

February 2004

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## COLLEGE COUNSELING TIDBITS

It has been a busy fall for seniors and counselors completing and processing applications for admission and scholarships. Now we wait for the decisions. Please remember to let your counselor know when you hear from a school you have applied to no matter what the decision is. If you have been wait listed or deferred, please talk with your counselor so that they can help you determine if any additional materials need to be submitted. Also let us know about any scholarships you may have been rewarded whether you will be accepting them or not. It is helpful if you bring your award letter for your counselor to read.

Remember to complete your FAFSA form as soon as possible and be aware of the deadlines required by the particular schools for completion of the financial aid applications.

Randolph Macon Woman's College is still accepting applications and still has a limited amount of scholarship money available. If you are interested in applying, they will waive your application fee.

Savannah College of Art and Design is also still accepting applications for the fall semester. An application is available in the college counseling office or online at [www.scad.edu](http://www.scad.edu).

### SPRING PLANNER FOR SENIORS

#### February

- Submit your FAFSA if you have not already done so. You can receive a response quicker by submitting it electronically.
- Make sure you've requested and received the necessary forms for housing, health insurance, financial aid, etc.
- Advise your prospective college of any change in contact information

#### March

- Review the SAR (Student Aid Report) to make sure the information is correct. You should receive it four to six weeks after you submit your paper FAFSA. If you submit your FAFSA electronically, you will receive your SAR sooner.(1-2 weeks). If you don't receive it, call the federal processor at 800-433-3243.
- Keep your counselor informed of any decisions and awards.

#### April

- Check your mail for admissions letters and financial aid awards.
- Compare your admissions and aid offers. Ask your counselor and parents to help you weigh your options.
- Contact the financial aid office if you have any special financial circumstances.
- Plan your summer employment, internship or volunteer efforts.
- Select your college. Most schools ask that you choose your school by **May 1**.

#### May

- Be sure you have mailed the necessary forms by May 1.
- Relax - you know where you will be next year

# SCHOLARSHIPS

Deadline	Scholarship Description
February 23	<b>USA TODAY All-USA High School Academic Team</b> – USA Today in cooperation with National Association of Secondary School Principals and the National Education Association is again searching for 20 of the best and brightest high school students to recognize as representatives for all outstanding high school students. Each of the 20 winners will receive a <b>\$2,500</b> cash award. Nomination applications must include a 500 word essay. Judges consider grades, honors, leadership and how nominees apply their intellectual skills beyond the classroom. If you are interested in being nominated, see your counselor by <b>Friday, February 20</b> .
February 28	<b>Cary Kiwanis Club Scholarship</b> – Cary Kiwanis Club is offering scholarships to graduating high school seniors that reside in the Cary-Apex area. Besides the residence requirement, awards will be made based upon the candidate's adherence to the objects of Kiwanis International. Applications are available in college counseling.
March 1	<b>The National Press Club Scholarship for Minorities in Journalism</b> – The national Press club wants to recruit minorities to the profession. The scholarship provides winners with a \$5,000 a year stipend for four years to a minority interested in pursuing a career in print or broadcast journalism. Applicants must have a GPA of 2.75 or better and must be preparing to enter college during the upcoming year. Applications and requirements are available in college counseling.
March 15	<b>Golden LEAF Scholars Program</b> – The University of North Carolina has received a grant from the Golden LEAF Foundation to fund a scholarship program for students who will attend any of the 16 campuses of the University of North Carolina during the 2004-05 academic year. Seventy-five scholarships valued at \$2,500 each are reserved for current high school seniors who will attend one of the universities. Candidates with strong academic records and demonstrated financial need who reside in any of 64 eligible counties (Wake included) identified as the top tobacco-dependent counties are encouraged to consider this opportunity. Applications and detailed program information are available on the Internet at <a href="http://www.ncseaa.edu/gl.htm">www.ncseaa.edu/gl.htm</a> .
March 31	<b>NFIB Free Enterprise Scholars Award</b> - The National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), the nation's largest small business advocacy organization, created the NFIB Education Foundation to promote the importance of free enterprise and small business. As a result, the Education Foundation created the NFIB Free Enterprise Scholars Award to identify and recognize young people who have demonstrated entrepreneurial spirit/initiative. The program will award at least 100 students nationwide with a \$1,000 scholarship. Applicants must be nominated by a dues paying member of NFIB. Applicants should demonstrate entrepreneurial spirit and initiative, such as starting his or her own business, participation in organizations such as DECA, Junior Achievement and the National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Students will be evaluated on academic record, extracurricular activities, leadership activities and character. Online applications may be downloaded from <a href="http://www.nfib.com/education">www.nfib.com/education</a> .
April 2	<b>Brentwood Extension &amp; Community Association</b> - The Brentwood Extension & Community Association will present a \$500 scholarship to a graduating high school senior or an individual continuing his/her education beyond the high school level. Applicants must have a 2.5 or better GPA. Special consideration will be given to applicants seeking careers in home economics or related fields. Application and complete list of criteria are available in college counseling.  <b>The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation</b> – is looking for students who qualify for Academic Year 2004-2005 scholarships. You can qualify if you are the son or daughter of a Marine on active duty or in the Reserve, the son or daughter of a former Marine or Marine Reservist who has received an Honorable Discharge, Medical Discharge, or who was killed while in the service of our country, the son or daughter of an active duty, reserve, or former U. S. Navy Corpsman who is serving or has served, with the U. S. Marine Corps. Application forms are available for downloading at <a href="http://www.marine-scholars.org">www.marine-scholars.org</a> .  <b>Winston-Salem State University</b> – The Raleigh-Wake Alumni Chapter of Winston-Salem State University is providing a \$1,000 scholarship to a high school senior who has been accepted and plans to attend Winston-Salem State University in August 2004. Application available in College Counseling.

## **FAFSA GUIDE**

FAFSA = Free Application for Federal Student Aid. It's the form the federal government uses to determine your eligibility for aid, which can include: scholarships, grants, work-study and loans.

### **Where can you get it?**

Complete the FAFSA on the Web at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).  
Call 800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)

### **The Process:**

Filling out the FAFSA will determine your Expected Family Contribution (ETC), or the amount of money your family can be expected to contribute to your college costs each year.

Your school will then try to meet your needs through a financial aid award made up of grants, student employment and loans, which can come from federal, state, school and private sources.

### **Common FAFSA Errors: Do's and Don'ts**

**Do** remember to file on time. Students who file as soon as possible after January 1 many times are given priority if funds are scarce.

**Do** take the time to read the instructions and answer questions carefully.

**Do** sign the application. If you are filing as a dependent student, make sure parents sign too.

**Do** use the 1040 Federal tax return (2003 version) for reporting income and taxes paid, not the W-2. If this is not available, estimate your income for 2003 using paycheck stubs and asset information.

**Do** include yourself in your parent's household size.

**Don't** leave a field blank. Use a zero if the question does not apply to you.

**Don't** forget to report ALL required sources of untaxed income: e.g. Social Security or child support.

When you receive your SAR, if an asterisk appears next to your EFC, your SAR has been selected for verification (about 1 in 3 SARs are selected). Your college has to verify your financial status. If asked, submit the information requested to your prospective college's financial aid office ASAP, or your aid may be delayed.

(FAFSA information provided by FastWeb)

### **Information websites**

FAFSA on the Web: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)  
Healthcare management as a career? Visit [www.HealthManagementCareers.com](http://www.HealthManagementCareers.com)

### **College Open Houses**

Mars Hill College – April 17  
Western Carolina – March 19, April 17