

The Senior Bulletin

THE SENIOR BULLETIN

MARCH

2009

South Houston High School

This publication, *The Senior Bulletin*, will be published periodically during the 2007-2008 school year. All Seniors are encouraged to read the bulletin and to share them with your parents. If at any time you have questions about information in the bulletin, please see the appropriate counselor.

12th grade: Ms. Alsdorf

Special population: Mrs. Hogan

Order your cap and gown from Balfour NOW!!! They will be delivered to SHHS April 6th and 7th. The senior panoramic picture will be taken April 8th and you must wear your gown for the picture!!! \$31 + tax

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Mon-Fri, noon-5:00

Are you planning to attend San Jacinto College next year??? If so, then sign up in homeroom or in the counseling office. EVERY student who signifies that they are thinking about attending San Jac will have an opportunity to come to the computer lab on April 2nd or April 9th to complete the online application with help from San Jac representatives!!!

Need help with the FAFSA??? Spanish and English speakers are available!

Invite your parents to come to school Thursday, April 9th, from 8:00-3:30 to get help from financial aid representatives from San Jacinto College. These wonderful people will be in the computer lab, **F 108/110**, to help you and your parents with questions about the FAFSA and TASFA. (I am waiting to hear if their will be financial aid reps available on April 2nd or not and will inform you as I learn more.)

University Admissions Checklist:

-  Step 1: Take my SAT or ACT—You should have already taken one of these tests to be admitted to a university. UH-Downtown (the SMALL campus) does not require the SAT!
-  Step 2: Fill out my admissions application at www.applytexas.org or if the college does not use the Apply Texas application, then I need to go to the college's website and apply there.
-  Step 3: Fill out a request for my transcript to be sent to the colleges to which I have applied. These are in the counseling office. If I used a fee waiver on the SAT, go to my counselor and fill out a fee waiver request for my application as well. This will be submitted with the transcript.
-  Step 4: Contact the housing office at the university and apply for housing if I plan to live on campus.
-  Step 5: Contact the financial aid office at the university and request a financial aid packet. Non-U.S. citizens will complete the TASFA. It may be found at www.collegeforalltexas.com.
-  Step 6: Complete my FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form online at www.fafsa.ed.gov in order to apply for financial assistance from the government. Have my report sent to each college I am considering when I submit my FAFSA. It does not cost anything to apply. You and a parent must first request a pin # at www.pin.ed.gov.
-  Step 7: Continue filling out any scholarships advertised in the Senior Bulletin
-  Step 8: Colleges to which you have applied and submitted FAFSA information will mail you a Financial Aid Award Letter to inform you about what grants and aid you qualify at that institution.
-  Step 9: Make a decision on the college I will attend and notify that college of my intentions.
-  Step 10: Determine if I am exempt from the placement test called THEA (it's called the COMPASS at San Jacinto College). Most colleges will consider you exempt if you made at least a 2200 on the ELA portion of the EXIT level TAKS with at least a 3 on the essay and at least a 2200 on the Math portion of the EXIT level TAKS. Or, you could also be exempt if you have an ACT composite score of 23 with a minimum of 19 on both the English and math parts or an SAT combined score of 1070 with a minimum of 500 on both the critical reading and math or graduate from high school with a grade point average of 3.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale and have completed the recommended plan. If you do not meet any of these criteria, you must take the THEA test before you can take your first college class. To register for the THEA, go to www.thea.nesinc.com. San Jacinto college also offers THEA testing opportunities.
-  Step 11: Meet all high school graduation requirements so I can start college in the fall!!!!

Seniors should be through step 5 at this time. If you are not at step 5, some universities have later admissions deadlines. You need to complete the admissions steps immediately, and you need to go ahead and start your FAFSA application as well. You can also apply to any junior colleges. They have late deadlines as well. The following universities have later admissions deadlines:

Angelo State	August 6	Tarleton State	August 1	UT-Brownsville	July 1
Dallas Baptist	August 21	Texas A&M-Commerce	August 11	UT-Dallas	July 1
Lamar	August 1	Texas A&M-Corpus	July 1	UT-El Paso	May 1
Midwestern State	July 1	Texas A&M-Galveston	July 1	UT-Permian Basin	July 14
Prairie View A&M	June 1	Texas A&M-Kingsville	August 15	UT-Tyler	No deadline
Sam Houston State	August 1	Texas Southern	August 1	Univ. of Houston-Main	April 1
Schreiner	May 1	Texas Tech	May 1	Univ. of Houston-Downtown	July 1
Stephen F. Austin	August 24	Texas Women's	July 15	University of North Texas	June 15
Sul Ross State	August 15	UT-Arlington	June 1	West Texas A&M	July 20
Concordia University	August 1	St. Edward's	May 1		

Credit Recovery: PLATO Computer Lab, Evening School, Virtual School

This school year South Houston High has a new credit recovery program. The PLATO computer lab has replaced the BEST program for credit recovery. In order to qualify for the PLATO lab, students must have made at least a 60 in a core course such as math, science, or social studies. English is available but it has proven to be fairly difficult to recover English credit in this program. Unfortunately, other required courses like Health, Communication Applications, and BCIS are not offered in the PLATO lab. Students who believe they are in need of credit recovery should see Ms. Alsdorf in the counseling office

ASAP! She will check your records to see if you qualify for credit recovery. Then there is an application process through the program director, Ms. Briggs. Students must commit to the computer lab or they will be removed from the program. The time necessary to complete a course is up to the effort put in by each individual. Some students may complete a course in eight days while others take five weeks!

Students may also make up courses in Pasadena Virtual School. The next session of Virtual School is in March. Again, interested students should see Ms. Alsdorf for more information.

See Ms. Alsdorf immediately if you need credit recovery in PLATO or Virtual School. The clock is ticking!!! Virtual School registration deadline is March 13th and classes begin online March 23rd.



Scholarships:

If you are interested in an advertised scholarship or other opportunity, come to the counseling office and see Mrs. Brogan, the counselor's secretary. You will need to ask for the scholarship by the number assigned to it in the Bulletin. The deadline to be returned to the counselor may be earlier than what is printed on the application, so pay close attention! Sometimes we can only send a certain number of applications and so we must have time to evaluate all of them before the submission deadline.

There are more scholarship opportunities available than are sent to the schools, so you may do your own searches through some of the following websites: www.collegeboard.com, www.fastweb.com, www.collegenet.com, www.collegeforalltexans.com, www.adventuresineducation.org, www.finaid.com, www.srnexpress.com, www.ed.gov, www.gocollege.com, www.findcollegeaid.com.



48. University of Houston Academic Achievers Program—This \$2500 per year scholarship also provides one-on-one tutoring, study skills workshops, and other support. Interested students must be admitted to UH. Applications are available in the counseling office from Mrs. Brogan and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by April 10th. However, THE SOONER YOU SUBMIT the application, the BETTER YOUR CHANCES of receiving the scholarship!
81. Kohl's Kids Who Care Scholarship—Kohl's rewards kids whose volunteer efforts have made a positive impact on their communities. Visit www.kohlskidswhocare.com for more information. All scholarship materials must be submitted by the March 15th deadline.
82. Texas Association for Bilingual Educators—provides \$1,000 scholarships for students planning to pursue a teaching career in bilingual Education. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 16th.
83. Project Joy & Hope—This non-profit organization will award scholarships ranging from \$500-\$1,500 to seniors who have experienced the death of a sibling or a parent. Applicants must be planning to attend a college, technical or trade school after graduation. Eligible students may pick up an application from Ms. Brogan in the counseling office. Completed applications must be postmarked by March 20th.



Scholarships Cont.:

84. Thelma Maresh Scholarship Program—is sponsored by the San Jacinto Chapter of the DAR. Three scholarships in the amounts of \$3000, \$2000, and \$1000 will be awarded based on leadership, scholarship, and responsible citizenship. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and plan to enroll in a university. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan and must be RECEIVED by 21st.
85. City of Houston PSRW Essay Contest—Win up to \$2,000 for college by composing an essay of 500 words or less about what a difference you'd make as a city of Houston municipal employee. Visit www.houstonhumanresources.org and click on PSRW for rules and criteria. Postmark deadline is March 21st and you will mail it yourself
86. Ozarka's "Every Drop Counts" Earth Science Scholarship—awards two students in the state of Texas \$10,000 in scholarships each. Applicants must attend a four-year university and plan to study earth/environmental science, be a US Citizen and a Texas resident, and have a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. Applications and all specified materials are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 24th in order to meet the postmark deadline of March 27th.
87. Vinson & Elkins L.L.P. Scholarship—This foundation will award \$10,000 scholarships to African-American, Asian, Hispanic, Native-American or Pacific Islander students who are interested in pursuing a career in law. Applicants must also be in the top 20% of their class with a minimum SAT score of 1650 (includes ALL 3 parts) and have financial need. Eligible students may pick up an application from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office. Completed applications must be received by the March 23rd arrival deadline.
88. Healthcare and Nursing Education Foundation Scholarship—This \$3000 per year scholarship is open to students who pursue a professional career in nursing and enroll in a nursing program at a college or university in the greater Houston area that will lead to a Bachelors degree AND who's household income is less than \$50,000 per year. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office or online at www.hnef.org. Completed applications and all materials are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 23rd in order to meet the March 27th RECEIPT deadline!!!
89. Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship—This is an academically competitive scholarship program which will award up to \$1,500 to eligible students. Considering factors include: Class rank, GPA, and SAT or ACT scores. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office. Completed applications and all specified materials are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 23rd in order to meet the arrival. SHHS may only submit **THREE** applications for consideration.
90. Tzu Chi Scholars—This organization offers a \$1,000 scholarship to a student demonstrating financial need with a minimum GPA of a 3.0 on a 4.0 scale (unweighted) who will enroll as a full-time college student in the fall of 2009. Eligible students may pick up an application from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office. Completed applications are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 26th in order to request a transcript and meet the March 31st postmark deadline.
91. Slough Foundation Scholarship—This memorial scholarship awards up to \$5,000 a year for up to five years or the completion of a bachelor's degree. Eligible seniors must have a minimum GPA of a 3.0, be a US Citizen, and be a Texas resident. Students are encouraged to go to www.midland.edu/admissions/aid/forms/slough.pdf to complete the application. You may also pick up a copy from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office if you need to do so. All required and supporting materials, except the transcript, are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 24th in order to be submitted with a transcript by the March 29th postmark deadline.
92. The Goss-Michael Foundation Texas State Art Scholarship—is a merit-based \$5000 award for students pursuing a degree in visual arts. Students must submit a CD of 10 original works in addition to other required documents. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 24th in order to meet the receipt deadline of March 31st.
93. San Jacinto Day Foundation Scholarship—will award a no more than \$1,500 scholarship to a candidate from one of



Scholarships Cont.:

nine designated high schools. Applicants must have a minimum GPA of a 3.0, have interest in participating in cultural, academic or charitable organizations and plan to attend college. Students may pick up an application from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office. Completed applications are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 24th in order to request transcripts and meet an **arrival** deadline of March 31st.

94. Jacques DeMolay Lodge Scholarship—will award three \$1,500 scholarships. Applicants must be graduating from a high school in the greater Houston area, have a minimum of a 2.5 GPA, have a minimum of a 900 on the Sat (Critical Reading and Math scores combined) or a minimum of an 18 on the ACT, and must be planning to enroll in a college or university in the fall. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan or online at <http://jd1390.org/Scholarship/Application2009.pdf>. Completed applications and all specified materials must be submitted to Ms. Alsdorf by March 26th in order to meet the postmark deadline of March 31st.
95. 2009 Southern Texas PGA Foundation Scholarship Program—offers the Joe Moore and the Bill Sitton Scholarships ranging from \$1000 to \$2400 annually. Students do NOT need to be golfers! Applications are available in the counseling office or online at www.stpga.com and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 24th in order to meet the April 1st receipt deadline.
96. Rotary Club of Pasadena South—will award scholarships not to exceed \$2,000, partially on a need basis, to persons wishing to enroll in an accredited Texas college or university. Applicants must also be a permanent resident of the state of Texas. Completed applications and all specified materials, including three letters of recommendation, must be submitted to Ms. Alsdorf by March 27th in order to meet the **pick up date in April**. The Rotary Club representative will take applications to the club by the April deadline.
97. The Texas Jaycee Foundation College Scholarship Program—will award \$1000 scholarships to students attending an accredited Texas College, University, or Technical School. Students will be judged on financial need, academics, and community involvement and must be a permanent resident. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 27th to be ready for the April 6th pick up.
98. The Women's Fund 2009 Scholarship Essay Contest—This \$1000 contest is open to senior GIRLS. The essay topic is "How does being an advocate for your health and living a healthy lifestyle help you achieve your future personal and professional goals?" Essays should be emailed or postmarked by the student by March 31st. Rules and cover sheet are available in the counseling office.
99. CAT Lift Trucks—will award two \$5,000 scholarships to outstanding high school seniors residing in specific counties, which includes Harris County. Applicants must enroll in a Texas college, university or technical school and participate in a curriculum leading to a bachelor's degree or technical certificate in mechanical engineering or a business-related field. Applicants must also be ranked in the top 1/2 of their class with a "B" average GPA and be US Citizens. Completed applications and all specified materials must be returned to Ms. Alsdorf by March 31st in order to meet the postmark deadline of April 3rd.
100. The Society of Professional Women in Petroleum (SPWP) Scholarship—This organization awarded over 15 scholarships totaling \$55,000 in 2008. The program is open to female students who attend a Texas university; there is no required field of study. Applications are available from Mrs. Brogan and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by March 31st in order to meet the April 3rd postmark deadline.
101. The Pasadena ISD Education Foundation—gives ten \$1000 scholarships to seniors from the five PISD high schools. Special consideration is given to low income and first generation college students. Applicants MUST be planning to attend San Jacinto College. Applications are available in the counseling office and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by April 10th in order to meet the receipt deadline of April 17th.



Scholarships Continued:

102. 2009 Student-View Scholarship Program—offers \$7000 worth of scholarships by drawing names from those students who complete an online survey. Students must log on to www.student-view.com and complete the 20 minute application survey about colleges in our area. The deadline is April 19th.
103. Matthys Elementary Alumni Scholarship—This scholarship will be awarded to a SHHS student that attended Matthys Elementary for at least one year. If this is you, pick up an application from Mrs. Brogan ASAP! You may return the application with pages 4 & 7 blank. Ms. Alsdorf and Mr. Zuniga will complete those pages after you have turned in all other materials. Applications MUST be returned to Ms. Alsdorf by April 20th in order to complete all other required pages by the April 27th deadline.
104. PFLAG HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation—awards scholarships to gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered youth in the Houston area. Applications are available in the counseling office or online at www.physf.org and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by April 23rd to meet the April 30th deadline.
105. PISD Crossing Guards Association Scholarship—this \$400 award is available to all seniors in PISD. Applications are available in the counseling office and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by April 24th in order to meet the May 1st receipt deadline.
106. First Service Credit Union's 2009 Verble W. Parish Scholarship—is open to seniors who have an account at First Service Credit Union. Applications are available in the counseling office and are due to Ms. Alsdorf by April 23rd in order to meet the receipt deadline of April 30th.
107. Vietnamese American Scholarship Foundation—offers four different scholarships and students may apply for all four if they meet the requirements. Students must be of Vietnamese descent and can apply online at <http://www.vietscholarships.org/scholarships.html>. Students wishing to mail applications should submit one package for all scholarships, including one personal information form, resume, essay responses for each scholarship, letter of recommendation, and transcript. Completed applications needing to be mailed must be submitted to Ms. Alsdorf by April 30th in order to meet the deadline of May 4th (ARRIVAL).



Opportunities:

1. **Need a prom dress???** **A Caring Closet** is an organization founded for the sole purpose of donating prom dresses to high school seniors with financial need. Prom Store 2009 will be held on April 18th at Wheeler Avenue Baptist Church's Christian Life Center, 3826 Wheeler Avenue, Houston, TX, 77004, from 8:00 a.m. until noon. All participants must arrive on time and be prepared to stay the duration of the program in order to receive a prom dress. SHHS may submit FIVE names. Interested students should see Mrs. Brogan or Ms. Alsdorf BY APRIL 1st to complete an application.
2. If you want more information about colleges, AP credit, etc., then register for the free College Week Live online college fair on March 25th and 26th and be eligible for cash scholarships. You may register at www.CollegeWeekLive.com.
3. San Jacinto College will host "Discover San Jac" and "A Parents Guide to Understanding a College Education" for students and parents on Tuesday, March 31st at the Central campus from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. You may take a campus tour, learn about financial aid and student activities. Spanish speakers will be available!!! Refreshments will be provided.
4. Texas State Road Trip for Bobcat Days Open House will provide a charter bus from the Houston area for this April 18th event in San Marcos. The FREE bus trip will leave about 7:00 a.m. and return about 6:00 p.m. Seating is limited so pick up the permission forms from Mrs. Brogan and return it by mail or fax ASAP but no later than April 1st. For more information, email Ken Bordelon at db40@txstate.edu.
5. Texas State University offers the Bobcat Promise for students with family incomes of \$25,000 or less. For qualifying students, this program will pay for tuition and fees each semester for FOUR years. That's an award of more than \$7000 per year! See www.finaid.txstate.edu/bobcatpromise for more details.

Opportunities Continued:

6. Stephen F. Austin State University will host Showcase Saturday on March 28th from 1:00-5:00. Go to www.sfasu.edu, call 1-936-468-2504, or email admissions@sfasu.edu.
7. UH-Downtown (the small campus) will host an Open House on April 4th. This university has a more lenient admissions policy (if you have your high school diploma, you will be admitted) and this is a great opportunity to learn more about the campus and their programs. Visit www.uhd.edu/admissions/openhouse/ or call 713-222-5391 for more information.
8. The University of Texas-Permian Basin (UTPB) offers students in the TOP 50% of their class the Freshman Grant of \$2000! They also have a program called UT Promise which covers tuition and fees for students whose family income is less than \$25,000. Visit <http://ss.utpb.edu/admissins/scholarships/> for more information.
9. UTPB is hosting Falcon Day on Saturday, March 28th. For more information, visit <http://ss.utpb.edu/admissions/falcon-day/>.
10. The Giving Gown Foundation will host its Boutique Day 2009 on March 27th and 28th at The Woodlands Church, Fellowship Campus. To apply for a free gown, you must register ASAP at www.givinggown.org.

Seniors Receive Scholarship Awards

The following seniors have notified Ms. Alsdorf of scholarships received. If you have received a scholarship and your name is missing, please see Ms. Alsdorf in the counseling office. In April and May you should receive award letters from the colleges and universities to which you have applied, PROVIDED THAT YOU COMPLETED THE FAFSA! Please bring in your award letters so that Mrs. Brogan or Ms. Alsdorf may make a copy.

Rebecca Berry—Baylor University \$44,000

Eriberto Calderon—Baylor University \$32,000

Laura Cardiel—St. John's University \$40,000; Tiffin University \$40,000

Hannah Do—Comcast Leaders and Achievers \$1000

Carlos Escobedo—Southwestern \$26,000; Texas Lutheran University \$44,000; University of St. Thomas \$36,000

Hortencia Flores—Abilene Christian University \$10,000

Jeanette Garcia—Houston Baptist University \$24,000

Karen Guerrero—Baylor University \$10,000

Miracle Jernigan—Baylor University \$10,000

Cindy Le—Houston Baptist University \$34,000; University of St. Thomas \$48,000; University of Houston \$18,000

Lilibeth Mata—Baylor University \$40,000

Lindsay Moore—Hawaii Pacific University \$36,000

Yahaira Vazquez—Baylor University \$32,000

Seniors Receive College Acceptance Letters!

Steven Arocho—Stephen F. Austin State University (SFASU)

Janett Arriaga—University of Houston (UH)

Rebecca Berry—Baylor University (BU)

Eriberto Calderon—Baylor University, Mary Hardin-Baylor University

Laura Cardiel—Angelo State University, Tiffin University, Sul Ross University, Sam Houston State University (SHSU), Lamar University, St. John's University

Carlos Castillo—Lamar University

Hannah Do—University of Houston

Carlos Escobedo—Colorado School of Mines, Southwestern College, Texas Lutheran University, University of St. Thomas (UST)

Nelly Flores—Baylor University, Houston Baptist University (HBU), Sam Houston State University, UT-San Antonio

Jeanette Garcia—Houston Baptist University, Sam Houston State University

Jamie Guei—Lamar University, Sam Houston State University, Stephen F. Austin State University

Karen Guerrero—Baylor University, Texas A & M University

Yesenia Guzman—Houston Baptist University, St. Mary's University

Adrian Hernandez—The University of Texas at Austin (UT), UH

Andrew Hernandez—The University of Texas at Austin, UH

Tiffany Jack—Baylor University

Miracle Jernigan—University of Houston

David Lagua—Western Michigan University

Cindy Le—University of St. Thomas, Houston Baptist University, University of Houston, Baylor University

Amy Lu—University of Houston, The University of Texas

Brenda Maldonado—University of Houston

Brittany Marrisette—St. John's University, University of Houston

Elizabeth Martinez—Baylor University, Texas A & M University (A & M)

Anthony Mata—St. John's University

Lilibeth Mata—University of St. Thomas, Baylor University, Houston Baptist University, The University of Texas

Mersedes Morales—University of Houston-Downtown (UHD)

David Oliva—Texas A & M University

Isamar Olivares—University of Houston, UT-Dallas

Celene Quezada—Sam Houston State University

Veronica Quiroa—University of Texas

Christina Reyes—University of Houston

Laura Rocha—Baylor University

Letrenia Scott—Stephen F. Austin State University

Jacqueline Silva—Texas State University

Jada Uzosike—The University of Texas

Yahaira Vazquez—Baylor University

Please bring Ms. Alsdorf or Mrs. Brogan your acceptance letter so that a copy can be made and you can be added to the list of students being admitted to college. If you receive a scholarship or grant, please bring that information to the counseling office as well.