

## Director's Desktop

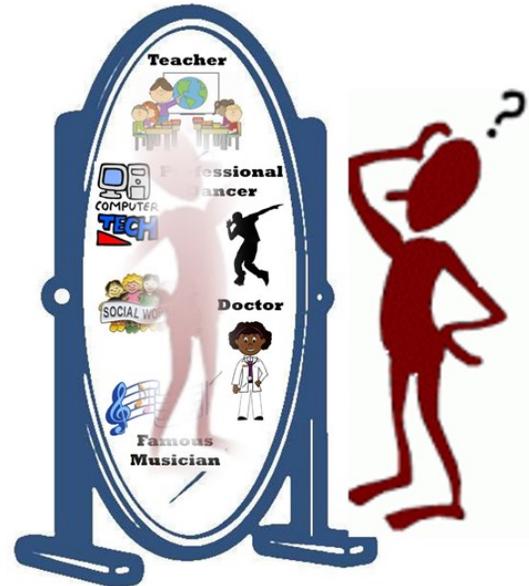


Geraldine E. Graham, Director

With the June 1 start date looming, all of us were extremely anxious on May 24 knowing PUB's grant ended in exactly one week. Summer Academy was in jeopardy – we couldn't hire staff or make any other financial commitments that would assure a productive start-up of Summer Academy 2017. Also in jeopardy was our standing as a 50-year target-area pillar of opportunity and as Oakland University's longest consistently active community engagement partner. Fear crept in when the end of the work day neared and there was no Grant Award Notification (GAN). **The staff went home riddled with stress and reeling from uncertainty on this day that we were promised we would find out our application's status.**

I couldn't wait a minute longer - people's lives were hanging in the balance! So, **despite the fact that it was after 5:00 p.m., I started "blowing up" congressional phone lines** – local and national. One office didn't have a clue what I was talking about – and since there was no time to make this a teaching moment, I moved on to the next option. There I got caught in an extended outgoing message loop.

### "What I Will Be Is Up To Me"



Dialing a third congressional office, and last option, I had to leave a message. And, hallelujah, at 6:30 in the evening on May 24, **Senator Gary Peters' office responded that our application had been approved!** You can't imagine the relief that flooded me. I spread the word to the PUB Administrative Team and slept better that night than I had in the past 6 months. We appreciate that **on the next day, Senator Debbie Stabenow's office contacted OU's Government and Community Relations Office to confirm the award and provide the PR number** which, as you will see, turned out to be a real gift.

Unfortunately, my reduced stress level was short-lived. We still couldn't make any financial commitments until the official GAN was received, and time was running short to salvage the 2017 Summer Academy. I turned to PUB's OU Grants & Contracts Office for help; and because we had the PR Award Number and the support of **Vice President Glenn McIntosh, Grants & Contracts Officer Shamon Murdock** was able to suggest a stop-gap measure that prevented shutting down PUB while awaiting receipt of the GAN.

It wasn't until the afternoon of May 30, a scant 34 hours before the midnight May 31

expiration of the existing grant, that we received the official GAN. **Happy to be officially starting our 51<sup>st</sup> year of service to the community**, immediately we jumped into action contacting participants and their parents, arranging orientation, reserving space, hiring academic and residential teams, ordering supplies, finalizing training schedules and confirming facilitators, and all of the hundreds of other tasks it takes to plan and implement a successful PUB Summer Academy.

It wasn't easy to stay committed in the face of uncertainty or to operate with one Administrative Team slot vacant due to that same uncertainty. But **I am forever grateful to Academic Coordinator Ava McDowell and Administrative Secretary Jackie Sauseda for their unwavering loyalty to PUB.** Our thanks also to long term summer team members who returned as well as first-timers whose assets enriched the summer experience for PUB Scholars. And thanks to the 27 PUB Scholars who followed through on their commitments to participate in the 2017 Summer Academy even though we contacted them late. We all hung in there, and this summer was great!

*Geri Graham*



## REFLECTIONS ON 2017 EOA GIRLS IN STEM



Angelica Tibbitts

GIS was a wonderful experience for me. It helped me to meet new people and make friendships. During the conference we went to different sessions based on our STEM interest. My sessions were chemistry where we filled rockets with gasses and made them shoot across the room. Then in biology we learned

about the brain and some of the neurons. My last session was sports medicine where we did some balance tests then reviewed the signs of concussion. These sessions helped open my eyes to a wider variety of STEM options.

The panel discussion is where a lot of information came from. The banquet speaker was my absolute favorite. She spoke on the 7 S's: self-love, self-belief, self-talk, self-care, taking the first step, you are your sister's keeper, and swag song. All of these opened my eyes not only to STEM but to real life.

I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to go to the EOA Girls-In-STEM Conference. I've made connections with many wonderful ladies and started a few friendships that we plan on keeping. It's a great experience to be a part of; and I recommend participating if you have an interest in STEM.

My experience at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual EOA Girls-In-STEM Conference was amazing! Since the presenter was not there for my first scheduled session in computer science, I was redirected into biology. Then in Sports Medicine the demonstrations and examples were amazing, especially the hands-on activities which is why I really wanted to come to this conference. My last session in geo-science made me think about how my house is staying on the ground and how clean our natural waters are.

The motivational speakers were also amazing. I liked how they gave a brief bio about how they went through life to get to where they are now. I liked how they gave encouragement for us to strive to reach our goals and never give up. I'm glad that I came on this trip. It was a good experience.



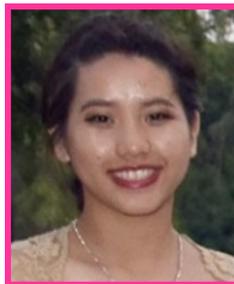
Monet Fletcher

I really liked this Girls-In-STEM Conference because even though my career interest is in nursing, I liked hearing about other STEM careers, learning what they do and how they do it. The weekend was fun. I made new acquaintances and enjoyed the guest speakers. I learned that one of



Ariana Louris

the reasons GIS was created was because women don't get paid as much for doing the same work or receive the recognition that men do. But women can do anything STEM-related just like men can. I'm going to pursue my dream of being a registered nurse, and I'm going to love myself and let no one stand in my way!



Nou Cheng

When Ms. Graham emailed me about the conference, I was iffy about coming. When I found out that I was going to be split up and room with other [non-PUB] girls I was upset because I dislike meeting new people. I had so many scenarios in my head about how my roommates were going to be. But, they were all quiet and

kept to themselves. We were also split into groups according to our interests. At first we were all awkward with each other until we did icebreakers which broke down our walls. We created group names and my group name was "Incredible Family" which was inspired by the periodic table.

The next day we attended 3 conference sessions of our choice. At first I thought it would be boring lectures that would put me to sleep. But it was actually interesting because we got to do little experiments and touch stuff. In the end, I got to learn new things and got to listen to STEM ladies talk about their experiences that got them where they are. I also got to get some girls' Snapchats since networking was one point of the conference.

At the start of this trip, I had mixed feelings. I didn't know how a whole program surrounded by females was going to make me feel. I am a very open person and I wasn't nervous about meeting anyone; so I did well with meeting new people. We were split into groups based on shared interests; but I'm not sure that we were all matches. I really had no interest in two of the three workshops where I was placed. But I really liked my chemistry session where we did an actual activity instead of just sitting down listening like we did in the other two. Of the panelists and keynote speakers my favorite was the last. I really enjoyed her talk and she always kept me engaged. Overall, this trip was a good experience and it felt like PUB Summer Academy. I also met KPUP fans which was exciting.



Alonna Sistrunk

## FAREWELL & HELLO

As overjoyed as we were with the good news of our grant application approval, **we were equally distressed to learn that some “sister” Michigan UB projects were not funded.** Not only will the students in those communities and schools who have demonstrated ongoing need feel the lack of support services, but we will miss colleagues who have added a richness to the TRIO community and made significant contributions to educational access and attainment. **Best wishes and thank you for your invaluable contributions to educational opportunity in Michigan.**



It is bittersweet that in the next breath we also **welcome newly funded UB projects** to Michigan’s TRIO community.



We extend ourselves for information or advice and look forward to engaging with you at the project and MI-CAPP chapter levels.

## RECORD ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE!

In PUB, whether a Scholar has achieved A/B Honor Roll status is calculated by averaging together each individual’s grades in all 8 of their summer classes. Scholars earning a D, E, or F in any class are automatically disqualified since, by PUB’s definition, those are failing grades.



PUB is immensely proud to announce that **100% of summer residential Scholars achieved A/B Honor Roll status.** Of those, only 1 Scholar earned a C – but put forth a valiant effort! PUB was so proud of these Scholars that at the awards ceremony, PUB Team members personally and individually draped them with “gold” medals. It was an amazing recognition – Great Job Scholars!

100%



## PUB EXPANDS PARTNERSHIPS

PUB is excited about its expanded partnerships with Oakland University’s **Office of Admissions** and the **Office of Institutional Research**. For example, admission advisors will be providing information and advice in College Seminar as juniors seek to find a good college fit and explore how to pay for college. They will also be contributing to Parent Association meetings by providing information and answering questions.

As the name indicates, OU’S Office of Institutional Research tracks activity and produces data about Oakland University – particularly its students. In a recent meeting,

we discovered that now there is a way for OIR to produce the same data on PUB alumni enrolled at OU that they generate for the entire OU student body. For example, in that meeting, we discovered that **12.5% of all PUB participants** who received a stipend 2012 through 2016 enrolled at OU. That equates to **21.6% of PUB’s 2012-2016 graduates enrolling at Oakland University.**



## EDUCATION & LEADERSHIP A DYNAMIC DUO

Education and Leadership go hand-in-hand. PUB emphasizes the importance of this powerful combination starting with its summer Leadership Development Institute and continuing with state, regional, and national student leadership conferences. But it doesn’t stop there.

Leadership skills are an important asset to complement a degree when it is time to interview for positions – whether student, graduate, or professional. As a PUB alumna, if you choose to attend Oakland University, you will have the option of applying to the Emerging Leadership Program (ELP). At no cost and without any pressure to be an officer in a student organization, you will have opportunities to learn and practice leadership skills in a forum that gives you access to network with other students as well as OU administrators and executives.



Even if you don’t get into the ELP, there are numerous opportunities for leadership at OU. Check them out at [www.Oakland.edu/CSA/OULead](http://www.Oakland.edu/CSA/OULead)





## PUB PAYS OFF

Significant PUB resources are expended in every PUB Summer Academy because it has always been the time when Scholars make the most academic and social progress. The goals are to position Scholars at an advantage for the upcoming academic year and to teach them success skills that will help them persist in postsecondary education. Grades, test scores, behavior reports and program evaluations help us measure how close we come to achieving these goals. Below are some of the results from the program evaluation

### Orientation & the First Day

- \* 93% agree that orientation prepared them for what to expect this summer
- \* 89% agree that first-day activities gave them needed information and helped them better understand how to care for and respect themselves and others

### Attitude & Personal Growth

- \* 100% are committed to behaving in a way that will help them achieve their goals
- \* 89% experienced success this summer that made them feel good about themselves
- \* 93% feel more positive about their future because of being in PUB



### Social/Cultural

- \* 82% believe living in the dorm this summer will help them be more comfortable living away from home in their freshman college year
- \* 50% of the 68% of Scholars who lost behavior points said they learned from it; 32% did not lose any points
- \* 89% think we should keep doing the end-of-summer Pamper Party
- \* Parent Appreciation Day was a positive experience for 93% of Scholars



### Academic

- \* An average 88% of Scholars learned something they didn't know before in Summer Academy classes
- \* 95% believe that things they learned this summer will help them pass their school classes in the 2017-18 academic year

### Overall

- \* 96% felt that the summer trip was a good incentive to work toward
- \* 89% felt that being in Summer Academy was helpful for them





Have you ever noticed how a pinch of salt brings out the flavor of food? Well, that's what PUB alumni do for the PUB experience – enhance the flavor!

Congratulations to **Ane' Taylor** who just got accepted into Oakland University's Graduate School to pursue a Master's Degree in Higher Education Administration.



Marcus Webb

Returning in their summer roles this year were Head Resident **Marcus Webb**, currently enrolled in OU's Ph. D. program; and Office Assistant **TaQuanda Allen**, going back for her final year at Ferris State University.



TaQuanda Allen

Surrounded by alumni at all academic and career levels, PUB programming can't help but be a little more "salty" this year!



Ane' Taylor

THE RELENTLESS TOUR

On July 11, PUB Scholars listened attentively as **Anthony Ianni** shared his overcoming story and encouraged them to be relentless and resourceful in breaking down barriers to reach their goals. As a child with autism, Anthony was consistently bullied because he was different. But he overcame that to become the **first athlete with autism to play Division I college basketball**.



Because of his story, the Michigan Department of Civil Rights engaged Anthony to spread his anti-bullying/overcoming message. He said that hard work, motivation, family support, mentors, and self-advocacy are the keys. In his words, **"Only you can stop you from achieving your goals; your destiny is in your hands."**

Anthony reminded Scholars that they would forever be a part of the history of their high school and of PUB; so they should honor, cherish and take pride in both. He challenged them to think about what legacy they wanted to leave. He left a legacy of leadership and respect at his high school and his college (MSU) and asked, **"What legacy will you leave at your high school and in PUB?"**

Academic Mentor **Sreen Abouzahr**



Sreen Abouzahr

will return to Oakland for her third academic year and continue as Academic Mentor for the school year.

This was Academic Mentor **Quinton Hawkins'** first summer on



Quinton Hawkins

the PUB Team and he returns to OU this fall.

**Mariah Kelley**



Mariah Kelley

worked with PUB under the Summer Student Campus Corp program sponsored by OU's Student Financial Services to try to make contact with PUB alumni. This fall she enters her second academic year at OU and will continue employment with PUB as a work/study clerical assistant.

**Aja [Pettiford] Johnson** earned her Bachelor's Degree from Wayne State University in 2016 and, as an AmeriCorp VISTA, split her time among PUB, Pontiac Promise Zone, and the OU/Pontiac Initiative office. She is now pursuing her master's degree at OU.



Aja Johnson



Ianni (center back) with PUB Summer Scholars

## PERFORMING ARTS SWEEPS THE SUMMER

This summer belonged to Performing Arts. Thanks to **Performing Arts Coordinator Gwen Foxx-Dokes**, PUB Scholars were ecstatic to meet and greet **Motown legend Martha Reeves**. They treated her to the PUB version of one of her greatest hits, "Dancing in the Street," with **Makayla King** up front as "Martha" backed by "Vandellas" **Briauna Travis, Monet Fletcher, and Ruby Houston**. Afterward, Ms. Reeves shared a little Motown



Gwen Foxx-Dokes

Scholars donned the personas of musical greats spanning the years from the Harlem Renaissance all the way to present day.



history and a bit of advice and encouragement. As we celebrated her 73<sup>rd</sup> birthday, we were delighted that Ms. Reeves chose OU as **the first college campus she had ever visited** and that she took the time for a personal walking tour.



Ms. Reeves' visit was the perfect precursor to the **summer stage performance, "Music Through the Ages."**

In dances we saw swing, ballroom, mashed potatoes, the jerk and the freak on up through HipHop, Walking it Out, the Stanky Legg and more contemporary moves. Starting with the Big Band Era, songs moved through the Motown Sound and ended with Rap. And of course, PUB's 2017-18 program year theme was incorporated into their composition. **"What I Will Be is Up To Me."**



Scholars presented a PHENOMENAL production and PUB appreciates the Performing Arts Team for their wisdom, imagination, skill, talent, and fantastic work with PUB Scholars. Thanks for spotlighting their talents and creativity and for positioning them to boost their own self-confidence.



## READY FOR ACTION

On Thursday, July 27, twenty PUB Scholars became **Certified Kahn Academy Peer Coaches**. Having developed the curriculum and secured authorization for its training purposes from Kahn Academy, PUB Academic Coordinator Ava McDowell stepped back into the classroom as a teacher.



And every single PUB Scholar enrolled in the Kahn Academy elective mastered the skills required for certification.

So PUB made history twice – Mrs. McDowell is the only Kahn Academy Ambassador in TRIO and 100% of PUB’s first Peer Coach Certification class was successful! That means PUB is qualified and ready to work with their peers at the target schools to enhance academic growth possibilities using Kahn Academy.



## A DEEPER LOOK AT DINING ETIQUETTE

For many of this summer’s residents, this was their second summer. That meant they had already experienced PUB’s Dining Etiquette Training. So rather than just having them sit at the Head Table, they were given a more active role of helping to present; and they got to choose their topic.



Thanks to the following returning summer Scholars for the fantastic job they did at the Etiquette Dinner: Ashley Adams, Roshawnda Broyles, Andrew Edwards, Monet Fletcher, Ruby Houston, Vincent Lor, Dazale Mitchell, Dakota Passage, and Abel Texta. Your involvement made the dinner that much more fun!



## *CELL PHONE POLICY EVOLUTION*

PUB has a no-cell-phone policy during classes and other scheduled PUB programming. However, it is also a summer goal to enhance Scholars' level of self-responsibility. In addition, we were seeking a consistent way to inform Scholars who were not enrolled this summer about our activities and achievements. In those respects, we designated returning residential Scholars as "roving reporters" and assigned them a day to use their phones all day to take photos and forward those photos to Mr. Hans for posting on PUB's Facebook page. We did not have one incident of inappropriate use of a phone during class time. **So, BIG THANKS to those roving reporters for using their cell phones responsibly.**



## *ACADEMIC YEAR PREVIEW*

**Saturday, September 9:**      **Academic Year Orientation** for Returning Scholars & Parent(s)  
Lake Superior A & B Rooms, Oakland Center Lower Level  
9:30 – 11:00 a.m.

**Week of September 11:**      **College Clubs Begin at all Target Schools**  
Monday, September 11: ITA  
Tuesday, September 12: PHS  
Wednesday, September 13: PHS & PAE  
Thursday, September 14: OPHS



**October 1:**                      2017-18 FAFSA Available Online for 2018-2019 AY funding

**Saturday, October 7:**      **First PUB Saturday Academy of 2017-2018**  
Seniors: Meet in SFH Lobby for OU "Go for the Gold" & FAFSA  
All other Scholars: Go to SFH 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor for Breakfast & Classes



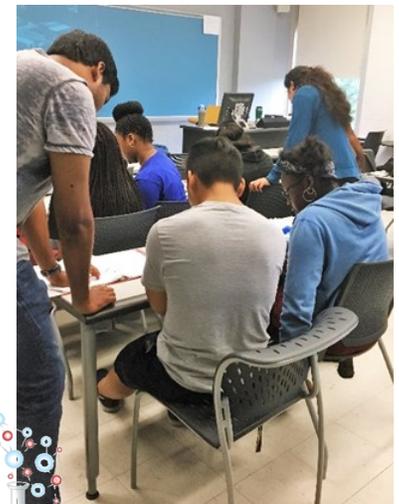
# 2017 PUB SUMMER ACADEMY MEMORIES



Summer Academy begins with training for PUB Academic Mentors and Residential Team at Camp Tamarack.



Scholars attend full day academic classes Monday thru Friday each week during PUB's Summer Academy





← Performing Arts Class

Evening Academic Games ↑



A well deserved Pamper Party for summer Scholars



PUB Scholars letting off a little steam at Dave & Buster's during PUB's Final Exam Blowout



# 2017 SUMMER ACADEMY AWARDS



## SPIRIT OF UPWARD BOUND AWARD



Ava McDowell, Abel Texta, Geraldine Graham

Abel Texta (ITA) earned the highest Project honor of the summer conferred for enthusiastically accepting PUB challenges, focusing on learning the most he can from PUB, and reaching back to help a PUB peer to be involved and learning.



## RESIDENTIAL ROLE MODEL AWARDS

Residential Role Models must have lived on campus all summer and been actively involved in residential programming; regularly and consistently initiated positive and healthy peer social interactions; and regularly and consistently demonstrated responsibility, respect for authority, a cooperative attitude, and compliance with the rules.



Roshawnda Broyles (PAE), Marcus Webb

## ACADEMIC DISTINCTION AWARD

PUB's highest academic award was conferred on Ruby Houston (PAE) for earning a 3.80 or higher in each of her 8 summer courses with no absences and good citizenship all summer. With an overall score of 98.54, Ruby's cumulative GPA was 4.00.

Ruby Houston,  
Ava McDowell



Marcus Webb,  
Vincent Lor  
(PHS)



# #1

## ACADEMIC GAMES

# #2



**SECOND PLACE** - \$7 McDonald's Gift Cards  
Narjhae Hayes, LaFetches Burse II,  
Ruby Houston, Monet Fletcher,  
Jonee McDonald



# #3



**FIRST PLACE** - \$15 AMC Theater Gift Cards

Dazale Mitchell, Adrian Wilson Jr.,  
Citlally Alvarado Ruiz, Diane Palacios



**THIRD PLACE** - \$5 Little Caesar's Pizza Gift Cards

Soren Garcia, Makayla King,  
Dakota Passage, Roshawnda Broyles



This summer, PUB took a hint from its home state marketing campaign and really put into action the concept of providing participants with exposures that they would not normally have. PUB transplanted students from urban areas into rural and natural settings for 6 days. We're talking places that had no cell phone towers or wi-fi access people! And it was all right here at home in the Great Lakes State. Scholars not only survived, but they had a ball. Our adventures included:



Canopy Rope Bridge, 5-Story Climbing Wall, and Zip Lining at Mill Creek Adventure



Playing on the beach and in the water at Lake Superior



Taking the ferry over and spending the day at Mackinac Island including a carriage tour



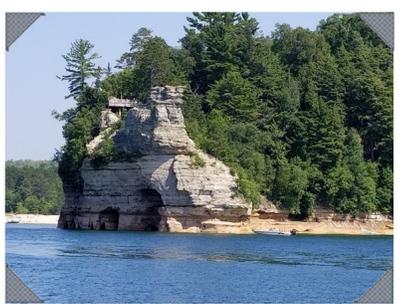
Seeing Mackinaw City and crossing the Mackinaw Bridge  
Experiencing a live competition at Jack Pine Lumberjack Show



Exploring the hiking paths and seeing the root-beer-like water at Tahquamenon Falls



Cruising the south shore of Lake Superior to view the magnificent Pictured Rocks



At each stop, we were in awe of the beauty of our home state. In between these adventures in nature, we managed to interject a little civilization by visiting **five postsecondary school campuses** – Central Michigan University, Lake Superior State University, Grand Valley State University, Western Michigan University, and Jackson College.



**BIG THANKS** to GVSU-UB and Jackson College-SSS for partnering with their Admissions Offices so we could have some **TRIO perspective** regarding their campuses. **BIG THANKS** to



LSSU and WMU for feeding us so that PUB Scholars got a feel for **eating in different campus cafeterias**.

And of course the trip wouldn't be complete without that ultimate of teen social experiences – the amusement park. At **Michigan Adventure** we got two for the price of one – rides and a water park on one of the hottest days of the trip!

And finally, more **BIG THANKS** to **Tour Consultant Michael Bell from Brightspark** who worked with us to confirm the itinerary in three short weeks; to **Mr. Tim from Dean Transportation** for driving safely and getting us everywhere on time; and to **Tour Director Mr. Jim from Brightspark** for making sure that all of our needs were met.

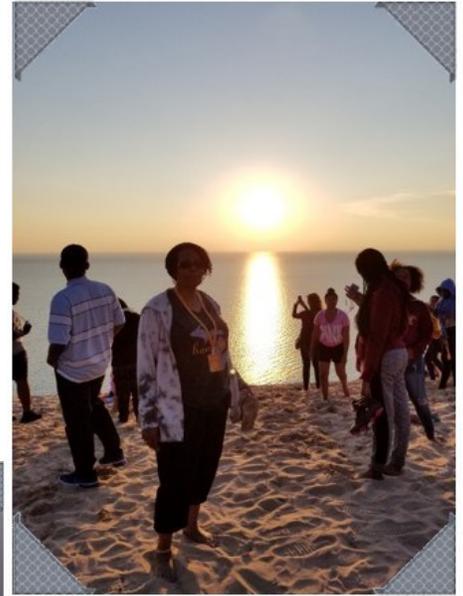
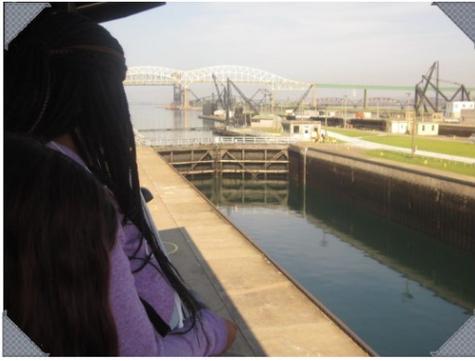
Even Mother Nature cooperated by giving us perfect weather every day (it rained only when we were on the bus traveling between stops). **And we especially appreciate parents**



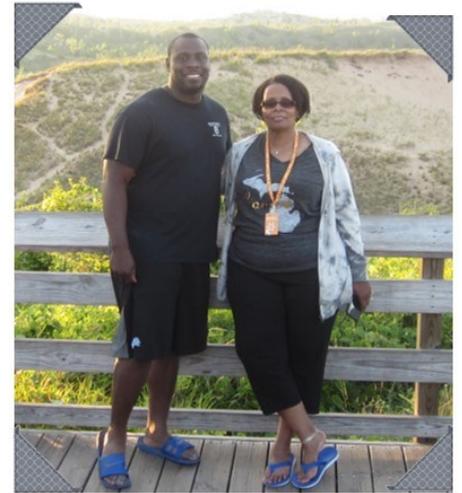
**for being here when we pulled into the OU parking lot at the end of PUB's 2017 Great Adventure** so that we could all go home and get some well-deserved rest! Here are some more photos of our adventures.



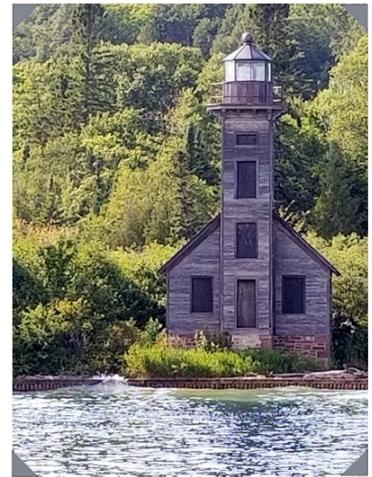
Exploring **Soo Locks** where two Great Lakes come together at Sault Ste. Marie



Climbing, sunning in the sand, and viewing the beauty of **Sleeping Bear Dunes**



Eating lunch in the forest – twice!



PURE MICHIGAN



# **PUB WELCOMES ALUMNI TO OU!**

The Oakland University campus is buzzing with anticipation of the start of the 2017-2018 Academic Year. Glazed-eyed freshmen wander around trying to locate their classrooms before the first day of class; tears are flowing as parents leave their freshmen at the residence hall for the first time; the Grounds Crew is sprucing up the landscaping; and Welcome Week is around the corner. So, in the spirit of the Golden Grizzlies, PUB welcomes **14 PUB alumni as Oakland University students** for fall 2017!

## Freshman Grizzlies



Wang Chang



Melany Giron



Lisandro Munoz



Taylor Smith

## Returning Undergraduate Grizzlies



Screen Abouzahr



Quinton Hawkins



Mariah Kelley



Bryan Munoz



Shaquala Phillips



Timothy Tucker



Talisha Williamson

## Graduate School Grizzlies

All seeking credentials in the higher education field



Master's Level: Aja Johnson  
VISTA assigned to PUB



Master's Level: Ane' Taylor



Doctoral Level: Marcus Webb  
PUB Head Resident

## AJA'S PERSPECTIVE



Five things about failing that I wish I knew when I was younger:

### 5. *It is not the end of the world.*

This seems so hard to believe at the moment, but it is so true. (Grab an umbrella just in case the sky begins to fall.) It might seem as if everything depended on you not failing; and that is not true. Just because you failed one time, does not mean that life is over. It does not mean that you are doomed to a life of failures and rejections simply because you messed up in 9<sup>th</sup> grade on an Algebra exam. (See how dramatic it sounds now.) Life goes on from this moment, so do not wallow in this feeling.

### 4. *This does not measure or prove how smart you are.*

Sometimes we equate bad things with our ability to do something else. It's not because failing and knowledge correlate; it's because we have begun this downward spiral of making everything seem worse because we are having a hard time. Failing does not mean that you are incompetent or incapable. It means that you just have to try a little bit harder. This one moment does not define you.

“The measure of intelligence is the ability to change.”

### 3. *You'll learn just as much by failing as you do by succeeding.*

Chances are that if you are feeling sad about failing, you are going to do everything in your power to prevent it. You do not like feeling defeated, so take that energy and channel it into improving yourself. Figure out what went wrong and how you can fix it. Change up your studying skills.



Practice different methods and habits. Find what is working for you and keep with it. (If you had passed, you never would have thought to revamp your strategies.) Let this motivate you.

### 2. *Sometimes you need to re-evaluate your own expectations.*

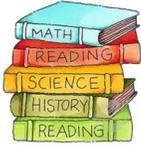
We are our hardest critics. We create impossible standards for ourselves. We try and uphold unrealistic goals and we strive for perfection. This always leads to disasters. Not because all of our goals are unattainable, but because we want them to instantly happen or we pile on way too much and cannot focus on one thing at a time. Sometimes, we need to step back and think “Am I giving myself enough time for this?” “Is this something I can commit to at this moment?” “In my current situation, with my current resources; can I make this happen.” Stepping back and seeing the bigger picture helps us to focus on making smarter goals.



### 1. *It gets easier.*

I don't know if over time bio-chemistry gets easier, but creating better study habits in order to improve on exams will. Failing is a part of life; especially school life. No one expects you to automatically know everything (that would be a cool super power though), but they do expect you to keep trying. Put in your best effort, seek help when it is needed, and know that the more you do these things; the easier it becomes.





## FROM THE ACADEMIC COORDINATOR



Ava McDowell  
Academic Coordinator

### 2017 Summer Academy Academic Recap

This summer's academic program was 30% shorter than usual, with about 40% fewer scholars, but with 100% effort by those scholars who were here, and by the Academic Team.

#### Khan Academy

Before Summer Academy, I worked with **Khan Academy Program Associate David Herron** to develop a Peer Coach Training Program with the plan to pilot the program this summer and, hopefully, take it nationwide later. Scholars completing the program would be certified Khan Academy Peer Coaches and eligible to work in KA Labs in their schools. To qualify as a coach, **each Scholar had to master 32 different skills, demonstrate the ability to coach a peer from introduction to mastery, and pass a final exam with 75% or more.** It was a daunting task, but **each of the 20 scholars enrolled in the class conquered the challenge and earned those certificates!** I cannot describe how proud I am of each of them.



#### Electives Showcase

The Sunday, July 23 **Electives Showcase** demonstrated for parents what Scholars accomplished in **Creative Writing, STEM-CSI, and Khan Academy.** KA Coach Candidates Ruby Houston and Ryann Rhimes narrated the Prezi presentation they developed to explain the **benefits and format of Khan Academy.** ELA Teacher, Kim Landess, presented "**shape poems**" by the Creative Writing class. Shape poems are a fusion of art (the shape) and literature (the poetry).



Finally, Science Teacher Darralynn Jones and her class shared **the science behind fingerprints** demonstrating fingerprint analysis with Scholars' families.



#### Summer GPAs

Despite their best efforts, one achievement has always eluded PUB scholars: Never have 100% of Summer Academy Scholars achieved Grade Point Averages (GPA) of 3.0 and above - until now. That streak ended this year! **All 26 (one Scholar did not complete the summer) scholars who completed Summer Academy earned GPAs between 3.12 and 4.0; and only 4 of those were below 3.5.** That is a significant achievement indeed! **Congratulations, Scholars; you made history!**



#### Iowa Test Outcomes

The Iowa Test of Educational Development did not appear to fare as well as GPAs with only a 0.58 average improvement, compared with the historical average improvement of 0.94, which is about 35% higher. This summer, however, had 30% fewer instructional days than usual for Scholars to absorb the concepts they were learning. With a few calculations **to adjust for the difference in duration, the average gain is closer to 0.89,** only 0.05 points below average and well within the margin of error. **Great job, Scholars!**



In all, it was a fast and frantic summer, and I loved every minute of it. I especially enjoyed teaching the KA class with co-teacher **Preeti Kharod** and Academic Mentors **Sarah Hensley** and **Mariah Ostrowski.** Finally I want to give a special thanks to our Lead Academic Mentor (and Horizon's Upward Bound alumnus), **Mahalia Thomas,** for her great work coordinating Academic Games and ITED testing.

Now to refocus and get ready for the academic year . . .



My name is Bryan Muñoz and I am an alumnus of Project Upward Bound. Along with being a TRIO student, I also continue my education at Oakland University. As a Junior there I want to pursue my career in the field of Communications. Through PUB, I was able to develop greater skills in speaking, enhance my writing, and make life-long connections with people. I am very proud of how far I have come and am currently the President of Oakland University's Spanish Club. Through this club I hope to spread more cultural awareness on campus and also work together with various organizations to get students like myself comfortable in the college setting. Lastly, I can say that I have met PUB's guidelines as a successful program and wish that more students are able to get involved. I give many thanks to the faculty and staff of this program and also invite everyone to be able to attend the events I have carefully planned with the Center for Multicultural Initiatives and Center for Student Activities for Hispanic Heritage Month.



## Hispanic Heritage Month Events

### TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 (Outside Oakland Center) 11am-1pm

#### *Aztec Ceremonial Dancers*

Presenting Don Alberto and the Azteca Ceremonial Dancers at Oakland University. For the first time performing Pre-Hispanic danzas, students and faculty will be able to witness a rich cultural representation of ceremonial Aztec dancing. Aztec "Danzas" are a form of communication with creation. That is all around us, and which our forefathers, our "abuelos" have handed down to us. The manner in which these danzas are presented is a way of remembering and honoring our ancestral heritage.



### WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 (Oakland Center) 10am-2pm

#### *Hispanic Heritage Month Hump Day*

Stop by and relax by making some Hispanic Cultural crafts.

### FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 29 (Oakland Center Gold Rooms) 7pm-10pm

#### *Salsa Night*

Join Spanish Club and Hispanic American Leadership Organization (HALO) to get a taste of Latin American culture. Co-sponsored by Ballroom Dance, learn to dance Salsa, Merengue and Bachata. Light refreshments will be served.



### TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3 (Outside Oakland Center) 11am-1pm

#### *Taco Truck Tuesday*

Join us for a mid-day fiesta. Music and free taco-truck tacos for the first 100 people.



### FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 (Oakland Center Banquet Rooms) 8am-2pm

#### LATINA EMPOWERMENT CONFERENCE

Workshops on Health, Law, Finance, Business and Education will be offered in both Spanish and English by keynote speaker JoAnn Chavez.

### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 12 (308 Pawley Hall) 5pm-6:30pm

#### Story-Telling Event: Relato At Oakland University

¿Cuál es tu historia?





**Project Upward Bound**  
**College Prep Academy**  
South Foundation Hall Rm 261  
308 Meadow Brook Road  
Rochester, MI 48309-4454



[www.oakland.edu/upwardbound](http://www.oakland.edu/upwardbound)  
(248) 370-3218  
E-mail: [pub@oakland.edu](mailto:pub@oakland.edu)



After 8 months without a Project Advisor, PUB is pleased to welcome Mr. Jeremy Johnson to the PUB Team as the new PA.



Jeremy Johnson

I am very excited to be joining the Project Upward Bound family as the Project Advisor. It is a tremendous honor to be able to become a partner in student success and join a program with such an amazing legacy.

Just a bit about myself: I'm a Pontiac native who graduated from Pontiac Central High School. I earned both my Bachelor of Fine Arts and Master of Higher Education Leadership from Oakland University. I love to paint and draw, and I listen to all types of music which I play every now and then.

I'm very interested in meeting and learning about all of you and creating a fun and engaging learning atmosphere, but also one where we can grow positively and work collaboratively towards our goals. We can make this a great and productive year one day at a time!