

feature

Upward Bound Makes Contributions

by Tonya Smith
Staff Writer

For almost 20 years, Project Upward Bound has helped economically and educationally disadvantaged high school students prepare for college, according to the program's director, Joyce Clayton.

A part of the UNC-CH School of Education since 1966, Upward Bound is one of the national Trio Programs run by the U.S. Department of Education.

Students at the University may remember Clayton as an assistant dean in the Office of Student Counseling; after working with the program for 10 years, Clayton became Upward Bound director in March 1984.

"We are working with unmotivated students from 14 to 19 years old," she said in a recent interview. "The program is directed toward students from families in poverty, with parents with no college education...and students who make poor grades, but have the potential to do better--at least as proven by testing or other means."

"We have a mixture of different students according to our application pool."

Clayton said although all but one of the 57 students enrolled in the program were Black, it was not a criterion for entering the program. Students in Orange and Chatham counties and Durham city high schools participate in the University's program.

Once a student enters, he or she can expect to participate in academic classes, recreational activities and counseling sessions. In fact, students may enter any one of three programs within the Project: academic year, summer residency and Bridge programs.

The academic program is currently in session. The three office staff members, high school coordinators and counselors get the students

together for two Saturdays each month, said Harold Woodward, Upward Bound curriculum specialist.

In the classrooms of Peabody Hall, students participate in tutorial sessions which include study skills and note/test taking workshops. "In the afternoons, we have a career awareness session called 'Meet a Professional,'" Woodward said. "We invite an employed individual in a career to share his experiences."

In addition, students are tutored at their high schools during the week. Woodward said these are volunteer positions numbering 30; approximately 10 students from a University education lab participate during the year.

High school coordinators monitor students progress, he pointed out. "They act as a liaison, securing academic information about and providing assistance to students in the school setting," he said. "The coordinators also schedule weekly meetings with the students at the high school to help them with special problems or needs. Then this information is forwarded to us."

Woodward said the summer residency program was a different story. Much more intense, the program tries to increase students' knowledge, sharpen their skills and help them reach academic objectives over a six week period.

English, math, foreign languages and other courses benefit students intellectually.

The program also has enrichment activities which include plays, musical concerts and historical field trips.

College students serve as tutors and counselors along with eight teachers, a residential director and two regular counselors. Students live in dormitories on campus; Upward Bound pays for tuition, room and board.

The Bridge program is also held during the summer. Students who have graduated from high school and

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South Campus joins Black Ink

South Campus! It's...It's...well, it's South!

Enter Lyman James Brown and Curtis "The Prince" Lincoln, Hinton-James roommates who will be joining the Black Ink for its run this year. They'll bring you the lighter side of Black campus life and add a laugh to your day. Just think of them as those colorful guys down the hall if you live on South Campus. If you live on North Campus, well...just think of them as those colorful guys on South Campus!

Black Ink Symbolizes Ideas and Concepts

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Despite the excitement of the food worker's strike, other things had to be done with the paper. Johnson said it wasn't easy putting together the *Black Ink*.

"I had to help write the stories, edit the stories, take them to Durham to be printed and them distribute them," he said. "There was also a problem with cooperation...people would volunteer to help but I never had a staff I could appreciate...I had to do everything practically and try to graduate in the process."

But once the paper made it to its distribution points, Johnson said everyone loved it--at least Black people in the area did.

"We really didn't care about white students' attitudes toward the paper," he said. "We weren't too interested in their writing for the paper either."

He said help from the journalism school, was minimal. "There was one professor, Dean John B. Adams, who helped me a lot," he recalled. "I wrote an article while working on the Raleigh Times newspaper one summer and Dean Adams submitted it to the Hearst Foundation...I won a scholarship for that."

"Back then most of the journalism professors were conservative, but I didn't encounter a lot of difficulties when I came to class. I did my work and did my political work out of class."

And that political work extended beyond the *Black Ink*.

"As president of the BSM, I often spoke in the pit," he said. It was important because the people listened to what I had to say...sometimes the rhetoric was a bit volatile too.

"Four lettered words weren't unusual either...we said what we wanted about who we wanted."

Johnson said that at the time the BSM was the only Black social forum on campus, too. "If you weren't a member of the BSM, you really didn't have a social life among Black people on campus," he said. "You were still our friends, but your social life was mainly with white students...you were a 'minority'--maybe two or three percent of the Black students on campus didn't belong to the BSM."

"And one thing about being a BSM member, even if folks didn't like you, they certainly respected you."

"To be honest though, few Blacks would come the University and not want to be BSM members...nobody forced them to join, but eventually, the peer pressure helped get them involved."

"A lot of the incoming kids were coming from Black high schools, being at UNC-CH was a big change...the BSM let Black students know they weren't alone."

But the end of Johnson's college career came in 1971 when he graduated from the University with a degree in journalism. From UNC-CH, he went to N.C. Agricultural and Technical University for a short period in public relations and then to Washington, D.C., to work in the Howard University public relations office.

After receiving his masters in public relations from American University, he decided to follow his father's footsteps into the ministry. An assistant pastor at the Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh and pastor of the New Red Mountain Baptist Church in Rocky Mount, Johnson said he used his experiences as BSM chairperson and Black Ink editor in his ministry: "When I look back on it, I see it as a great experience with two different leadership styles that have helped develop my leadership as a minister."

Now working with the Bread For the World group, which provides resources for African nations suffering from drought, Johnson said: "Whatever I've done in my past and whatever I'm doing now, I still enjoy helping people. Life is all about giving of yourself to others."

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