

## UBB Students Make News

*Congratulations to our students who recently earned publication and conference honors.*

Four UBB students have been invited to give presentations – via Program Manager, Jessie Simanton - at the **National Conference on Higher Education in Prison** at the University of Pittsburgh in November. Tim Pauley and Danny O'Neal's presentation critiques the problematic methods used in the publicly funded meta-analytic research of the Washington State Institute for Public Policy. (This critique was their final presentation for UBB's Sociology 370: Poverty and Social Inequality course, taught by Evergreen State College-Tacoma professor Gilda Sheppard.) Jarrelle Marshall and Atif Rafay's presentation is on the Politics and Ethics of College in Prison: Jarrelle addresses anti-recidivism efforts as prerequisites to prison abolitionist politics, and Atif discusses the political and procedural challenges of liberal learning and the role of student governance in college programs in prison.

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Steven Bartholomew's story "Son of a District," has been nominated for the **2015 Pushcart Prize**.

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*The Sun* magazine published Danny O'Neal's vignette on "Saying No" in the *Readers Write* section of its November 2015 issue.

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"Raised, and Imprisoned, by the State", the latest installment of Art Longworth's prison writing, was published by **Vox News** ([www.vox.com](http://www.vox.com)) and **The Marshall Project** ([marshallproject.org](http://marshallproject.org)).

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Four students gave presentations at the Concerned Lifers Organization annual October summit: Art Longworth's "Mass Drowning," Jarrelle Marshall's "Restoring Hope," Devon Adams's "The Greying of Prisons," and Anthony Wright's "Prison Abolition" are all available for viewing at [www.WACoalitionforParole.org](http://www.WACoalitionforParole.org).

### *A Note from the Board of Directors*

Earlier this year I had the honor of joining UBB's Board of Directors. I am eager to help fulfill UBB's mission and accomplish the strategic goals set forth during this summer's board retreat. UBB faces growing pains as we add to the number of students we serve and the number of college courses we offer. We have recently approved a new staff position to help ease the burden on our tireless staff and volunteers. As the new Treasurer, I am acutely aware of the significant cost that accompanies this progress. We will be challenged to meet an increasing annual budget that now exceeds \$300,000. I invite all of you reading this to think about how we might expand the network of supporters needed to move forward and meet our goals. Please let us know how you might be able to help! On behalf of all of us at UBB, thank you for your support. - Ray McFarland

Please consider University Beyond Bars in your end-of-year giving plans. You can easily and securely donate online at [www.universitybeyondbars.org](http://www.universitybeyondbars.org) or simply mail a check to University Beyond Bars, PO Box 31525, Seattle WA 98103. Thank you!

University Beyond Bars  
PO Box 31525  
Seattle, Washington 98103



# University Beyond Bars

*Freedom through Education*

Fall 2015

## A YEAR OF CEREMONIES AND CELEBRATIONS



2015 marks UBB's 10-year anniversary and what better way to celebrate than to recognize the accomplishments of our students. The festivities began this summer with our Student Recognition Ceremony at WSR (Washington State Reformatory). On June 10th we gathered to honor over 240 students—almost ten times as many students as we had a decade ago!

The ceremony highlight was a speech by Rudy Madrigal, who has just received a UBB scholarship. Rudy works exceptionally hard to encourage other students:

*"When I first started my prison term, I had more time to do than I had yet walked this earth. Education was the last thing on my mind. I spent the first couple of years in and out of the hole [segregation]. About three years ago I arrived at WSR where I quickly met several optimistic people with qualities I admired. They held hope for a brighter future and that motivated and encouraged me to make a change. Now I truly appreciate the value of education."*

Congratulations to all UBB students and **thanks to you, our steadfast supporters**. Your generosity makes the triumphs we celebrate possible.

More photos available for viewing online at [www.universitybeyondbars.org](http://www.universitybeyondbars.org).

Anthony Wright, UBB student and longtime facilitator of our college prep math class, presided over the celebration. Music was performed by the student band *Versus Inertia* (Steve Bartholomew, Troy Hewitt, Lars Snow, and Gary Ackley). Distinguished guests included Monroe Correctional Complex Superintendent Michael Obenland, Correctional Program Manager Anne Williams, and Seattle Central College Dean of Distance Learning Stephanie Delaney. We were thrilled to also welcome many of our volunteers and Seattle Central College Foundation's Lydia Barlow and Lauren Guzauskas.

Student Bill Pawlyk recognized retiring PAB correctional officer Vincent Cavanaugh for his 10 years of service to UBB. C/O Cavanaugh has been posted in the PAB for longer than UBB has been around and he has always been committed to supporting programs like UBB and its committed students, volunteers, and staff.

The event concluded with a banquet, featuring treats not usually seen inside prison: fresh fruit and cake! We look forward to hosting the first-ever MSU Student Recognition Ceremony in 2016.

### *Fall 2015 graduates*



Jeremy Boone (left) and Paul Sarkis earned their Associate's degrees during our Spring 2015 semester.



Paddle raise excitement before Angela Davis's keynote.



UBB Board Member, former UBB student, and table captain, Jeff Conner, celebrates with his "Cool Kids Table" receiving the honorable distinction of being the table with the largest in total donations during the evening gala! (All photo credits: Red Fish Blue Fish Photography).

## UBB Fundraiser Achieves Record-Setting Success!

Our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary gala fundraiser was a resounding success by all accounts! A mixture of generous UBB supporters prior, during, and after the event created a gala milestone for UBB with over \$75,000 in total revenue. Thank you to everyone who not only participated in creating an entertaining evening, but also to you who brought new friends to UBB. The evening felt truly celebratory with elegance and fun combined!

A big thank-you goes out to our guest speakers who inspired and moved the audience and to all of the volunteers who helped with the committee work, food service, registration, raffle, auction, and more. We couldn't have done it without you. Special thanks to Angela Davis, our keynote speaker who waived her speaking fees, attracted the early sell-out crowd, and generously shared her unique perspective about how to move forward towards a more just society.

We would also like to thank our lead sponsor, **ELM: Ellis, Li, McKinstry with Jan Olson**. Be sure to check our website for photos and further updates at [www.universitybeyondbars.org](http://www.universitybeyondbars.org).

## CLASS SPOTLIGHT: MUSIC 116: ROCK MUSIC: HISTORY & PERSPECTIVES

UBB faculty and students include gifted musicians and music has long been an integral part of UBB's Certificate Pathway offerings. (It all began with Carol Estes's music theory classes many years ago.) This semester your financial support made possible UBB's first credit-bearing music course: Seattle Central College's Music 116. The course examines rock music as a musical, social, cultural, economic and political force in the United States, with an emphasis on early rock music development.



### A Student's Perspective

Music has always been important to me, as both a performer and listener. I was therefore ecstatic to learn that a course in Rock History would be available this semester. Having previously taken two Certificate Pathway classes on musicology with Professor Nadya

Zimmerman, I was especially pleased that she would be our instructor. She guided the class through the evolution of America's musical history, challenging us to look beyond our existing musical preferences to a more rigorous form of engagement with the music. Nadya taught us how to notice, question, and evaluate the layers of content and form within rock songs from various eras, and then how to imagine the social, economic, and political role those songs played within their historical context. These critical analyses helped me develop the usually unconscious tools we use in listening, composing, and appreciating (or not appreciating!) music.

Given the diversity of student perspectives, classroom discussions were always lively. This course gave me fresh insight into the social functions of genres ranging from mainstream, industry-financed music to marginalized underground artists and their sounds. **I would like to thank UBB supporters for making my scholarship for this course a reality;** without it I wouldn't have been able to take this class and benefit from Nadya's expertise. I hope all of Nadya's students gained as much from this course as I have!

Troy Hewitt has been a UBB student since 2012. This semester he is also taking English 102, Sociology 101, German, and Studio Art. Below, Troy and the rest of the band *Versus Inertia* play during UBB's Recognition Ceremony at WSR in June 2015.



### A Teacher's Perspective

I would ordinarily decline an invitation to give the "teacher's perspective" about a college course. However, I accept the invitation in this case because I just don't know another way to thank a group of people—UBB students—for showing me again what it means to make a real effort.



At the outset of the class, in part as a warning, I attempted to articulate the following: to study American popular music is not an ends in itself but a means to begin to engage in American history and to investigate ways in which that history is transmitted in relation to structures of power. This study becomes an exploration of the ways in which sounds are put together to encode meanings, of how popular culture forms and reflects the appendages of capitalism, of the capacity both for innovation and blind imitation, of the ways in which a socio-economic system rooted in racism and systemic marginalization of the poor manifests in cultural practice, of the ways in which humans engage with each other, of how our likes and dislikes are formed, and of how our preferences and habits of listening and conventions of thinking are wrought.

Despite my warnings of the potential tangential avenues of exploration awaiting us, it came as no surprise to me that the participants in Music 116 were eager to dive into their investigation. Indeed they were among the most astute and sincere students with whom I have ever had the opportunity to exchange. Unwaveringly conscientious and thoughtful, they challenge themselves—to write and read, to try to separate evidence from opinion, to try to allow for perspectives other than their own, to examine lived experience—in short, to think critically.

With a rock music history textbook, additional readings drawn from critical theory and cultural analysis, eight essays, a final researched presentation, enlivening class discussion and debate, and respectful listening to each other's attempts to relay musical experience, the students have helped me rediscover the simple joy of learning, even with limited resources. And they have reaffirmed my wish to work to live in a humane way, regardless of the conditions.

*Nadya Zimmerman has taught at a variety of local colleges, including North Seattle College. She earned her B.A. in English and Mathematics from UC Berkeley and her PhD in musicology (cultural history) at UCLA. Nadya is a longtime cellist.*

### FALL 2015 SCHEDULE - WSR

- ◆ Computer Lab
- ◆ Creative Writing
- ◆ ENGL 102: English Composition II
- ◆ Financial Education
- ◆ Gender and Literature
- ◆ German II and German Lab
- ◆ Grammar Workshop
- ◆ MATH 205: Statistical Methods
- ◆ Math Crash Course
- ◆ Math Prep II
- ◆ MUS 116: Rock Music: History & Perspectives
- ◆ Shakespeare
- ◆ SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
- ◆ Studio Art: Intermediate Acrylic
- ◆ Study Hall
- ◆ Theatre for Social Change
- ◆ UW-LSJ 490: Culture, Crime, Criminal Justice

### FALL 2015 SCHEDULE - MSU

- ◆ Biology of Drug Use
- ◆ Computer Lab
- ◆ Creative Writing
- ◆ Financial Education
- ◆ Grammar Workshop
- ◆ Math Prep II
- ◆ SOC 101: Introduction to Sociology
- ◆ Study Hall

Thank you to our faculty and volunteers for their dedication this semester. Together, they have provided over 1200 hours of teaching this semester at our two programs!

### From the TA desk >>>



Greetings from UBB Teaching Assistants Atif Rafay, Noel Caldellis, Devon Adams, and me, Danny O'Neal. With the program growing at such a fast pace, we're tasked with developing tools and refining our processes to allow our Program Manager and Executive Director to effectively handle the increased workload. In addition to office duties, we provide tutoring services. With only four teaching assistants and 60 scholarship students, we're grateful to all our tutors and facilitators. In particular we would like to recognize Anthony Wright who does an exceptional job of preparing students for college-level math. I am honored to be part of this amazing team as UBB expands its course offerings and student body.

— Danny O'Neal

Danny took his first UBB class in Spring 2014. He has since completed five college courses and two certificate classes, and is enrolled in Statistical Methods, Rock Music – History & Perspectives, and Intro to Sociology.

UBB's expansion to MSU coincided almost exactly with my move from WSR. Coincidence? That depends on whom you ask. Let's just say it was good timing either way you look at it. Michael Darrington, my fellow TA, preceded me in moving to the camp and, like me, has been helping to develop the program here. The most obvious difference at MSU (Minimum Security Unity) is that no one here has more than four years left to serve. This challenges us to think about how to provide quality higher education and college prep coursework in a short period of time, while taking into consideration the many other requirements the Dept. of Corrections places on those close to release. I've been blessed to be involved with UBB over the past few years, both as a beneficiary of the incredible services offered and as class facilitator and teaching assistant. Though my term as a TA will soon come to a close, my involvement and commitment to the UBB program will remain steadfast. I can only hope to pay back some of what I have gained.

— Spencer Oberg

This semester Spencer and fellow TA Michael Darrington are facilitating the UBB Math Prep II class at MSU with sponsor Tom Brown. We would like to thank them along with their fellow MSU PAC members Chris Temple, Joseph Brassy-Apodaca.

