



FROM THE



COLLEGE COUNSELING OFFICE

!!!Happy & SAFE Mardi Gras!!!

Announcements for the week of 02/20/2012

SENIORS: IF YOU HAVE NOT COMPLETED YOUR FAFSA, (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), DO IT NOW!! THIS IS THE FORM EVERYONE COMPLETES TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID. This form also serves as the TOPS application. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov. This is a FREE form. If you are prompted to pay for the form, you are on the wrong website! ALSO, IF YOU SCHOOLS REQUIRE THE CSS PROFILE. NOW IS THE TIME.

It is now after January 1, 2012 so you can complete the FAFSA and Profile TODAY.

What should you be doing for Financial Aid at this point??? There are TWO needs analysis forms that are part of the financial aid application process. If your student is applying for financial aid at a school that requires the CSS Profile, now is the time to get started with that application. The application and a list of schools that require it can be found at <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com/index.jsp>. The Profile must be completed ONLY if the college requires it. There is a fee for the Profile.

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) must be completed by EVERYONE who is applying for financial aid. Additionally, the FAFSA serves as the TOPS application. The form cannot be completed until January 1, 2012 and can be found at WWW.FAFSA.ED.GOV. DO NOT GO TO www.fafsa.com. Both student and parent will need a PIN.

My best advice is to begin collecting your 2011 tax information as it will be needed when you file the FAFSA as well as the CSS Profile. If you are like most people, especially post-Katrina, you will not have your taxes prepared until April. If this is the case, use estimates from your 2010 tax returns. Additionally, the FAFSA Worksheet is available on the FAFSA website. Finally, feel free to call me if you have any questions.

What you should be doing now that we're beyond January 1, 2012 is completing the FAFSA. Before doing so, complete the worksheet on the FAFSA website. This form can be downloaded.

- You will need the following information to complete the FAFSA. Your parents and your **W2 forms** (employers are required to distribute these forms no later than January 31). Ideally, the FAFSA should be completed after your 2010 income tax forms are completed. BUT, if you and your parents aren't going to complete those forms until near the due date of April 15, you may use estimates from your 2009 income taxes.

- The needs analysis forms (financial aid forms) look much more complicated than they are. Read and follow the instructions in completing the forms. **If you or your parents have questions, PLEASE CALL ME. If I don't know the answer or can't find an answer, I have contacts that will help you.**
- **EACH COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY HAS ITS OWN FINANCIAL AID DEADLINE.** Find out the earliest deadline from among the colleges you are applying to. Complete all financial aid applications by that date.
- If you have an older sibling or a parent in college and either has already applied to financial aid, then your parents already have a PIN. That PIN will be used for your financial aid application.
- **If you are using the FAFSA as your TOPS application (if you're applying to ANY Louisiana schools) make sure to list a Louisiana school first on your FAFSA.**



Seniors and Juniors, don't forget to check which standardized testing is needed for the schools to which to plan application, SAT, SAT + SAT Subject Tests, ACT with writing or ACT with writing + Subject Tests - or are you applying to a school that does not require standardized testing? See www.fairtest.org.

SAT I & SAT Subject TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Test Dates	Test	Registration Deadlines	
		Regular	Late
March 10, 2012	SAT only	February 10, 2012	February 24, 2012
May 5, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	April 6, 2012	April 20, 2012
June 3, 2012	SAT & Subject Tests	May 9, 2012	May 22, 2012

ACT TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES

Test Date	Regular Registration Postmark Deadline(regular fee)	Late Registration Postmark Deadline Period
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 18, 2012

If you miss the late registration deadline for ACT or SAT, you may try to take these exams "on standby." See Ms. Flair or Ms. Degrazio for details.

JUNIORS: Interested in some free online standardized test prep?? Try this site:

http://www.internet4classrooms.com/enrichment_2011/signup.htm

PROSPECTIVE COLLEGE ATHLETE? If so, now is the time to complete and submit the NCAA Clearinghouse form. Anyone considering participation in college athletics MUST submit this form. **We cannot send your transcript through Naviance unless you have registered with the NCAA.** See your counselor or go to http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.html

Scheduled College Visits :: [add new visit](#)

College	Representative	Date	Time
Queen's University Belfast	Bridget Carey	Wed February 29, 2012	9:00 AM
Mercer University	Erin Keller	Thu March 1, 2012	10:30 AM

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Every junior and senior should have started an online scholarship search. Use www.finaid.com, www.fastweb.com, www.collegeanswer.com or any of the many free online searches available.

The first annual **VISINE® STUDENTS WITH VISION™ Scholarship Program** is offering one-time \$5,000 scholarships to students who have demonstrated a clear vision or goal for their future. High school seniors and current college students with a minimum GPA of 2.8 may submit an online application beginning February 15, 2012. **The deadline to apply is April 16, 2012.** VISINE® STUDENTS WITH VISION™ Scholarship Program recipients are selected based on academic achievement, school and community involvement, financial need and demonstrated vision or goal. For additional program information and to apply for this scholarship, please visit aim.applyists.net/Vision.

DEADLINE Each year, the **SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP SCHOLARSHIP** is **FAST APPROACHING** awarded to deserving seniors planning to attend SLU. If you considering attending SLU, see Ms. Flair to be considered for nomination for this \$500 scholarship which is renewable for four semesters. **The deadline for submission of the scholarship application is February 17, 2012.**

DEADLINE Each year, **DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY NEW ORLEANS ALUMS** award seven scholarship **FAST APPROACHING** ranging from \$500 to \$3000. Interested students must be planning to attend one of the following universities in New Orleans: Delgado CC, Loyola, UNO, Tulane, Dillard, SUNO, or Xavier. **The application deadline is March 10 and requires two letters of recommendations.** See Ms. Flair for a copy of the application.

DEADLINE **SIGMA PHI EPSILON FRATERNITY AT LSU** sponsors its annual **BALANCED MAN SCHOLARSHIP APPROACHING** for two men entering LSU next year as freshmen. See Ms. Flair for an application. **The application deadline is FAST February 26, 2011. Get a transcript NOW. EASY APPLICATION!! Applicants are NOT required to join this or any other fraternity.**

DEADLINE **The Overture to the Cultural Season** is pleased to announce their annual auditions **FAST APPROACHING** scholarship program in the areas of **Creative Writing, Instrumental Music, Visual Arts, Dance, Theater and Vocal Music.** Students planning to graduate in 2012 and planning to pursue further study in one of the above areas are encouraged to apply. See Ms. Flair for an application. **The deadline to submit your application is February 17, 2012. Auditions will be held March 3, 2012.**

DEADLINE **THE LOUISIANA ASSOCIATION OF SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS OF FEDERALLY ASSISTED FAST PROGRAMS** is pleased to announce their scholarship program. The purpose of the program is to recognize **APPROACHING** high school seniors planning to major in education. To apply for this one-time \$1000 award, see Ms. Flair for a copy of the application. **The deadline to apply is February 15, 2012.** Three letters of recommendation and an essay are needed and financial need is considered.

DEADLINE Honoring the legacy and character of our nation's 40th President, **THE GE-REAGAN FOUNDATION FAST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** rewards college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, **APPROACHING** integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Applications for the 2012 GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship Program will be accepted online between **November 14, 2011 and February 17, 2012.** Like President Reagan, candidates use the formative experiences of their youth to lead, serve, and pursue a life of purpose and significance, both individually and for their communities. Each year, roughly 20 Scholars will receive a \$10,000 scholarship renewable for an additional three years – up to \$40,000 total per recipient. For more information, go to

DEADLINE **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION** is pleased to announce their **FAST** annual Co-op Scholarship program. If you are interested in any of the following institutions of higher learning

APPROACHING and have achieved great things in the classroom and community, go to www.co-op.edu for more details. **The deadline to submit your application is February 15, 2012.**

DEADLINE **THE BEST BUY@15 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** is currently open for application. If you are a student **FAST** who has solid grades and has been involved in community service or work experience, YOU SHOULD APPLY. The **APPROACHING** deadline to apply online is February 15, 2012. Go to: WWW.BESTBUY-COMMUNITYRELATIONS.COM for more information or see Ms. Flair

DEADLINE **THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY** is now accepting applications for ACS Scholars, award program **FAST** for underrepresented minority students pursuing a college degree in the chemical sciences or chemical **APPROACHING** technology. Awards of up to \$5,000 are given to African American, Hispanic, or American Indian high school seniors or college freshman, sophomores, or juniors. **Application deadline is March 1, 2012.** Go to http://portal.acs.org/portal/acs/corg/content?nfpb=true&pageLabel=PP_SUPERARTICLE&node_id=2031&use_sec=false&sec_url_var=region1&uuid=cab8d73f-318a-4b73-9c89-b51e197df409 for more information and the application.

DEADLINE Applications are now open for **THE BUICK ACHIEVERS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**. Are you a student **FAST** who is dedicated both in and out of the classroom? Do you drive positive change in the communities? Buick **APPROACHING** wants to celebrate these students' lives by helping to make college dreams a reality. Don't miss this opportunity to become a Buick Achiever of 2012. Go to <http://www.buickachievers.com/>. **The deadline to apply is February, 29, 2012.**

DEADLINE Each year, **THE MILITARY OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA** sponsors scholarships for **FAST** children of military officers. If you are the child of an officer, go to [www. http://www.moaa.org/Education/](http://www.moaa.org/Education/), **APPROACHING** register, and apply for the available scholarship funding. **The deadline to apply online is 12:00noon, March 1, 2012.**

DEADLINE **ETA PHI BETA SORORITY** is pleased to annually award three \$500 scholarships to African American, **FAST** female seniors planning to major in special education, business or any health related field. They must be **APPROACHING** planning to attend Dillard, Grambling, Southern Baton Rouge, Southern New Orleans or Xavier. **The application deadline is Friday, March 16, 2012.** See Ms. Flair for an application.

DEADLINE **THE BROTHERS OF THE SIGMA LAMBDA CHAPTER OF ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY,** **FAST** **INC.** and its Scholarship Foundation would like to offer the opportunity to African American male graduating **APPROACHING** seniors to apply for our 2012 Academic Scholarship Awards. Seven (7) scholarships totaling \$4,500.00 will be awarded to students who apply and meet the criteria listed on the application. Please feel free to contact a representative with any questions either by email or by voice at the following number, 504-708-4502. See Ms. Flair for a copy of the application. **The deadline to apply is a postmark of Tuesday, March 13, 2012.**

THE AYN RAND INSTITUTE proudly announces their annual essay competition for students in grades 8 through 12. Students who have read (or are willing to read) Anthem, Letter of Ayn Rand, and/or The Fountainhead are encouraged to visit www.aynrand.org/contests to get the details of the competition. Scholarship awards range in value from \$50 to \$10,000. **The deadline for the 8th through 10th grade competition is March 20, 2012. The deadline for the 11th - 12th competition is: April 26, 2012.**

DEADLINE **THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR COOPERATIVE EDUCATION** is pleased to announce their **FAST** annual CO-OP Scholarship Program. If you are interested in any of the institutions/programs listed on their **APPROACHING** website and have achieved great things in the classroom and community, go to WWW.CO-OP.EDU for more details. **The deadline to submit your application is February 15, 2012.**

THE HOLOCAUST REMEMBERANCE PROJECT NATIONAL ESSAY CONTEST FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS offers college scholarships, cash prizes, and a trip to Boston (for top writers) to winners. Go to <http://holocaust.hklaw.com> to access more information including the 2011-2012 writing prompt, contest rules, uploading portal for participating student essayists, and the

free teacher guide. **Essays will be accepted until Midnight of April 19, 2012, Holocaust Remembrance Day. Entries received after 12:00 a.m. (EST) will not be accepted.**

LOUISIANA SMART START SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM is a 4-yr full tuition scholarship at qualifying LA colleges for seniors interested in business, communications, computer science, engineering, liberal arts, or social science. For more information and requirements visit www.jpmorangchase.com/smartstart or call 866-520-2976.

THE 2012 ALEXANDER HAMILTON CITIZENSHIP ACHIEVEMENT AWARD is designed to promote leadership and service activities. **Juniors** who have a strong record of community service and academic achievement and who are self-starters are eligible to apply. There is a financial need component to this scholarship. The deadline to submit your online is March 14th, 2012. Go to <http://www.hamiltonfriends.org/application.php> for more information.

DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING The Milk Mustache Campaign brings you the **SAMMY 2012 "SCHOLAR ATHLETE MILK MUSTACHE OF THE YEAR" Awards**. If you're a graduating senior who pushes yourself to the limit, gives back to those around you and takes care of your body by making smart choices like drinking milk, then you could be rewarded with a \$7,500 college scholarship. Visit www.bodybymilk.com for complete rules, information and an online application. **The application deadline is March 4, 2012.**

THE BIGSUN ORGANIZATION is proud to be able to help young athletes succeed in their academic pursuits. In order to do our part we are offering an annual scholarship to a deserving student. All student athletes are eligible for this award, regardless of which sport they are participating in. This \$500 scholarship can be used to attend any college or university. For more information, go to <http://www.bigsunathletics.com/>. **The deadline to submit your application is June 23, 2012**

Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors,

WHAT ARE YOU DOING THIS SUMMER??? Take a look at some of these opportunities or search for a program that is right for YOU!

Ochsner STAR Program (Science-Technology-Academics-Research) will host an information session about this wonderful opportunity for students who will be 16 years of age or older by the start of the program.

Tuesday, February 28, 2012

6:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Brent House Conference Center, Ochsner Medical Center

1514 Jefferson Highway

Learn about the application process, schedule, and associated costs for this excellent summer high school research opportunity.

http://academics.ochsner.org/uploadedFiles/Education/Knowledge_Management/Community_Outreach/STAR/STAR-2012-Informational-Flyer.pdf

If you have no plans for the summer, search for a summer program, get a job, or volunteer! We have numerous brochures from college and university programs. Come by the Guidance Office to find a summer activity!

<http://www.enrichmentalley.com/>

www.teenink.com

<http://www.summeroncampus.com/>

<http://www.fastweb.com/college-search/articles/787-summer-programs-for-high-school-and-college-students>

There is a file drawer in the Counselors' Office with lots of information about summer opportunities so stop by and check it out.

*****Ben Franklin High School is not endorsing any of these program, we are simply providing you with the information we receive by mail.*****

Some DATES are approximate based on last year's programing.

Chevron Corporation has come together with USC's Viterbi School of Engineering collaboratively to host a summer camp for High School Juniors and High School Science and Math Teachers at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. **The Frontiers of Energy Resources Summer Camp** offers a preparatory, interactive training program focusing on various energy resources including fossil fuels, solar, biofuel, wind, nuclear energy, and information technologies for energy efficient operations. This unique program is designed to introduce exceptional high school juniors and as many as 5 high school science or math teachers to the opportunities and career possibilities available in the global energy resources industry. Applicants should visit <http://cisoft.usc.edu/uscchevron-frontiers-of-energy-resources-summer-camp> to access the online application and download the teacher recommendation form. **The application deadline is April 27, 2012.** All interested individuals are encouraged to apply online at: <http://cisoft.usc.edu/uscchevron-frontiers-of-energy-resources-summer-camp/>.

QuestBridge 2012 College Prep Scholarship: see application at www.questbridge.org. FREE applications are available on the website beginning in mid-February. The application deadline is March 27, 2012. QuestBridge seeks to identify low-income students who wish to apply to highly selective colleges and universities. This non-profit aims to increase the numbers of outstanding low-income students in selective colleges.

LSU Performing Arts Academy is pleased to announce two excellent pre-college summer music programs for outstanding young musicians. We encourage you to share these exciting opportunities with your students and fellow faculty. **Designed for students entering grades 9-12**, we are proud to offer both the Honors Chamber Winds Camp (for outstanding brass, wind, and percussion students), and Opera Camp 2012 (for talented young singers). These camps offer participants the opportunity to receive intensive training from LSU School of Music's world-class faculty and distinguished guest artists. Both camps take place on the beautiful LSU campus in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. For more information, please click on the links below. You may also contact me at 225-578-3531 or mbwilson@lsu.edu

Looking for a great volunteer opportunity? Then consider volunteering as a camp counselor at the **Louisiana Lions Camp**, summer camps for mentally and physically challenged youth in Leesville, LA. The hours are long and the work is plentiful in a very challenging and structure environment. The Lions are looking for sincere and responsible 16 and 17 years olds who will commit to the entire seven week program. Request an application at (800) 348-6567 or download one at <http://www.lionscamp.org/>. Junior counselors receive \$700 for the season. Senior Counselors receive \$875. Camp provides a week of training, room and board, insurance, time off, and lots of challenges.

Ochsner Medical Center STAR (Science Technology Academic Research) Program – DEADLINE TO APPLY is March 14, 2012 no later than 4:00pm. Students interested in this outstanding research opportunity (great for budding scientists and pre-meds!) should attend the informational meeting January 27 AND submit a completed application by the deadline. The application requires to recommendations so ask teachers for those NOW! Students must be 16 years old by June 1, 2012 and cannot be 18 years old before August 1, 2012. See Ms. Flair for more details.

Service Learning in Paris, July 3 – 30, 2012 – www.study-serve.org

Center for Language Studies at Beloit College – Summer Intensive Programs in Arabic, Chinese, Japanese and Russian; June 11 – August 5, 2012; apply online at www.beloit.edu/cls Scholarships are available for needy students.

University of Alabama 2011 Capstone Business Leadership Academy – approximate dates, June 13 – 22, July 11 – 20, 2012 www.cba.ua.edu/summeracademy

The Louisiana Scholastic Journalism Institute (June 5-10, 2012) provides high school students with the opportunity to visit the LSU campus and student media in a one-week course that includes workshops, presentations from experts and faculty and the opportunity to work in professional-level labs and production facilities. Registration deadline is April 29, 2011 and scholarships are available to Louisiana residents who show financial need. Go to their website for more information:

<http://uiswcmweb.prod.lsu.edu/manship/MassComm/ProspectiveStudents/Manship%20School%20Experience/item19978.html>

The Catholic University of America (DC) “Engineering New Frontiers” July 17 – 22, 2012. Go to <http://engineering.cua.edu/ENF.cfm>.

Washington University (MO) – <http://summerscholars.wustl.edu>

Choate Rosemary Hall Summer Programs – www.choate.edu/summerprograms.

Tulane University’s 3 week Summer High School Program in Architecture – for more information, call Wendy Sack – 865-5389.

University of Notre Dame (IN) Summer Scholars - June 19 – July 2, 2012, for rising juniors and seniors (Tuition based * limited scholarship assistance is available). 11 tracks of academic study offered. Application deadline: March 15, 2012. Additional programs include Global Issues Seminar, Latino Community Leadership Seminar, and Seminar for African American Scholars.

Discover the world’s Greatest Classrooms, Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Montpellier and Barcelona – summers abroad – www.oxbridgeprograms.com.

Boston College Summer Experience Program: See Ms. Flair for application

U.S. Naval Academy STEM program: www.usna.edu/admissions/stem.

Tulane University School of Architecture: Career Explorations in Architecture. June 17 through July 7, 2012 www.Architecture.tulane.edu/programs/summer-high-school-program.

Ringling College of Art & Design (FL) Pre-College Perspective – June 26 – July 23, 2012 www.ringling.edu/precollege.

Wesleyan University (CT) Center for Creative Youth Summer Arts Residency – June 26 -2 July 30, 2012 – www.crec.org/ccy.

Harvard College Prep (MA) – June 25 – August 12, 2012 – www.ssp.harvard.edu. Harvard Summer School Program for Secondary Students.

Columbia University (NY) Summer High Summer High School Programs in New York City, Barcelona and the Middle East – www.ce.columbia.edu/hs.

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