

UPWARD BOUND

Summer 2011 Newsletter

HARRIS-STOWE
STATE UNIVERSITY



MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Be the Best that You Can Be!

Another summer has ended, and we are all back at school again! I hope your vacation was enjoyable and you are ready to begin the task of completing your high school education.

I know that some of you are still adjusting to being back at school and are trying to accept the challenges and changes that came over the summer; however, I want to talk with you about your education and what's expected of all of you in this new school year.

Your school, your parents and your country have the responsibility of setting high standards and improving schools where students aren't getting the opportunities they deserve. But at the end of the day, you can have the most dedicated teachers, the most supportive parents and the best schools in the world — and none of it would matter unless you fulfill your responsibilities. You need to show up to school, pay attention to your teachers, listen to your parents, grandparents and other adults and put in the hard work it takes to succeed! Each of you is responsible for your education! As President Obama said, "Every single one of you has something you're good at. Every single one of you has something to offer. And you have a responsibility to yourself to discover what that is!" Take these words to heart and think about them. Remember to "Bloom where you are planted and to be the best that you can be!"

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*Congratulations
to the
Upward Bound
Class of 2011
for receiving over
\$480,000
in scholarship
offers!*

*"If we all did the things
we are capable of doing,
we would literally
astound ourselves."*

-Thomas Edison

*American Inventor
(1847-1931)*

SUMMER PROGRAM

The Upward Bound summer program consisted of an exciting six-week session filled with college preparatory classes, field trips and fun.

For the first time this summer, the students took a Mandarin Chinese class in an effort to expand their horizons and experience a new language/culture. They also took English/ACT Prep, History, Laboratory Science, Mathematics and College/Career Counseling classes.

While classes were in session, the rising 11th and 12th graders had an opportunity to stay in the Gillespie Residence Hall on the Harris-Stowe campus. Those students were also offered work-study jobs on campus or in the community in order to build their job skills and expose them to various careers available to college graduates.

The entire student group took educational/cultural field trips to the America I Am exhibit at the Missouri History Museum, the Holocaust Museum to hear directly from a survivor and to Forest Park for a fun day of visiting with the other two Upward Bound programs in St. Louis. The students ended the summer with the annual Culminating Activity filled with poetry reciting, dance, song and student-written theatre. It was an enjoyable summer for all, and we look forward to a great school year!



PICTURED

TOP: Students at the America I Am exhibit at the Missouri History Museum

MIDDLE: 11th grade students posing with Fredbird while volunteering at the Cardinals game

BOTTOM: 10th and 11th grade girls relaxing at the picnic in Forest Park

NEW ORLEANS EDUCATIONAL/CULTURAL FIELD TRIP

From July 17-22, Upward Bound took 40 students on an action-packed trip to New Orleans, Louisiana. The group visited three colleges: Xavier University, Dillard University and Southern University at New Orleans. They walked the French Quarter and learned all about the city's rich history. They also toured the entire city of New Orleans by bus and saw first hand the devastation and rebuilding efforts six years after Hurricane Katrina hit. They visited Mardi Gras World and learned about the religious and cultural connections of the famous celebration. At the Laura Plantation the students got to see what life as a slave was really like as they walked through the original slave cabins and saw the sugar cane fields that were maintained by slave labor. Following the plantation, the group went on a swamp tour where they saw alligators in the wild and learned about nature on the bayou. On the last day, the group enjoyed a relaxing ride on the Mississippi River on the Natchez steamboat. It was a trip that will be remembered by all!

THE STUDENTS' PERSPECTIVE

"My favorite part of the trip was the swamp tour because it was weird but beautiful in its own way. Also, the [Cajun] cooking afterwards was excellent!"

-Robert Woods, 12th grade, Jennings

"My favorite part of the trip was visiting the colleges because it gave me an idea of what college will be like for me."

-Alexander Bogan, 10th grade, North Tech

"My favorite part of the trip was when we went to visit the historical graveyard. It was an experience seeing how they buried people above ground in New Orleans."

-Shelley Jones, 12th grade, North Tech

"I liked the night ghost tour in the French Quarter because it gave me a history behind the trip, and I felt more connected to the city."

-Alicia Brown, 11th grade, Soldan

"My favorite college was Southern University at New Orleans. I like SUNO because they show more family values to their students, and they seem to put the students first before the money."

-Isaac Gaines, 11th grade, North Tech



PICTURED:

TOP: Mariah Lane (12th, Imagine) and Dominique McCaskill (12th, Cardinal Ritter) holding a preserved alligator head on the swamp tour

MIDDLE: Students ringing the original breakfast bell at the Laura Plantation

BOTTOM: Parresha Jenkins (12th, North Tech), Mariah Lane, Shonie Jackson (12th, Normandy) and Dominique McCaskill in authentic costumes at Mardi Gras World

UPCOMING EVENTS

September 17, 2011 – FALL ORIENTATION

All students and their parents/guardians are expected to attend.

October 1, 2011 – 1st DAY OF FALL CLASSES

Students need to report to the Upward Bound office at 8 a.m. Classes will begin at 8:30 a.m. and will conclude at 1 p.m.

October 16, 2011 – ST. LOUIS NATIONAL COLLEGE FAIR

Noon-3 p.m. at St. Louis University's Simon Recreation Center
Representatives from almost 200 colleges and universities will be available to provide information about admissions, scholarships, student activities and more! This is a great opportunity not only for seniors but younger students as well.

October 22, 2011 – ACT Test Date

Registration Deadline: September 16, 2011
Stop by the Upward Bound office for fee waivers, registration instructions and test tips!

December 10, 2011 – ACT Test Date

Registration Deadline: November 4, 2011

TBD – UPWARD BOUND FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

We will host a special financial aid workshop this fall that will explain the FAFSA process, scholarships, grants and loans. All Upward Bound students and parents are welcome, but the seniors are especially encouraged to attend.



PICTURED:

TOP: Students performing a skit that they wrote at the annual Upward Bound Culminating Activity

BOTTOM: Isaac Gaines (11th, North Tech) and Joshua Allen-Johnson (12th, North Tech) posing with stage costumes from Luther Vandross, Smokey Robinson and other great performers at the Missouri History Museum

UPWARD BOUND STAFF



Ruth LaValle	Director
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Leah Jones	Counselor
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