

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS

January 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.
- 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 – February 6 (register by Jan. 5, late registration Jan. 15). April 10 (register by Mar. 5, late registration Mar. 19). See Mrs. Ross if you need a registration packet or practice booklet or register online at www.actstudent.org
- SAT –Mar. 13 (register by Feb. 4, late registration is Feb. 18). 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

- Appleton Learning – ACT Prep Class **offered at DHCA**. Class begins on February 27th. Registration deadline is Feb. 1. Cost is \$420. See Mrs. Ross for the application and more info.
- 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.
- 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.
 - AUM (Auburn Univ. of Montgomery) Preview Day Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010. For info. or to sign up visit www.aum.edu/SuperSaturday
 - 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. University Days are 2/5 and 2/15 universitydays.ua.edu.
 - 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 1/18, 2/15, 3/12, 5/7 www.uu.edu/campusvisits/previewdays
 - University of Mobile – Preview days 1/29, 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

- Image Builders Scholarship – Must have a 2.5 GPA, submit transcript and ACT scores, 3 reference letters must be included. You must also write an essay that explains in detail your career interests and why you feel you would be successful in that career. Due date is February 22nd. See Mrs. Ross for a scholarship packet.
- Best Buy@15 Scholarship Program. Apply Dec. 28 – Feb. 15. 1,000 scholarships of \$1,000 will be awarded. Students in 9th-12th grade are eligible. Requirements are solid grades and involvement in community service or work experience. Apply on-line at www.bestbuy.com/scholarships or www.at15.com
- Calhoun Community College – Scholarship application is now online. Students w/ an ACT score of 26 or greater that apply by March 1st are offered a scholarship equivalent to 1 year's full tuition and fees. Over 100 scholarships are available.
- 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
- Master Books (New Leaf Publishing Group) will award a \$3,000 scholarship to a junior or senior w/ a GPA of 3.0 or higher. An essay is required. Go to www.masterbooks.net to download the application and essay topic. Due Jan. 31.
- 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.
- UNA Department of Chemistry and Industrial Hygiene Scholarships ranging from \$200 to \$2000 per year. Deadline of Feb. 15, 2010. Requirements include enrollment in at least one chemistry or industrial hygiene course for both fall and spring semesters; maintain 3.0 GPA. See Mrs. Ross for an application.
- 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?
 - Pro-Air "Pro-Earth" Scholarship awarded by Pro-Air Services, Inc. in Decatur. Amount \$2,000. Must have a 24 ACT or above and write an essay explaining what being Pro-Earth means to them. Postmarked deadline for applicants will be December 7th. Go to <http://www.pro-air.net/default.aspx?id=141> to read a sample essay. Any length essay is acceptable.
 - University of Alabama Department of Theatre and Dance – See Mrs. Ross for an application for departmental scholarships and audition forms.
 - AXA Achievement Scholarship - \$10,000 - \$25,000 scholarships available. Download an application at www.axa-achievement.com. Apply by February 15th. Criteria – community involvement and overcoming personal challenges
 - KFC Colonel's Scholars - \$5,000 per year. Must have a GPA of 2.75 or higher and planning to pursue a bachelor's degree. Go to www.kfcscholars.org. The online application will be available from December 1 to February 10.
 - 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.
 - Defense Commissary Agency 2010 Scholarships for Military Children Program with awards in the amount of at least \$1,500; application available at www.militaryscholar.org. Deadline is Feb. 17th. Requirements: Children of active duty, reserve/guard and retired military personnel, or survivors of service members who died on active duty or while receiving retired pay from the military.
 - Martin Methodist College is offering the Michael W. and Barbara B. Barton Scholars Award, which is 2 full scholarships with a deadline of Feb. 12. Contact Lisa Smith, Director of Admissions at lsmith2@matinmethodist.edu. Requirements include GPA of 3.5 and an ACT of 24.
 - FOR JUNIORS – Joe Wheeler Youth Tour and Scholarship – you could be chosen for a 3 day all expense paid trip to Montgomery as well as receive a \$500 scholarship. Four of the students will be chosen to attend the Washington D.C. Youth Tour. Due this FRIDAY!!!! See Mrs. Ross for an application.

Summer Opportunities

- 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.