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It has been a busy and exciting fall as applications are processed and notifications are arriving from colleges. Don't forget to keep your college counselor advised of any decisions you may have received from your colleges of any scholarships you have been awarded.

COLLEGE TIDBITS

George Washington University has announced a new academic program – a Six-Year B.A./J.D. Program. This program allows exceptionally qualified students to complete both a bachelor's degree in the Columbian College and a Juris Doctorate at the Law School in six (rather than seven) years. Admissions to the Law School is guaranteed provided the student attains a cumulative GPA of 3.7 or higher for the first three years of undergraduate study and meets the disciplinary and integrity standards required of all students admitted to the Law School. The LSAT is not required. IF you have applied to George Washington and wish to pursue this route, an application to the program must be completed by February 1.

FINANCIAL AID NEWS – College Foundation of North Carolina and the North Carolina Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators are pleased to sponsor the fourth FAFSA Day to help students and parents complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) forms for the 2005-2006 academic year. Students and their families will meet with the college and university financial aid officers who will assist them in the completion of the FAFSA at **Peace College** (our local site) on **February 19, 2005 from 9 am until noon**.

Ten Warning Signs of Scholarship Scams

1. **Fees:** You shouldn't have to pay to search for or apply for scholarships. Check out the free scholarship search at www.fastweb.com.
2. **Credit card or bank account information needed:** You should never have to give credit card or bank account information to award providers.
3. **Scholarship guarantee:** No one can guarantee that you'll win a scholarship because no one can control scholarship judges' decisions. Also, be wary of "high success rates" – they usually do not refer to actual award winners.
4. **No work involved:** You can't avoid putting in time to fill out a scholarship application.
5. **No contact information:** Legitimate sponsors should provide contact information upon request. If the sponsor does not supply a valid e-mail address, phone number and mailing address (not a PO box) upon request, that could be a sign of a scam.
6. **Unsolicited scholarships:** If you are called to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert – it's most likely a scam.
7. **Pressure tactics:** Don't allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking for money up front.
8. **Claims of "exclusive" scholarships:** Sponsors don't make their scholarships available through only one service.
9. **Sponsor goes out of their way to sound "official":** Scammers sometimes use official-sounding words like "national", "education" or "federal" or they display an official-looking seal to fool you into thinking they are legit. Check with your counselor if you question a scholarship provider's legitimacy.
10. **Your questions aren't answered directly:** If you can't get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application, what will be done with your information or other questions, proceed with caution.

Financial Aid Seminars and Consultants: Paying for Help

Is the seminar a scam? Here are some warning signs.

- You receive an unsolicited letter to lure you in.
- After a free presentation, the presenters use high pressure tactics to try to get you signed up for their service.
- They raise the price if you don't sign up immediately. Any legitimate services will have a set price.
- You are encouraged to commit fraud, entering inaccurate income and/or assets to make it seem like you earn less money, thereby qualifying for more aid.
- Paid aid consultants are required to sign the FAFSA; if the consultant refuses to sign, that could be the sign of a scam.
- You are asked for a credit card number to "hold" the scholarships for you.
- Specific questions can be answered only after you have paid the fee.

SCHOLARSHIPS

British American College London - A poster announcing the scholarships and amounts is available in College Counseling.

Elon University Leon Lorraine Watson North Carolina Scholarship – For North Carolina residents who demonstrate high financial need and have a strong record of academic achievement. Applications available in college counseling. Deadline is **February 1, 2005**.

Jagannathan Scholarship - Awarded to a graduating senior who plans to attend a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina. Recipients are chosen on the basis of (1) outstanding academic achievement, as indicated by an excellent scholastic record, (2) financial need, (3) diverse extracurricular activities, and (4) evidence of strong leadership roles. Companies may nominate and our high school may nominate one qualified applicant. Nominees must be North Carolina residents and must have demonstrated financial need and an excellent scholastic record (the average unweighted GPA of recipients last year was 3.8) Applicants must register for the CSS Financial Aid Profile. The Profile must be filed by **February 7, 2005**. Completed packages must be mailed by **February 17, 2005**. If you are interested in being considered and meet the qualifications, please see your counselor as soon as possible.

Kiwanis Club of Cary Scholarship - Graduating seniors who live in the Cary-Apex area (student's family pays Cary taxes or they attend Apex High School) are eligible to apply. An applicant does not have to be applying to a four year institution but may wish to pursue a technical career or trade career. Awards will be made based upon the candidate's adherence to the objectives of Kiwanis International. These objects are as follows: 1. To give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than the material values of life 2. To encourage the daily living of the Golden Rule in all human relationships. 3. To promote the adoption and the application of higher social, business and professional standards. 4. To develop by precept and examples a more intelligent, agreeable and serviceable citizenship. 5. To provide a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service, and to build better communities. 6. To cooperate in creating and maintaining sound public opinion and high ideals that made possible the increase in righteousness, justice, patriotism and goodwill. Application available in College Counseling. Deadline is **February 28**.

Merit Co-op Scholarship – Students interested in applying for a merit co-op scholarship should contact the national Commission for Cooperative Education (ncce@neu.edu or 617-373-3770) or visit the website at 222.co-op.edu for an application. To qualify for a scholarship, students must complete all the required admissions material and be accepted for the 2005-2006 academic year at one or more of the NCCCE Partner Colleges 7 Universities. Criteria are: High school GPA of 3.5 or better, complete the scholarship application including a typed one page essay describing why you have chosen to pursue a college cooperative education program, Colleges participating in this year's program are Antioch College, Drexel University, Johnson & Wales University, Kettering University, C. W. Post Campus of Long Island University, Northeastern University, Pace University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Waterloo. Deadline is **February 15, 2005**.

Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation – You can qualify for this award 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 and your 2004 family income is \$61,000 or less. Application forms are available for downloading from www.marine-scholars.org. For further information call 800-292-7777. Deadline for submission is **April 1, 2005**.

National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Free Enterprise Scholars Award - A \$1,000 award will be given to a minimum of 300 students nationwide and one student will be selected as the Youth Entrepreneur of the Year and receive a \$10,000 scholarship. To be eligible a student must be entering their freshman year at an accredited two or four year university, college, or vocational institute. Applicants must be nominated by a dues paying member of NFIB and must meet or exceed recommend academic standards, using standardized test scores, class rank and GPA as indicators provided in high school records. Award recipients are selected by an independent scholarship organization. Applications may be downloaded from www.HFIB.com/education. Remember to print the record request form that must be signed by your counselor. Additional information is available on www.NFIB.com/education or you may contact Chantel Bartlett with the Young Entrepreneur Foundation at Chantel.Bartlett@nfib.org or 1-800-552-5342. Deadline is **March 15, 2005**.

North Carolina State University Chancellor's Leadership Award - This award recognizes and rewards incoming freshmen that demonstrate leadership, talent, academic excellence and financial need. Innovative high school student leaders who exhibit community service, cultural awareness, commitment to diversity, academic achievement and each of the following are eligible: **Leadership**: Some examples may include: first generation college student, sports leadership, student government, worship service leader, leadership promoting diversity and positive human interaction, volunteering or mentoring. **Scholarship**: Students who demonstrate overall academic excellence while in many instances, overcoming social and economic challenges. **Financial Need**: Students must be eligible for need-based financial aid as determined by the FAFSA. Interested students can complete the application online at: www.ncsu.edu/cla. Students must also complete the FAFSA. Deadline is **March 1, 2005**.

Sam Walton Community Scholarship - Applications available at www.walmartfoundation.org. You must have your nearest Wal-Mart/Sam's Club four digit location number. Deadline is **February 1, 2005**.

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.

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 the 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**.

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

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGES

Open Houses

February 5, March 5, & April 9

Savannah College of Art & Design (to register go to www.scad.edu/visit)

April 30, 2005

Goucher College