

# SEMESTER REVIEW

## | Wesleyan Upward Bound Math-Science |

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You can also visit our website at [www.wesleyan.edu/ubms](http://www.wesleyan.edu/ubms).



*Students outside the Hartford Stage during Spring Break. See page 5.*

## From the Director's Desk

We have come to the end of another academic year, and it is important that we reflect on all that our community has accomplished. Our dedicated staff, along with the help of wonderful volunteers, offered amazing events that aided in the continued development of our participants in their journey towards higher education. Foresters Financial, Ahmed Badr, Katrina McTeague, and the Society of Women Engineers, among others, have worked with our students to increase exposure and skills, while also providing an outlet for students to express themselves and share their stories. I look forward to providing students with exciting opportunities this summer that will strengthen and challenge them.

I also want to acknowledge the incredible journey and hard work of our seniors. Congratulations to a class that grew into leaders of our program throughout their time with us. You've made the entire program extremely proud, and we know that you will make a tremendous impact at your next destination. Please stay in touch with us, as we want to continue to be part of your support team. You will forever be part of this program and the greater TRIO family. *(Go to page 10 to see what colleges the Class of 2017 will attend in the fall!)*

Finally, I want to take this time to welcome our new recruits to the UBMS family. We are excited that you have chosen to be a part of our program and we look forward to working together to help you accomplish your goals. Before long we will be celebrating as you head to college to continue to make your unique impact on our world. But before then, there's work to do!  
Let the summer begin!

-Miguel Peralta  
Program Director

## TRiO Day 2017

In February, a select group of students attended TRiO Day in Warwick, RI for two days and one night. The trip included a tour of Clark University in Worcester, MA. There was also a powerful keynote speaker, Detective Anthony Roberson, a fifteen year veteran of the Providence Police Department. He currently serves as a board member for the Hope High School Dollars for Scholars and is the founder of the Handshake Initiative, among others. Our students also attended a workshop called 'First Generation Student Panel' where they heard about what it really means to be a first generation student on a college campus. They also competed in a banner competition under the theme "Unity Under Fire", and donated items to a local charity that grants wishes to terminally ill children. The event was attended by hundreds of students from programs like UBMS from all around New England.



*Students showing off their banner at TRiO Day.*



*Pictured from left to right, TRiO Day: Lizbeth Aguilar, Naomi Rosado, Kbaliesha Ellison, Aaron Manu, Aishalys Montes, Gael Badibanga, Chelsea Anthony, Caroline Czuprynski, Victoria Bomani, Nasim Aouji, and Kathy and Marek*

## Saturday Sessions



*Destini, Arlene, and Rachel  
working on an engineering project.*

### January: Society of Women Engineers/ Columbia University Representative

In January, UBMS welcomed back the Connecticut chapter of Society of Women Engineers to learn more about engineering fields as they lead exciting, hands-on engineering projects. The group consists of veteran engineers from various companies and engineering students from Connecticut colleges. We also had a student representative from Columbia talk to our group about what the college has to offer.

### February: Financial Wellness 101

In February, students and parents attended a Financial Wellness presentation from Foresters Financial, an organization that works with individuals and families to achieve their long-term financial goals. Students and parents started thinking about their financial needs relating to their future college endeavors. This workshop was set up in collaboration with a UBMS alum, Melia Nou, who now works for Foresters Financial as a financial services representative!



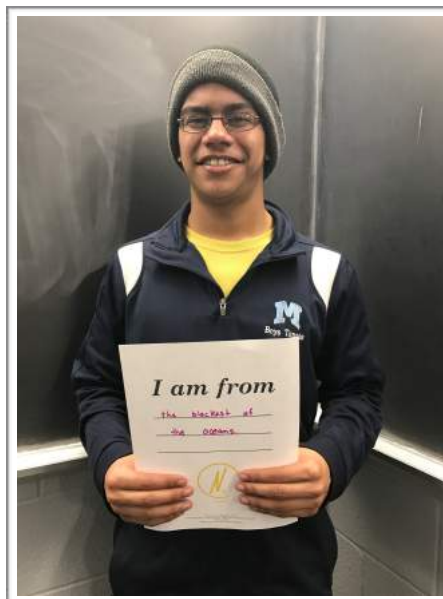
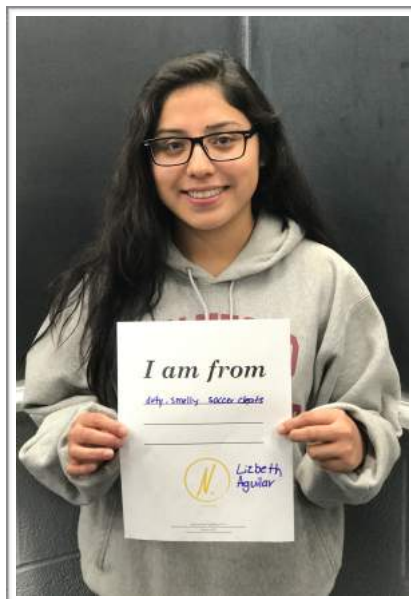
*Curtis Wiggins from Foresters Financial speaking to students about financial wellbeing.*

### March: Thinking about COLLEGE

In March, our students attended different sessions, all relating to college. Freshman and sophomores worked with Miguel and Jennifer and completed *Smart Goals* and *College Success Plans*, which are used to give students a chance to plan their years in high school. Juniors started a pre-college scholarship application called Questbridge. In addition to learning and starting the application, students discussed the essay questions and short answers with one another. Seniors attended a Financial Aid session where they learned how to break down financial aid offers from colleges and pick the best school for them, while still being able to afford it.

## **April: Narratio and Learning Mindset**

In April, students and parents attended two sessions: Narratio and Learning Mindset. Performance Consultant Katrina McTeague had students do interactive activities to demonstrate the difference between a fixed mindset and a growth mindset. Additionally, students participated in a creative writing and reflection workshop run by Wesleyan student Ahmed Badr, an Iraqi refugee and founder and creator of Narratio, a non-profit organization that invites youth to share their story through the publishing of poetry, photography, art and narrative. Below are a few photos from the workshop. Go to [narratio.org](http://narratio.org) to see more pictures and a published piece of poetry written by our very own student Chelsea Anthony. Fantastic job, Chelsea! Ahmed also spoke about our workshop on NPR (National Public Radio)!



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## NACAC National College Fair

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The National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) hosted its annual National College Fair in Hartford in April. A group of our students took advantage of the opportunity to meet admissions representatives from over 300 colleges and universities from the US and abroad.

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## The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey

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In April, our students had the opportunity to go to the Hartford Stage Company to watch a play called “The Absolute Brightness of Leonard Pelkey”. The one man show tells a story about the disappearance of Leonard Pelkey, a 14-year-old boy who dared to be different, and a small New Jersey town that will never be the same without him. Before going to see the play, students were treated to lunch in the city, and the group stayed after the play for a discussion with the creator/actor.



*Rinoa Lebolo, Aishalys Montes, Maamle Adjoka-Nartey, and Tatiyana Early enjoying lunch in Hartford before the play*

## Office Tutoring Information

### When?

Twice a week after school,  
2:30 — 5 PM

### Where?

UBMS Office on  
Wesleyan University  
Campus

41 Lawn Avenue  
Middletown, CT 06457

### Transportation

Transportation can be arranged to and from tutoring sessions. *For more information, visit the website at:*

<http://www.wesleyan.edu/ubms>

## Virtual Tutoring Information

Twice a week,  
6 — 8 PM

## Tutoring

Tutoring sessions are an integral facet of the UBMS program. We selectively hire tutors of various backgrounds and academic fields of study who are currently attending Wesleyan University. We highly encourage all of our students to take advantage of such a great and **free** resource at their disposal. This past semester we had tutoring on Tuesdays and Thursdays, after school 2:30-5pm at the UBMS office, as well as virtual tutoring, where students could contact tutors from the comfort of their homes.



## Meet the Tutors

### Thafir Elzofri

Math (all subjects) & Spanish

Available during after school tutoring sessions.

Wesleyan, Class of 2019

Major: Government (with a concentration on Comparative Politics)

Hometown: Oakland, California



*When he's not doing schoolwork or working at UBMS, Thafir enjoys writing comedy and sitcoms, as well as performing stand-up comedy. He is involved in various extracurricular clubs at Wesleyan such as Middle Eastern Student Union and the Muslim Student Association, and volunteers for the Wesleyan Refugee Project, an organization that works with Syrian refugees, living both in and outside of Syria. He is also Upward Bound's office intern.*

**Jasmine Jason**



English (any level), History (any level), Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Algebra I & II, and Literature courses. Also, I love to help with college and scholarship applications.

Available during after school tutoring sessions and virtual tutoring.

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020

Major: College of Film and the Moving Image

Hometown: Mountain View, Arkansas

*Jasmine loves to read, draw, play music, and write, and her favorite pastime is watching movies, television, and plays; She also likes to cook, try different foods, travel to new places and play tennis.*

**Yasmeen Alshabasy**



English, Chemistry, Math, History, SAT Practice, Essay Writing.

Available during after school tutoring sessions and virtual tutoring.

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020

Major: Neuroscience and Behavior

Hometown: Brooklyn, NY

*Yasmine is a Scorpio, loves playing frisbee and soccer, enjoys editing, loves Cheerios, and is addicted to coffee!*

**Jeffrey Bigman**



Math up to Calculus, Chemistry, English writing and literature, Spanish, social studies, SAT prep

Available during after school tutoring sessions.

Wesleyan University, Class of 2017

Major: English

Hometown: Richmond, VA

*Jeffrey recently completed his English thesis, which is a creative writing project that he's wanted to do for a while. Jeffrey just graduated from Wesleyan. We wish him the best of luck with his future endeavors!*

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## Let's Get Ready SAT Prep

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The Spring edition of the Let's Get Ready (LGR) SAT Prep course for juniors got underway in February at Wesleyan and ran until the beginning of May. The course included an Intro Session for students and parents, a pre and post diagnostic test (to measure improvement), and 16 classes, which met Tuesdays and Thursdays, 5:30-8:30pm. The course prepared students for the May SAT, and included registration for the test and fee waivers (registration fee of about \$55 dollars waived). The course also contained a college prep element, including college essay draft writing and a college visit to Eastern Connecticut State University and Wesleyan University. Students were coached by trained Wesleyan students. A final ceremony with gifts, awards, and a financial aid presentation wrapped up the course. LGR was partly funded by the Community Foundation of Middlesex County.

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## Points System

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As part of their participation in the UBMS program, students had the opportunity to earn points for taking advantage of all the services and resources we have available to prepare them to enroll and persist in college. The students with the highest point totals at the end of the 2016-17 school year were awarded with a Kindle Fire tablet. The top 4 points earners and winners of this semester's Points Incentives Program are:



Te'Rell Knox, top points earner!

**Te'Rell Knox**  
(senior, Maloney High)

**Caroline Czuprynski**  
(sophomore, New Britain High)

**Naomi Rosado**  
(sophomore, Platt High)

**Maamle Adjoka-Nartey**  
(sophomore, Middletown High)

These students earned points through academic achievement and improvement, as well as attendance and participation in school and at UBMS.

**Congratulations to the winners!!**



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## Student Spotlights

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### **Love Quaye**

Christian Love Quaye is a current senior, and soon to be graduate, of Oliver Platt High School in Meriden. Love is originally from Cote d'Ivoire (a country in West Africa) and is going to attend Sacred Heart University in Fairfield, CT as a prospective pre-law student. In high school, Love was a runner and manager of the track team, she served as the chief yearbook editor, was a part of the prom committee, participated in the chemistry club and DECA, and was elected homecoming queen. She also gives back to her community. Love has spoken at 8th grade orientation for new students and talked about her experiences as a high school student. She also spoke at the Meriden Board of Education about her experiences. Recently, Love made it to the second round at the Annual Hicks Speech and Essay Contest. Love also volunteers at Lincoln Middle School as a talent show coach and tutor, and serves as a youth group leader at First United Methodist Church. As Love continued to grow and mature in high school, she was still a part of UBMS. She was an active member of the program; she took part in countless events, tutoring sessions, and college tours. We know no matter where she goes in life, she will be ready for the challenges and is prepared to deal with them and persist. Congratulations Love and we wish you all the best!



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## Class of 2017 Profile

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We are so proud of the Class of 2017 and the hard work they put into applying to college and getting in!  
*So, where are the Class of 2017 going?*

**Erica Arhin**

University of Connecticut

**Justin Hong**

University of Connecticut

**Mickayla Joseph**

Middlesex Community College

**Arlene Lazo**

University of Connecticut

**Jordan Legendre**

McGill University

**Kevin Mulumba**

University of Connecticut

**Charlene Ngige**

University of Pennsylvania

**Harish Patel**

University of Connecticut

**Trevor Stevens**

Middlesex Community College

**Fred Anti**

Eastern CT State University

**Julian Badillo**

Florida Gulf Coast University

**Ledjin Gebo**

Southern CT State University

**Te'Rell Knox**

Salve Regina University

**Christian Love Quay**

Sacred Heart University

**Nelson Robles**

Central CT State University

**Daniel Urena**

Gateway Community College



Sacred Heart  
UNIVERSITY

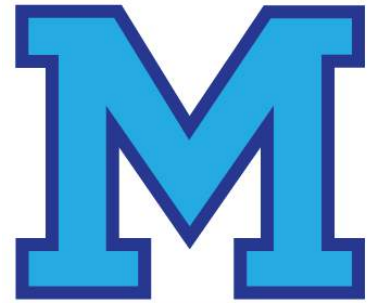
**Congratulations to the Class of 2017! Your UBMS family is very proud of you!**

Programming Made Possible By:



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of Middlesex County

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Middletown  
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WESLEYAN  
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Middletown Youth Services Bureau