

# Upward Bound Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2017

Whatever you are up to these days, wherever life has led you, or whatever mistakes you have made, there is always hope for tomorrow. As the years and decades go by, new adventures are just around the corner. If you ever doubt it, just look into the eyes of a child – always looking, hoping, and believing. Whenever you feel down, just find a child whose parents have been through a divorce, who has been orphaned, whose parent is in prison, or who is just struggling with bullying, poverty, or sickness and start sharing some of your time, money, and love. Life will suddenly have meaning again as your heart unselfishly focuses on the future. Children are worth it and the rewards are immeasurable! And never forget – someone cares for you too!

# UB Trivia Night Join us!

UB will be hosting a trivia night on Saturday, March 11, 2017 to raise money for BackStoppers. Get a team of 8-10 together and come out for a night of fun and old UB memories! It's a great time for a UB reunion with your classmates! See the enclosed flyer for more information. Hope to see you there!





## Photos from the past



### UB in the News...

Summer 2017 theme is "Seas the Day - Anchored in Success" and the trip will be to Florida again!

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

Quote

"Perseverance is the hard work you do after the hard work you do after already did!"

"Rev. Roger Skaggs

#### From the Archives

Familiar scene? Getting ready for the formal dinner was, and still is, a tasty, fun activity as students learn the correct way to cut a piece of "meat," pick up "peas" with a spoon, and act during a formal dinner. Looks like Nick and Brandon have their elbows on the table, but since they have their serious faces on, we will forgive them. Niles seems to be wanting the chocolate on his plate, but under Jerry's watchful eye in the background, he is going to wait for the go-ahead.



### Where are they now? Daeton Degrant - 2002 UB Graduate

The UB class of 2002 was a great group of students and they had some fun times. Daeton Degrant was one of the students in that group.

Daeton earned a Bachelor of Science in sociology with a minor in psychology. He went on to earn a master's degree in professional counseling.





Currently, he is a Licensed Professional Counselor at Southeast Missouri Mental Health. He is also working on a second master's degree in digital forensics.

Married to Dr. Nena Kircher, another successful UB alumni, she and Daeton live in Farmington and have two fat cats ages 4 and 14. Nena earned a bachelor's degree in psychology and religion from Lindenwood University. She also earned a master's degree in psychology and doctoral degree in clinical psychology from Forest Institute. She later earned

a second master's degree in religious studies from Missouri State University. She works

at Southeast Missouri Mental Health as a therapy program coordinator.

Daeton's favorite UB memory is white water rafting on the 2001 summer trip. See pictures of that trip on the opposite page. His funniest UB memory is him and Ryan King impersonating Queen - oh we remember those talent shows! Daeton's most valuable lesson learned from UB is, "Never give up when you fall. I learned this from Jerry."

When I asked Daeton what he would like to say to his UB buddies, he said, "miss you guys." One last note, Daeton and Nena recently enjoyed a cruise to Mexico, Belize, and Honduras and from the looks of the picture, they had a great time!





#### **UB'S NEWEST ALUMNI OF 2016**

In May, UB 2016 graduates got together for a celebration. We wish them all the best in their future!

Left to right - Travis Keith (AV), Dillon Sansoucie (NC), Jasmine Noel (AV), Tessa Baker (AV), Blake Oliver (hiding from Central), Luke Oliver (Central), Amy Le (Farmington), Shawn Matlock (NC - Valedictorian), Elizabeth Howard (Bismarck), Savannah Medlin (Farmington), Amanda Simmons (Bismarck), Donna Aubuchon (WC), Bethany Spitzmiller (Kingston - Valedictorian), Ashley Propst (WC), and Dakota Miller (Kingston - Salutatorian)



Summer Theme 2001 - "Climbing the Highest Peaks"

Summer trip - The Smokey Mountains and white water rafting on the Ocoee River



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#### 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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