

The Senior Bulletin

ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2008

South Houston High School

Now is the Time for the University-bound Senior

This publication, *The Senior Bulletin*, will be published periodically during the 2008-2009 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

Step 1: Take an SAT or ACT—you should already have taken the SAT or ACT at the end of the junior year. If not, you need to register for the earliest test possible. The registration deadline for the 1st SAT (Oct. 4) was on September 9th; the deadline for the 1st ACT (Oct. 25) was September 19th. If for some reason you missed either of these testing deadlines, you **MUST** take the SAT by the November 1st test date or you will not have your results in time to be considered for admission to some major universities or for scholarship/financial aid deadlines for many major universities. **Be sure to renew your free/reduced lunch application NOW so that you can still qualify for fee waivers this year! They must be renewed EACH YEAR!**

Step 2: Narrow your college and university choices to your top 3 to 5 choices

Step 3: Meet with college representatives to gather information about colleges.

Step 4: Finalize a resume (more of a list) of your activities both in and outside of school, your future goals, and any outstanding or unique information about yourself

Step 5: Finalize a **personal statement** (essay format) which describes who you are and what you believe, describes how you are unique beyond your academic abilities, and describes in detail what you have been involved in that is close to your heart.

Step 6: If you plan to attend any of the following universities, you will have to write **admissions essays**: Schreiner University, Texas A&M University, Texas State University, Texas Tech University, or University of Texas. Therefore, you need to **practice writing**

on the following topics: A) "Tell about someone who has made an impact on your life and explain how and why this person is important to you." B) "Choose an issue of importance to you—the issue could be personal, school related, local, political, or international in scope—and explain the significance of that issue to yourself, your family, your community, or your generation." C) "What additional information do you wish to be considered in the decision to admit you? For ex.: 1. exceptional hardship, setback or personal experience that has shaped your abilities or academic credentials 2. personal responsibilities 3. exceptional achievements or special talents 4. educational goals and choice of major 5. ways you contribute to the commitment that the university has made to create an institution with a diverse learning environment."

Step 7: Start and maintain a **college folder** which contains records of visits, information gathered, your community service documentation, a copy of your high school records containing your most recent grades and GPA (given out at registration meeting), copies of your resume, personal statement, admissions essays, copies of any scholarship applications submitted, and anything else related to the college admissions and scholarship process.



How Can I Get More Information About Universities?

Below is a **partial** list of some of the more popular college and university choices of former SHHS students and the contact information. If you are interested in a university not listed, you can search the web for information. Do research and/or make contact with the universities you are considering so that you can request information be sent to you as a prospective student. Even if your desired university is not listed below, you can search for it yourself on the web. Get started today!

University of Texas - Austin, Texas: Website = www.bealonghorn.utexas.edu. Houston office contact information: Admissions Counselor = Christina Blake, Houston Office Address = 700 Fannin, Suite 110, Open Mon-Fri 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Phone = 713-500-3517 Email = Christana.blake@austin.utexas.edu Type: Public

Texas A&M University - College Station, Texas: Website = www.tamu.edu (go to “prospective students”) Houston office contact information: Admissions Representative = Tom Carrizal Houston Office Address = 1225 North Loop West, Suite 200 Phone = 713-454-1990 Email = t-carrizal@tamu.edu Type: Public

University of Houston - Houston, Texas: Website = www.uh.edu (go to “prospective students”) Admissions Representative = Christian Backstrom Phone = 832-842-9037 Email = Christian@uh.edu Type: Public

Texas Tech University - Lubbock, Texas: Website = www.gototexastech.com or www.ttu.edu Houston office contact information: E-Mail houston.admissions@ttu.edu, Houston Office Address: 8588 Katy Fwy, Suite 350 Phone = 713-467-5100 Type: Public

Sam Houston State University - Huntsville, Texas: Website = www.shsu.edu (see “campus visits”) Admissions = 1-866-BEARKAT Phone = campus tours 936-294-1844 Email = admissions@shsu.edu Type: Public

Texas State University - San Marcos, Texas: Website = www.txstate.edu (see “prospective students”) Admissions = 512-245-2364/2340 Campus tours = 512-245-8871 Email = admissions@txstate.edu Type: Public

Stephen F. Austin State University - Nacogdoches, Texas: Website = www.sfasu.edu (see “future students”) Admissions and Campus tours = 936-468-2504 Email = admissions@sfasu.edu Type: Public

San Jacinto College District - Houston area: Website = www.sjcd.edu Phone = 281-998-6150 Addresses = Central campus - 8060 Spencer; North campus - 5800 Uvalde; South campus - 13735 Beamer Type: Junior College

Baylor University - Waco, Texas: Website = www.baylor.edu (see “campus visits”) Admissions Counselor for the Houston area = JT Snipes Phone = 1-800-BAYLOR-U option 1, 2 Email = JT_Snipes@baylor.edu Type: Private

Rice University - Houston, Texas: Website = www.rice.edu (see “visiting Rice”) Phone = 1-800-527-OWLS Email = admi@rice.edu Type: Private

University of St. Thomas - Houston, Texas: Website = www.stthom.edu (see “admission” or “visit”) Admissions Representative = Chrissy Figueroa Phone: 713-525-3500 Address: 3800 Montrose Blvd. Houston, Texas 77006-4626 Type: Private

Houston Baptist University - Houston, Texas: Website = www.hbu.edu (see “prospective students”) Phone: 281-649-3211 Address: 7502 Fondren Rd. Houston, Texas 77074 Admissions Counselor: Eduardo Borges EBorges@hbu.edu 281-649-3299 Type: Private

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, www.fastweb.com, www.collegenet.com, www.collegefortexans.com, www.adventuresineducation.org, www.finaid.com, and www.srnexpress.com.



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. 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. 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 or 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. 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 or in the counseling office.
6. Outstanding Students of America—This organization will offer a \$1,000 scholarship opportunity. Applicants must submit a biography and an essay. The essay must answer the question, "Why I feel I need/deserve this scholarship."

Scholarships Continued:

Applicants can go to www.outstandingstudentsofamerica.com for an application and more information or they may pick up a copy of the application in the counseling office. The postmark deadline is Oct. 10; therefore, completed applications and all attachments must be submitted to Ms. Alsdorf by Oct. 6th.

7. State Farm Scholar Athlete—This organization will award several \$1000 scholarships throughout the school year to seniors who maintain at least a 3.0 GPA and currently participate in at least one UIL Varsity High School sport. Students who believe they meet the criteria should see Mrs. Brogan in the counseling office by October 7th and tell her your name, id, and sport.
8. Education Matters \$5K Scholarship—One \$5000 scholarship will be awarded to the student who best responds (in 250 words or less) to the topic: “What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn’t matter, or that college is a waste of time and money?” To be eligible to apply, students must be residents of the U.S., be 13 years or older, and must complete a scholarship search profile online at www.scholarshipexperts.com. The deadline for students to apply online is October 31. Apply NOW at <http://www.scholarshipexperts.com/apply.htx>.
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>.



Opportunities:

1. Senior Parent Night—October 13th at SHHS in the Reinartz at 7:00 pm. Parents and seniors will receive information on applying to colleges, financial aid, senior activities, and more.
2. 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 32 sports sanctioned by the National Federation of State High Schools. Applications **MUST** be **completed online at 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; type in malsdorf@pasadenaisd.org for Ms. Alsdorf’s contact information. Winners will receive a certificate and a patch in recognition.
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. Duke University invites you and your parent to a Discover Duke presentation on Monday, October 13th, 7:00 p.m., at the Houston Marriott West Loop by the Galleria. To register, visit www.admissions.duke.edu.
5. 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 for details.
6. University of Texas in Austin— UT encourages all interested applicants to visit 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.
7. University of Houston admissions representative, Christian Backstrom, will be in the cafeteria during lunch on October 3rd. Stop by and visit with her if you are considering attending the University of Houston!