



UBB to honor 100+ students at its October celebration

We are very excited about the chance to recognize the achievements of over 120 students for their work during this past academic year. In 2010, UBB students earned 647 hours of college credit and 636 hours of Certificate credit. Attendees for our October 12 celebration at the Washington State Reformatory will include teachers, legislators, and prisoners' families. Scheduled speakers include Scott Frakes, Superintendent of WSR, and former UBB student, Dolphy Jordan.

We are also very grateful to our teachers and volunteers — our volunteers donated over 3,300 hours of service during 2010! Their dedication is what truly makes a quality education possible to a population that otherwise would not have this opportunity.



UBB student Marcus Altheimer with UBB instructors (top, left to right) Gilda Sheppard, Barbara Bennett, Ruth Gregory, and Ayana Carroll. Marcus is currently working toward his Associate of Arts.



Jeremy Boone with his father, Brian Boone. Jeremy is currently working toward his Associate of Arts.

Inside: Read *The Buddha Still Sits in the Big Yard*, an article written by Arthur Longworth and recently published by the *Northwest Dharma News*. Arthur, an award-winning writer, is a current student and teaching assistant with UBB.

From Cage to Community

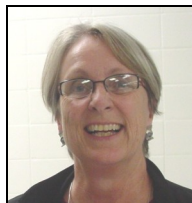
Jeremy Boone, a UBB student

Since I was sixteen years old I've been living in a cage in one of the many prisons in this country. It has been seven years of a life many people can't even imagine. I am among a small group of incarcerated individuals who have had to grow up in prison. I could write a novel about the phenomenon UBB has created here. As it stands right now, I don't have the opportunity myself to show you how getting a college education has contributed to lowering the recidivism rate. What makes UBB so extraordinary is its unspoken mission. In the book *Man's Search for Meaning*, Viktor Frankl states, "The basis for any predictions would be represented by biological, psychological, or sociological conditions. Yet one of the main features of human existence is the capacity to rise above such conditions, to grow beyond them. Man is capable of changing the world for the better if possible, and changing himself for the better if necessary." UBB has created a great opportunity for people to better their lives and change to the point of being important assets to the community when they are released from their cages. For true change or anything better to come into this world, every one needs to be the change that they wish to see. It all starts with not denying opportunity to anyone who seeks it. As a prisoner, with all that comes with that label, I can tell you from what I've seen so far with UBB, that the harder you fall, the higher you bounce.

Jeremy Boone is a UBB student and a member of the Prisoners Advisory Committee

Dear Friends of UBB—

So far, 2011 has been what we used to call “a mixed bag.” In January, a highly respected corrections officer, Jaime Biendl, was strangled in the chapel at Washington State Reformatory by one of the prisoners, kicking off a 3-month lockdown for all prisoners at WSR, a series of union protests claiming ineffective security arrangements, and at least three separate investigations. It was the first time in 30 years that a staff member had been killed in any Washington prison, and the tragedy left WSR a different place. For UBB, an added complication was the abrupt shift in priorities of one of our major funders, which left us scrambling for funding in 2012.



Through it all, the support of the DOC and, in particular, MCC Superintendent Scott Frakes, did not waver. UBB was proud to be among the first programs invited back into the prison after the lockdown. Although classroom space at WSR is at a premium now, with the chapel closed down, Edmonds Community College has opened their classrooms to us, making it possible for us to run a full schedule of classes.

By many measures, 2011 has been a spectacular year for UBB. On October 12 we will award more than 300 certificates of completion and credit to about 130 men (about 20 women received college credit as well), which brings to over 2,000 hours of college credit UBB students have earned through our relationship with Ohio University.

We've also made the painful leap from a pleasantly chaotic volunteer group to a well-organized, smoothly running educational organization. In January, we'll pilot the first of our college prep English courses, designed for us as part of the Transformative Education Behind Bars grant from the UW's Simpson Center for the Humanities. We'll also offer our first courses with Edmonds Community College as a partner, rather than OU. We just went live with our long-awaited but spectacular video-based website, universitybeyondbars.org. And in early November, we'll host a national conference of prison college programs, showcasing our groundbreaking work in involving inmates in every aspect of UBB, from designing programs to facilitating classes.

All this, and there's still three months to go!

Greetings from our TAs!

This semester has been a great success on all accounts—from having our highest rates of attendance to recruiting new students. We have invested a lot of time restructuring UBB into a program that all of us inside are very proud of. Truly, we have created something unique that, in the future, we hope to share with other prisoners across the state.

The opportunity for students to give back is what makes UBB more than just an educational program; we are a transformative program. This is most evident in our weekly study halls. The atmosphere is one of mentoring, caring, and—we hesitate to use the word “freedom” in our circumstance—but intellectually, one of freedom. The camaraderie and collaboration through education is a wonderful thing to see, and it is something that is often lacking in our institutional setting.

This semester we are most excited about the improvements we've made to our College Preparatory Math course. It is typically hard to find committed students for a course that bears no college credit, but we have a classroom full of some of the most dedicated students we have seen. This course is unique because it is facilitated by students and teaching assistants, which is an opportunity that we at UBB have long been working toward and are proud to offer.

We cannot end without thanking our teachers, volunteers, and supporters. Without your generosity, UBB would not be possible. Thanks to you all.

- Devon Adams, Noel Caldellis, Kimonti Carter, and Arthur Longworth (UBB's four Teaching Assistants)

SAVE THE DATE!

Please mark your calendar for our fundraiser and auction on November 5th from 7-10pm at the Lake City Elks Club. The auction will include prisoner-donated artwork, including pieces that were featured at the Vermillion Gallery during UBB's spring art show.

Tickets are \$15 in advance and can be purchased at Brown Paper tickets (brownpapertickets.com/event200905). All proceeds from the evening will go toward this semester's tuition and fees.

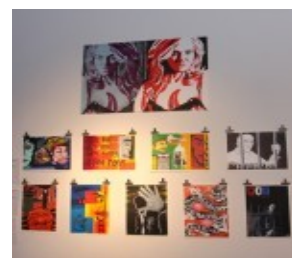
Want to donate an item for the silent auction? Please call Carol Estes at (206) 276-9128.

Visit our new website to hear interviews with our students and instructors at www.universitybeyondbars.org

NON-SUFFICIENT FUNDS—UBB'S FIRST ART SHOW!

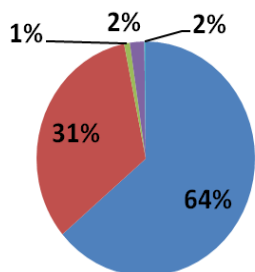
UBB's Art Show, "Non-Sufficient Funds", opened in late April to a full-house of friends, artists' family members, intrigued gallery goers, and passer-by strangers. Hung close together, the artworks – the majority of which in bright acrylic paint – formed an eye-bashing gestalt. With 117 works on show, it was, according to gallery owner Diana Adams, the busiest exhibition ever mounted at Vermillion.

Popular with the audience were the narrative works by students usually addressing in some way their families, emotions or histories. The wall of artists' portraits gave gallery-goers an opportunity to see the faces and read the biographies behind the art. The spotlight and high contrast portrait photographs were made by Erika Schultz as part of a special workshop in Washington State Reformatory the month prior. The total amount of money raised was in excess of \$1,500, all of which will go toward UBB art supplies and tuition fees.



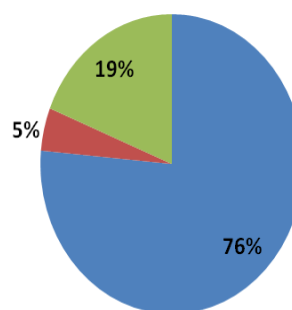
Sources of Support, 2010

■ Donated Services (Teachers) ■ Foundations
■ Individual Donors and Businesses ■ Special Events
■ Donated Goods



Where We Use Our Resources

■ Program ■ General Operating Expenses ■ Administrative



TEBB HOSTS NATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

On November 4-6, 2011, the Transformative Education Behind Bars (TEBB) collective will host a national conference bringing together prison higher education leaders at the University of Washington, Seattle. UBB teachers and volunteers have played an important role in this collective, which is generously supported by a grant from the University of Washington Simpson Center for the Humanities.

In its first year (2010-2011), TEBB focused on assessing current prison-based education efforts in the region and developing local curriculum for college readiness courses. Now in its second year, TEBB aims to develop a broader coalition of prison higher education programs, to create and implement educational assessment plans for University Beyond Bars, and to explore the possibilities of an Inside-Out program at the University of Washington. The TEBB conference will help facilitate the process of identifying and moving towards the shared goals of stakeholders in prison higher education. Members meet monthly during the academic year on the University of Washington campus.

Gillian Harkins, University of Washington professor of English and volunteer instructor for UBB, heads up the initiative. For more information, contact Gillian at gharkins@u.washington.edu.

University Beyond Bars ("UBB") admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. UBB does not discriminate on the basis of color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship or loan programs, or other school-administered programs.

Where Does Your Donation Go?

- ◆ \$6 pays for a dictionary for one prisoner
- ◆ \$25 pays for one used textbook
- ◆ \$500 pays for used textbooks for an entire college course
- ◆ \$1,200 per year pays a 3-year, full ride scholarship for the student of your choice—anonously, or you can meet your student, offer encouragement and attend graduation



UBB student Jeffrey Foxx with his family at the 2009 graduation. Jeff is a member of the Prisoners Advisory Committee and one of a dozen students on track to earn an Associates Degree within the next semester.

Who We Are

University Beyond Bars offers college classes to men incarcerated at the Monroe Correctional Complex (WSR unit) and women at the Washington Corrections Center for Women. We are supported by donations from individuals, including prisoners and their families, as well as grants from foundations.

Our Mission

UBB's mission is twofold: to transform Washington State's prisons into communities of learning by providing post-secondary education to the incarcerated, particularly to prisoners of color; and to educate the public about the injustice, wasted human potential, violence, and expense that result when we attempt to solve social problems through mass imprisonment.

Prisoners as Leaders

Prisoners themselves play an important role in the operation of UBB. Our Prisoners Advisory Committee, made up of 14 prisoners who have demonstrated a commitment to higher education, meets weekly with UBB staff to discuss program logistics, to address student needs and concerns, and to ensure that our program remains closely linked to the needs of the prisoners and responds effectively to prison rules and procedures. Outsiders, including university students, teachers, journalists, and legislators, often visit its weekly meetings.

Our Students

UBB is open to all prisoners who have completed a GED or high school diploma. They range in age from 20 to 70 years of age, and their sentences range from two years to life without parole. UBB graduation ceremonies are

held annually to recognize student achievements.

Our Staff and Volunteer Faculty

All instructors and tutors are volunteers from area colleges and universities, most with a master's degree or Ph.D in the subjects they're teaching. UBB has attracted distinguished volunteers from Seattle University, Seattle Pacific University, University of Washington, Evergreen State College, University of Puget Sound, and Shoreline Community College. UBB also has a paid staff of three: an executive director, a program manager, and an operations manager.

Volunteering for UBB

If you would you like to teach eager men and women, guest lecture, help fundraise, or help with other program events, please email us at info@universitybeyondbars.org.

UBB's annual cash budget is approximately \$200,000, but when the value of volunteer teaching hours is included, UBB's annual budget exceeds \$500,000. This means that every dollar you contribute is more than doubled in value!

Go to www.universitybeyondbars.org to DONATE securely