?

Start early! The sooner you start the college process, the faster you're done. New students: Don't slack in school. Try as hard as you can, because you'll be regretting it later!

Anything else you want to add?

Shout-outs to all my dudes! Y'all know who you be! Wallace all day...

YOGESH MALIK

Greenfield High School

What has UB meant to you?

I don't have the words to describe exactly what UB is to me. UB has opened my mind to diversity, and to accept people that are not exactly like me. I have learned from UB that it's okay to be different. That's a huge question, Adam. That's worse than my college application essays!

What excites you most about college?

It's a totally new beginning where I can forget the past, take the good with me, and start a whole new life. It is a step towards my success.

What are you thinking about studying, and why?

I want to study International Relations, International Economics, International Business... something that involves the whole globe. I want to end up having a job in the United Nations, and perhaps be an ambassador for a large company, or even for the United States. I want to improve the world.



What were the best and worst parts of the college process?

The worst part was the college applications, to be honest. But it was also the best part, because even though they were long and tedious, the application essays made me realize many of the strengths and weaknesses I carry. They made

me think about a lot of things that I don't normally think about.

What is your favorite part of UB?

My favorite part of UB is that everyone can live like a family even though we all are extremely different from one another...that everyone is willing to accept those differences, and accept each other.

Any advice to next years Seniors?

Listen to your advisors. When they ask you to have things done by a deadline, make sure you have those things done. Timing is one of the most important things. Be prepared for everything. EVERYTHING.

Anything else you want to add?

That's a big question, too! How about my quote: "When life becomes a sword, let your smile be the shield."

So You Want to Apply for College?

Get your thinking caps straight, your writing gloves tight, your form-filling fingers steady. Sit up straight. Leave all procrastination at the door...tomorrow. Take hour after hour of SATs, then do it again. Smile like a maniac. Write an essay. Yell at your computer for losing your essay. Write your essay again. Go to the doctor and get treated for arthritis. Fill out more blanks and bubbles. Beg for that last recommendation. Take a

tour. Take a test. Take another application. Fall asleep. Wake up, your advisor's yelling something! Fall asleep again. You dream you're buried in envelopes. You wake up. You have to mail that envelope! You lick the stamp. You click the button. You raise your fist.
You collapse.

You've just finished applying to college.

WHERE OUR SENIORS ARE APPLYING

A big part of Upward Bound's mission is to guide students through the college application process. Since the summer, 18 Upward Bound seniors have applied to a total of 58 different colleges, with each senior applying to between 5 and 10 schools. Here is a list of those schools—with each early acceptance marked by an asterisk!

Babson College
Bates College
Bentley College
Boston College
Boston University
Brandeis College*
Bridgewater State College
Clark University
Colby Sawyer College*
Colgate University
College of the Holy Cross
Colorado College
Connecticut College
Eckerd College
Elms College*
Emerson College
Fitchburg State College*
Fordham University
Framingham State College*
Franklin & Marshall College
Greenfield Community College
Holyoke Community College
Johnson & Wales University
Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts**
Mercyhurst College

Middlebury College
Mitchell College*
Mount Holyoke College
New England College**
North Carolina Wesleyan College
Northeastern University
Providence College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rochester Institute of Technology
Saint Anselm College
Salem State***
Seton Hall University*
Skidmore College
Smith College
Springfield Technical Community College
Temple University*
Texas A&M
Texas Tech University*
UMass-Amherst
UMass-Dartmouth*****
University of New Hampshire
University of Notre Dame
University of Texas-Austin
Vermont Technical College*
Wellesley College
Wentworth Institute of Technology*
West Virginia University*
Westfield State College***
Wheaton College
Wheelock College*
Widener College
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Worcester State College

* for each UB early acceptance (as of 2/15/08)

Meet Your New UB Staff!

SHARON GRALNICK Springfield Advisor

Born in: Long Island, New York
Live (currently) in: Brattleboro, Vermont
Favorite Music: Reggae and Dancehall Reggae – my favorite singer is Bujura Banton but I also have an eternal love for Bob Marley and Peter Tosh.
Favorite Book: I don't have one – but I can tell you that I just read "Brother I'm Dying" by Edwidge Danticat who I love and I'm currently reading "Mountains Beyond Mountains."
Favorite Quote: "There can be no peace without equal rights and justice" -Peter Tosh
Random fact about me: Although I am physically in Vermont and Massachusetts, my spirit and soul live in the Caribbean.
Why did you come to work at UB? I was tired of seeing my stu-



dents leave me each year and not having the ability to work with them to get closer to fulfilling their dreams – especially those with limited access to opportunities and because I believe in education rather than the other options the youth of our country face today - incarceration or the military.
What's your favorite thing about working at UB so far? That all the other staff loves food too.
What's something you look forward to about UB summer? Getting to know students from Holyoke and Franklin County.
If you were a kind of food, what would you be and why? Quinoa because it is nutty, full of life, and goes with anything.
Superhero? Maurice Bishop - the man who fought for true independence in Grenada.

MARI JAMES Holyoke Advisor

Born in: Magdalena del Mar, Lima-Perú
Live (currently) in: Athol, MA
Favorite Music: The Beatles, Andean Folk music, Vivaldi
Favorite color: aqua, chocolate brown
Favorite book: El Túnel, Ernesto Sabato; La Casa de Bernarda Alba, 20 Poemas de Amor y una Canción Desesperada
Favorite Quote: "You have a wonderful child. Then when he's 13, gremlins carry him away and leave in his place a stranger who gives you not a moment's peace. You have to hang in there, because three or four years later, the gremlins will return your child, and he will be wonderful again." -Jill Eikenberry



What's your favorite thing about working at UB so far? Receiving college acceptance letters from our students
What has been the biggest surprise? Learning to drive the mini-bus.
What's something you look forward to about UB summer? Chasing students that don't want to go to Study Hall.
If you were a kind of food, what would you be and why? Chocolate, it makes most people happy.
An office supply item? Post it notes, good for memory loss.
Superhero? Mafalda, she looks like me. She was my favorite cartoon character growing up because she was able to speak up and express her views in a socially and politically oppressed society.

PATRICIA CORRIGAN Office Manager

Born in: New York City, NY
Live in: Gill, MA
Favorite Music: Classical
Favorite Color: Yellow
Favorite Book: Just one?! Too hard. "Howard's End" by E.M. Forster; "What's Bred in the Bone" by Robertson Davies and many more.
Favorite Quote: "Only connect" from "Howard's End" by E.M. Forster.
Random fact about me: I really do hate to fly.
Why did you come to work at UB? Because I heard it was a phenomenal program and I wanted to do something different that I considered worthwhile.
What's your favorite thing about



working at UB so far? My co-workers.
What has been the biggest surprise? How much I enjoy working here.
What's something you look forward to about UB summer? So far I have only met the seniors and then only once. They were all fabulous, so I'm looking forward to being able to meet the rest of the kids and put faces to names.
If you were a kind of food, what would you be and why? Ice cream because it is my favorite vice.
An office supply item? A post-it note because I stick to people with little questions and reminders.
Superhero? Rhonda Winegarner.

ADAM ROBERTS AmeriCorps Member

Born in: Providence, RI
Live (currently) in: Greenfield, MA
Favorite Music: contemporary classical, electronic, rock/folk...anything weird and/or absorbing
Favorite Color: blue
Favorite Book: Autobiography of Red, by Anne Carson
Favorite subject in high school: English
Random fact about me: I am a born-again book-lover.
Why did you come to work at UB? I had worked with UB for two summer academies, and knew it was an incredible program. I thought briefly about teaching elsewhere, but when it came down to it, I



wanted to find a way to continue working with UB's awesome students during the year. I care a lot about Upward Bound's mission.
What's your favorite thing about working at UB so far?
 1. A-ha! moments when working on college essays: when, suddenly, things just click for a student.
 2. Epic mini-bus field trips.
What has been the biggest surprise? Getting to put together this newsletter!
What's your favorite thing about UB summer? The sense of community, from students on up to staff.
If you were a superhero, who would you be? Patricia Corrigan!

CLASS NOTES



Class Notes: a place for quick updates on the whereabouts and goings-on of NMH Upward Bound alumni, former staff, and former faculty. If you'd like to be included, e-mail your note to upwardbound@nmhschool.org with the words "Class Notes" in the title. We can't wait to hear from you!

Keesha White '98, UB grad update and former UB adviser, recently got her MSW at Washington University and has moved back to New York. She writes, "I am now working at the Department of Health in East Harlem as the Asthma Outreach Coordinator. I also have songs for sale on itunes, tk rose is my stage name and that is the name that would be typed into the search box to find my songs. I have been doing a lot of singing and I have been extremely blessed. Again, I am so glad to hear from you. Please send me updates. I received the newsletter once and it was great to see what was going on with the students."

From **Maggie McCauliffe '01**:

"Since 2006 I have been working at a small life settlement company, Integrity Settlement Provider. I am in a managerial position here, and am about 70% of the way towards earning my MBA. I am also getting married this October, so it is a very busy year!! Both Juan (Avendano, 2001) and Jose Bahamonde (2001) are engineers, and doing very well for themselves."

From **Brian Lawson '04**:

"I'm currently working for the website PolitickerNH, which covers all aspects of politics in the Granite State. During the months leading up to the New Hampshire primary I ran a website called New Hampshire Presidential Watch. Below is a list of media interviews because of the website: Dan Rather, C-SPAN, NHPR, NPR, XM Radio, CN 8, WGME-13, The New York Observer, NECN, The Union Leader, France 24 (France's version of CNN), Spiegel TV (German TV), The Dartmouth, The Hippo and Dallas Morning News. Also a group of students from American University followed me on the trail for a day and is doing a documentary about me."

From **Shakuntala Ramtahal '04**:

"Happy 2008 to all of the UB staff. Everything is going great for me. I am graduating this May with a bachelor's in Social Work and Psychology. I am also in the process of applying to graduate school. I am applying to Boston College, Smith College, UConn and Springfield College for a masters in social work, specifically with a focus on international/global social work. Much Love, God Bless!"

From **Wil Perez '04**:

"I am finishing off my senior year at Brown University and have been accepted early to the Warren Alpert School of Medicine at Brown University. My major is Public Health with a minor in Hispanic Studies and a focus in Infectious Disease in Developing Countries. I've recently been offered several opportunities to work with some of the world's largest and most established health and human rights organizations, so I may be postponing medical school for up to a year....Some of my biggest offers include the Clinton Foundation in Mali, the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) in Kenya, Keep a Child Alive in Rwanda, Project Hope in rural Haiti and Partners In Health in Port-au-prince Haiti working with my hero Paul Farmer. I've narrowed down my choices to the ones in Haiti because it has always been my dream to work there....I'm very excited about it all."

Alex Morse '07 received one of only four state-wide MEOA scholarships, a highly competitive scholarship awarded to students from low-income or first-generation-college-going backgrounds. Alex is currently a first-year student at Brown University. In his acceptance speech for the scholarship, Alex thanked Upward Bound for putting him in a position to succeed. UB students take heed—it's good to apply for everything you can!



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Happy Fortieth, UB!



Northfield Mount Hermon Upward Bound, Summer 2007

The mission of the Upward Bound Program at Northfield Mount Hermon School is to generate in low-income and first generation college potential students, the skills and motivation to be successful in high school and in college.