

## Contents

Excellence Award	2
Service Trip	3
B.L.U.E. Stars	4
Career Focus Day	4
Community Service	4
Cultural Events	5
Alumni Spotlight	6
Semester Photos	7
Contacts & Social Media	8

## CONGRATULATE THE SENIORS!

At the core of our program, we help students get to college. We are proud of our seniors for their hard work during high school, dedication to our program, and reaching one of their biggest goals thus far: graduating high school and going to college.

We wish you luck in your future endeavors. Keep in mind there are TRIO programs at many universities that help college students successfully complete college. We hope you come back to visit us and tell us all about your accomplishments.



*Back row, left to right: Dwight Young, Armonte Hall, Santiago Aldave, Daisy Diaz, Willie Maung, Compassion Pippert, Ethan Fowler, Destiny Chaney, Kiarra Arrington. Middle row: Janiya Hall, Tin Oo, Roberto Medina, Elizabeth Aung, Lay Lay Maung, Elizabeth Neehdam, Wendy Samayoa. Front row: Wendy Ruiz, Alexandra Patino-Ramirez, Marisabel Sanchez.*

## EXCELLENCE AWARD

Congratulations to Daisy Diaz—the winner of the UB Excellence Award. A student earns this award through: academic accomplishments, participation, positive spirit, and by representing the mission of Upward Bound throughout their four years with us. We asked Daisy several questions:



### **How has UB helped you the last four years?**

“Being in UB has truly shaped the person I am today. I was a reserved person, I didn’t have much confidence in myself to put myself out there. Though once in UB I was welcomed with not just other participants but a family. I started to take more challenges, such as doing IB and also Dual Credit class for the summer. UB taught me to get out of my comfort zone, which made me the person I am now.”

### **What advice would you give to the students in UB?**

“The individuals who are accepted into the UB program are chosen for a reason, somebody saw potential in you. UB is a competitive program to get into and hundreds of people are rejected each year, but you were chosen. So take advantage of the program, don’t just do the bare minimal and complete your contract, but go beyond that and attend ATS, go to Wednesday and Monday tutoring, but also communicate more with the staff.”

### **How did you balance school, extracurricular, social time, and personal time?**

“I would always have a planner or some sort of piece of paper to write down important dates. Making sure to always do extracurricular activities that I like, not that will “look good.” That way I also had personal gain. At times I would hang out with my friends after ATS, Upward Bound, I would never miss out of important dates from UB unless it's truly necessary.”

### **What are you majoring in and what are your career plans?**

“I am going to double major in Nursing and Psychology and double minor in Spanish and International Studies. My dream is to become a Surgeon, specializing in internal organs, and later become a part of the organization *Doctors without Borders*.”

Congratulations also to Roberto Medina and Elizabeth Needham for earning the Outstanding Academic Performance Award. Most seniors also earned a High Honors award, Honors award, and/or an award for 75% or better participation in Upward Bound.

# COMMUNITY SERVICE IN NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA

Over Spring Break, we took 22 students to volunteer in New Orleans. Qualifying juniors and seniors went through a strict application process.

The overnight drive to and from New Orleans was 13 hours. Interestingly, we drove through a storm and barely missed a tornado! As soon as we arrived on Monday, April 3rd, we went to the worksite, which project Camp Restore planned for us. We cleaned out a house that was damaged by a tornado.

down walls, cleaning, moving furniture, etc. The next day, we did garden work, mainly planting trees. Again, everyone had a different task.

After working, we explored the beautiful city of New Orleans. We walked around the French Quarter and visited Café du Monde, The World War II Museum, St. Louis Cathedral, Tulane University, and so much more. We ate Po' Boys, Gumbo, Beignets, and other new foods.

“I learned and realized how important it is to work with a team. We got it done sooner than I expected. It was great working as a team.” – Sen Nu

“I learned from this trip that community service is very important for the environment and for society: the better the environment we create, the healthier we would be.” – Vung Lian



## B.L.U.E. STARS

B.L.U.E. Stars (Building Leadership through Unity and Excellence) is a leadership group within our program. Selected juniors and seniors attend monthly leadership seminars and participate in a community service project. This Spring, the B.L.U.E. Stars helped plan and host the Senior Celebration.

Applications will be available in the Fall.

*Left to right: Mario Arriaga, Thin Nyein, Tin Oo, Daisy Diaz, Niang Chin, Naw Sar Do, Ms. Gladys*



## CAREER FOCUS DAY

Career exploration plays a big part in college preparation. Each Spring, we kick off the semester with Career Focus Day. We invite professionals from the community to speak to our students about their career. We want to thank the following four professionals for their time and insight, especially on a Saturday morning:



- **Dr. Mohamed Amin: Pharmaceutical Sciences at Manchester University**
- **Dr. Adolfo Coronado: Computer Science at IPFW**
- **Get Nichols: FWCS Assistant Superintendent in Elementary Education**
- **Dr. Tanya Soule: Biology at IPFW**



## LOCAL COMMUNITY SERVICE:

The last few years, our students have volunteered at IPFW Follett's Bookstore *Hats Off to Reading* event. This year, 25 UB students volunteered. They helped at the event's stations for crafts, iPads, snacks, and more. Tin Oo was the cat in the Hat!

## CULTURAL EVENTS



This semester’s theatrical productions were phenomenal as always. Some of them were “The Children’s Hour”, “Memphis”, and “The Little Mermaid”. We want to thank the Civic Theatre and the First Presbyterian Theater for the opportunity to take our students to these performances!

One of the cultural events this semester was a two-session “Intro-to-Yoga” class. We did tree pose, triangle pose, downward facing dog—you name it. It was relaxing, yet challenging. A huge thank you to Christine Hill, Yoga Instructor at IPFW, for introducing us to Yoga!



The picture on the left is at a Culture Dinner at Queen of Sheba Ethiopian Cuisine. We ate with our hands from a plate that served about four people. The other cultural dinners took place at La Fogata Mexican Restaurant, Baan Thai, and Loving Café- Vegetarian Cuisine. We certainly recommend them all!

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: TONY PATTIN

UB Class '08



## **[Q1] What is your current job?**

“Current Role: User Experience Designer. I create wireframes, prototypes, and high fidelity mockups to communicate my design concepts to product managers and developers.

Company: Uptake (uptake.com). Predictive Data Analytics Software Company

College: Indiana University - Bloomington (M.S. in Human-Computer Interaction Design, B.S. Informatics and Computing).”

## **[Q2] How did you choose your career path?**

“I initially wanted to attend school to become an art major but was afraid of career opportunities after graduation. Sophomore year I was introduced to a course in Human - Computer Interaction (HCI). It was in that class where I saw myself using art to create meaningful experiences and user interfaces between people and technology. From there, I started taking classes in graphic design, psychology, and other related courses that would help me get into the HCI graduate program at IU.”

## **[Q3] How did UB play a part in your success?**

“Upward Bound surrounded me with people who I thought were smarter than me. The program gave me an opportunity to challenge myself. Before UB, I didn't care much about pursuing academia as much. Yes, I was always going to attend college but I wasn't motivated about it. It was just something I thought I had to do. UB gave me the confidence and motivation to pursue higher education and exceed at it. I will always be grateful for Upward Bound.”

## **[Q4] What advice would you give your high school self?**

“Never tell yourself that you aren't good enough. Find something you're passionate about and pursue

it. Don't worry if you can't find it right away. Surround yourself around people who are willing to help you unlock your potential and achieve your dreams.”

## **[[Q5] What is the one thing that surprised you most about college?**

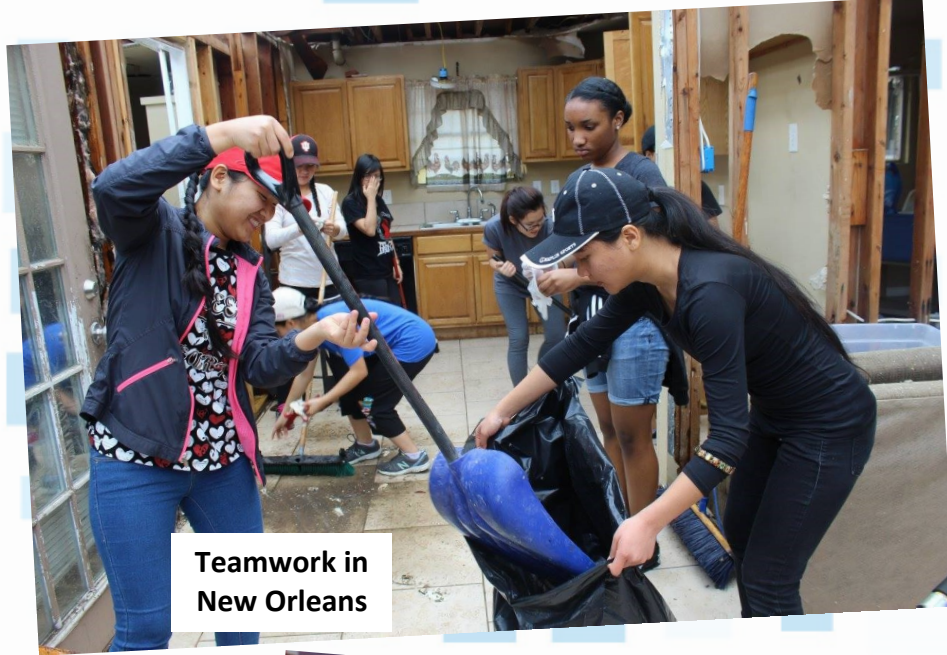
“The level of freedom. To me, being successful in college was more about maturity than it was intelligence. Being intelligent doesn't mean anything if you don't know how to apply yourself. A few of my friends didn't make it through college because they didn't know how to prioritize what was most important. Mistakes will be made, but it's up to you to overcome those mistakes. No one is there to hold your hand. It is your responsibility to graduate.”

## **[Q5] What is the one thing that surprised you most about the working world?**

“The importance of social skills. I'm not saying you have to be an extrovert but it's important to build relationships with your co workers and those in your profession. You'll be able to successfully network with others and advance in your career in the future. I also believe building relationships will give you a better outlook on life.”



**Volunteering @ IPFW Follett's Bookstore reading event**



**Teamwork in New Orleans**



**Yoga**



**Cultural Dinner!**



**Congratulations!**

Find more photos on our social media!

# UPWARD BOUND STAFF CONTACTS:

**Nicholas Gray, Director**

260.481.4148

graynw01@ipfw.edu

**Lydia Bates, Assistant Director**

260.481.4189

batesl@ipfw.edu

**Gladys Calderón, Academic Specialist**

260.481.0687

calderog@ipfw.edu

**Tavis Rieger, Academic Specialist**

260.481.0688

riegert@ipfw.edu

**Robin Steenman, Office Administrator**

260.481.4188

steenmae@ipfw.edu



IPFW Upward Bound  
2101 E. Coliseum Blvd.  
Fort Wayne, IN 46805

Visit us online!

[www.ipfw.edu/upbound](http://www.ipfw.edu/upbound)

Like us on FB: [www.facebook.com/UpwardBoundIPFWTRIO/](http://www.facebook.com/UpwardBoundIPFWTRIO/)

Follow us on Instagram, Twitter, YouTube (@ub.ipfw.trio) and

If you haven't signed up for Remind101, contact us!

Newsletter Produced By:  
Gladys Calderón

