



Upward Bound Alumni Newsletter

January 2015

Who in your life has left a lasting impression on you? Legacy is defined by Webster as “something that has come from a predecessor or the past.” Good or bad, each of us have been given a legacy by someone who left a permanent impression on who we are as an adult.

Many times, a legacy is left by example. Was grandpa a hard worker? Dad a protector? Mom a compassionate caregiver? Perhaps some of the legacies passed down to you were not so positive. Maybe there was alcohol or drug abuse, a divorce, or other issues you had to deal with as a child.

Think back in your own family. Someone far back on your family tree made decisions that are still affecting you today. Perhaps it was a move, the decision to hold a family together, a job change or a purchase. People from our past we never met could not have imagined how their decisions would impact their grandchildren many generations from them.

We can't change the legacies that were passed down to us, but we can change the legacies we pass down to the people in our lives. Believe it or not, your life is being watched. The choices you make everyday are creating the legacy you are leaving for those who come after you. What legacy are you leaving?

From the Archives

Does anyone remember this event? For some reason, this 2008 Upward Bound D.C. group was evacuated out of the National Archives! Students lined up and “numbered off” on the grass before we hurried off to our next activity.

Do you still remember your UB summer trip number? “Okay ‘one’ start us off!”



Rebecca

Photos from the past



Where are they now? Kevin Biggs - UB graduate 1998



Kevin Biggs was one of the first UB students back in 1996 from Ste. Genevieve High School. After graduating from high school, he worked 24-40 hours a week while earning a Pre-Business Administration Degree from MAC. An illness forced him to withdraw from SEMO, but he has had much success and for the last nine and a half years has worked as a maintenance supervisor for the multifamily housing company, Rose Property Group.

Kevin states, "This is by far my favorite job I have had." His least favorite job was working on an assembly line in a cabinet factory. "Doing the same thing over and over was not for me." Currently, Kevin gets to help people when they are having problems in their homes and work in and out of the office. He states, "It is nice having so many different things to keep me moving." His degree from MAC helped him earn his promotion, but he has also had a number of trainings on his job. Some of them include HVAC, certification by the EPA for handling freon, pest control, human resources, maintenance of cable/internet equipment, and certified pool operator. His college years, especially in relation to accounting classes, has helped him with some of the paperwork part of his job such as processing invoices. He observes, "I know that UB is a program to try to get 4 year degrees, but sometimes I feel a technical program may fit a student better. There are a lot of jobs out there for skilled labor."

Kevin has won several awards since working with Rose including Maintenance Technician of the Year for the Indiana Apartment Association, a statewide award, and Maintenance Supervisor of the year for the Apartment Association of Southern Indiana. He was also the runner up for supervisor of the year for the state.

On a personal note, Kevin resides in Evansville, Indiana with his wife Laura. They have been married for eight years and are the proud uncle and aunt of a seven year old niece and 18 month old nephew. They also have a dog, who thinks she is human, and a rescue cat. Kevin's favorite pastime, as you can see from the photo, is fishing.

As far as UB, Kevin's favorite activity was camping on the summer trip and staying at Rosener's. He states, "I also really enjoy the trivia night and catching up with other UB alumni." "UB was a great opportunity for me. It opened my eyes to things that I had never seen before. I had barely left my small area in Missouri before UB."



Spotlight on **Connie Hester** 20 Years of Service

All UB students at one time or the other have become acquainted with Connie Hester. You remember the helpful voice you heard when you called UB with a question or the smiling face you saw when you came in to the UB office? Whether your relationship with Connie was brief or you had the opportunity to get to know her well, she was always there reaching out with a helping hand or kind word.

Connie Hester was the first employee of Upward Bound. She states, “After graduating from MAC, I knew that some day I would like to work at the college. I started working as the Administrative Assistant when the first UB grant was funded in 1995.” She left the UB program for 4 years to work in the MAC payroll office, but returned in 2007 and has been with the program ever since.

During her time in UB, Connie has seen many changes. She states, “Upward Bound has grown significantly. We now have two programs, serving ten area high schools.” Connie reminisces, “During the past twenty years I’ve seen the difference that Upward Bound has made in many students’ lives.” A large part of Connie’s job is behind the scenes such as working on the budget, scheduling, etc., but she gets to know the students when they come in the office and when they come back after graduation for the “STEP” program. She states, “The STEP program allows the graduating students an opportunity to take MAC classes while volunteering during the summer program. I really get to know the students while they are helping out in the office during this time.” Connie also enjoys seeing students when they come back in the office to let us know how they are doing.

Outside of MAC, Connie enjoys working as a Mary Kay consultant during some of her spare time. Still Connie says, “Family time is very important to me. Most of my time is spent at my children’s sporting and other events and church activities. When I retire, I plan to do some traveling.”

Since the first days in the old trailer behind the field house, Connie has provided exceptional customer service to the students, parents, and stakeholders. She is the organization behind the scenes that keeps things moving smoothly. UB appreciates all of the hard work Connie has done over the years, her commitment to excellence, and all of her experience she continues to bring to the program. THANKS CONNIE!!!



Upward Bound in Washington, D.C.



These three pictures were taken in front of the Old Post Office in Washington, D.C. The Old Post Office houses a small food court and some shops. Since our first trip to D.C. in 2002, Upward Bound has made two more trips to our Capital, 2008 and 2013. If you went with Upward Bound in 2002 on the first trip, you may be interested to know many lessons were learned from that first trip and adjustments were made on successive trips so they would not be quite so challenging. In the 2002 picture above, Katie is demonstrating how all of us felt on that trip!

Still, UB packed as many activities as possible during our short times there. That first trip, of course, will always be THE most memorable. There is something about sleeping on the bus, sleeping on the floor of a church, and sleeping on the bus again that is unforgettable. Each trip, however, has had its “experiences.” In 2008, the bus drivers



got lost leaving D.C. In 2013, the bus air conditioner stopped working somewhere in Illinois on the way to D.C. I’m sure I don’t have to elaborate on how the trip out there was in the middle of July! Fortunately, the air conditioner was fixed before the long trip back. All in all however, the UB D.C. trips can’t be beat for the wonderful memories and experiences the UB students bring home with them from visiting the memorials and the Capital Building and seeing all the sites.

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

Contact Information
Upward Bound
Mineral Area College
P.O. Box 1000
Park Hills, MO 63601-1000
573-518-2156
Fax: 573-518-2168
www.MineralArea.edu/UpwardBound

Rebecca Neighbors, Director UB I & UB II
rneighbo@MineralArea.edu
Connie Hester, Administrative Assist.
chester@MineralArea.edu
Chad Majeske, Academic Advisor UB I
cmajeske@MineralArea.edu
Melissa Stetina, Academic Advisor UB I
mstetina@MineralArea.edu
Michelle Dane, Academic Advisor UB II
mdane@MineralArea.edu
Sandy Lefever, Academic Advisor UB II
slefever@MineralArea.edu

TRIO A Federally Funded Program

The mission of Upward Bound at Mineral Area College is to serve eligible high school students by providing academic enrichment, cultural experiences, and a support network to ensure their success in attaining a four year college degree.

The Mineral Area College Upward Bound I program is a TRIO program funded with a five-year, grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This represents 100% of the program cost. Mineral Area College provides 25% of indirect costs to support the program.

The Mineral Area College Upward Bound II program is a TRIO program funded with a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education. This represents 100% of the program cost. Mineral Area College provides \$3,000 of indirect costs to support the program.

Upward Bound is one of five programs established by Congress to help low-income, first-generation students enter college and graduate. These programs are referred to as the TRIO programs.

For more information on Upward Bound I or II or for information on how to apply, contact the Upward Bound office located at Mineral Area College, (573) 518-2156. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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