Seniors Start Making Hard Decisions

Soon to be Bridge Students are in the midst of facing a big change in their lives, life after high school. All will attend OSU-OKC this summer as an Upward Bound Bridge Student. For the fall semester, however, some have already been accepted to college, some are waiting on acceptance letters and others are weighing financial aid offers from various colleges.

Perfect Attendance

The following students have attended all seven of the monthly meetings.

- Stacy A.
- Caroline B.
- Jennifer B.
- Samantha C.
- Tiffanie C.
- Jay C.
- Brianna D.
- Katelyn D.
- Orlando H.
- Rachel H.
- Maurice J.
- Shatae K.
- Jatalia L.
- Adrienne M.
- Vilay N.
- ShaRaye R.
- Ashley R.
- Roschan S.
- Miechia W.
- Artesia W.

Preparing for Summer Session

Your guardian has been mailed forms to complete for the summer session. They are to be turned in at the May 21 meeting.

The May meeting is special. It is the orientation for the summer session. Guardians are required to attend with the students.

If you did not turn in the 2005 Summer Questionnaire at the April meeting, one is enclosed for you to complete. Please return to the UB office as soon as possible so your ideas and t-shirt size can be taken into consideration.
Workstudy: Soft Skills

Work experience and degrees move over and make room for “soft skills.” In today’s slacker world employers are searching for employees with skills that are referred to as “core abilities” and “workplace habits.” These are broad, personal attributes that are essential to the workplace and are required regardless of one’s occupation or title.

Stanley Oganeku, Honolulu Community College instructor, uses the following workplace habits rating scale to evaluate students in his program. The traits listed would be at the top of the scale.

**KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS**
Excellent technical knowledge and mechanical ability for current job duties; has awareness of related areas of responsibility; is able to relate tasks to other areas.

**QUALITY OF WORK**
Exceptionally accurate; neat and complete work.

**QUANTITY OF WORK**
Outstanding output; a rapid and efficient worker; work always completed accurately by deadline.

**DEPENDABILITY**
Plans and performs work in an exceptional manner; little or no supervision needed; always reliable.

**COOPERATION**
Exceptionally cooperative; goes out of way to help others; a strong positive force in contributing to positive employee morale.

**JUDGEMENT**
Thinks quickly and logically; applies sound judgement; decisions based on thorough analysis; a problem solver.

**ABILITY TO LEARN**
Exceptionally quick learner; excellent memory.

**RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK**
Extremely conscientious in getting job done quickly and correctly; operates equipment with care; volunteers to assist others; looks for work.

**INITIATIVE**
Superior; alert; has new ideas that often lead to better methods/cost savings.

**APPEARANCE**
Always follows safety regulations regarding dress; is neat; clean and appropriately dressed for job.

**ATTENDANCE**
Always regular and prompt; coordinates with and keeps supervisor informed of changes in work schedule; volunteers for overtime and extra work when needed by the workplace.

**COMMUNICATION**
Demonstrates excellent communication skills; quickly understands written and oral instruction/information; expresses thoughts and feelings; able to describe situations and actions.

**CUSTOMER SATISFACTION**
Consistently provides quality service to customers that exceeds their expectations.

You might be surprised to know that Mr. Oganeku’s students are in the Auto Body Repair and Painting program. As you can see, these skills truly apply to all occupations. This model just as easily could have been used to evaluate an accountant at a big firm.

Since these skills are taught through experience rather than in a class, it is up to you to implement them into your life. On a regular basis, take time to think about how you measure up to the traits listed above. Many of these traits apply to all areas of your life, not just the workplace. For instance, you practice punctuality and attendance as an UB student, quality of work should be practiced with your homework, and peer pressure requires sound judgement on your part.

Look at each trait right now and think of one area of your life to which it applies. Ask yourself how you are doing fulfilling that trait. Which traits do you need to work on?
New for Summer

Every year the UB staff tries to improve on the previous year in an effort to provide the students with the best experience possible. The staff reviews student evaluations, summer questionnaires and how current practices are working.

The biggest change for this summer will be class rotation. Students will only attend four of the five classes offered. We will no longer rotate classes based on “color group.” Each student will receive their own schedule rather than going to each class with the same group of students. This is in an effort to focus on the individual needs of each student. Color groups will still be used for lunch duty.

Based on the returned summer questionnaires, we have decided to have a scavenger hunt event. We will look into offering an aerobics class and cooking class during wellness/hobby time.

This year to earn perfect attendance a student must be present every day for the entire day.

Beauty and the Beast

Western Height students out did themselves this year. I have seen plays at the Civic Center and other places and this production was right up there with the professionals.

The costumes, sets, lighting and music were outstanding. I sat through the entire musical mesmerized.

Yvonne had two character parts in the musical. She was first a women in the village and then she was a beautiful vase.

DeeDee played the role of a young maiden. All of the young maidens were trying to win the heart of the young man that was in love with Belle.

Missa played the role of the feather duster that was in love with the candle stick. Ooh laa laa...

Not only can these students act; they can sing.

Mr. Boykin thought this musical was the best he has seen at Western Heights. Take another bow UB students...the UB staff is very proud of you.

Personal Attributes

These are personal attributes you take with you to the workplace. They are “soft skills” sought by employers in addition to work experience and education.

ACCRUATE KNOWLEDGEABLE
ADAPTABLE LOYAL
COMMENDED MOTIVATED
COMMONESENSE NEAT
CONFIDENT PRODUCTIVE
CREATIVE PROMPT
ENTHUSIASTIC RELIABLE
FLEXIBLE RESPONSIBLE
HONEST

ACCURATE
ADAPTABLE
COMMENDED
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CREATIVE
ENTHUSIASTIC
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HONEST
KNOWLEDGEABLE
LOYAL
MOTIVATED
NEAT
PRODUCTIVE
RELIABLE
RESPONSIBLE

A Beautiful Prince

Mr. Boykin thought this musical was the best he has seen at Western Heights. Take another bow UB students...the UB staff is very proud of you.

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You may not have considered it as an employer, but Tinker Air Force Base in Oklahoma City offers a tremendous amount of opportunity. Many Oklahomans know that Tinker is the state’s largest one-site employer, but many people aren’t aware that nearly two-thirds of all the people who work at the base are not in the Air Force.

They are civilians working directly for the Oklahoma City Air Logistics Center (OALC) or other companies that contract with the base to do specific jobs. And like many large employers, Tinker’s work force includes people in a wide range of positions, from engineers and mechanics to administrative and support personnel.

The good news for you is that Tinker anticipates it will need to find qualified employees to replace more than 46 percent of its civilian work force who become eligible for retirement during the next handful of years. With Tinker’s baby boomer generation employees retiring, the OALC needs to find well-trained younger people to take their places.

Approximately 16,000 people work in some 200 different job skills at the center - so it’s easy to see that locating and training people to fill those jobs is a large task.

Some of the employees needed by the OALC:

- Engineering
- Science
- Computer Software
- Aircraft Electricians
- Pneudraulic Mechanics
- Engine Mechanics
- Logistics
- Management
- Administrative Personnel

One of the most attractive features of employment at Tinker and the OALC is the fact that employees are encouraged to upgrade their jobs through an attractive educational benefits package. Full-time permanent employees are reimbursed for 75 percent of their tuition costs for further education and many of the classes are conducted on the base during the lunch hour!


Anthony Places at Regionals

Anthony C., junior at Putnam City West, placed fifth in discus at the regional track tournament. The event was held May 7 in Owasso, OK.

Throughout this season he has earned four 1st place awards, three 2nd place awards and one 3rd place award in the discus event.

“Whether I fail or succeed shall be no man’s doing but my own.”
Elaine Maxwell

Timeka Performs

Timeka T., junior at Northwest Classen, performed April 20 at the Oklahoma City Festival of the Arts. Timeka is a member of the NWC dance group “The Company.”

The Upward Bound staff enjoyed the performance from the front row. Timeka was in three of the numbers performed.

Samantha Tee’s Off

Samantha C., sophomore at Western Heights, competed in a state high school golf tournament April 27. The tournament was held at the Lakeview Golf course in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Samantha has been playing golf for five years.