

# EASTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

# UPWARD BOUND



## HEADLINES

January  
2016

### Holiday Party: Closing Out 2015

Upward Bound said sayonara to 2015 with cookie decorating, board games, and a good deed. Families created holiday cards for The Gilbert Residence, a rehabilitation and nursing facility in Ypsilanti. Each year the center provides gifts for those in their care, but they cannot provide cards. Upward Bound saw that each resident had something extra to go with each gift or display in their room to brighten up the winter months. Thank you for helping us make a positive impact!



Photos from left: Naya decorates a cookie; Ms. Rankins ready to roll; one of the created cards; family memories

### Junior Scholars

On Saturday, January 9th, Upward Bound debuted it's newest program component: Junior Scholars. This new program is designed to prepare Upward Bound juniors for the SAT and assist them in the college research process. By completing their college research in their junior year, they will be ready to apply to the colleges of their choice at the start of Senior Seminar in the fall.

As part of Junior Scholars, students will create a portfolio demonstrating what they have learned. If students complete all the portfolio requirements satisfactorily and don't miss more than one session, they will earn a special Upward Bound tassel to wear at their high school graduation!

Junior Scholars meets every other Saturday from 10am—12pm in 110 Halle Library on EMU's campus. Sessions are required of all Juniors. The remaining dates are listed below:

February 6th	March 5th
February 20th	March 12th

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## Share Your Story: Michelle Douglas, Upward Bound Alumna

Since we were kids, my brother Danny and I dreamed of graduating from the University of Michigan. If we accomplished this we would be the first in our family to graduate from college. Since our parents did not graduate from college, they didn't have much advice for us. Moreover, neither of my grandfathers finished high school. I never got the chance to meet them, but I am told their dream was for my parents and us to live better lives with more opportunities. My parents started accomplishing that dream by getting their high school diplomas, and I know they would have graduated from college had Upward Bound been available to them.

That is why we are all so grateful that Upward Bound provided Danny and me with the tools and resources to be successful in college. In our first year at university we were confident in our ability to study, manage time, be organized, and set realistic goals.

I started Upward Bound with a low GPA, but with the help of my tutors in College Club and by using the strategies I learned during monthly Group Meetings, I was able to greatly raise my GPA. However, I applied to five colleges and only got into two. I was not going to let that stop me from accomplishing my dream. I went to Washtenaw Community College and worked hard to receive a 3.89 (a B+ away from my goal of a 4.0.). I then applied to the University of Michigan and got in! I will never forget the moment I found out! I then achieved my dream and graduated in 2012 from U of M. After graduation, I taught English in Spain for a year - a goal I set in my ninth grade Spanish class. Next, I hope to attend graduate school to become a Spanish teacher. I know I will accomplish this goal using the skills I learn from Upward Bound.

As for Danny, he also achieved his dream and graduated from U of M in 2013 using the tools he learned from UB. He graduated with a double major in Communication Studies and Spanish. Danny remembers telling a College Club tutor that his dream has always been to work in the sports broadcasting industry. The tutor advised him to major in communications and get involved in clubs that would give him experience in the industry. So Danny joined the university's student-run network and was later hired for U of M's Big Ten Network Student U. In those positions he gained experience working on various sports shows. After graduating, Danny accepted a job at the Big Ten Network and is now living his dream. He is working on his next goal to one day be a producer of professional live sporting events.

I imagine my grandparents looking down and seeing how far our family has come. Their dreams and goals for us to have a better life and more opportunities than them has come true. We thank Upward Bound for their guidance and encouragement to help make this possible!

## Special Thanks

We'd like to extend our gratitude to YCHS staff members who have been beyond accommodating and taken the extra step to assist our students and our program this year. Ms. Payeur, Mr. Heister, and Mr. Baldner, thank you for all your support and flexibility! We are very grateful for all you do for us and for our students!





## Student Shout Out

This month we'd like to recognize **Kayla & Matthew Smith**, 2 of our newest UB members, but also 2 of our most focused students. At College Club and at Group meetings, they come prepared, work hard, and make efforts to learn new things. We are very proud of you, Kayla & Matthew! Keep up the excellent work!



## Class of 2016: Almost Alumni!

Our 2016 UB graduating class is in the home stretch! They have only 4 Senior Seminar sessions and 2 Group Meetings before graduating from Upward Bound! Our Senior Celebration will take place on Thursday, March 31st at 6:00p.m. in McKenny Ballroom, and there is much to celebrate. As a class, they have been awarded \$183,850.00 in scholarships so far, and they have been admitted to 18 different colleges & universities including Eastern Michigan University, Washtenaw Community College, Michigan State University, University of Michigan—Flint, Western, Wayne State, and Michigan Tech! Finish strong, seniors...you're almost at the goal line!



# Mark your calendar

- ⇒ **Senior Seminar: Saturday, February 6, 10:00a.m.-Noon, Halle 111**
- ⇒ **Junior Scholars: Saturday, February 6, 10:00a.m.-Noon, Halle 110**
- ⇒ **Senior Seminar: Saturday, February 20, 10:00a.m.-Noon, Halle 111**
- ⇒ **Junior Scholars: Saturday, February 20, 10:00a.m.-Noon, Halle 110**
- ⇒ **Career Fair: Thursday, February 25, 6:00-8:00p.m., McKenny Ballroom**
- ⇒ **Senior Celebration: Thursday, March 31, 6:00-8:00p.m., McKenny Ballroom**

It's not where you start, but where you finish. See you at the top!



Upward Bound is a federally-funded, pre-college program designed to provide high school students with academic enrichment as well as the information and motivation necessary to obtain a college degree. There are over 900 Upward Bound programs in the United States; Eastern Michigan University's Upward Bound Program has consistently and successfully served Ypsilanti students since 1967.

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