

SENIOR SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN #1

SAM RAYBURN HIGH SCHOOL

August 2009

FOR SENIOR STUDENTS & THEIR PARENTS

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WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL SENIORS - CLASS OF 2010 !

SENIORS – WELCOME BACK! I look forward to working with you this year on scholarships and college information. You have a busy year ahead of you so please read each bulletin carefully and **share this information with your parents.** A scholarship bulletin will be printed frequently to give you information on scholarships and other items of interest as they arrive. The Bulletins will usually be handed out during advisory. In the event that your teacher has ran out of copies, you may pick up a copy in the Counseling Center or in the Library. Keep all of your bulletins for reference and take them home to your parents. **IF YOU QUALIFY OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON ANY OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS LISTED, PLEASE SEE ME IMMEDIATELY.** I have all the scholarship applications and will be here to assist you. Good Luck and don't give up!

When scholarship information becomes available I will list it in the bulletin in numerical order. When you see a scholarship opportunity listed for which you feel qualified to apply, just come to the Counseling Center and request **scholarship No. XX.** **Students, please pay attention to the scholarship deadlines in the bulletins** **Do not go off the deadline on the scholarship application.** Most of the deadlines in the bulletins will differ from deadlines on the applications because time is needed to process them before they can be mailed. Most all applications ask for a transcript and letters of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute to request them.

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION— Some applications for admission to college and many scholarship applications require letters of recommendation from school personnel's. Please keep in mind that these take time to write, and often the same person is asked to write as many as five letters for the same scholarship/application. Most school personnel's are happy to write these for you, but you should be considerate enough to ask them **at least 2 weeks before you need the recommendation.** I also strongly recommend that you come see me and fill out a Senior Profile Sheet. The Senior Profile Sheet will help whomever write your letter quicker. **Also, make sure the person writing the recommendation knows when it is due.**

TRANSCRIPTS— The majority of the scholarship applications will require a transcript. You must order your transcript from Mrs. Newton, the Registrar, in the Main front office. The counselor's office is unable to do this for you. Mrs. Newton requires **at least a 2 day notice** to process a transcript request - this is your responsibility. Mrs. Newton will send the transcript to me if it is for a scholarship application; however, if it is for a college registration, Mrs. Newton will send it separately .

It is ultimately your responsibility to read the opportunities and your responsibility to pick up the applications, fill them out completely and return them to me with all the documentation.
If you have any questions, or need assistance with an application, I am here to help you.



FINANCIAL AID -

- Financial Aid is a combination of aid (possibly including scholarships, grants, loans, and work study) determined by the college financial aid officers on a *first come first served* basis.
- Encourage parents to begin organizing their tax paper work now! Remember you will only need the totals from the 2009 tax return. They do not have to file their return any earlier than usual. Once they have filed their 2009 taxes, go on line and obtain a PIN number (the PIN is your electronic signature) at www.pin.ed.gov
- Once you have obtained a PIN, apply for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

PLACEMENT TESTS -

- If you have not taken the SAT or ACT, register now. Fees for these test range from \$31.00-\$68.00.
- **If you are on free or reduced lunch stop by and see me because you are eligible for fee waivers.**
- If you've already tested, take another to improve your score.
- It is recommended Seniors take the SAT/ACT exams by December, 2009.
- Watch for our SAT/ACT Prep courses offered at Rayburn

SAT:	Test Dates	—————	Deadlines
	October 10		September 09
	November 07		October 01
	December 05		October 30
	January 23		December 15
	March 13		February 04
	May 01		March 25
	June 05		April 29

The registration fee is \$45.00 and there is an additional \$23.00 late fee if you register past the above deadline. If you would like to register for the SAT on-line go to: www.collegeboard.com

ACT:	Test Dates	—————	Deadlines
	September 12		August 07
	October 24		September 18
	December 12		November 06
	February 06		January 05
	April 10		March 05
	June 12		May 07

The registration fee is \$31 (No Writing) or \$46.00 (including the Writing) and there is an additional \$20.00 late fee if you register past the above deadline. If you would like to register for the ACT on-line go to: www.actstudent.org

THEA - If you are planning to enroll in a Texas public university you must take the THEA test before you can attend unless you are exempt. You can obtain the registration booklets on line at: www.thea.nesinc.com.

THEA STUDY GUIDES You can obtain study guides at your local bookstore. You can also go online at: www.thea.nesinc.com/practice.htm and take a full length practice THEA test. You will be provided an answer key after taking the test.

NCAA INITIAL-ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE FORMS

If you plan on playing sports in college you must register with the Clearinghouse at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. You will need to fill out the form, send the original in with your check and give the copy to the registrar to mail with a transcript at the end of the school year.

CSS/FINANCIAL AID PROFILE -

A program of the College Scholarship Service, the financial aid division of the College Board is a national, non-profit association of schools and school systems, colleges and universities, and educational organizations. Some colleges, universities and scholarship programs use the information collected on PROFILE to help them award non-federal student aid funds. The PROFILE application is customized for you based on the information you give when you register for the service. By completing the form, you are able to give a complete picture of your family's financial circumstance, including explanations about special circumstance, on a single application. There is a listing on the application of participating schools and programs. This is not widely used so please check and make sure you need this because there is a fee.

FINANCIAL AID FORMS (FAFSA) -

You cannot start the process until January 1, 2010, after your parent's do their income tax. You can however log on to the FAFSA web site www.fafsa.ed.gov and click on the FAFSA4caster link (located on your lower left hand side) to learn about the financial aid process and get an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid..

CATALOGS AND APPLICATIONS -

We get catalogs and applications from colleges frequently so if you would any catalogs or see if I have an application for a certain college come down to the College Room (located inside the Counseling Center).

COMMON APPLICATIONS -

Texas public colleges are using the Common Application. This application enables you to fill out just one application and then make copies and send them to various colleges. You can access the application from the State Common Application Internet address at www.applytexas.org. A common application is also available for some of the private colleges or you can visit www.commonapp.org. You can also access online applications at the individual college website.

SCHOLARSHIPS -

- **Avoid** scholarship/financial aid search **companies that require a fee for their services.**
- There are thousands of scholarships out there. Most of you have a limited amount of time. Do not waste time, effort, and postage chasing dollars that you do not have a reasonable chance to win!! For example: if you are ranked 100th in your class with a SAT of 950, you have very little chance winning a scholarship based on high grades and test scores. Check out the pool of potential applicants and weigh your chances of receiving a scholarship against financial aid
- **As much as 90% of scholarship funding will come from the colleges themselves.** Inquire at your intended college/university's Financial Aid office and the department of your intended Major field of study. Get to know the Financial Aid office personnel.
- If money is an issue, try local junior colleges for your freshman and sophomore years. You will be surprised at the reasonable cost of tuition. If it's still an issue, the Armed Services offers wonderful programs to fund your education
- Most important..... If a scholarship requires an application fee, chances are it is a scam



SOME POPULAR WEBSITES

San Jacinto College District (www.sjcd.edu)

Baylor University (www.baylor.edu)

Houston Baptist University (www.hbu.edu)

Sam Houston State (www.shsu.edu)

Southwest Texas State (Texas State Univ.) (www.txstate.edu)

Texas A & M (www.tamu.edu/admissions)

Texas Tech (www.texastech.edu)

University of Houston (www.uh.edu)

University of North Texas (www.unt.edu)

University of Texas (www.utexas.edu)

www.applytexas.org - Common Application

www.review.com - the Princeton Review's homepage. You can download a practice SAT and get it scored, get information about the best 309 colleges and link up to their homepages.

www.gocollege.com – free college and scholarship search.

www.collegeboard.org - register for the SAT and SAT II. Send email to the SAT program at sat@ets.org. You can also order College Board publications.

www.finaid.org - offers a free comprehensive, independent, and objective guide to student financial aid.

www.collegeview.com - powerful search engine that allows you to create a list of schools that meet your preferences for size, geography, areas of study and student body. Link to the homepages of many universities and email the colleges' admissions offices for more information.

www.accunet.org – links to web sites of Catholic colleges and universities

www.wiredscholar.com – a comprehensive "going to college" resource

www.CollegelsPossible.org – gives information on financing a college education

www.fastweb.com – this site is all about free money. Set up a personalized fast WEB mailbox and a search engine will sort through over 400,000 scholarships.

<http://www.education.com>—This web site will help you with topics ranging from going to college to college financing and so much more.

www.college-scholarships.com - offers college bound students and parents access to colleges and universities in the U.S., free college scholarship and financial aid searches, and SAT and ACT test preparation tips, and more.

www.keycolleges.com - this site is designed to assist you in making college and career choices; learning about scholarships and financial aid. There are also listings of various links for all sorts of information.

www.plato.org - apply for a scholarship, get loan information, etc.

www.cashe.com - free scholarship search – financial aid information

www.number2.com - free in-depth SAT tutorials, practice sessions, vocabulary-builder, and college-planning tools. Also allows parents or teachers to coach a student or a group of students and to monitor their progress.

www.petersons.com - organized information about educational opportunities, apply to colleges, etc.

www.bigchalk.com - parent help, help for homework for students, research services, etc.

www.researchpaper.com - web's largest collection of topics, ideas, and assistance for school related research projects.

www.sparknotes.com - web's version of cliff notes

www.mathforum.com - math resources by subject

www.mathstories.com - math help through 8th grade

www.collegelink.com - search for colleges, applying, paying, scholarships, etc.

www.collegenet.com - search for colleges, financial aid, scholarship search, recruiting, etc.

www.collegexpress.com - college search, admission tips, apply online, financial aid, etc.

www.mapping-your-future.org - provides information about higher education and career opportunities.

www.essayedge.com - helps you with your essay writing- they have a free application essay help course

www.collegefortexans.com - information on the financial aid process and how to apply for financial aid, tips on reducing the cost of going to college, general information on how to save money for college, are available to those planning to major in Computer Science, Engineering or mathematics. The criteria for selecting the recipients are based on class standing (top 10%), SAT (above 1200), or equivalent ACT scores.

COLLEGE FALL PREVIEW DAYS

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON -

Cougar Fridays

September 4, 2009

December 4, 2009

February 5, 2010

April 2, 2010

July 9, 2010 Space is limited, so sign up today!

For more information— www.uh.edu

AUSTIN COLLEGE -

September 7, 2009 Labor Day Preview

October 31, 2009 Science & Mathematics Division Preview

November 21, 2009 Social Sciences Division Preview

November 23, 2009 Fall Preview

March 15, 2010 Spring Break Open House

March 19, 2010 Spring Break Open House

April 5, 2010 Spring Preview

April 17-18, 2010 Roo Camp for admitted students only (\$35.00)

For more information visit www.austincollege.edu

BAYLOR UNIVERSITY -

Sic 'Em Days

September 14, 2009

November 23, 2010

Fall & Winter Premiere

October 10, 2010

February 6, 2010

For more information visit www.baylor.edu

TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY -

Aggieland Saturday

February 20, 2010

For more information — 979-458-0427 or

<http://www.tamu.edu/aggiesaturday/contact.html>

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS -

Discover UT Dallas

September 27, 2010

October 12, 2010

Preview Friday

October 2, 2010

October 23, 2010

For more information: <http://www.utdallas.edu>

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY -

Saturdays @ SAM

November 21, 2009

March 27, 2010

Register online www.shsu.edu

Senior Year Checklist

August :

- ◇ Decide which type of college (two year, four year, public, private) is best for you.
- ◇ Make sure you are taking the classes you need to graduate.

September:

- ◇ Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into your college(s) of choice. Find out from the colleges to which you are applying whether or not they need official copies of your transcripts (transcripts sent directly from your high school) sent at the time of application.
- ◇ Register for October/November SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, and ACT tests.
- ◇ Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure that they still satisfy your requirements. Add and/or remove colleges as necessary.
- ◇ Make sure you meet the requirements (including any transcript requirements) for all the colleges to which you want to apply. Double-check the deadlines, and Apply.
- ◇ Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers or counselors with stamped, college-addressed, envelopes making certain that your portion of the forms are filled out completely and accurately.
- ◇ Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1. Keep this in mind if you intend to take advantage of these options and remember to request that your high school send your official transcripts to the college to which you are applying.

October:

- ◇ Visit college campuses
- ◇ Attend your local Fall Preview Days
- ◇ Take SAT and/or ACT tests. Have the official scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges/universities that have made your final list of schools. Register for December or January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Test, if necessary.
- ◇ Continue thinking about and beginning writing (if you have not already started) any essays to be included with your applications.

November:

- ◇ Submit your college admission applications.

Spring Semester

December:

- ◇ Visit www.pin.ed.gov, register for a PIN, and have a parent do to the same.
- ◇ Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible.
- ◇ If you haven't already done so, make sure your official test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ◇ Schedule any remaining required interviews.

January:

- ◇ Submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or after January 1st. Contact the Financial Aid Office to see if you need to complete additional financial aid forms and check into other financial aid options. Request that your high school send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ◇ Contact the admissions office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.

February:

- ◇ If you completed the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks if you applied via paper. If you applied on-line, you can receive results via e-mail within 3 to 5 days after electronic submission. If corrections are needed, correct and return it to the FAFSA processor promptly.
- ◇ Complete your scholarship applications.
- ◇ Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.

March/April:

- ◇ If you haven't received an acceptance letter from the college (s) to which you applied, contact the admissions office.
- ◇ Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.
- ◇ When you choose a college that has accepted you, you may be required to pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition (this should ensure your place in the entering freshman class).

May:

- ◇ Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams for any AP subjects you studied in high school.
- ◇ You should make a decision by May 1st as to which college you will be attending and notify the school by mailing your commitment deposit check. Many schools require that your notification letter be postmarked by this date.
- ◇ If you were placed on a waiting list for a particular college, and have decided to wait for an opening, contact that college and let them know you are still very interested.

June:

- ◇ Have your school send your final transcripts to the college which you will be attending.
- ◇ Attend orientation and registration for incoming freshmen.
- ◇ Follow up with the college financial aid office to make sure all of your financial aid paperwork is complete.
- ◇ Determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due and how much they will be.
- ◇ Now that you know you will be attending college in the fall, it is a good idea to evaluate whether to get student health insurance in case of any unforeseen emergencies or whether your family's insurance coverage is sufficient.

SCHOLARSHIP BULLETIN #1

NO. 1 **HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**— Student must be a full time senior in high school and must graduate in 2010, must pursue a bachelor's degree, critical financial need (\$50,000 or lower adjusted gross income per family), minimum GPA of 2.0, and must be a U.S. citizen. For more information log on to: <https://www.horatioalger.org>

NO. 2 **CHINESE PROFESSIONAL CLUB SCHOLARSHIP FUND**— Must be a student of Chinese decent (minimum 1/4) , enrolled in an accredited high school with plans to graduate by June 2010, and must be a full time undergraduate in an accredited college by fall of 2010. See me for an application or go online to www.cpchouston.com. Deadline: 10-23-09

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Key terms that relate to planning for college?

ACT - The ACT Test - required or recommended by most colleges. The ACT test measures educational development in English, mathematics, reading, and science. It is given at ACT test centers nationwide. ACT scores range from 1-36. Taking the optional act Plus Writing provides students with two additional scores. They receive a Writing Test subscore and combined English/Writing score.

Credit hour - A unit of academic that often represents one hour of class time per week for a period of study (semester, quarter, etc.).

Expected Family Contribution (EFC) - An Amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward your education. It is used in determining your eligibility for federal student aid.

Federal Pell Grant - Financial assistance awarded by the federal government. The grant may be used toward tuition, room and board , books, or other educational cost, and requires no repayment.

Federal Perkins Loan Program - Loans funded by the federal government and awarded by the institution. The loans feature low interest rates and are repayable over a long period of time.

Federal Subsidized Stafford Loan Program - Low-interest federal loans made to eligible students through banks, lending institutions, and participating Direct Loan schools. The loan is based on need , and the interest is paid by the federal government for qualifying students while they are enrolled at least half-time. Repayment begins after the student leaves school.

Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program - Low-interest federal loans that are not based on need. The student must pay the interest while in school, and repayment begins after the student leaves school.

Federal Work Study - A government –supported financial aid program coordinated through financial aid offices whereby an eligible student may work part time while attending class, generally in career-related jobs.

Financial Aid - A combination of aid (possibly including scholarships , grants, loans, and work study) determined by a college financial aid office.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) - The application required for students to be considered for federal student financial aid. The FAFSA is processed free of charge and used by most state agencies and colleges.