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# SEMESTER REVIEW

## UBMS Partners with STEAM Train!



This semester UBMS partnered with STEAM Train, Inc., a non-profit organization committed to move underserved, under resourced, and underrepresented populations to careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and beyond. This partnership formed STEAM Bound, a seven-week introduction to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Digital Arts, Mathematics) principles and careers for 25 students. Through hands-on instruction, participants explored tasks associated with careers within STEAM disciplines such as; constructing a database, electrical engineering using circuit boards, and utilizing Adobe Photoshop. Students were able to interact with professionals from the fields, and heard from others about their journeys



*Students were able to interact with professionals from STEM fields, and heard from others about their journeys entering those fields.*

entering their fields. The program closed with a final ceremony to celebrate the students in front of family members. The closing ceremony also included insights about the journey to college, available scholarships, and a counselor from Middlesex Community College to talk about the offerings at MxCC and how to get the most out of college. 100% of the students who participated in STEAM Bound indicated that they will either pursue or consider a major in STEAM in college! Overall, the program was an extreme success!

## TRIO Day 2019

Every year in February, UBMS takes a group of students to TRIO Day for an amazing experience with other TRIO programs in the Northeast. TRIO Day is a day of celebration, reflection and action around increased access to higher education for underrepresented, disadvantaged students. TRIO programs, like Upward Bound Math-Science, gather together, and in New England it takes place in a different state every year. During this overnight trip, students had the chance to bond outside of the classroom!

This year, we took 20 students to New Hampshire where they visited the University of New Hampshire, entered an actual submarine at the USS Albacore Submarine Museum, and visited a lighthouse in Portsmouth. The trip also included a stop to see Assumption College in Worcester, MA.



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81010.

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

## Saturday Sessions

This semester we held a variety of Saturday Sessions that ranged from interactive activities with outside organizations, to simply providing a vehicle in which our students could be productive and get their schoolwork done with the assistance of some of our tutors. Here is a look at a few of our Saturdays throughout the course of the semester.

In **January**, students participated in a hands-on engineering workshop. For the 7th year in a row, the **Society of Women Engineers**, a group that consists of veteran engineers from various companies and engineering students from CT, facilitated a workshop for our students. This year, activities included a boat design, a marshmallow moon-landing activity and creating a zip-line!



In **February**, our students attended a Saturday Session that featured workshops surrounding self-care and wellness. These workshops were led by Sierra Fowler, the Director of WesWell, Wesleyan's Office of Health Education, and Johanna DeBari, Director of Office of Survivor Advocacy & Community Education. The workshops discussed ways in which students can take care of themselves and overcome different challenges they are presented with.

In **March**, UBMS was involved in the second annual PIE Conference. PIE stands for Pathways to Inclusive Education, which includes programs such as, Upward Bound Math-Science, McNair, Mellon Mays, Posse, and WesMass, all of which are programs that serve underrepresented, low-income, and first-generation students at Wesleyan. This year's conference was called, "Navigating Your Journey Through Research." At this Saturday Session, students heard from a number of panelists including students and professors in STEM and humanities and had opportunities to learn more about research basics, how to get involved, how to get funding and the professional prospects it offers.



In **April**, UBMS continued on the theme of academic success from the previous session, with workshops on "Adulting". This session included workshops about career exploration, networking, and personal finance. The workshops discussed the importance of building professional and personal networks, and managing their money. We were joined by two Wesleyan students, Anthony Price





and Babila Fomuteh who led the networking and personal finance workshops, respectively.

In **May**, our students had the chance to take part in a few fun STEM activities. With the help of a few Wesleyan students we were able to lead an app pitch contest for solutions to everyday problems. Additionally, there were fun STEM related breakout boxes, similar to escape rooms! Students had to solve a series of math questions to open a number of locks on the box.

## 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, with a growing group of students, we decided to have tutoring at the schools. We had tutoring after school at Middletown High School (twice a week), and at our Meriden schools – Platt and Maloney – and New Britain High School once a week. In addition to these days, we also hosted two Saturday Study Session in December and February, where students came to campus and worked with tutors. It was a success and we plan on doing more in the future.



## Meet the Tutors

### Jake Kwon

Wesleyan University, Class of 2021

**Hometown:** Suwanee, Georgia (Born in South Korea)

**Subjects:** U.S. History, Pre-Calculus, Introduction to Biology, Chemistry, Calculus, Physics, English, and Economics

On campus, Jake is also a tutor for STEM Zone as well as a course assistant for the introduction biology course. He is also involved in the KPOP Dance Crew at Wesleyan and loves anything related to Korea (Korean dramas, and the food). Jake is also a member of the Wesleyan Student Assembly. When he's not busy with all of these extra-curricular activities, Jake likes to spend time with his friends and really enjoys food and trying new things!



**Trinity Hoffman**

Wesleyan University, Class of 2022

**Hometown:** Dacula, Georgia

**Subjects:** Math, English, & Writing

When she's not tutoring our UBMS students, Trinity likes to learn new languages and is currently studying both Chinese and Korean at Wesleyan. In her free time, she likes to choreograph, dance and sing. Halloween is her favorite holiday because she loves watching horror movies with friends and dressing up as different characters. Trinity also spent the past summer studying abroad in China, and can't wait to travel and explore even more new places this summer!

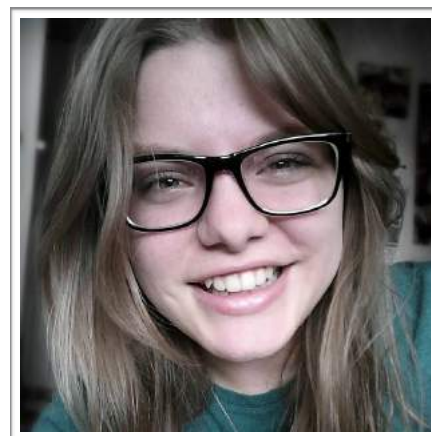
**Jasmine Jason**

Wesleyan University, Class of 2020

**Hometown:** Mountain View, Arkansas

**Subjects:** English, History, Biology, Anatomy & Physiology, Algebra I & II, and Literature courses

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.

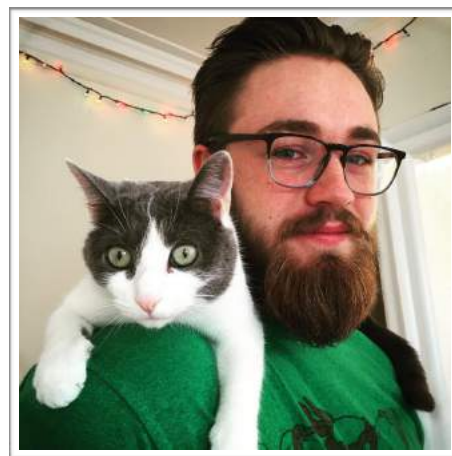
**Stephen Rossetti**

Wesleyan University, Class of 2019

**Hometown:** Lynbrook, New York

**Subjects:** English, Writing, History, Chemistry, Math

Stephen is a senior English major at Wesleyan and will be attending the University of Louisville this summer to begin his Masters in Teaching. In his spare time, Stephen enjoys reading, listening to, and playing music, as well as hiking and camping. He is also the public address announcer for many of the Cardinals athletic teams.



**Irmina Benson**

Wesleyan University, Class of 2021

**Hometown:** San Francisco, California

**Subjects:** Biology, Social Sciences, English, & Writing

Irmina is an English and African American Studies double major on a Pre-Law/Pre-Med track. During her free-time she is involved in various affinity group boards on campus and is involved in social justice efforts. She also enjoys engaging in Social sciences, writing, coding in R and PuTTY programs, tutoring, teaching an art class, and writing fiction short stories. She loves cooking food with friends and going to concerts. Last summer she worked as an intern at Stanford University as a Bioinformatics Coder and loves to blend her interests in sciences as well as humanities!



## Student Spotlights

Our students are dedicated individuals that are involved in our program and extra-curricular activities, all while trying to maintain good grades in school. This semester, we have had a number of students that have done amazing work both in their schools and their larger communities. UBMS wants to recognize some of these students.

**Blessing Johnson**

This semester, Blessing Johnson, an UBMS senior from Middletown HS, was one of the winners of the Middlesex County NAACP Awards. She received a \$1,000 Scholarship Award, along with several other scholarships, and is heading to University of Connecticut!

**Daniela Santiago**

Another one of our students, Daniela Santiago, a junior at Middletown HS, received the Middlesex County NAACP Branch Youth Leadership Award this semester. This award is awarded to students who showcase leadership in their schools and their communities. In addition to this award, Daniela has made a few videos of UBMS trips this semester. She also volunteers at Oddfellows Playhouse Circus Camp over the summer, where she creates sets and props for the younger generation of talent! She is seeking to major in film production and/or screenwriting in the future!



*Daniela Santiago, UBMS Junior*

## Class of 2019 Profile

We are so proud of the Class of 2019 and the hard work they put into applying to college and getting in! So, where are they going next?

**Lizbeth Aguilar**  
Providence College

**Aishalys Montes**  
Middlesex Community College

**Gael Badibanga**  
Central Connecticut State University

**Maamle Adjoka-Nartey**  
Central Connecticut State University

**Brandon Campbell**  
University of Connecticut

**Angelica Payan Castaneda**  
University of Connecticut

**Zreinu Clark**  
University of Connecticut

**Rachel Quaye**  
Becker College

**Jillian Copperthite**  
University of Connecticut

**Nevaeh Rich**  
Central Connecticut State University

**Caroline Czuprynski**  
University of Connecticut

**Naomi Rosado**  
University of Saint Joseph

**Shauntazia Davenport**  
Georgia State University

**Ariana Soto**  
Southern Connecticut State University

**Mahmoud Hassan**  
Southern Connecticut State University

**Cindy Taing**  
University of Connecticut

**Leanne Hong**  
University of Connecticut

**Josue Urena**  
Southern Connecticut State University

**Blessing Johnson**  
University of Connecticut

**Jomar Vazquez**  
Eastern Connecticut State University

**Aaliyah Jones**  
Unity College

**Razahnae Watson**  
Middlesex Community College

**Aaron Manu**  
Penn State

**Destini Williams**  
Central Connecticut State University

**Gabriela Montanez**  
University of Connecticut

**Amina Zouheir**  
Eastern Connecticut State University



## Other Fun Stuff this Semester

### New York City Trip

This semester 30 of our students had the chance to go and tour Princeton University and PACE University. They also went to New York City and saw the Blue Man Group, a music, art, and comedy group. While in NYC, students also had the opportunity to tour the 9/11 memorial and museum.

### TEDxWesleyanU

In April, UBMS bought tickets to the second annual TEDxWesleyanU conference! At the conference students heard from 7 incredible speakers, ranging from a doctor, professor, to a millennial expert, including Connecticut congresswoman, Jahana Hayes and medical thriller novelist, Dr. Laman Gray.



*Students visiting Rutgers University while on their trip to New York and New Jersey.*

### Alsarah and the Nubatones & Contra Tiempo Performance

This semester, a number of students and their families received free tickets to attend two performances at Wesleyan- Alsarah and the Nubatones and Contra Tiempo. The UBMS office also collaborated with Wesleyan's Center for the Arts and Meriden Public Schools to provide access to the wonderful Contra Tiempo performance for Meriden high school students. Alsarah and the Nubatones, which features singer/songwriter Alsarah, born in Khartoum, the capital city of Sudan. As a Brooklyn-based ethnomusicologist, she is used to fusing the sounds and styles of disparate cultures. Contra Tiempo creates physically intense and politically astute performance work since 2005. Their music incorporates salsa, Afro-Cuban, hip hop, and contemporary dance with original text and music. For both events, the tickets were provided by a partnership with Wesleyan's CFA.



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