

# The UBMS Scoop

**The North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence  
Upward Bound Math & Science Program**

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## Coordinators' Comments

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March 2013  
Volume 1, Issue 1

Parents, Students, and Community, my name is Walter P. Cooper, Sr. I am the new Upward Bound Math & Science (UBMS) Coordinator. I am excited about the unlimited possibilities each of our students possess. The UBMS program is one of many programs provided by the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence (NACEE). The mission of the UBMS program is to assist students throughout high school and onto college. We enrich students learning while also providing exposure to majors and career fields in the

Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematic (STEM) Industries. This year NACEE is celebrating 39 years of service to families in this community. I am proud to be continuing this rich legacy of commitment and service.

During the 2012-2013 school year, I identified three goals for the program. Each day, as a staff; Mrs. Smitherman, Ms. Smith, Mr. Petty and Ms. Turner along with a host of tutors are diligently working to accomplish our goal of assisting our students. Allow me to share them with you: 1) Create a

positive environment for learning, 2) Enhance recruitment efforts, and 3) Increase academic achievement. I am proud to say we are making progress towards reaching our goal. I look forward to sharing more information about our accomplishments in future publications.



Mr. Walter P. Cooper Sr.

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## New Student Perspective

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I am enjoying my experiences as a new member in the Upward Bound Math & Science program. I am learning new things and meeting different people. The tutors and staff at NACEE encourage me to do better in and out of

school. They have also helped me to explore different colleges and career fields. I am glad that I am able to participate in such a great program and I look forward to the many upcoming activities.



Reporter, Nekia Truelove  
9<sup>th</sup> grade, Lee HS

## The Counselor's Corner

**re-source-ful:** Having the ability to find clever ways to overcome difficulties. *Synonyms:* ingenious, inventive, adroit, clever, shifty

In this segment of **"The Counselor's Corner"** I would like to challenge each and every one of our brilliant, talented UB/UBMS students to become more **resourceful**. It is important to research the college or university you would like to attend in order to understand tuition costs, degree programs and instructor to student ratio. We have all heard the saying "anything worth having is worth

working hard for", therefore; do not rely on teachers, counselors, and mentors for information, you must become **RESOURCEFUL**.

Remember, no one is required to tell you information that you could have researched on your own. I challenge you to become proactive, resourceful and remember to **ALWAYS FOLLOW YOUR DREAMS!**

*Ms. Tanisha Smith  
UB/UBMS Counselor*



## March Madness



The J.O. Johnson High School Jaguars had an astounding basketball season. They made it to the championship game held in Birmingham, AL where they face

**"He who does not strive for something with eagerness finds everything burdensome and truly tedious" ~Francis Bacon**

the Madison County Tigers.

The Tigers defeated the Jaguars with a finale score of 28-25. The Jaguars had many seniors who gave their all during the game. We are all proud of the basketball team for playing with all their heart.

*Reporter, Keneisha Simmons  
9<sup>th</sup> grade, New Century HS*

## Words from the Educational Specialist

When I received the position of Educational Specialist for the Upward Bound Math & Science program at the beginning of this year, I had no idea how much the position would impact me. I have been given the honor of working with some very dynamic young men and women and have had the opportunity to witness positive growth and change in many of the students in a very short time frame.

One proud moment was during Open House, where we were able to allow the community, school staff and administrators a small peek into the work that we do daily. The event was a success and our

**"The task of the modern educator is not to cut down jungles, but to irrigate deserts." ~C.S. Lewis**

students were able to display their work and progress to the community.

As the UBMS Educational Specialist, I am committed to aiding students in their academic journey and am honored to have this opportunity.

*Mrs. Danielle M. Smitherman  
Educational/Curriculum Specialist*

## Life Behind Bars

My visit to the Madison County jail was an astounding and shocking experience. Being able to see the many things that go on inside the jail, the duties of the officers, and the feeling of being around convicted criminals was unexplainable.

The officers gave insight on their everyday duties, and laws we should be aware of. We also toured the jail which was exciting but frightening at the same time. We saw where inmates were booked when entering the jail and the very small cells in which they

are housed. As we toured the jail my heart was pounding and a thousand questions were running through my mind.

I even saw people who once attended school with me. It did not leave me speechless but it did make me think about my peers and some of their bad decisions.

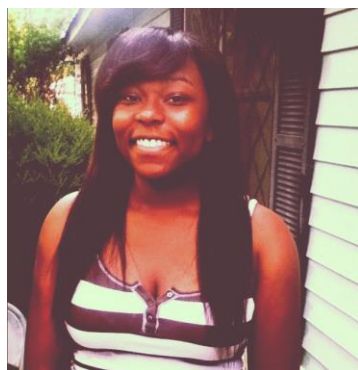
After my visit I prayed hard that I never have to step foot in a jail again. No one wants to be locked up, but if you are going to do the crime you must do the time. My fellow UB/UBMS students, I advise

you to know your surroundings, be responsible and be aware of who you are hanging around.

*Reporter, Delicia Ridgeway  
12<sup>th</sup> grade, J.O. Johnson HS*



## UBMS Star Student of the Month



**Jada Similton**  
10<sup>th</sup> Grade, JO Johnson HS

Our Star Student of the month is...

**JADA SIMILTON.** Not only has Jada finished her marking period with all A's and B's, she received the highest grade in her math class. She states "I got it because; I believe they saw a change in me." She describes herself as intelligent, ambitious, and creative and wants

**"Shoot for the moon. Even if you miss you will land among the stars."**

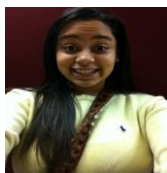
**-Les Brown**

to use her skills to travel and become a Spanish translator. Jada Pinkett Smith and her mom inspire her. Her advice to all aspiring star students is to be determined, serious in school, and work on your social skills. She believes, "Success is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration. Way to go Jada!"

*Reporter, Stephanie Boggs  
9<sup>th</sup> grade, Lee HS*

## Editors' Notes

My name is Stephanie Boggs. I am a freshman at Lee High School. My interests include photography, theater, and writing; which, is why I have decided to become co-editor of this newsletter. I look forward to providing you with interesting articles, pictures, and the latest news happening at UBMS. Stay tuned!



**Stephanie Boggs**



**Brittney King**

Hello my name is Brittney King and I am a sophomore at J.O. Johnson HS. Being a member of UBMS has taught me many things and I now have an idea of what colleges and careers I am interested in. Journalism is one of those interests therefore I have taken on the task as Co-Editor of our newsletter. I hope that you enjoy these publications as much as I enjoy compiling them.

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Executive Director/President



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[www.nacee.net](http://www.nacee.net)

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

- **Saturday, April 6, 2013:** ACT Mock Test at UAH 9:00am-1:00pm
- **Thursday, April 11, 2013:** Summer Component Applications due by 5:00pm.
- **Tuesday, April 16, 2013:** Guest Speaker at NACEE Center at 3:30pm
- **Thursday, April 18, 2013:** Summer Component Parent Meeting at UAH 6:00pm
- **April 19-20, 2013:** Scholar's Bowl Competition in Atlanta, GA

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## Mentoring Matters

What a great time of the year! Spring is in the air and life is budding everywhere. As Spring approaches the preparations for "Learn and Earn" Summer Mentoring Component begins.

Please take note of several learning opportunities available from Alabama A&M University:

- Environmentors
- Physics
- Food Science
- Animal Science
- Forestry
- High School Summer Food Engineering/Nanotechnology Program
- Engineering Tech.

- The REU Physics High School Component

From the University of Alabama Huntsville Dr. Emanuel Waddell will need one student for Chemistry in the SEED Program.

We also have three businesses; Childress Accounting, Technology Management and MTA Incorporated, that have provided mentoring opportunities in the past.

Students should be completing applications for the

Summer Component 2013, as well as applications for the mentoring summer component.

Good Luck to all of the UB/UBMS and ETS students!

*Mr. Bob Petty  
Mentoring Specialist*

