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SEMESTER REVIEW



Students outside the PIE Conference in March (See page 3 for more on the PIE Conference)

From the Director's Desk

As we head into the summer, the spring semester has been a busy one for our UBMS programs. We've been able to provide our students with some wonderful opportunities, as they continue to work hard in the classroom. Stage shows, SAT prep, and wonderful Saturday Sessions have breezed by as we countdown the days until summer. Thank you to all our students that seized upon the opportunities granted through the program. Also a big thank you to the volunteers who gave their time to educate and interact with our students.

This semester we are also preparing to say goodbye to our graduating seniors. Class of 2018 has been remarkable, filled with high achieving students, but even better people. We wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors, which I am happy to share will be post-secondary education for all.

We'll welcome all of our returners and new students to Wesleyan's campus to begin our summer program. We have a great summer planned, with activities scheduled in and outside of the classroom that will continue to develop and challenge our students daily (we'll also have a little fun along the way!). I look forward to not only celebrating what we have accomplished this year, but also what we will accomplish together in the near future.

- Miguel Peralta
Program Director

TRIO DAY 2018



Students posing for a photo at TRIO Day, held in Cromwell, CT this year

Every year in February, UBMS takes a group of students to TRIO Day for an amazing experience. 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. The trip includes college tours, a dance, community service, powerful speakers, and workshops, as well as other fun activities.

This year, TRIO Day took place in Cromwell, CT at the Radisson Hotel. Students had the opportunity to take a tour of Southern Connecticut State University and University of New Haven. They also heard from an incredible motivational speaker, Tashesha S. Ricketts-Kidd. She is the CEO & Founder of Divine Destiny Empowerment and provides personal and professional development and holistic coaching to empower women who experience trauma.

Saturday Sessions

This semester we held a variety of Saturday Sessions that differed from the ones we've done in the past. We partnered with different groups on campus and also hosted a panel on diversity in tech. Here is a look at a few of our Saturdays throughout the course of the spring semester.

Pathways to Inclusive Equity (PIE)



Students listening to a panel discussion at the PIE Conference in March.

Wesleyan's Office of Equity and Inclusion coordinates five programs: the Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship, the Ronald E. McNair Post-baccalaureate Achievement Program, the Wesleyan Math and Science Scholars Program (WesMaSS), the Posse Veteran Scholars Program and the Upward Bound Math-Science Program. Together, all of these programs make up the Pathways of Inclusive Equity (PIE) whose purpose is to increase a sense of community amongst students, faculty and staff. Their goal is to remove obstacles along the pathways to secondary and post-secondary education for students who come from historically underrepresented backgrounds and to provide opportunities and access to these programs.

PIE held two Saturday Sessions for our students this semester. In **February**, PIE invited out students and others from all of the programs mentioned above to a PIE Brunch. At this brunch, students came together to introduce each other, the different programs, and discuss their experiences in both high school and college.

In **March**, UBMS partnered with PIE to hold the first ever PIE Conference. This conference had a panel featuring individuals in STEM, medicine, and humanities to discuss the experiences they have gained in their careers. The panel focused on barriers that various underrepresented groups experience in STEM/medicine and humanities, and how these individuals have worked through it.

Diverse Pathways in Tech

In **May**, four volunteer speakers from Wesleyan's Information Technology Services (ITS) department spoke to our students in a panel format to tell their inspiring stories, including the numerous obstacles they faced on their way to careers in tech as underrepresented individuals. Afterwards, students got to interact more closely with the guests in two breakout



Group photo with our students, staff, and our four panelists from Wesleyan's ITS department: Steve Alvarez, Bonnie Solivan, Alex Vazquez, and Maria Hiauera Palacio

sessions, which included demonstrations, Q&A, and frank discussions about overcoming barriers as underrepresented and underserved students. At the end, lunch was served and students had informal discussions with the guests.

Before this Saturday Session, another ITS employee, Steve Windsor, allowed two of our students, Francisco Diaz (10th, Platt HS) and Maamle Adjoka-Nartey (11th, Middletown HS), to shadow him for a day.



Francisco Diaz (10th, Maloney HS) and Maamle Adjoka-Nartey (11th, Middletown HS) shadowing Steve Windsor in the ITS department at Wesleyan University.

Steve also came into our office on a separate day and spoke with another student, Miles Peterson (9th, Middletown HS), during a tutoring session about his job.

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.

Chelsea Anthony



Chelsea Anthony (12th, New Britain HS) and Ahmed Badr (Wesleyan '20) with the 100-person choir at Temple University, who performed her poem "I Am Me"

After Chelsea Anthony (12th, New Britain HS) participated in a writing workshop led by Wesleyan student, Ahmed Badr '20, during one of our Saturday Sessions from Spring 2017, her work was published onto Badr's site called Narratio. Narratio is an online platform that focuses on youth empowerment through storytelling. After her work was published, Chelsea's poem was viewed by the Elaine Brown Chair of Choral Music at Temple University, Paul Rardin. Rardin had heard Ahmed's interview about Narratio on NPR (National Public Radio), and asked him about using poetry from Narratio for a piece he'd been commissioned to write for the American Choral Directors Association National Choir. He chose Chelsea's poem to be the centerpiece of the finished product called "Identities." Chelsea, Ahmed, and Chelsea's brother were flown out to Philadelphia in March to watch a 100-person choir made up of the best high school-aged singers from the East Coast perform her poem.



Ahmed Badr '20, Chelsea Anthony (12th, New Britain HS), and Paul Rardin at Temple University in March

Gael Badibanga, Maryam Abdulqader, and Mayreni Barrios

Under the leadership and initiative of Mayreni Barrios (12th, Middletown HS), a small group of students from teacher Maria Otfinoski's English Language Learners (ELL) class spoke in front of the entire Middletown High School teaching staff at a Faculty Meeting in May.

Mayreni, although not an ELL student herself, identifies and is friends with a lot of ELL students at MHS, and has been involved as a tutor, among other ways. She surveyed all ELL students at MHS this year to find out from them what it's like to be an ELL student at the school.

After sharing her results with the teacher, who shared them with the principal of Middletown High, Colleen Weiner, it was decided the insights should be shared with all the teachers at the school. At the Faculty Meeting, Mayreni presented her results with the help of Mayram

Abdulqader (10th, Middletown HS) and Gael Badibanga (11th, Middletown HS). Maryam and Gael also shared their

personal stories about coming to Middletown High from another country and not speaking any English, and they spoke about the obstacles and challenges ELL students face every day in the school. It was a powerful presentation, and congrats to our three students who stood up and spoke up for a group that is often

ignored or marginalized within our schools.



Maryam Abdulqader (10th, Middletown HS), Gael Badibanga (11th, Middletown HS), and Mayreni Barrios (12th, Middletown HS) with their principal, Colleen Weiner, presenting their work at a faculty meeting.

Archies Marahatta, Kylie Burke, and Daniela Santiago

Three of our students, Archies Marahatta (12th, Middletown HS), Kylie Burke (9th, Middletown HS), and Daniela Santiago (10th, Middletown HS), were among this year's *Silent Sounds* winners. *Silent Sounds* is an annual literary magazine that features winning submissions of essays, short stories, and poetry. The writing is submitted by students from Middletown Public Schools, grades 6 through 12. Congratulations to you all!

Gabriela Montanez

Seven students from Middletown High School's BlueTube Television recently traveled to Nashville, Tennessee to compete in the National Student Television Network Convention. The BlueTube students competed against over 3,000 students from over 200 schools around the country. Gabby Montanez (10th, Middletown HS) and her club mates competed in the Crazy 8 short film contest, where they were given a title of "Stuck on Repeat" and the prop of a glue stick, and 8 hours to write, produce and edit the film.

Other Fun Stuff this Semester

Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS)

A small group of students was provided with transportation and were accompanied to the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) at the UCONN Health Center in Farmington, CT on March 24th, where they saw a research topic presentation session, a health career presentation, toured a research lab, saw a poster competition, saw a STEM poster exhibition, participated in a humanities activity, and had lunch.



Maamle Adjoka-Nartey (11th, Middletown HS) and Caroline Czuprynski (11th, New Britain High) at JSHS.

RENT and The Illusionists

Every semester, UBMS exposes students to different opportunities that they may otherwise not have access to. This spring, students had the opportunity to see “Rent,” a classic Broadway musical performed at the Palace Theater in Waterbury. Students also went to see “The Illusionists,” a touring magic production which features a rotating cast of five to eight magicians who all specialize in specific branches of magic, at the Bushnell in Hartford. Students were also treated to dinner before the play.

UCONN Biomedical Engineering Discovery Saturday - Heart Valve & Prosthetic Leg

This semester, our students had more opportunities to go to the UCONN Health Center for their Biomedical Engineering Discovery Saturday program. Students had the option to work on a heart valve or a prosthetic leg. Whichever event they attended, they were able to keep whatever they created!

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



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!

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:

www.wesleyan.edu/ubms

Virtual Tutoring

Information: Twice a week, Monday & Wednesday, 7 – 9 PM



Thafir Elzofri

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

Available during after school tutoring sessions.

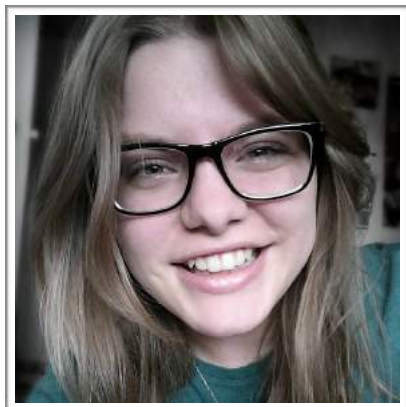
Wesleyan, Class of 2019

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, the Muslim Student Association, Awkward Silence, a new stand-up comedy club he started, 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.



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.

Class of 2018 Profile

We are so proud of the Class of 2018 and the hard work they put into applying to college and getting in! So, where are they going?

Mayreni Barrios

Central Connecticut State University

Victoria Bomani

University of Connecticut Storrs

Nathaly Gonzalez

Central Connecticut State University

Parth Kekare

University of Connecticut Storrs

Jordan Learmand

University of Connecticut Storrs

Archies Marahatta

Middlesex Community College

Noella Michaud

Eastern Connecticut State University

Sarah Nguyen

University of Connecticut Storrs (Honors)

Karolina Tarnacki

University of Connecticut Storrs

Rong You

University of Connecticut Storrs

Chelsea Anthony

University of Connecticut Storrs

Nasim Aouji

University of Connecticut Hartford

Yamile Beltran

University of New Haven

Fatima Boumargoud

University of Connecticut Hartford

Gabriela Bravo

Central Connecticut State University

Denia Campbell

University of Connecticut Storrs

Marissa Klimovich

University of New Haven

Yaw Kusi

University of Connecticut

Lela Shvelidze

University of Connecticut Storrs

Melanie Tirado

University of Connecticut Storrs

Treyvone Walker

Central Connecticut State University



CENTRAL
CONNECTICUT STATE UNIVERSITY

Points Incentives Program

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 2017-18 school year will be awarded with surprise gifts (last year the gifts included tablets, wireless headphones, and wireless speakers!). The top points earners and winners of this semester's Points Incentives Program will be awarded towards the end of the school year.

Let's Get Ready SAT Prep

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 14 classes, which met Mondays and Wednesdays, 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 \$60 waived). The course also contained a college prep element, including college essay draft writing and a college visit and event at Wesleyan University. Students were coached by trained Wesleyan students. A final ceremony with gifts, awards, and a financial aid presentation wrapped up the course.

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Follow us on Snapchat @ WesleyanUBMS



Follow us on Instagram @ WesleyanUBMS



Join our class on Remind by texting @wesleyanub to 81010.

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

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