

January 2008

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It's the time of year when students are excited as college admission decisions start to arrive. It is also the time of year when parents begin to wonder how they are going to pay for the college their student has chosen and struggling with how they are going to complete the FAFSA. Encourage your parents to attend the financial aid session college counseling is presenting on January 15 at 7:00 PM. We will have an expert in the field talk your parents through the FAFSA.

Paper FAFSAs will be available by calling 1-800-433-3243 or downloading from www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

At the bottom of the newsletter is an article from FastWeb entitled *FAFSA: Step by Step*.

Financial Aid Information from UNC-Chapel Hill:

To be considered for the most optimal need-based financial aid package, students must submit the CSS Profile and FAFSA forms (available online) by March 1.

With the exception of the Pogue Scholarship, none of their merit based scholarships requires a separate application beyond the application for admission.

Students should consult the website(ww.studentaid.unc.edu) for up to date information on cost of attendance, unique scholarship opportunities, printable brochures, and application forms for the Pogue Scholarship. Early Notification applicants will be contacted in early to mid-January if they have been selected as candidates for merit-based scholarships. Deadline 2 applicants will be notified in early to mid-March of their candidacy for these awards.

SCHOLARSHIPS

AXA Achievement Community Scholarship – Winners must demonstrate ambition and drive, determination to set and reach goals, respect for self, family and community and ability to succeed in college. Applications are available to download at www.axa-achievement.com. **Deadline is February 15.**

Capital Area USBC Association Scholarship - Applicant must be a graduating senior in high school and a member of the Capital Area USBC in good standing and must currently be active in a youth league or whose parent or legal guardian are members of the Capital Area USBC Association in good standing or a child of a member of the Raleigh USBC Bowling Association and/or the Capital Area USBC Women's Bowling Association deceased within one year of the date of application, overall grade point average must be at least 2.5 or higher and must have an amateur standing in all athletics. Deadline for application is **April 4, 2008**. Application available in college counseling.

Elon University Leon and Lorraine Watson North Carolina Scholarship - To qualify students must be a North Carolina resident who has attended and will graduate from a North Carolina High School, demonstrate high financial need (with preference to Pell eligible students), have a strong record of academic achievement. Application available in college counseling and the deadline is **February 5**.

Elon University The Honorable Thad Eure North Carolina Achievement Scholarship –

Students must reside in Wake (and others) county and graduate from a North Carolina high school, demonstrate significant financial need, have a strong record of academic achievement and leadership through school, church or community organizations. Deadline is **February 8**.

Furman University Wylie Scholarships are awarded by the department of mathematics 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 visit the department's web site and download an application form. Deadline is **January 15**. <http://math.furman.edu>.

Illinois Institute of Technology College of Architecture offers two generous scholarships offered to full-time freshman architecture students enrolling in fall 2008. **The Thomas A Roszak Scholarship** is a one year \$5,000 scholarship that may be applied towards first year's tuition. Applicants must have a 3.9/4.0 GPA and be ranked in the top 20% of their class. A one page personal statement about your goals as an architect and two letters of recommendation written specifically to support your application to the Roszak Scholarship are required. The Crown Scholarship (full tuition for five years) is awarded to one student with exceptional abilities and potential to succeed. Applicants must demonstrate academic excellence, as measured by a class ranking in the top 10% and excellent standardized test scores. An original freehand drawing of any subject matter, a one page statement about your goals as an architect, and a separate letter of recommendation written to support your application for the scholarship. Deadline for both scholarships is **January 15, 2008**. More information is available at <http://arch.iit.edu>.

Jagannathan Scholarship – For students planning to attend a constituent institution of the The University of North Carolina. Recipients are chosen on the basis of outstanding academic achievement, financial need, diverse extracurricular activities, and evidence of strong leadership roles. A printable copy of the application and a link to the CSS PROFILE are available at www.cfnc.org/jag. In addition to unlimited company nominees, RCHS may nominate one qualified applicant. The average GPA of recipients last year was 3.8. Please see Mrs. Atkinson if you wish to be considered. Deadline is **February 8**.

KFC Colonel's Scholars Program - To qualify, graduating high school seniors must: maintain a high school GPA of 2.75 or higher; enroll in a public college or university within their state of legal residence; plan to pursue a bachelor's degree; be a US citizen or permanent resident. The online application will be available from **January 1, 2007 to February 15, 2007** at www.kfcscholars.org.

National Commission for Cooperative Education – on behalf of ten NCCE Partner Colleges and Universities will award 185 merit co-op scholarships of \$6,000 each. More information and the application are available at www.co-op.edu. The member schools are C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University, Drexel University, Johnson & Wales University, Kettering University, Northeastern University, Pace University, Rochester Institute of Technology, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, Wentworth Institute of Technology. Criteria are: GPA of 3.5 or better and a completed National Co-op Scholarship Program application including essay describing why you have chosen to pursue a college cooperative education program. Deadline is **February 15, 2008**.

North Carolina Bar Association Scholarship Program – The North Carolina Bar Association continues its program of awarding scholarships to children of North Carolina law enforcement officers killed or permanently disabled in the line of duty. The application can be accessed at www.ncbar.org or by contacting Jacquelyn Terrell at jterrell@ncbar.org or at 1-800-662-7407. The deadline is **April 1, 2008**.

North Carolina Society of Accountants Scholarship - Applicants must be a resident of North Carolina, must enroll in an accredited school of higher education in North Carolina, must enroll in an accounting degree program with six or more credit hours per semester, must show a firm intention to continue into the field Accounting. Applications are due by **April 15**. An application is available in college counseling.

Ohio Wesleyan University – announces the **Phillip J. and Nancy LaPorte Meek Community Service and Leadership Scholarships** which are presented annually to incoming students with an outstanding record of leadership demonstrated through commitment to community service throughout one's high school career. The University also announces the **Helen Crider Smith Women As Leaders Endowed Scholarship** (full tuition) presented annually to an incoming freshman woman who enters with an outstanding record of academic achievement and demonstrated leadership during her high school career. Application for admission must be submitted by **February 1**.

The **Schimmel Scholarship** (full tuition, room and Board) is presented annually to one outstanding matriculating freshman woman. A successful candidate will rank in the top five percent of her class and earn a GPA of 3.9 or above. Application for admission must be submitted by **February 1**.

Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarships - Applications and additional information are available at www.rmhc.org. Deadline is **February 15**. A few applications will be available in college counseling.

RMHC/ASIA: Applicant must have at least one parent of Asian-Pacific heritage. **RMHC/Future Achievers:** Applicant must have at least one parent of African American or Black Caribbean heritage. **RMHC/HACER:** Applicant must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage. **RMHC/Scholars:** All students are eligible to apply regardless of race color, creed, religion, sexual orientation, gender, disability or national origin. Applicants must be legal US residents and reside within the geographic boundaries of participating Chapter that offers scholarships.

State Employees Association of North Carolina's Scholarship - Applicants' parents or guardian must be a member of SEANC in order to be eligible for these scholarships. Sixteen merit based and sixteen financial need awards will be given for four year college students. Eight awards are \$500 annual scholarship (5 merit based, 3 financial need) for those students enrolled in a junior college, community college or technical school.

One application will be available in college counseling but additional applications may be downloaded from the SENC website, www.seanc.org. Deadline is **April 15**.

Sam Walton Community Scholarship is available through www.walmartfoundation.org. The deadline for entry is **January 14**. To qualify, a student must be a graduating high school senior and may not be a Wal-Mart or Sam's Club associate, or the child or legal dependent of a Wal-Mart or Sam's Club associate. More information about the requirements is available from the website.

Sterling College Environmental Steward Scholarship - Covers tuition expenses for four years of study to incoming students who have demonstrated and exemplary commitment to environmental service and volunteerism. For details go to www.sterlingcollege.edu/scholarship.

Please visit CFNC.org for more information on financial assistance for **Health and Nursing Programs** and **Teaching Programs**.

Contests

AMVETS National Americanism Essay Contest: The 2007-2008 Theme: My Favorite American Hero Is..... More information is available at www.amvetsnc.org under Americanism. Deadline is **March 30**.

Open Houses

Connect with Tech (Georgia Tech)
February 17-18, March 2-3, March 30-31
April 13-14

Register at www.visits.gatech.edu

Preview Georgia Tech
April 7, 2008

Memphis College of Art Weekend Workshops

Saturday, February 16 and Saturday March 29.

Apply online at www.mca.edu

Savannah College of Art & Design

February 2, 2008

March 1, 2008

Atlanta

February 16, 2008

April 5, 2008

Savannah

Register for either at www.scad.edu/visit

University of North Carolina Asheville

April 5, 2008

8:45 AM – 2:00 PM

Register at www.unca.edu/admissions

FAFSA: Step by Step (from FastWeb)

What is it? FAFSA stands for Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The federal government uses this form to determine your eligibility for financial aid, which includes grants, scholarships, work,=study and loans.

Why fill it out? The FAFSA is used to determine how much aid you're eligible for. Think of this way:
FAFSA-→EFC – Financial Need = Financial Aid.

EFC stands for Expected Family Contribution. Your family must contribute this amount in the coming academic year to your college costs, per the government's calculation.

How does it work: Your prospective college will try to meet your financial need through aid made up of funds from federal, state, school and private sources. This may include grants, scholarships, student employment and loans.

FAFSA Process: 1-2-3

The three steps to apply for federal aid:

Step 1: Assemble forms needed to complete FAFSA.

You'll need the following to fill out the form:

- Social security number and driver's license
- Current bank statements
- Driver's license (if any)
- Current mortgage and investment records (if any)
- Alien registration card (check www.fafsa.ed.gov for more information on eligibility)
- 2006 student and parent (if dependent) federal tax return (estimates are OK on tax questions)
- 2006 untaxed income records (if any)
- 2006 W2 forms and other record of money earned
- Parents 2006 income tax return (if considered dependent)

Step 2: Complete the FAFSA

- Complete FAFSA on the Web: www.fafsa.ed.gov
- In order to maximize your amount of aid, fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1.
- Once finished, print the FAFSA summary as well as the "Submission Confirmation" page (or write down your confirmation number and date). If completing the paper version, make a copy for your records before mailing.

Step 3: Review your Student Aid Report(SAR)

The SAR is proof that your FAFSA was received. You should receive your electronic SAR in 1-3 days if you signed with your PIN (paper: 2-3 weeks).

Report errors immediately to your financial aid office. You can also make corrections online at: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

If you don't receive your SAR in 3-4 weeks, call 1-800-433-3243.

FAFSA Tips

*Fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, and each successive year once you're in college: Early submission maximizes chances of receiving aid.

*Fill out a "FAFSA on the Web" worksheet: Click "Before Beginning a FAFSA," then "Print a Pre-Application Worksheet." Use the print-out as a guide before committing answers online. DO NOT enter online answers directly from the paper FAFSA! FAFSA on the Web and paper FAFSA questions are in a different order.

*Sign the application: If you are filing as a dependent, make sure your parents sign too. You can use your PIN if signing electronically.

*Save your FAFSA online if you can't finish it in one session. Click the "Save" button at the bottom of each step to save info for 45 days.

*Don't leave a field blank. If a question doesn't apply, enter "0"

*Make or print a copy of your FAFSA for your records.

REMEMBER THAT THE FAFSA IS FREE! If you need help, ask your Financial Aid Office or call the FAFSA Help Desk at: 1-800-4-FED-AID.

PIN: Your Key to Online Identification

The Personal Identification Number (PIN) is the code that the U.S. Department of Education uses to identify you online. A PIN allows you to do the following on a FAFSA:

1. Electronically sign to speed up the process.
2. Check the status
3. Make corrections
4. Fill out an online renewal form next year.

To obtain a PIN, eligible students AND parents can visit www.pin.ed.gov (students and parents should each receive their own PINs). Click on "Apply for PIN" near the top of the page. Allow four hours for instructions to be sent via e-mail.

Guard your PIN! The PIN allows anyone to electronically sign federal student aid forms and access your info. To change, cancel or retrieve a duplicate PIN, visit: www.pin.ed.gov.

SCAMS – 10 Warning Signs

1. Fees: Scammers use bogus fees such as “application,” “disbursement,” “redemption,” and “processing fees” as a way to take your money. Scholarships should not require any fees.
2. Credit card or bank account information needed: Never give credit card or bank account info to receive aid. If you have, call your bank or credit card issuer immediately.
3. Scholarship guarantee: No one controls judges’ decisions. Be wary of “high success rates,” which often refer to award matches, not award winners.
4. No work involved: Legitimate scholarship applications require time and energy. No one can complete them for you.
5. No contact information: Before you apply, confirm the sponsor’s contact info. The sponsor should supply a valid e-mail address, phone number or mailing address (not a PO Box) upon request.
6. Unsolicited scholarships: If you are called to receive an award for which you never applied, be alert. Ask where the sponsor got your name and number. Then follow up.
7. Pressure tactics: Don’t allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking you to pay money up front.
8. Claims of “exclusive” scholarships: Legitimate sponsors won’t restrict knowledge about their award to a single service.
9. An official-sounding name or endorsement doesn’t automatically mean legitimacy: A sponsor may use words like “national,” “education” or “federal” or have an official looking seal, but might still be a scammer.
10. Your questions aren’t answered directly: Can’t get a straight answer from a sponsor regarding their application, what will be done with your information (e.g., if it will be sent to a third party) or questions? Proceed with caution.

Come to the Financial Aid Night at RCHS on January 15th for more information.