

## College Tours

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# SEMESTER REVIEW



Students attending a UCONN Biomedical Engineering Discovery Saturday workshop at the UCONN Health Center.

## From the Director's Desk

2017 has been an amazing year for the Upward Bound Math-Science family. We've celebrated our graduating 2017 students, welcomed an amazing class

We have been awarded a second UBMS grant from the US Department of Education to serve the Middletown community.

of new recruits, and held an extremely successful summer program. The fall semester has seen the year go from great to incredible. Our UBMS program serving Meriden and New Britain has been renewed for the next five years! We are excited that we can continue to assist talented youths in those communities achieve their goal of a college education. In addition, we have been awarded a second UBMS grant from the US Department of Education to serve the Middletown community. These grants will present an exciting future for our program and constituents, as they will allow us to serve more students and provide more opportunities to develop our students.

However, the success of these programs is directly aligned with the success of our students. Students, you need to hold up your end of the bargain! First and foremost, we need you to thrive academically and as members of your communities. Ultimately, the focus of UBMS is to prepare you to achieve your goal of not only going to college, but earning a degree. Your first priority is to distinguish yourself inside of the classroom, and be an active part of your community in some way. We need you to challenge yourselves. We set a high bar for all of you, you need to set it even higher for yourself! This is important as everything you are doing now is in preparation for whatever it is that you want to accomplish in the future. We need you to approach your learning and your interactions with others with an open mind. There's too much hate and ignorance in this world. You can help in stopping that by being open to new opportunities, people, and ways of thinking. Finally, we need you to be actively involved with the program. Make sure you are attending our events, and taking advantage of the opportunities UBMS provides. I urge you to communicate with our staff. Tell us how we can help you individually and as a whole. Keep us up to date on what is going on with you, not just academically. Take ownership of the program! All of our students have a voice and a hand in shaping what this program looks like. We value your feedback and perspectives. But, we need to hear from all students (and you too parents!), if that is to be true. You are a part of this greater UBMS family, so you have a responsibility to do your part. And remember, you'll be a part of this family long after you graduate!

- Miguel Peralta  
Program Director

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Parents and Students can join our class on Remind by texting @wesleyanub to 81010.

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

# College Tours

Throughout the summer and the fall, we took our students to various college campuses to gauge interest during the application process. These trips included tours and information sessions with the admissions office and current students. Visiting these colleges and universities give our students an opportunity to get a firsthand view of a college. A college brochure or website can only show you so much. College tours are a great way for students to get a feel for a college or university because they are able to walk around the quad, sit in on a class and talk to students from that college or university. Below is a list of the colleges our students visited this semester!

**Springfield College**

**Western New England University**

**University of Connecticut, Storrs Campus**

**Eastern Connecticut State University**



*Students on a college tour at Eastern Connecticut State University*



*Students enjoying their time in Springfield, MA visiting Springfield College*

## 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 **September**, during our fall kick-off meeting, UBMS welcomed new students and parents this semester! This event was a chance for our new parents to come together and share their inquiries, concerns and hopes for the upcoming year. Every semester, we remind students and parents that the UBMS staff are always available via phone, email or scheduled appointment to meet with you and answer any and all questions you may have.



In, **November**, with the help of Wesleyan students, UBMS was able to host a coding workshop for our students. The session was a hands on workshop that introduced computer programming and taught students a little bit about web design and development. Each student attended two out of three different coding sessions.



Students and their parents learned about the importance of course selection during our **December Saturday Session**- “Course Selection Workshop”. Students had a chance to review individually tailored course selection guides that will help them meet their required courses in order to graduate and prepare for college.



Finally, to end the fall semester, students participated in a hands-on engineering workshop. In **January**, for the 6th 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, students built electric circuits, roller coasters, and shake tables.

## Office Tutoring

### Information

#### When?

Tuesdays and Thursdays

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](http://www.wesleyan.edu/ubms)

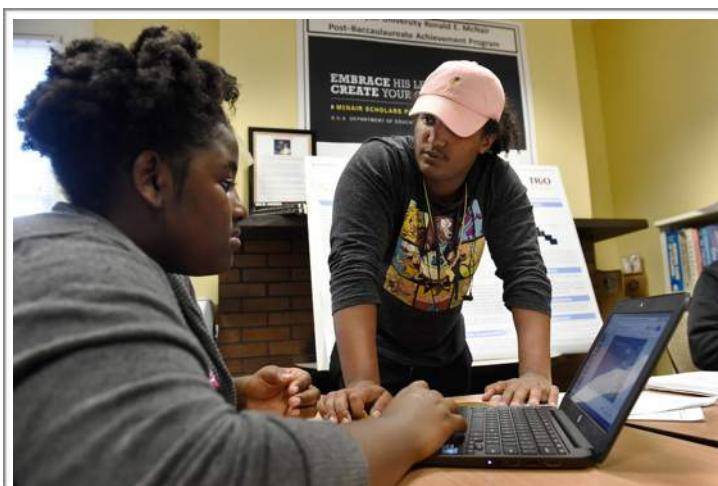
#### Virtual Tutoring Information

Twice a week,

Monday & Wednesday,  
7 – 9 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.



*Nebs helping Oumou with homework in our office during tutoring.*

## Meet the Tutors



**Thafir Elzofri**

Math (all subjects),  
Spanish, History, and  
Government

**Available during after  
school tutoring  
sessions.**

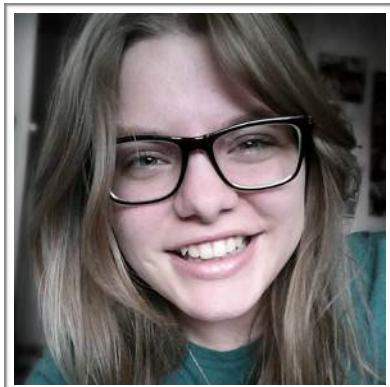
Wesleyan, Class of 2019

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.*

## Greg Ransom Jr.



Math, Spanish, English, History

**Available during after school tutoring sessions.**

Wesleyan University, Class of 2018

Major: Neuroscience and Behavior

Hometown: Brooklyn, New York

*Greg loves to play basketball, football, and hang out with his friends. He is on the board for Invisible Men and a collective member of the Black Student Union at Wesleyan. He also plays intramural basketball at Wesleyan!*

## Nebs Daniel



Math, Science, & College Applications

### Available during after school tutoring sessions

Wesleyan University, Class of 2018

Major: Neuroscience and Behavior

Hometown: Columbia Heights, Minnesota

*When Nebs is not working at Upward Bound, he participates in many extra-curricular activities, including soccer, non-profit management, and health care administration.*

## Other Fun Stuff this Semester

### Senior Bootcamps (x2)— Happen every semester

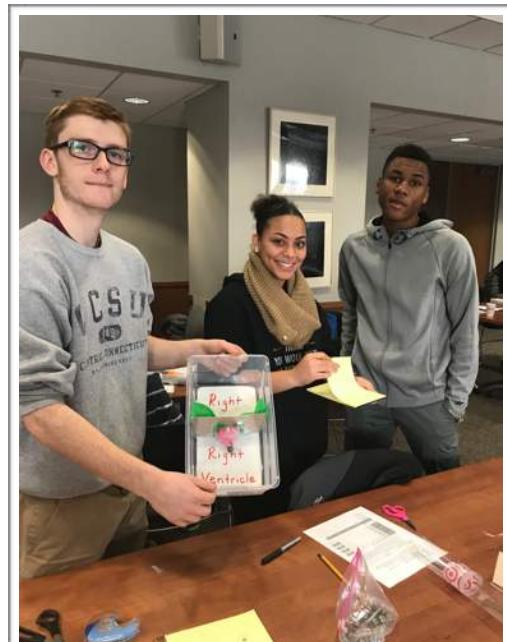
Every semester, UBMS staff are available all day for seniors and their parents to come into our office and receive any help they may need with their college and financial aid applications.

### Study Skills/Test Prep Workshop

UBMS Students were invited by First Things First (FTF), a program designed to familiarize first generation students with the college experience and the Wesleyan community, to a workshop to help them figure out better ways to prepare for exams.

### UCONN Biomedical Engineering Discovery- Heart Valve & Robotic Arm

Our students had the opportunity to go to UCONN Health Center for their Biomedical Engineering Discovery Saturday program. This year students had the option to work on a heart valve or a hydraulic arm. Whichever event they attended, they were able to keep whatever they created!



*Makayah and Gael present their work at UCONN Biomedical Engineering Discovery Saturday workshop.*

## UBMS + Invisible Men Mentorship Program

Recently, Upward Bound Math-Science has partnered with a Wesleyan student group, “Invisible Men,” to form a new mentoring program for the young men of our UBMS program. Co-led by two of our tutors, Nebs and Greg, Wesleyan’s “Invisible Men” student group focuses on providing a supportive brotherhood for its members, and we hope to create a similarly supportive group for our young men. Mentors will host events and meetings ranging from leadership and professional development opportunities to more informal “kickbacks,” games, conversations, etc. and will maintain contact with our UBMS students as they navigate high school. We are excited about the program’s success thus far and look forward to working with them even more in the future.



*Pictured above are just a few of the members from Invisible men.*

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