

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

March 2010

Important Announcements

- **It is FAFSA Time!!!** If you plan on receiving any type of financial aid (scholarships included) from a college you will most likely need to fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You can complete FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or on paper, but the online application is faster and easier. You should submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early Feb. If you have questions about the federal student aid programs or need assistance w/ the application process, call 1-800-4-FED-AID. If you have not completed your income tax forms, you can provide estimated information on your application, but you will need to make any necessary changes later.
- Would you like assistance with filing the FAFSA? Please call the North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence. The Decatur office can be reached at 350-6478 or Athens at 233-1220. www.nacee.net.
- When you are applying to colleges, remember that a separate scholarship application may be required.
- If you are a male and approaching your 18th birthday, you must register with the Selective Service. You have 30 days to register after your 18th birthday. If you do not register you are breaking the law! Register online at www.sss.gov. If you are 17 years and 3 months you can go ahead and register and it will automatically update when you turn 18.
- All seniors interested in playing college athletics must register with the NCAA clearinghouse at www.ncaa.org. The NCAA guide for college bound student athletes includes important information and requirements.

Important Testing Dates – DHCA Code # 010-861

- ACT – April 10 (register by Mar. 5, late registration Mar. 19). June 12 (register by May 7, late registration by May 21). See Mrs. Ross if you need a registration packet or practice booklet or register online at www.actstudent.org
- SAT – May 1st (register by Mar. 25, late registration by April 8). See Mrs. Ross for a registration packet or practice booklet or register online at www.collegeboard.com.

ACT Test Prep

- The North Alabama Center for Educational Excellence – ACT prep class. Cost is \$100. Call Dee Nelson to register at 256-372-4600. Located in Huntsville at 4900-B Century Street. www.nacee.net/act_dates.htm
- Appleton Learning – ACT Prep Class www.AppletonLearning.com 256-325-2616 (Located in Madison – offers individual tutoring or small group classes. The small group classes are 8-10 students and cost \$400 for 6 sessions – 30 hours of instruction. Individual tutoring is \$35 an hour – they will come to Decatur.

- Achievement Plus – ACT Prep 2346 Pansy Street, Huntsville, AL 256-539-8910. Classes begin in February for the April ACT date from 3:30-5:30 (6 sessions, 2 hours each). Cost is \$150. Call for details and specific dates.
- Sylvan Learning Center (on Sandlin Rd) 355-7323
- New Horizon Family Center – Dr. Joseph Routh. Located in Cullman. 739-9876

College Open House Dates

Visit these colleges during their special preview days, or call to schedule a private tour. Preview days typically host informative sessions about admissions, majors, academic support, financial aid, on-campus living, etc and are open to both prospective students and parents.

- William Carey University Preview Day is March 27th. Students who register for Fall 2010 classes on Preview Day qualify to receive a \$1000 scholarship for all four years. Visit www.wmcarey.edu for more info.
- Are you interested in the United States Military Academy at West Point? There will be a meeting for interested students in grades 9-11 on Wednesday, March 10th from 7-9 pm at Huntsville High School. A West Point admissions officer will present information on the opportunities available and the steps to admission. RSVP at <http://portal.dean.usma.edu/admissions/Pages/SoutheastEventsMain.aspx>
- Child Development Career Fair for high school students interested in the early childhood field. Tuesday, April 13th from 6:30 to 8:30 at the Huntsville Campus of Calhoun Community College. See Mrs. Ross for a flyer or contact Beverly T. Stovall at 890-4750. www.calhoun.edu/ChildCareCareerFair
- GA Tech “Futures” program will be held Feb 8th for 10th and 11th grade females who want to explore majors/careers at GA Tech. “Girls Night Out” is an overnight visitation program for 11th grade female student – March 7-8, 2010. Registrations begin Nov. 15. Go to GA Tech website for more info.
- Covenant College – Preview weekend April 5-17 with a cost of \$40 per student www.covenant.edu/visit/cpw
- Samford – daily campus visits M-F 8:00, 9:30, 11:00, 1:30, 3:00. Go to www.samford.edu/admission.
- Belmont University Days – March 27 – see website for more info.
- Calhoun Community College – Campus tours are available Monday – Thursday at 10 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The last stop on the tour is the Advising Center where students can meet one-on-one with an academic advisor. Reservations for a tour must be made at least 24 hours in advance. Tours can be arranged by calling Ms. Terri Hildreth in Public Relations at 306.2560
- University of Alabama – Schedule a tour of campus online gobama.ua.edu/visits. Info sessions (hosted by admission counselors) are held at 11:30 M-F.
- Auburn University – Go to www.auburn.edu/admissions/visit to schedule a family tour.
- Union University – Schedule a private visit M, W, F 8-4:30 or T, TH 8-8, or 1st and 3rd Sat. of the month 9:30 – 12:30 (allow a one week notice)

- 1.800.33.UNION. Preview days 3/12, 5/7
www.uu.edu/campusvisits/previewdays
- University of Mobile – Preview days 3/19 or schedule a private visit on most Fridays. www.umobile.edu/admissions/default.asp

Community Service Opportunities

- Call the ARC @355-6192
- Call the Volunteer Center @ 355-8628 (see Mrs. Ross for an application)
- Ask at your church if you can help in the nursery or around the church campus
- The Neighborhood Christian Center is looking for help to organize food pantry, clothes closet, sort donated items, and answering the telephone. Also, they will need tutors over the next few months. Call Tim or Pamela Bolding at 351-7633 if interested.

Scholarship Opportunities

- Are your parents a member of the Alabama Farmers Federation? See Mrs. Ross for a \$1000 scholarship application.
- Joe Wheeler Electric Cooperative Foundation Scholarship. This \$500 scholarship will be awarded to 2 students. Applications are due back March 12th. You must be living in a Joe Wheeler service area to apply. See Mrs. Ross for an application.
- Kiwanis Club of Decatur Scholarship – One DHCA senior will receive this \$1,000 scholarship!! Must be a member of Key Club, have good character, submit a resume of school and community involvement, have a demonstrated financial need for college, and participate in an interview with the scholarship committee. See Mrs. Ross for an application. Due March 12th.
- Joe Wheeler EMC's J.R. Knouff Scholarship is a \$2,000 scholarship for high school seniors. All the recipients are chosen from a random drawing at the Joe Wheeler EMC annual meeting in April. See Mrs. Ross for an application.
- Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship Program – prizes will range from a \$50 gift card to a total of \$10,000 in scholarships. You will need to be nominated (by anyone willing to nominate you) at www.kohlkids.com. Nominations will be accepted through March 15. Volunteer efforts are highly recommended.
- Calhoun TEAMS Scholarship – available for students majoring in Technology, Math, Engineering, Aerospace and Science. Each award can be up to \$7,500. Must have 2.75 GPA and unmet financial need. For more info. contact David Ansardi at dca@calhoun.edu or 256-306-2651.
- Are you a budding entrepreneur? Do you have dreams of owning your own business? Visit www.NFIB.com/ YEA to apply for the 2010 NFIB Young Entrepreneur Award.
- Are you an Eagle Scout? Go to www.legion.org/scholarships to find out more info. about a scholarship for Eagle Scouts.
- American Legion Auxiliary Scholarship for children and grandchildren of veterans. See www.americanlegionalabama.org for more info. Deadline is Apr. 1
- Troy University offers several academic and leadership scholarships beginning with a 22 ACT. See Mrs. Ross for a scholarship booklet or go to www.troy.edu for more info.

- University of North Alabama offers several Excellence Scholarships in varying amounts. See Mrs. Ross for more info. or www.una.edu.
- The American Legion offers several scholarships and financial aid information. You can download a booklet at www.legion.org/needalift.
- Kids Chance Scholarship – awarded by Alabama State Bar (workers’ compensation section) in the amount of \$500 to \$1,500. Applications available at www.alfinc.org. Available to students whose parent(s) have died or became permanently disabled while at work
- Auburn University: Polymer and Fiber Engineering. Application available online at www.eng.auburn.edu/pfe. Contact Julia Freeman 334-844-5457 or freemja@auburn.edu.
- Berea College is offering the “Nominate a Student Program” with a 4 year tuition scholarship attached. Requirements include: Avg. family income of \$50,000 or less, rank in top 20% of their class, ACT 20-30 and demonstrate a commitment to service. See Mrs. Ross if you qualify.
- Sallie Mae’s Scholarship Search Tool provides access to an award database that contains more than 3 million scholarships and is updated daily. Visit www.SallieMae.com/Scholarships to start your search.
- Abbott and Fenner Scholarship Program awarded by Abbott and Fenner Business Solutions in the amount of \$1,000. The application is available at www.abottandfenner.com/scholarships.htm. The deadline is June 19, 2010. You must write an essay on the following topic • What do you see as the long term impact of our current recession on the average family? How might it affect their future decisions?
- University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance – See Mrs. Ross for an application for departmental scholarships and audition forms.
- Cedarville University (in Cedarville, Ohio) is a 4 year Christian University. They have announced significant changes to their financial aid program. Visit www.cedarville.edu/finaid to learn more about their increased financial aid awards.
- BigSun Scholarship in the amount of \$500. Application available online at <http://www.bigsunathletics.com> with a deadline of June 24, 2010.

Summer Opportunities

- Calhoun Summer Camps (open to entering 6-12 grade students). Apply at <http://www.calhoun.edu/3d-robotics/index.html>
 - Decatur Youth Symphony Music/Technology Camp: June 7-10
 - Robotics Camp: June 14-17
 - Robotics Camp: July 12-15
 - 3D Modeling Camp: July 19-22
 - 3D Animation Camp: July 26-29
- SWeETY Camp (Summer Welding and Electrical Technology camp for high school girls. To apply: <http://www.calhoun.edu/BIS/Sweety.html>)

- STeP Camp (Science and Technology Preview Camp for high school girls in 11th -12th grades. Provides an introduction to the field of process technology. To apply: www.calhoun.edu/BIS/STEP/index.html
- Juniors who are interested in a health care profession: Rural Health Scholars Program at the University of Alabama from June 6 – July 9, 2010. Qualifications: complete 11th grade, have at least a “B” average, at least a 21 on ACT w/ writing score, reside in a rural community, and a resident of Alabama at least 5 years. They will consider Decatur rural if they have space in this program. You will take two college courses (Intro. To Chemistry and Creative Writing). All tuition, room and meals are provided at no cost to participants. If selected to participate, there will be a \$35 application fee. Applications due March 15, 2010. Applications at <http://cchs.ua.edu/crm/health-scholars/application>. Questions call or email Cynthia Moore – (205) 348-3116 or CMOORE@CCHA.UA.EDU
- 9th – 12th Grade Students – Summer Academy at Calvin College (Grand Rapids, Michigan). Take one of up to 10 different college courses for credit. Live in a residence hall. For more info go to www.calvin.edu/go/summeracademy.
- Summer at Georgetown University - Earn college credit – Live on campus. 13 different programs (including Fundamentals of Business, Journalism, Sports Industry Management, American Politics, National Security & Counterintelligence, and Forensic Science). Go to SUMMER.GEORGETOWN.EDU/hoyas for more info.

Leadership Opportunity for Upcoming Sophomores and Juniors

(current Freshman and Sophomores)

- Edge Student Leadership – See Mrs Ross for an application. This is a great opportunity to improve your leadership skills. This program is offered through the Decatur – Morgan County Chamber of Commerce. Students participate in leadership/team building activities, learn about local government, take a trip to Montgomery, tour the local jail, and participate in community service activities.