

SEMESTER REVIEW

| Wesleyan Upward Bound Math-Science |

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You can also visit our website at www.wesleyan.edu/ubms.



Students pictured with the CCSU mascot, the Blue Devil. Read about our college tours on page 2.

From the Director's Desk

Happy Holidays! As we approach the end of the year, we can take a look back at what's been a busy few months at UBMS. We've welcomed our fellow TRIO program into our office, as the McNair program has been integrated into our department. We look forward to collaborating with its staff and students to provide great opportunities to UBMS participants.

Our program and students have been on the move this semester. We visited some great schools in Rhode Island and around Connecticut. Our visits to Providence College and Saint Joseph's School of Pharmacy stood out in particular, as they welcomed us with open arms. Our office has been busy with students coming and going with seniors working on their college applications and tutoring sessions every Tuesday and Thursday. Parents have gotten in the spirit as well! Thank you for the great turnout at the Kick-off meeting in September and our Holiday Gathering in December. We can't be successful without your support! The staff has been busy ensuring the continuance of this program for our younger students, and the next wave of UBMS participants. *Continued next page*

I look forward to our spring semester (and warmer weather)! We have some great events lined up. We'll continue to build our relationship with Wesleyan students, as the November Saturday session showed the potential of that partnership. The Society of Women Engineers will kick-off 2017 for us, as the tradition of SWE leading hands-on engineering projects will continue for a fourth year. Finally, keep a lookout for other exciting and enriching opportunities, and summer 2017 dates!

From the UBMS staff, we wish all of you a wonderful holiday season and we'll see you in 2017!

Miguel Peralta

UBMS Director



College Tours

Colleges and Universities Visited This Summer and Fall

- University of Connecticut (Storrs, CT)
- Central Connecticut State University (New Britain, CT)
- Brown University (Providence, RI)
- Providence College (Providence, RI)
- Western Connecticut State University (Danbury, CT)
- Fordham University (New York City)
- Salve Regina University (Newport, RI)
- University of Saint Joseph School of Pharmacy (Hartford, CT)

Throughout the summer and fall, we took our students to various colleges to expose them to different campuses. These trips included tours and information sessions with the admissions officers and current students. Visiting colleges and universities gives our students an opportunity to form personal connections with the schools. This can help make better decisions when applying to colleges. To the left are the colleges that students visited.



Students enjoying a tour of Brown University.

Student Spotlight

Harish Patel

Harish is a senior at Middletown High School, and has been involved in UBMS programs since middle school.

This past summer, Harish worked in a lab at Wesleyan, where for many hours a day he researched protein structure for bio films. He said that it was “a great opportunity to experience real life research with graduate and undergraduate students, who mentored me from start to end.” Harish presented the research with his lab partners at a poster session at Wesleyan over the summer. Some of our students were able to see it during the summer program.

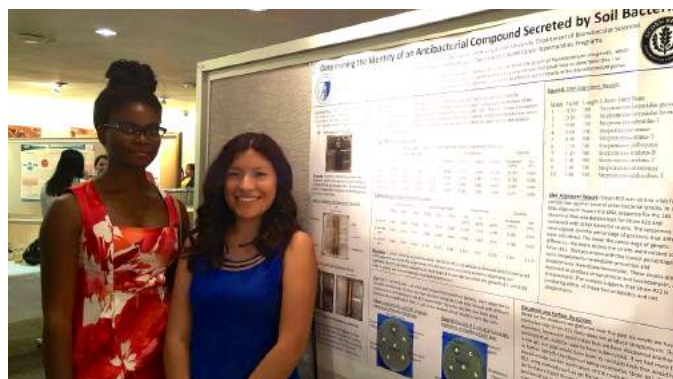
Recently, Harish was one of two students to receive the Superintendent’s Student Award from Superintendent of Middletown Public Schools Patricia Charles. The award was for showing leadership qualities and community involvement, as well as academic prowess.

Harish is also a Questbridge finalist this fall! The program connects the nation’s most exceptional, low-income youth with leading colleges and opportunities.

Congratulations on all your achievements and good luck with college applications!



Harish receiving award from superintendent of Middletown Public Schools



Charlene (left) presenting her research over the summer.

program: “It allowed me to meet amazing people and discover a passion for research. It was a very rewarding experience and it compelled me to face one of my biggest fears – public speaking.” *Continued next page*

Charlene Ngige

Charlene is a senior at Middletown High School, and has been with us since her sophomore year.

This past summer, Charlene took part in the UConn Health High School Student Research Apprentice Program, a six-week research experience for students interested in medicine, dental medicine or biomedical research. Charlene even earned a stipend for participating, and said about the

In November, Charlene participated in Focus on Diversity, an overnight fly-in conference at Mount Holyoke College in Massachusetts. She was involved in workshops and panels, and got to stay on campus with a current student, which included staying in a dorm room, going to class and having lunch. The college even paid for Charlene's travel expenses!

Charlene was also a QuestBridge finalist this fall, which is a program that connects the nation's most exceptional, low-income youth with leading colleges and opportunities. She was recently accepted to the University of Pennsylvania!

Congratulations and good luck with the rest of your college applications!

Where Are They Now?

Hellena Rodriguez

Hellena Rodriguez is an UBMS class of 2012 alum in her senior year at Mercy College in New York. She's on a five year track for education, as she works on both her Bachelor's and Master's degrees. She will complete her Bachelor's this spring as an English Literature major, and begin her one-year Master's for Secondary Education. Her goal is to become a high school English teacher in the future. She's also considering joining the Peace Corps after graduation.

Although she no longer lives on campus, she is still highly active in her college community. Prior to becoming a commuter, she worked for the Office of Institutional Advancement. In the office, Hellena was the head work-study student manager, helping coordinate both on and off campus events. During her time in college, she was also a Residential Assistant, where she worked in Residential Life. As an RA, it was her job to make sure that residents were having a positive college experience by hosting different events that catered to her residents' interests and building a community between them.

In the Fall Semester of 2015, Hellena studied abroad in London, England for four months. Deciding to study abroad was "the best decision that I have made during my education," she said. "I learned a lot both academically, and culturally." While in England, she gave a short presentation to other students in hopes to persuade them to also study abroad. "I made connections at the university and look forward to visiting again in the future," she adds.

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Hellena is the recipient of two scholarships at her school, which help her pay the tuition. She received both the Mercy College Outstanding Student Scholarship and the Mercy College Trustee Scholarship.

Every year, Mercy College hosts the Mavie Awards. The Mavies is an award show that gives students credit for different positive qualities for their work around campus. All the awards are voted on by faculty. In 2015, she won a Mavie Award for Outstanding Leadership.

Hellena says that she does not miss high school, but most definitely misses UBMS. “My time as a UBMS student was extremely helpful and rewarding. The people I met through UBMS helped me get to college in the first place, and for that I will always be grateful. As a college student, I reflect back on the opportunities UBMS gave me (college tours, SAT prep, math tutors, etc), and I realize their role in my growth as a student. It very much helped me get into the college mindset that I have today,” she says of the program.

She leaves this advice to current UBMS students: “Take advantage of it! Everyone who works for UBMS is there to help you become a better student. Everything they teach you will push you to become prepared for life after high school.”

Lily Zhao

Lily Zhao graduated from UBMS in 2015, and is currently a Computer Science major at Harvard University.

She has settled in at Harvard and is involved across various groups on campus: Finance Chair of the Chinese Students Association, Associate for the Harvard Association for US-China Relations, Intern over the summer for ROLA, a small business, and library circulation assistant. Lily has also taken advantage of an opportunity to travel to China this past summer as the Seminar Leader for the Harvard Summit for Young Leaders in China (HSYLC) conference.



Academically, Lily has found Harvard challenging, but has held her own. This fall semester, she got her first A on a paper!

Lily is still undecided about what she will do after college. When she was finishing high school, she wanted to be a doctor, and is now a Computer Science major, which shows how career choices change and evolve once students get to college.

When we asked Lily what she missed most about UBMS, she said the staff, and added “I am and will always be thankful for the opportunities and help that UMBS has given me.” For current UBMS students, Lily offers the following advice: “Work hard kids because it will prepare you to work harder in college.”

Saturday Sessions



This semester we held a variety of Saturday Sessions that ranged from interactive activities with Wesleyan Students, to coming together to support the program. Here is a look at a few of our Saturdays throughout the course of the semester.

September: Information Session

We hosted an information session to share our plans for the fall semester. Students and parents were able to share their inquiries and hopes for the upcoming year.

November: Day of Mentorship

In November, our students took part in a discussion about what college is like for underrepresented students, college life, navigating college, etc. This discussion was led by Wesleyan students from My Brother's Keeper (Invisible Men) and My Sister's Keeper (Women of Color Collective), mentoring programs for youth. Students also had a chance to talk about the recent election and its impact on them.



December: Holiday Celebration

Students and families came together for our annual holiday celebration. We looked back on a busy fall semester, as well as forward to next semester. Students and parents also received information about how to contact their local government representatives to gain support for TRiO programs. During a delicious brunch, students and their parents battled in a game of BINGO for a chance to win some awesome prizes!

Office Tutoring Information

When?

Every Tuesday &
Thursday 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

Every Monday &
Wednesday 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.

Student Testimony: “Tutoring really helped me out because I was struggling a lot in math, now I’m doing better.” -Fatima Boumargoud

Meet the Tutors



Thafir Elzofri

Math (all subjects) & Spanish

Available Tuesday and Thursday tutoring sessions from 2:30-5 PM.

Wesleyan, Class of 2019

Major: Math, History Minor, and Middle Eastern Studies Certificate

Hometown: Oakland, California — but attended school in Berkeley, 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, a 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 Tuesday tutoring sessions from 2:30-5 PM and Wednesday for virtual tutoring 6-8PM.

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 Mondays for Virtual Tutoring from 6-8PM and Thursday tutoring sessions from 2:30-5 PM

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 Tuesday and Thursday tutoring sessions from 2:30-5 PM.

Wesleyan University, Class of 2017

Major: English

Hometown: Richmond, VA

In Jeffrey's free time, he's been working on his thesis, which is a creative writing project that he's wanted to do for a while.

Other Programs

Ascend

The Ascend Program is an exciting program designed to help students prepare for future educational goals through tutoring, hands-on enrichment projects, cultural field trips, and special events. The Ascend students meet at MacDonough and Snow Elementary schools, after school twice each week with Wesleyan students who assist with homework assignments, schoolwork, hands-on enrichment sessions in math, science, art, social studies, language arts, music, and technology.



Let's Get Ready (LGR)

The Fall edition of the Let's Get Ready SAT Prep course for juniors got underway in October at Maloney H.S. and ran until the beginning of December. 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 December SAT, and included registration for the test and fee waivers (registration fee of \$55 dollars waived). The course also contained a college prep element, including college essay draft writing and college visits to Wesleyan and Eastern Connecticut State University. Students were coached by trained Wesleyan students. A final ceremony with gifts, awards, and a financial aid presentation wrapped up the course.

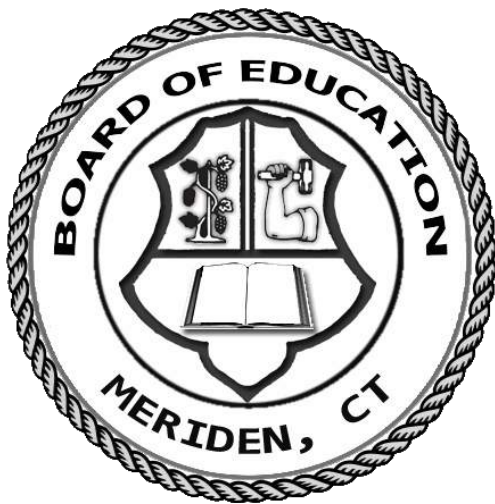
Student Testimony: "My score went up from the first diagnostic test. Every student should do it because it's so helpful." -Fatima Boumargoud, Junior, Maloney H.S.



LGR students celebrate the end of SAT Prep.

Programming Made Possible By:

WESLEYAN
UNIVERSITY



Middletown Youth Services Bureau