

Upward Bound Alumni Newsletter

April 2014

Do you ever wonder where your UB friends are and if they achieved their high school dreams? The roads our UB alumni have taken are as diverse as the students and their personalities back when they were in high school. While several alumni have completed their degrees and are working in the career fields they planned since high school, many are doing jobs they never thought about as a teenager.

While it is great some alumni are doing what they always knew they would, for many, life events and experiences changed the goals they had when they knew less about “the real world.” Some have finished their degree in an area they never thought about while others have found their niche as a mom, soldier, caregiver for an ill relative, or in a career field where a college education was not required. Others are still working on the college degree in the field they always dreamed about.

Regardless of where you find yourself, I hope you learned some things in UB that you can apply to your life now. Lessons like the following:

- *Relationships are worth the effort. Remember the dorm mate you could not tolerate after a week but you found you were inseparable after six weeks?*
- *Persistence pays so never give up on your dreams or yourself.*
- *Hard times come along with some fun times, so if you are having a hard time now, wait awhile because the sun will shine again!*
- *There is help around, you just have to ask the right person.*

Quote

“One hundred years from now, it will not matter what kind of car I drove, what kind of house I lived in, how much I had in my bank account, nor what my clothes looked like. But the world may be a little better because I was important in the life of a child.”
...Anonymous

Wherever you are in life, I hope you are fulfilling your destiny and passing on to your children some of the values and experiences you received from UB. I hope as your children, nieces and nephews, little cousins, or neighbors get to the age where they are thinking about college, you are able to direct them to the resources they need and, most importantly, give them encouragement to fulfill their dreams.

Rebecca

Photos from the past



1997



2002



2013



1996



2000



2009



2005



1996



2007

Friend UB at MAC on Facebook to see pictures, videos, and find your old UB friends! Search for "Upward Bound at MAC."



UB alumni help current UB students raise money for Branson trip 2014!

On February 22, 2014, some UB alumni attended the second annual UB trivia night to raise money for the end of summer trip to Branson. It was a fun and exciting evening getting to see some of the ol' UB crowd. Also in attendance were Jerry Sullivan and Darlene Pogue who came out to show their support. We raised a total of \$1,739 for the trip! Thanks to everyone for their help!



From the Archives

Can anyone guess this UB event?



Does long bus ride, hot walk, and Illinois help your memory? This was the long, infamous hike in Illinois in 2001! We didn't think the bus ride would ever end and we thought this hike would go on forever as we sped through the woods trying to keep up with our guides. When someone twisted their ankle, Darlene was forced to tie a cold water bottle to her leg. The first three in line appear to be Jacquelin, Pat, and Rachel.

2000 - Shirley Bressler-Gamble (Potosi High School) graduated with her Associate's Degree from Jefferson College! Congratulations!

2001 - Nena Kircher (Potosi High School)

Nena finished her BA at Lindenwood in Psychology and Religion in 2004 before completing her MA from Forest Institute of Professional Psychology in 2007 and her Doctorate in Psychology in (PsyD) in 2009. Also in 2009, she married Daeton DeGrant almost exactly 10 years after he told her she would someday. Nena currently works as a licensed psychologist for the Missouri Sex Offender Program completing end of confinement evaluations and testifying in court on behalf of the Missouri Attorney Generals Office. She recently received the "Governor's Award for Quality and Productivity" for her work on the Potosi Correctional Center Reintegration Unit.

2002 - Daeton DeGrant (Central High School)

Daeton completed his BS in Sociology with a minor in Psychology from Central Methodist Universtiy in 2009. In May, 2013, he graduated with his MA in Professional Counseling from Lindenwood. Daeton and Nena have two "children," two, ten year old orange tabbies. No surprise they are red heads! Daeton works as a counselor in training providing sex offender treatment at a secure department of a mental health facility.

2002 - Mike Wilson (Bismarck High School)

Mike served his country for 6 years in the Navy and was an MM(N)3 when he was discharged. He has since become a successful electrician for a paper mill in Oklahoma. He has been married to Kandice Meek of Broken Bow, OK for 8 years. Mike has kept up his acting with the local theatrical company where he recently played the Wizard in The Wizard of Oz!

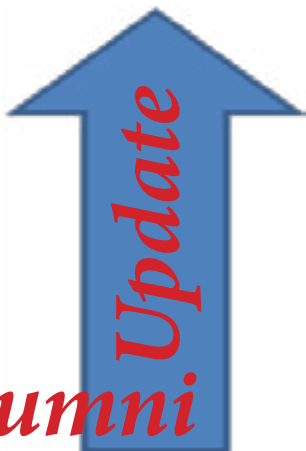
2007 - Kenny Kircher (Potosi High School)

Kenny graduated from Lindenwood University with a BA in Anthropology with an emphasis in Archaeology last year. He is currently working on an MA and PhD in Archaeology as well as a Museum Studies (Curator) certification at University of Missouri - Columbia. He is planning to focus on Golden-Age (1600's-EARLY 1800's) piracy in the Caribbean, (think, Edward Teach, Jean Lafitte, Benjamin Hornigold, etc.).

2011 - Isabella Ramirez (North County High School)

Isabella placed in the Postsecondary Agriculture Student conference held on MAC's campus last year. She also holds a state office and came in second in Career Progress.

UB Alumni



**Where are they now?
Matt Farr and Becca Harmon-Farr**



Matt and Becca sitting next to each other in "Rosa Park's Bus" at The Henry Ford Museum in Detroit, Michigan in 2006. The summer theme that year was "Planes, Trains, and Automobiles."

Matthew Farr graduated from Upward Bound in 2008 (North County High School). After serving a summer as a STEP student for Upward Bound, Matt completed his Associate's Degree at Mineral Area College. Even though Matt was in college, he still kept in touch with Upward Bound and when he had enough college hours, he came back to work for UB in the summer as an advisor. Recently, Matt graduated from Southeast Missouri State University and has become a special education teacher for the Potosi School District, fulfilling his dream of becoming a teacher. Last summer, Matt was married to Rebecca Harmon who also graduated from UB in 2008.

Matt recalls, "My favorite UB memory will always be taking the pie for Darlene. At first I was bound and determined to give her a face full of whipped cream but at the last moment I just couldn't bring myself to do it!" Matt recalls the most important lesson he learned from UB was to, "Try new things and get out of your comfort zone. The more opportunities you take advantage of in life the better off you will be."

Rebecca Harmon graduated from Potosi High School before completing her Bachelor's Degree at Southeast Missouri State University. She currently works as a pre-K and Kindergarten teacher at St. Joachim. Becca also spent several summers working for UB after graduation. She served as a summer advisor and as an RA.

Becca's favorite UB memory was the Detroit summer trip. "We started out with the world's longest train ride but I will always remember Matt sitting next to me and keeping me company on the plane ride home." Becca stated, "I think for me the most important thing I learned from UB was to be confident in myself and that I could do anything if I set my mind to it."

Rebecca and Matt were married after they graduated from SEMO in 2013. They fondly remember Darlene's adage, "23 and a college degree!"

Their most recent news is the new member of their family who is due in early July. We wish Matt and Becca and baby Grant all the best in their future!