

Greetings, Class of 2016! Welcome to the first monthly issue of **The Senior Scholarship Bulletin**, your monthly guide to scholarships and money for college. Each month this newsletter will give you information on scholarship applications that come through the counseling office, plus general financial aid, and HOPE scholarship information. Please remember that this list is not inclusive of **all** scholarships that are available to you and that more scholarship information is available online and directly from colleges. Please obtain copies of applications in the scholarship drawer, located in the Career Center or see **Mrs. Wright** for information on any of the following scholarships unless otherwise indicated.

Please mark your calendar for our **Financial Aid Night** which will be held on **Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 7:00PM** in the auditorium. A representative from the Georgia Student Finance Commission will be here to discuss the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**, the **HOPE Scholarship**, and **Federal/State loans and grants**. Lots of great information will be provided. ***You and your parents are strongly encouraged to attend.***

Georgia's Insurance & Safety Fire Commissioner is accepting entries for the **2015 Fire Safety contest**. This is an opportunity for you to express your views in an essay on the theme of "Hear the Beep Where you Sleep; Every Bedroom Needs a Working Smoke Alarm." Your essay should focus on fire prevention in the home. Each essay should consist of 200-700 words. Entry forms are available in the school counseling office. **Deadline: September 28, 2015.**

QuestBridge is accepting applications for their **College Match Program**. This program pairs outstanding low-income students with early admission and full four-year scholarships to top-ranked colleges. Some of which are: University of Chicago, Emory, Northwestern, Yale, Columbia, and Princeton. All College Match scholarships are loan-free. Please visit: www.questbridge.org for application and additional information. **Deadline: September 28, 2015.**

Wendy's is currently accepting applications for their **"High School Heisman Award"** program. Online applications are now being accepted from both male and female students who exhibit excellence in the classroom, on the field and within their communities. You must have a minimum 3.0 GPA and participate in at least one school-sponsored sport to qualify. Please visit: www.wendysheisman.com for application and additional information. See Mrs. Wright in the counseling office if you have any questions. **Deadline: October 2, 2015.**

AES Engineering Solutions is accepting entries for their scholarship program. Interested students must submit between a 500 - 1,000 word essay on the following: When you look back on your life in 30 years, what would it take for you to consider your life successful? What relationships or accomplishments will be important on this journey? Please submit your completed essay to: scholarships@aesengineers.com. Scholarship is valued at \$5,000. **Deadline: October 7, 2015.**

The University of North Carolina Charlotte is accepting nominations for their **Levine Scholars Program**. There are no minimum SAT, ACT or GPA requirements to apply, but you must excel academically. Most students that are successful have at least a GPA of 3.8 (un-weighted), and SAT score of 1900 or ACT score of 29. You must be nominated by your counselor. This four-year scholarship package is estimated to be worth over \$155,000. Please see **Mrs. Wright** for additional information. **Nomination Deadline: October 15, 2015.**

Horatio Alger Association is accepting applications for their Scholarship Program. To qualify, you must be planning to enter college no later than the Fall following graduation, intend to pursue a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution, be involved in co-curricular and community activities, have at least a 2.0 GPA, and have a critical financial need. You must also be a U.S. citizen. For application and more information, please visit: www.scholars.horatioalger.org. **Deadline: October 25, 2015.**

Coca-Cola is accepting applications for their scholars program. Applicants will be evaluated on the following: Demonstrated leadership in school, commitment to community, and academic achievement (3.0 GPA). Each year, they award \$3.45 million in scholarships. **You must apply online** at: www.coca-colascholars.org. **Deadline: October 31, 2015.**

Prudential is accepting applications for their **2016 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards** program. If you have made a difference by volunteering in your community over the past year, you could win \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. All you have to do is visit: <http://spirit.prudential.com>, click on the "Apply Now" link, and follow the on-screen instructions. **Deadline: November 3, 2015.**

Washington University in St. Louis is accepting nominations for the **William H. and Elizabeth Gray Danforth Scholars Program**. They are seeking candidates that exhibit a capacity for service and leadership, as well as academic excellence, and who will embrace the challenges of a rigorous academic curriculum. Danforth Scholars may receive full- or partial-tuition scholarships that are renewed each year. **If interested, please bring a copy of your résumé to Mrs. Wright in the school counseling office by Friday, November 6, 2015.**

Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS) is accepting applications for their **2016 Scholars Program**. This program is for minority students (African-American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian American/Pacific Islander or Hispanic American) who have at least a 3.3 un-weighted GPA and have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular or other activities, and meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria. The application consists of three parts (nominator, application and recommender) and does take a while to complete, so please do not wait until the last minute to ask someone to be your nominator or recommender. Winners of this scholarship will receive a full-ride to any college that they have been accepted to attend. Visit: www.gmsp.org for application and additional information. **Deadline: January 13, 2016.**

Auburn University is accepting applications for their scholarship program. Several scholarships (Presidential, Heritage and Charter) are available, and each has specific requirements. Please visit: www.auburn.edu/scholarship for additional information. **Deadline: February 10, 2016.**

Varsity Tutors holds a monthly \$1,000 college scholarship contest, where you must write an essay in response to a monthly prompt. Visitors to the webpage are able to vote and the top five entries with the most votes are reviewed by Varsity Tutors and one winner is selected to receive the \$1,000 award. Visit: www.varsitytutors.com/college-scholarship.

TEST DATES

If you have not done so already, do not forget to register for the SAT and/or the ACT. Registration information is available in the school counseling office or you can register on-line (www.collegeboard.org for the SAT, and www.act.org for the ACT). The cost for the SAT is \$54.50 and the cost for the ACT is \$39.50 (no writing) and \$56.50 (plus writing). **SAT** test dates for this semester are **October 3rd, November 7th and December 5th**. **ACT** test dates for this semester are **September 12th, October 24th, and December 12th**. Our school code is 112-745. Please keep in mind that registration deadlines are approximately one month prior to each test administration. **REGISTER EARLY!**

If you are on free or reduced lunch, you qualify for test fee waivers. Waivers **cannot** be used during the late registration period. Sign up to see your counselor for forms and more information.

The College Board is conducting a field trial (administered during the school day) for the redesigned SAT assessment. We are offering a limited opportunity to administer a version of the redesigned SAT within certain schools. We would like to invite all of **your 11th and 12th graders who are planning to

take the **October 2015 national SAT administration** to participate in this research study. Students **must complete** the SAT in October 2015 in order to be eligible for this special study.

The date for this administration will be December 9th, 2015 (during the school day). There will not be a make-up testing day. The research study will comprise one test that will measure knowledge and skills in math, reading, and writing and will include one mandatory essay question for all students who participate. The test will take approximately 5 hours (3 hours of multiple choice items, followed by one 50-minute essay period, the remainder being administration/break time).

The College Board will also provide an incentive for the students who participate. Specifically, the scores students receive will count as official SAT scores, and students can choose to report the scores they receive on this redesigned SAT to institutions. Scores will be made available to students and schools in May 2016. Additionally, each participating student will also receive a \$50 Visa gift card approximately 16-20 weeks after the field trial**

ASVAB test will be given here at CHS on **October 22nd**. This will be the only date this year that the test will be given. Please sign up in the school counseling office if interested.

COLLEGE FAIRS

These fairs allow students to interact with admission representatives from a wide range of postsecondary institutions to discuss course offerings, admission and financial aid requirements, college life in general, and other information pertinent to the college selection process.

- Probe Fair – September 17th from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. (Marietta High School)
- Performing & Visual Arts Fair – October 5th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. (Cobb Energy Center)
- Saturday, October 24th – 12:00 – 3:00 p.m. (Turner Chapel AME Church)

Tuskegee University will host ***Open House on Saturday, September 19th***. During this event, you will be able to meet with academic deans and department heads, student group leaders and members, get information on admissions, scholarships and financial aid, plus tour and explore the campus. For more information, visit: www.tuskegee.edu/admissions.

Boston University Admissions invites you and your family to a ***special reception on September 21st*** at 6:30. To sign up for this event, visit: www.bu.edu/receptions or call 617-353-2300.

Admissions officers from **Duke University** will be in the Atlanta area to present information on ***September 22nd at 7:00 p.m.*** at South Atlanta High School (800 Hutchens Road, Atlanta 30354). To attend, you must register at: www.admiss.ugrad.duke.edu/discover-duke.

Tufts University will host ***Open House*** on the following dates: ***September 25th, October 23rd and November 6th***. ***The Women in Engineering Open House will be held on October 9th and the STEM Open House will be on October 16th***. Visit: www.admissions.tufts.edu/visit/open-houses for more information and to register.

Mississippi State University will host their ***Fall Preview Days on October 12th, October 26th and November 9th***. There is a \$10 charge/person and space is limited. For more information, visit: www.admissions.msstate.edu/events.

Fort Valley State University will host ***Open House on October 17th***. FVSU offers more than 42 major fields of study, including Business Administration, Electronic Engineering, Biology, Education, Agriculture, Mass Communications, Veterinary Technology, Forensic Sciences, Computer Information Science and many more. To attend, you must register at: www.FVSU.edu/admissions.

NC State will host their ***Open House on October 17th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.*** To attend, please register at: www.ncsu.edu/openhouse.

Georgia State University will host **Panther Preview** on the following dates: **October 9th, October 23rd and November 20th**. During the preview, you will get to participate in mock classes, tour the campus, meet with student leaders and an admissions counselor one-on-one, learn about different academic programs and student opportunities on campus. The hours of the previews are 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. To register, visit: <http://welcome.gsu.edu/campus-visits/preview/>.

Georgia Southwestern State University will host **Campus Preview Days** on the following dates: **November 14th, January 30th and April 2, 2016**. To attend, contact the admissions office at 1-800-338-0082 or email them at: admissions@gsw.edu or at www.gsw.edu. You will have a chance to win a \$1,000 GSW scholarship.

NCAA Clearinghouse applications are available and **must** be completed online. All prospective student-athletes intending to enroll in an NCAA Division I or II institution for the first-time, must complete the NCAA Amateurism Certification questionnaire. If you have used a fee waiver for either the ACT or SAT, you qualify for a clearinghouse waiver. Please **see Mrs. Jackson** in the counseling office once you have completed your online application. You are still responsible for sending them an official transcript and an official copy of your test scores. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net.

College Visits (Please sign up in the counseling office at least 2 days prior to the visits)

- September 14th – Mercer University
Georgia Highlands College (cafeteria visit)
- September 15th – University of Kentucky
Georgia State University – Honors College (minimum 3.8 Core GPA)
- September 17th – Shorter College
Mary Baldwin College (cafeteria visit)
Agnes Scott College
- September 18th – Georgia Southern University
- September 29th – Saint Joseph’s University
- October 5th – University of Alabama
- October 6th – Georgia College
- October 7th – University of Rochester
- October 14th – Albany State University
- October 15th – Georgia State University

SCHOLARSHIP AND FINANCIAL AID WEBSITES

The following sites have been recommended in magazine and newspaper articles, library and education journals. We have not evaluated all of them in depth; therefore, as with all Web information, you should carefully evaluate the source in judging the reliability of the information provided.

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| www.fastweb.com | www.college-scholarships.com |
| www.collegenet.com | www.guaranteed-scholarships.com |
| www.wiredscholar.com | www.get-recruited.com |
| www.collegeparents.org | www.gacollege411.org |
| www.srnexpress.com | www.collegesavings.org |
| www.salliemae.com | www.hsf.net |
| www.fafsa.ed.gov | www.uncf.org |
| www.scholarshipexperts.com | www.MeritAid.com |
| www.scholarships.com | www.atlantascholarships.com |
| www.littleafrica.com/resources/scholarships.htm | www.varsitytutors.com/college-scholarship |

SCHOOL COUNSELORS

Dr. Richardson	A-C
Dr. Amand	D-H
Mrs. Wright	I-M
Ms. Martiniere	N-R
Mrs. Jackson	S-Z

Mrs. Hancock **Counseling Secretary** – Please see for transcript requests and work permits if under 16. Allow 24-48 hours for requests to be completed.

Mrs. Addison **Counseling Clerk** – Please see for address changes, name or social security number changes.

Requesting letters of recommendation

Please be advised that there are forms that need to be completed when requesting letters of recommendation. See your counselor for a copy of the forms. **Allow two weeks** for letters to be written, so please plan accordingly.

September “To Do” List

- 1) If you are unsure about your post-secondary plans, sign up to see your counselor or our career center consultant to discuss your options.
- 2) Athletes, submit clearinghouse application and transcript. Website: www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- 3) Finalize your college prospect list and investigate school “on the bubble.”
- 4) Give your teacher/counselor recommenders advanced notice for writing your recommendation letters – at least 2 weeks.
- 5) Download/request college applications and financial aid materials.
- 6) Sign up to take the fall SAT (www.sat.org/register) and ACT (www.actstudent.org). If you qualify, waivers can be used for these tests, during the regular deadline period.
- 7) Keep your college information organized in one central area at home. Please be sure to keep up with deadlines.
- 8) Understand the difference between early decision, early action, and regular admission.
- 9) Attend college fairs, college information sessions, and college representative school visits (check the bulletin in the counseling office for updates).
- 10) Prepare your list of activities/awards, and create a résumé.

Scholarship Myths and Facts (Financialaidfinder.com)

Are you thinking about applying for a college scholarships but not sure that you have what it takes to make the grade? Perhaps that's because you have heard one too many myths about scholarships. This post will set the record straight!

Myth: I can't win a scholarship unless I have a straight-A average.

Fact: Sure, some scholarships are interested in candidates with high GPAs. But just as many set a minimum GPA of 2.5 or 3.0 (C+ to B-) and as long as you meet that minimum, you are free to “wow” the scholarship committee with all your other great abilities. There are even some scholarships that are explicitly looking for below average students. (The \$10,000 [David Letterman scholarship](#) at Ball State for average students with creative minds — much like the late night genius himself — comes to mind!)

Myth: I can't win a scholarship because I don't play a sport.

Fact: Yes, there are significant scholarships awarded every year to athletes. But the vast majority of those awards come directly from the university's athletic fund. Private scholarships, funded by philanthropies, businesses, non-profit organizations and individuals, are interested in candidates with a wide range of abilities and skills — from athletes (although typically those who compete in lesser-known sports such as cycling) to musicians to public activists to community leaders. The list goes on and on. Some scholarships are just looking for a great essay on a particular topic, and whether you can catch a football or shoot a free-throw will certainly never come into question!

Myth: I don't qualify for scholarships because my parents earn too much money.

Fact: It is true that a number of scholarships are looking for qualified candidates who can also demonstrate financial need. But just as many — if not more — scholarships never even ask about your family's financial situation (these are typically known as merit-based scholarships). If you are meet the committee's qualifications, your tax returns will never come into play. Also keep in mind that “financial need” can be rather broadly defined when it comes to scholarships as opposed to, let's say, federal grants. While a select number of scholarships are only interested in assisting low-income families (typically those earning less than \$50,000 per year), many committees consider the threshold of “financial need” to be twice that — if not more. In other words, solidly upper middle class families may still qualify for need-based scholarships. Read the fine print!

Myth: There are billions of dollars in scholarships that go unclaimed every year.

Fact: This is one of the most pervasive scholarship myths out there. And do you know who most often cites it? Scholarship scam artists looking to charge you a rich finder's fee to locate these unclaimed scholarships. The truth, according to Marvin Carmichael, past Chairman of the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA), is that if an organization does not award all its scholarship money one year, it is because of weird timing issues or highly restrictive eligibility requirements. The qualifications of any truly *unclaimed* scholarship are probably so highly specialized (e.g., only students of a particular religious faith from a particular city with a particular last name need apply) that your odds of qualifying are nil.

Do you want to learn more scholarship facts? Come visit Financial Aid Finder's scholarship section to discover [what scholarship committees are looking for](#), [how to write a winning scholarship essay](#), and [where to find reputable college scholarship search engines](#).

COLLEGE SPOTLIGHT



UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

2015-2016 First-year admitted student profile

- Applications received: 22,225
- New first-year enrolled: 5,300
- Total number of undergraduate students – 26,882
- Middle 50% Core GPA: 3.81 - 4.06
- Middle 50% SAT (M, CR, W): 1810 – 2060
- Middle 50% ACT: 27-31

- **Early Action Deadline: October 15th (Admissions decision by December 1st)**
- **Regular Decision Deadline: January 15th (Admissions decision by April 1st)**
- **Academic review centers on 3 areas: GPA in core academic courses, rigor of student's course selection and best combination of scores on ACT or SAT.**
- **\$60 application fee**
- **Tuition, fees, room and board (based on the 2015-16 school year) \$25,134**
- **170 majors and programs available**
- **91% Georgia residents**
- **700+ registered student organizations**
- **17 schools and colleges**

Visit: www.uga.edu for additional information and to schedule a campus tour