

October 2004

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It has been a busy time in college counseling. We have had 42 colleges visiting our campus since the end of August with 8 more scheduled. More and more students are bringing in their applications to meet the November 1 deadline. A few students have already received acceptances while others are just deciding on the colleges where they wish to apply. **AND** there are a few of you who have not been in to talk with your counselor yet. Please come see us this week so that we can help you plan.

We encourage you to check the website often for updates and useful information. We will post the newsletter and scholarship notices there. Also available on the website is the list of upcoming events.

REMINDER – Your test scores must be sent directly from College Board to the school where you are applying.

COLLEGE TIDBITS

Washington & Lee University now offers both Early Decision I and Dearly Decision II options. ED I deadline is November 15 for a notification date of December 22. ED II deadline is January 3 with a notification date of February 1.

UNC – Pembroke announces a four year nursing program. Southeastern Regional Medical Center in Lumberton will partner with the University to provide the clinical side of the program.

East Carolina University offers several programs where exceptional students can receive degrees in a shorter time.

Degree in Three – ECU offers accelerated tracks in more than fifty majors that allow students to earn their undergraduate degrees in 3 years. These tracks are for those who have demonstrated a high level of academic achievement in high school and who will commit to maintaining that level of excellence at ECU.

MD in 7 – There are a limited number of white coats reserved exclusively for MD in 7 students in each incoming class of the Brody School of Medicine. Enrolling in the highly competitive MD in 7 program allows students in certain majors to apply to the Brody School of Medicine at the end of their sophomore year. If accepted, they'll begin medical school after their junior year and be awarded their bachelor's degree after successfully completing their first year of medical school.

JD in 6 – The JD in 6 allows participants to finish their undergraduate degree in 3 years and gain early admission into one of ECU's partner law schools.

DDS in 7 – ECU's partnership with the Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry gives students the opportunity to complete their bachelor's and doctor of dental surgery degrees in seven years.

Integrated Bachelor's/Master's Program - Allows students to be admitted to a graduate program earlier in their undergraduate studies. Graduate level course work is taken during the senior year and counts twice, first as credit toward the graduate degree and then as the undergraduate course work need to complete the bachelor's degree.

FEATURED COLLEGE

Harvey Mudd College is one of the Claremont Colleges, a cluster of five small liberal arts colleges and two graduate schools nestled in a suburban valley about 35 miles east of Los Angeles. If you really like math and science, then Harvey Mudd may be just the place for you. It offers students a rigorous and self-motivated education with top-quality academics and outstanding professors in a slightly unusual environment. Harvey Mudd offers only six majors: physics, chemistry, biology, math, computer science and engineering. However, students are offered the option of a double major and an "off-campus major" meaning students may complete requirements for a major at one of the other Claremont colleges while still graduating with a degree from Harvey Mudd. With the academically diverse mix of the Claremont system, students can major in subjects ranging from music to Chinese, while still benefiting from their own math/science-rich environment. The enrollment is around 700 and the number of applications received is around 1700. They admit approximately 37% of those who apply. To learn more about the unique experience Harvey Mudd offers, come visit with the admissions representative on November 2.

TESTING ADVICE

So many questions have arisen about the new SAT we are giving you the most frequently asked questions.

FAQs

Q: Will I be taking the new SAT?

The test begins with the class of 2006, so it will be given starting in March 2005.

Q: If I'm in the class of 2006, should I rush to take the SAT before it is changed?

No. The College Board doesn't recommend that students take the SAT before they are ready. Most students wait until spring of their junior year to take the SAT because they want to have covered as much English and math course work as possible.

Q: If I already took the old SAT, should I take the new one too?

You should check with each college to which you are applying. Some colleges might accept scores from either the current or new SAT for students entering college in 2006. However, many colleges will require the new SAT with writing for students graduating from high school in 2006.

Q: What will the new SAT cost? What about fee waivers?

With the administration of the new SAT, the fee will be \$41.50. Continuing our current policy, students who cannot afford test fees can apply for fee waivers to cover test fees.

Q: Will the new SAT be harder?

The new SAT will be different, not necessarily harder. A few math questions on the new SAT will cover some topics from Algebra II. However, the test will still measure reasoning ability and problem-solving skills gained through activities and learning in and out of school. The critical reading section may actually seem easier than the current verbal section to students who don't like analogies. With the addition of the writing section, students will have the opportunity to demonstrate how they have learned to organize and express their thoughts.

Q: Will the test be longer?

The total testing time for the new SAT will be 3 hours and 45 minutes.

Q: What will the new SAT scores look like?

The new SAT will have three scores, each on the familiar scale of 200-800. Your score will include writing (W 200-800), mathematics (M 200-800), and critical reading (CR 200-800).

Your math and reading scores can be compared to the existing math and verbal scores. This is something colleges need for consistency in admissions requirements. However, the SAT writing score is completely new.

Q: Can I find out more detailed information about my results?

A: Yes. For certain test dates, the Question-and-Answer Service (QAS) is available for a fee. You can see the actual questions and correct answers, as well as whether you answered correctly, incorrectly, or omitted the question. QAS includes information on question types and levels of difficulty. You will also have access to a copy of your essay.

For all other test dates, Student Answer Service (SAS) is available. SAS does not provide the actual questions, but it does send you a list of question types and difficulty levels, along with a description of how you answered the questions. You will also have access to a copy of your essay. Check registration materials or collegeboard.com to determine whether your test date is eligible for QAS or SAS.

Q: What will I be asked to write about in the essay?

The essay question will ask you to take a position on an issue and support it persuasively with examples from your studies and experience. It will be an open-ended question so you can answer it successfully in many different ways. You won't have to have any prior knowledge about the topic to write an effective essay.

Q: Will colleges see my essay? How will they use the new writing score?

A college will be able to view and print your essay only if you send that college your test scores.

Different colleges will use your writing score in different ways. Writing scores may be used for admissions decisions and possibly for placement in English Composition courses. However, for the first few years, some schools may choose to use writing scores for research purposes only, and not for decisions about admission or placement.

Q: What about students with disabilities?

College Board's policies for students with disabilities are not changing, and still apply to the new SAT. Students with disabilities, whose documentation has been validated by the College Board, will be provided testing accommodations. Students with disabilities that preclude them from writing legibly will be given the same accommodations they would presently receive for taking the SAT II: Writing Test. [Learn more about Services for Students with Disabilities](#)

Q: Will the PSAT/NMSQT change too?

Yes. Beginning in the fall of 2004, the PSAT/NMSQT, which is typically taken by sophomores and juniors, will include changes along the lines of those on the new SAT. The multiple-choice questions will be similar to those on the new SAT. However, the PSAT/NMSQT will not include an essay. All schools have been sent *A Guide to the New SAT*, which includes ScoreWrite™, a comprehensive essay practice tool for all students.

The content of the new math section of the PSAT/NMSQT will be enhanced, but not to the same extent as the SAT. For example, Algebra II will not be included.

Your PSAT/NMSQT Score Report *Plus* will be sent to your school and will provide personalized feedback on your academic skills. Score Report *Plus* will help you identify strengths and possible weak areas that you may want to work on in preparation for the new SAT and college. When you receive your Score Report *Plus* in December 2004, you will also receive a set of practice questions, with answers and explanations.

Q: Will the SAT II: Writing Test still be offered after the new SAT is introduced?

When the new SAT is introduced in March 2005, it will include a writing section with content similar to the SAT II: Writing Test. For this reason, the SAT II: Writing Test will no longer be offered after January 22, 2005.

To determine which SAT II: Subject Tests you should take for college admissions, talk to your counselor and check with the college admissions offices.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AXA Achievement Scholarship - To qualify students should be well-rounded, determined to do their personal best and have demonstrated achievement – at a job, sport or extracurricular activity. Awards are \$10,000 and \$15,000. To learn more visit www.axa-achievement.com. Deadline is **December 15**.

Coca-Cola Scholars Program – Seniors who are US citizens, planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post secondary institution and who have a minimum 3.00 GPA may be eligible to compete for the Coca Cola Scholarship. Applicants are evaluated on the following: demonstrated leadership, commitment to community, academic achievement, and employment. All requirements as well as the application are located at www.coca-colascholars.org. If you have questions about completing the application (which must be done online), please see Mrs. Atkinson. The deadline for application is **October 31**.

East Carolina Merit Scholarships – Candidates for academic merit scholarships should have a cumulative GPA of a least 3.5 and SAST scores above 1300 plus rank in the upper 5 percent of their class. In addition, a record of extracurricular activities demonstrating a breadth of interests and leadership capabilities is required. **EC Scholars Program** is a four year program offering academic, service, leadership, and cultural opportunities designed to enhance the university experience for selected students. In addition to the scholarship award, additional funds are available for EC Scholars to study abroad (\$40,000). **Early Assurance for the Brody School of Medicine** – The Brody School of Medicine at ECU offers assured admission to four merit scholarship winners who have expressed an interest in attending medical school upon graduation from ECU. In addition to participating in the EC Scholars Program, these students will be mentored by medical school faculty throughout their undergraduate education. Early Assurance Scholars who meet the required academic standards will be admitted to the Brody School of Medicine during their senior undergraduate year (\$40,000). Deadline for application is **January 1**. Applications available in CC.

Furman University Wylie Scholarship in Mathematics - Awarded annually to students with outstanding mathematical ability and a serious interest in pursuing the study of mathematics. To be eligible students must have a combined SAT score of at least 1350 or an ACT score of at least 31, outstanding mathematical ability and good character. To apply contact the Office of Admissions and request an application. Deadline is **January 15**.

Gates Millennium Scholarship - Students are eligible to be considered if they are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American; are citizens or legal permanent resident or national of the United States; have attained a cumulative GPA of .3 on a 4.0 scale; have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities, and meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. Nomination forms are available at www.gmsp.org. The deadline is **January 14**.

Ithaca College's Park Scholarship – Are you passionate about the field of communications?...an excellent student with a stellar academic record?...serious about community service?...eager to join an elite group of thinkers and doers who work just as hard out of the classroom as inside it?...all of the above? Then you should consider applying for a prestigious Park Scholar Award at Ithaca College's Roy H. Park School of Communications. You must apply to Ithaca College by **December 15** and complete the scholarship application by **January 15**. Additional information available in college counseling.

Ithaca College's Martin Luther King, Jr. Scholar Program - Open to academically exceptional students from traditionally under-represented populations who have demonstrated strong character and leadership through service and community involvement. Application for admission to Ithaca College must be submitted by **December 15** and the MLK Scholar Program materials must be submitted by **January 15**. These include: an essay responding to Martin Luther King Jr.'s 1963 letter from the Birmingham city jail, a letter of recommendation from an individual who can speak knowledgeably about the student's intellectual curiosity, commitment to community service, and embodiment of Martin Luther King Jr.'s ideals. Application and brochure available in CC.

North Carolina State University General Hugh Shelton National Student Leadership Scholarship - Criteria for this scholarship are: **Leadership Experience and Potential** –Applicants should have a history of participation/involvement in school or community activities and a goal of personal growth particularly in the area of leadership development. Applicants must demonstrate the ability to understand and apply concepts of values-based leadership and selfless service, to be willing to critically examine their own lives and the situations in which they are involved. **Evidence of Personal Character and Integrity** – Applicants should demonstrate characteristics of high personal character, perhaps using this strength of character to be resilient in the face of extenuating family circumstance, or in overcoming significant obstacles. **Orientation toward Community and Service** – Applicants should have an awareness of themselves as members of broader communities that they both depend on and help to shape. Applicants should exhibit an active commitment to responsible stewardship and a desire to help address community issues through participation and service. **Commitment to Personal Growth** – Applicants must have a desire to actively participate in developing themselves as leaders by seeking out new experiences, gaining new skills, and making a commitment to ongoing self discovery and personal development. **Understanding of and Interests in the Program/Commitment to Maximizing the Program’s Opportunities** – Applicants should be aware of how they might benefit from participation in this leadership development concept, contribute to the Shelton Leadership Initiative and University Caldwell Programs learning community, and contribute to the university and broader community. Application and more information is available at <http://www.ncsu.edu/extension/sheltonleadership/nationalleadershipsscholarship.htm>. Deadline for materials to be in the Leadership Initiative office is **November 5**.

North Carolina Teaching Fellows - Teaching Fellows award recipients receive a state grant of \$6,500 per year for four years paid to the college. Teaching Fellows winners who accept the award must agree to teach in North Carolina for four years. For more information see www.teachingfellows.org. Please submit applications to Mrs. Atkinson by **October 22**.

The Robertson Scholarship (UNC and Duke) - All students who apply to Duke or to UNC are considered for this scholarship; however, interested students can also submit a Supplemental Materials Form which allows the student to further describe their interests and passions, and to provide a recommendation from a person who can attest to their non-academic strengths. Students applying for the program are considered on the basis of six criteria: behavior that is grounded in strong ethical principles, superior academic achievement and intellectual curiosity, strong leadership potential, active commitment to helping others and to community service, courage, and collaborative spirit. Deadline is **December 1**.

Scholarship For Service – Is a unique program designed to increase and strengthen the cadre of federal information assurance professionals that protect the government’s critical information infrastructure. This program provides scholarships that fully fund the typical costs of books, tuition, and room and board while attending an approved institution of higher learning. While still in school, students funded for more than a year will also serve a paid internship at a Federal agency. In exchange for the scholarship students agree to work for the Federal Government for a period equivalent to the length of the scholarship or one year, whichever is longer. To inquire about entering the SFS program at a participating institution contact the Principal Investigator at the university/college you would like to attend. More information is available at www.sps.opm.gov.

School of Visual Arts Silas H. Rhodes Scholarships – Scholarship decisions are based on a review of the applicant’s creative and academic accomplishments. To qualify, all admission and scholarship materials must be submitted by February 1. For more information you may email admissions@sva.edu or visit the website at www.schoolofvisualarts.edu.

The Thomas Wolfe Scholarship – UNC Chapel Hill – A wonderful opportunity for good writers who hope to attend UNC. Application is available at <http://english.unc.edu/creative/tws>. Deadline for submission is **November 1**.

Toyota Community Scholars Program – is seeking a candidate who has an outstanding academic record (GPA of 3.0 or better), is an effective leader, and has a well-documented record of service both within and outside the school setting (actively involved in a service organization or project that has a positive impact on the school and/or community. RCHS may nominate one student for this scholarship so if you think you qualify and would like to be considered, please see Mrs. Atkinson by **November 8**. Awards are \$10,000 and \$20,000 over four years. Children or grandchildren of Toyota Motor Sales, U.S.A., Inc. employees or other U.S. Toyota subsidiaries, and Toyota and Lexus dealer principals are not eligible.

University of North Carolina - Most scholarships at UNC do not require a separate application. However, the Pogue scholarship does. You may visit www.studentaid.unc.edu for up to date information on unique scholarship opportunities and application forms and more information about the qualifications for the Pogue Scholarship.

University of Chicago Merit Scholarships – The University of Chicago offers partial tuition University Scholarship awards that are renewable for four years. For more information go to www.collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu.

University of Maryland Baltimore County – The Humanities Scholars Program seeks talented students who intend to pursue degrees in English, history, philosophy, ancient studies, classical or modern languages, linguistics, or American or Africana studies. Program benefits include funding for a study abroad experience in the junior year. **The Linehan Artist Scholars Program** brings together talented students from the visual and performing arts disciplines: theatre, music, dance, and visual arts. Program benefits include special events drawing on the wealth of cultural and artistic resources that extend from Washington to New York. **The Sondheim Public Affairs Scholars Program** supports students who are interested in developing a fundamental understanding of public policy and pursuing careers in public policy, government service, or the non-profit sector. Program benefits include a faculty-directed internship in the junior year designed to explore the impact of policy related to the scholar's academic work and intended career field. **The CWIT Scholars Program (Center for Women in Information Technology)** supports high-achieving undergraduates, both men and women, who plan to major in computer science, computer engineering, information systems, or another IT-related field. Program benefits include a mentoring program connecting scholars and IT professionals. All four scholarship programs offer four-year awards at two levels. Selected full scholars will receive a fixed-dollar four year award covering incoming tuition, mandatory fees, and room and board. Selected finalists will receive \$7,500 (out of state) per year. Applications are available at www.umbc.edu.

Wingate University Scholarships – The Irwin Belk Scholarship – up to \$10,000 per year based on academic achievement, course rigor, class standing, GPA, and SAT/ACT scores. General expectations are SAT 1300, GPA 3.8 and class rank in top 10%. **Trustee Scholarships** are available to entering freshmen. The minimum stipend is \$5000 per year. Awards are based on academic achievement, class standing, GPA, and SAT/ACT scores. **Athletic Scholarships** are awarded in all men's and women's intercollegiate sports. Interested athletes should contact the appropriate coach for information. **Music Scholarships** are based on performance auditions, and awarded annually to students who are selected to major in music. www.wingate.edu/academics/msic. **Engagement/Involvement Scholarships** are for students who have participated in extracurricular, athletic, and community activities. To qualify, students will be expected to use these experiences to positively contribute to the Wingate community. **Church-related scholarships** are also awarded to qualifying students. Scholarships are awarded based on merit, talent, achievement, and/or potential. No separate application is necessary.

CONTESTS

Holocaust Remembrance Project – Is a national essay contest for high school students that is designed to encourage and promote the study of the Holocaust. Students responding to this year's writing contest should study the Holocaust and the, in an essay of no more than 1,200 words: (a) analyze why it is so vital that the remembrance, history and lessons of the Holocaust be passed to a new generation; and (b) suggest what they, as students, can do to combat and prevent prejudice, discrimination and violence in our world today. The 10 First –Place Winning Essays will receive scholarships ranging from \$1,000 to \$5,000. For more information visit <http://holocaust.hklaw.com>. Deadline is **April 15**.

John F. Kennedy Profile in Courage Essay Contest – In less than 1,000 words, write an essay that is original, creative and demonstrates an understanding of political courage as described by John F. Kennedy in *Profiles in Courage*. Use a variety of sources such as newspapers articles, books, and/or personal interviews to address one of the following two topics: A current elected public official in the United States who is acting courageously to address a political issue at the local, state, national, or international level OR An elected public official in the United States since 1956 who has acted courageously to address a political issue at the local, state, national, or international level. Winning essayist will receive awards totaling \$6,500 and the deadline for submission is January 8. For details visit www.jfkcontest.org.

Next Step Magazine Super Teens Contest – Would you like to be featured on the cover of and inside The Next Step Magazine's March 2005 issue? Each year the magazine recognizes high school students who volunteer, get stellar grades, participate in their high schools and communities and are otherwise super. Application available in CC.

Students Helping Students – Students all across the country do amazing things every day to improve their communities, help those who are less fortunate, and inspire people around them. If you are one of the, write an essay in approximately 500 words or less telling what you do or have done to make a difference in you community, your family, your school, or the world. The winner will get \$500 for college. To enter or for more details go to www.studentshelpingstudents.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of Democracy Competition – Prizes and scholarships are awarded at the local, district, state and national level. The contest is open to students in grades 9-12. You should record your original 3-5 minute essay on a standard cassette tape or CD. A brochure with more details is available in CC or you may visit www.vfw.org under Programs. All entries competing at the Post level must be in the hand of that VFDW Post by midnight, **November 1**.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGES

Autumn Visits to Colleges

Mount Holyoke College

Shadow Day	November 8
Focus on the Arts	November 1
Focus on Diversity	November 7
Focus on Science and Math	November 15
Focus on Riding	November 18
Autumn Visit Day	November 6

Randolph Macon Woman's College

Open Houses

October 30

October 30

October 30, November 11 &

December 4

November 5

November 8

November 8

November 13

November 15

November 20

Furman University – register online at <http://www.engagefurman.com/visit/fallforfurmanreg.htm>

Corcoran College of Art + Design College Preview Day 11:00 am

Register by October 27 at 1-888-CORCORAN

Western Carolina Open House – Register online at www.poweryourmind.com

Drew University Science Day – Register online at www.depts.drew.edu/ciaadmis/openhouses

Goucher College – “Explore Goucher” visit website to make reservation www.goucher.edu

Wellesley College 10:00 Am – 4:30 PM Register at www.wellesley.edu/admission/fall2004

UNC Asheville - www.unca.edu

Sweet Briar College – 9:00 am – Register by November 8 at www.admissions.sbc.edu

Drew University “Inside Drew” – Register online at www.depts.drew.edu/calaadmis/openhouses

Information Sessions

Medicine – Can It Be Your Future? Wake Med Presents High School Health Careers Expo
Wednesday, November 3, 2004 – 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Admission Receptions

October 27

Washington & Lee University, Marriott Hotel – Crabtree Valley

October 28

Princeton University – Marriott Hotel - Crabtree Valley 7:00 – 9:00 pm

College Visits to RCHS

October 28

Washington & Lee

Beloit

November 2

Amherst

Harvey Mudd

November 3

Xavier

University of Richmond

November 9

Antioch

November 10

Smith

College Fairs

Various Dates

NACAC's 2004 Performing & Visual Arts College Fair (Poster giving dates and locations is posted on the college counseling poster wall.)