

# The Senior Bulletin

ISSUE 2

OCTOBER 2008

South Houston High School

## My Future? Collegeboard Can Help

### *Did you take the PSAT last year?*

If so, you can go to [www.collegeboard.com/quickstart](http://www.collegeboard.com/quickstart) and get your free personalized tool to prepare you for life beyond high school. You will need your official PSAT score report, which contains your access code, as well as a collegeboard.com student account. The website will guide you with setting up an account if you have not done so already from last year. You must have a valid email address in order to create an account. College Board will then take you through several steps. First, you will be able to review your PSAT results and understand where you were successful, and where you need work.

Next, you will go to “My SAT Study Plan.” This section will give you suggestions for improving your skills and answer related SAT practice questions. You can also practice writing an essay and compare your essay to other sample essays. Next, you can go to “My College Matches.” This section will search more than 3,800 colleges to find those that fit your preferences. You can also research tuition information including financial aid options.

Finally, you can view “My Major and Career Matches.” This section will allow you to see your personalized lists of majors and careers based on the major of interest you selected on the answer sheet last year. This section will allow you to link with “My Road,” an interactive college and career exploration program that can help you plan for your future.

### *Have you already taken an SAT?*

If you have already taken an SAT, even if you did not take the PSAT last year, you can access your online score report for free. You will still need to create an account with college board at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com). This will allow you to view your report only; you will **not** be able to use this site for sending any official reports to colleges or scholarship programs. You will be able to use this information to help improve your scores if you decide to retake the SAT by both reviewing your essay and by reviewing information about your scores in each of the three sections. You can also actually print out a copy of your essay response and use it to ask for help in improving your responses in the future. Your senior English teachers might be a good resource for this.

Take the following steps for simple access to the SAT Online Score Report: 1. Sign in to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and go to “My SAT.” 2. Select “View My Score Report and Essay,” which is next to the appropriate test date. 3. Click on any and all tabs for which you want to request information and follow the instructions online.

In addition to this “My SAT” section at the collegeboard website, you can also research topics such as, college search tools, online college applications, help with financial aid, and free or low-cost preparation materials if you decide to take the SAT again.

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

# Preparing for the Financial Aid Process

**REMEMBER: If you used a fee waiver for the SAT, you are eligible for a fee waiver for your college application fee!**

## **Federal Student Aid Through the FAFSA:**

The following information is taken from the FAFSA4caster website and from [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org):

If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, FAFSA4caster is for you! By using FAFSA4caster, you and your family will receive an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. This web site provides you with an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the financial aid process; become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available; and investigate other sources of aid, such as grants and scholarships. You will need to have the following documents available when you apply: the student's driver's license and social security card, the student's income tax returns, W-2 forms, and 1099 forms (If the student is married, you will also need the documents for the student's spouse), the parents' income tax returns, W-2 forms, and 1099 forms, current bank statements and mortgage information, any records relating to stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other investments, documentation of non-taxable income such as Social Security income, AFDC, and Veteran's Benefits, any business and farm records, and records relating to



any unusual family financial circumstances, such as medical and dental expenses not covered by insurance, tuition expenses at elementary or secondary schools, unusually high child care costs, death, divorce, and loss of employment. Make a photocopy of each document and keep it in a file folder.

When you are ready to apply for aid, you can then easily transition from the FAFSA4caster to FAFSA on the Web. Much of the information that you enter in the FAFSA4caster will populate your FAFSA on the Web application, making the experience of applying for federal student aid a lot easier.

## **State Financial Aid for Undocumented Students Through TASFAA:**

If a student is a US Citizen but one or more parents are undocumented, the student is eligible for federal student aid through the FAFSA. However, if the parents supply a fake or stolen social security number on the form, the student's FAFSA will be rejected when the parent's social security number fails to match. The FAFSA may also be rejected when the parents submit a SSN or Taxpayer Identification Number that is valid for work purposes only. If the parents do not have a SSN or the SSN fails to match but the student does have a valid SSN, then the parents should use 000-00-0000 as their social security number on the FAFSA form.



If you are a student (non U.S. Citizen) who determines that you are NOT eligible for aid through the FAFSA, you are still eligible for financial aid through the state of Texas. As a result, these students and their parents must complete the TASFAA. You may visit [www.tasfaa.org](http://www.tasfaa.org) or [www.aie.org](http://www.aie.org) for more information.



# Scholarships & Opportunities For Seniors

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](http://www.collegeboard.com), [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com), [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com), [www.collegefortexans.com](http://www.collegefortexans.com), [www.adventuresineducation.org](http://www.adventuresineducation.org),


## Scholarships:



1. The Horatio Alger Association Scholarship Program provides financial assistance to students who have financial need and who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity. Eligible students must pursue a bachelor's degree, be a U.S. citizen, and have at least a 2.0 GPA. Students must apply online at [www.horatioalger.org/scholarships](http://www.horatioalger.org/scholarships). In order to meet the October 30th deadline, students should complete the online application and additional forms by October 24th.
2. 2009 SAE Engineering Scholarships—Applicants must intend to earn a degree in engineering or a related science, be a US citizen, meet the minimum requirements with regard to GPA, the SAT and/or ACT scores as outlined in the individual requirements of each scholarship. Scholarships range in value from \$1000 to \$10,000. For more information and/or to apply online, go to [www.sae.org/students/engschlr.htm](http://www.sae.org/students/engschlr.htm). There are some paper applications available at SHHS counseling office. All applications must be postmarked or submitted online by the December 1st deadline.
3. Prudential Spirit of Community Award—Applicants must have performed volunteer work over that past year. You can then go to [www.prudential.com/spirit](http://www.prudential.com/spirit) or [www.principals.org/prudential](http://www.principals.org/prudential), click on the "Apply Now" link, and follow the onscreen instructions. After completing the online application, students must print them out, sign them, and have a parent sign them. If you do not have internet access, you may call toll free to 877-525-8491 to request a paper application. Completed and signed applications MUST be submitted to Ms. Alsdorf no later than October 24th. SHHS may only submit one nominee and we have a different deadline we must meet.
4. AXA Achievement Scholarship—This scholarship will award 42 state winners \$10,000. Students will be asked to describe in detail an outstanding achievement they have accomplished in a non-academic activity or project. Consideration will also be given to extracurricular activities, work experience, and the applicant's academic record. Applications (pages 1-6) and required attachments (including either an official or unofficial transcript and a grading scale) must be postmarked no later than December 15th. Therefore, all completed applications are due to Ms. Alsdorf by December 8th. All materials must be submitted in one 9"x12" envelope. You may also choose to apply online at [www.axa-achievement.com](http://www.axa-achievement.com). Same deadlines apply.
5. Chinese Professional Club Scholarship Fund—This organization will award a minimum of 10 scholarships from \$1,000 to \$2,000 each to high school seniors of Chinese descent (minimum 1/4) who is a resident of or whose parent or guardian resides in the Greater Houston area. The applicant must also plan to begin full time undergraduate studies at an accredited university or college in the Fall of 2009. Applicants will be evaluated by their scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, writing proficiencies, and a personal interview for semi-finalists. Applications must be postmarked by November 1, 2008. Forms and guidelines are available online at [www.cpchouston.com](http://www.cpchouston.com) or in the counseling office.
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## Scholarships Continued:

9. CollegeWeekLive.com \$3500 Scholarship—One \$3500 scholarship will be awarded to the student who best responds to the following question: “Going to college is a big, important step in one’s life. What are you looking forward to the most about going to college, and why?” Students must be in grades 9-12 and must login and participate in the free CollegeWeekLive.com virtual college fair being held online Nov. 12 & 13. The deadline for submissions is Nov. 9. Applications are being accepted online now at: <http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/showApphtx?appId=10440>.
10. Coca-Cola Scholarship—  The Coca-Cola Scholars program awards 250 scholarships totaling \$3,000,000. Recipients of these scholarships are considered well-rounded with highly developed interest in their community. They have demonstrated leadership in school, demonstrated academic achievement with at least a 3.0 GPA, and have at least part-time employment. Applicants **MUST** apply online at [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org) by the October 31st deadline. You will need the SHHS CEEB code which is 446652.



## Opportunities

1. Wendy’s High School Heisman Award—This award honors both male and female students who exhibit excellence in the classroom, on the field and within their communities. Applying seniors must have at least a “B” average, and participate in at least one of the 33 sports sanctioned by the National Federation of State High Schools. Applications **MUST** be completed online at [www.wendysheisman.com](http://www.wendysheisman.com) at least one week before the October 1st deadline because the application must be approved by Ms. Alsdorf via email from the organization. Winners will receive a certificate and a patch in recognition.
2. University of Texas in Austin— UT encourages all interested applicants to visit [www.bealonghorn.utexas.edu](http://www.bealonghorn.utexas.edu) as soon as possible to explore admissions, housing, scholarship, and financial aid procedures. They also encourage students to sign up for a UT EID, a secure user name for all UT Austin online services. Students will then be able to check their application status, visit the campus, register for opportunities, and contact Myra Fuentes, the admissions representative located at the Houston office.
3. Texas Southern University’s Early Medical School Acceptance Program (EMSAP) and Joint Admission Medical Program (JAMP)—are programs designed for students attending Texas Southern University who wish to pursue a career as a physician, who are economically disadvantaged, and who earn at least a 900 on the SAT or a 20 on the ACT. Please see Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office for a brochure on each of these exceptional opportunities.
4. Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri invites you and your parent to a 2008 Admissions Reception at the Renaissance Houston Hotel, Greenway Plaza, on Sunday, October 19th, from 4:00-5:00. You may visit [admissions.wustl.edu](http://admissions.wustl.edu) for details.
5. The 2008 Service Academy Day will be held Saturday, November 1st, at Ellington Field’s 147th Reconnaissance Wing Headquarters Building #1057 Auditorium from 10:00 a.m-12:00 pm. This event will feature Congressman Nick Lampson, officers and cadets from all five service academies, a static display of military vehicles and aircraft, recruiters from several local ROTC programs and an astronaut from NASA. For more information or to RSVP, contact John Boerstler at 281-461-6300.
6. Texas State University in San Marcos Bobcat Day will be November 15th and they will be providing a **FREE bus trip** from Houston to attend this event!!! If you have never seen the campus, this is an excellent way to experience it; San Marcos is a beautiful town. Pick up a copy of the Road Trip registration form and information from Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office. Seats are limited and will be given on a first come first served basis with a November 5th registration deadline.