

Stepping Stone

*March/April
2005*

UB & HOLA UB Academic Year Schedule

October 2
*Orientation**
October 9, 23, 30
November 6, 13, 20
December 4, 11
January 22, 29
February 5, 12, 19, 26
March 5, 12
April 9, 16, 23, 30
May 7

MSRC Academic Year Schedule

October 30
*Orientation**
November 13, 20
December 11
January 22
February 5*, 19
March 12
April 23
May 7

**Rescheduled session*



A Newsletter for the Families of Pre-College Programs in
Undergraduate Studies at the University of Maryland
301 405-6776 (phone) 301-314-9155 (fax)

<http://www.precollege.umd.edu/>

SUMMER PROGRAM DATES

June 19 – July 29, 2005

PARENT VOLUNTEER HOUR LOG SHEETS ARE DUE!!

Parent volunteer log sheets are due ASAP. Please submit copies of your log sheets to Mr. Hernandez so that a mid-year review can be completed (log sheets were due in December). Copies can be faxed to (301) 314-9155. All parent hours are to be completed by **May 14, 2005**. Students **WILL NOT** be allowed to attend the 2005 summer program if volunteer hours are not completed by this date. Parents who have signed up to volunteer in the program office and that was the **ONLY** activity selected need to select another activity ASAP. We are getting close to the end of the academic year and will not be able to accommodate everyone who signed up for this activity since we have very FEW office assignments during the academic year. If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Hernandez @ (301) 405-6805.

Third Quarter Period Report Cards

Please remember to submit your third quarter report cards and PSAT/SAT test scores to your counselor.

The U.S. Department of Education requires that we have a copy of your most recent report card and SAT information on file.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

All your hard work has paid off!! Listed below are the colleges/universities where the students have been accepted:

Ashley Person - UMD College Park (Honors Program).

Yvonne Pearson - George Mason University.

Brittany Drakeford - UMD College Park.

Jenny Metellus - UMD College Park.

Alisha Shears - Delaware State University

Tania Villatoro - Converse College (South Carolina)

Thu Ha Le - UMBC

Elizabeth Ferrufino - has received a \$33,000 scholarship to attend the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Eduardo Mendoza - Capital College

LaToya Stewart - has received a Gates-Millennium Scholarship in the amount of \$12,623. She plans to attend Drexel University.

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Congratulations to the following students for their accomplishments:

Michael Wilder - Inducted into the National Honor Society (Fairmont Heights HS).

Haymanot Yalewayker - Placed 4th in The National Capital Area Brain Bee held on February 8, 2005.

Nakura Clark - will study abroad this summer in Japan.

Kathleen Calaro (Springbrook HS), **Haymanot Yalewayker** and **Liza Del Valle** (Wheaton HS) were inducted into the National Honor Society.

SENIOR NEWS

Important Dates:

- Pre-College Programs Senior Graduation (University Chapel – 6:00 pm) June 7, 2005
- Senior Class Trip to New York, NY (\$25.00 deposit is requested by April 15, 2005) June 8-10, 2005

Reminders:

Please submit copies of your college acceptance letters, SAT test scores as well as a copy of your financial aid package.

We would like to have a copy of your senior class picture to be included in the keepsake graduation program this year ASAP.

Bridging the Financial Aid Gap

How can families meet unmet need?

Appeal the financial aid offer. If the college's package of loans, grants, scholarships and work-study come up short, meet with the financial aid office. Write a letter to request a meeting and explain why the school should consider adjusting your aid offer.

Some pointers for the meeting:

- Prepare documentation for the financial aid office to review in support of your case, particularly circumstances not revealed on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.)
- Demonstrate that your family's financial circumstances have changed dramatically since you filed your FAFSA (i.e. death, unemployment, medical expenses).
- Different schools have different attitudes toward financial aid appeals. Some schools like to see the aid packages offered by other schools you're considering, while others might be put off by its inclusion.
- Be courteous when requesting additional assistance. You're not trying to drive a bargain on a used car. Approach the aid officer as an ally, not an adversary.

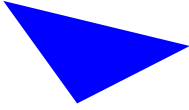
Look for scholarships. Sign-up on FastWeb.com and continue to review the results of your scholarship search. Keep your profile updated to be sure you're getting the most relevant results. You can also expand your search to offline sources. Check with your local library, organizations in your community and your employer for additional scholarship opportunities.

Consider a part-time job. If work-study isn't part of your aid package, ask if it's a possibility. Research the campus and surrounding community to find other viable employment options.

Get the most from your loans. First, be sure you're borrowing the maximum you can in subsidized loans. For instance, Stafford loans allow dependant undergraduate students to borrow up to \$2,625 their freshman year, \$3,500 their sophomore year and \$5,500 for each remaining year. You can find more student loan information at FinAid.org.

If you still don't have enough money to cover the gap after maximizing your subsidized loans, you can approach a private lender for a supplemental loan. This loan won't have all the advantages of a Stafford loan, but it could get you to your dream school.

Reduce expenses. Explore ways to reduce the cost of attending school. Is the school in an area where the student might be able to live at home or with relatives in the area? Can you meet the same academic goals at a lower cost institution? Consider accelerated programs where you might complete a degree in three years rather than four.



**Upcoming SAT & ACT
Test Dates**

SAT Deadline

10/09/04 9/07/04, 9/15/04*
11/06/04 10/01/04, 10/13/04*
12/04/04 10/29/04, 11/10/04*
1/22/05 12/20/04, 12/29/04*

New SAT

3/12/05 2/07/05, 2/16/05*
5/07/05 3/25/05, 4/06/05*
6/04/05 4/29/05, 5/11/05*

ACT

10/23/04 9/17/04, 10/01/04*
12/11/04 11/05/04, 11/18/04*

Includes Writing Test

2/12/05 1/07/05, 1/21/05*
4/09/05 3/04/05, 3/18/05*
6/11/05 5/06/05, 5/20/05*

*Late Registration

**CONTACT YOUR
COUNSELOR FOR
TEST FEE WAIVERS**
(SAT II waivers are also available)

**WELCOME TO THE
PRE-COLLEGE FAMILY**

We would like to welcome our new staff members to the Pre-College Programs family.

Ms. Gwendalina McClain-Digby (*H.O.L.A Upward Bound Advisor/Academic Coordinator*)

Mr. Curt Smith (*Upward Bound Academic Coordinator*)

Ms. Davonne Rice (*Upward Bound Office Assistant*)

Each of them brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that they are eager to share. Please do not hesitate to introduce yourself to our new staff. We are very happy to have them on board.

Pre-College Programs in Undergraduate Studies Staff

Georgette Hardy DeJesus, Psy.D..... Director
Annie Foster Ahmed, M.Ed..... MSRC Program Coordinator
Brent Hernandez, M.A. Acting Assistant Director (Admin.)
Curt Smith, M.Ed. UB Academic Coordinator
Ta'mia Henry, M.A. UB Counselor
Gwendalina McClain-Digby, M.A. HOLA Advisor/Coordinator
Narryn Fisher, M.A. Research Coordinator (P/T)
Adrienne Ross UB Administrative Assistant
Jacqueline Majors..... MSRC Administrative Assistant
Davonne Rice, B.S. Office Assistant