

S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 9

CLASS OF 2010

FROM THE COUNSELORS

Question: What should all seniors be focusing on now?

Answer: Life after graduation!

Question: Where should seniors be spending their LAB time?

Answer: In the Counseling Center working on college applications and scholarship searches!

Ah, the senior year! How long the class of '10 has waited for this year! This is certainly a special time for you! Enjoy the moments and cherish the friendships! But while you're cherishing and enjoying, get busy on the college application. It is not an easy one! Come to the Counseling Center where we will assist you.

Not sure where to begin? Ask yourself what you want to study and in what setting. You need a school that offers a major in your area of interest and a climate in which you will be comfortable. Colleges are so much more (or less) than what a glossy brochure or web site can tell you. Research schools and explore your options. The best fit is one where you will be comfortable studying and growing (not necessarily where your best friend is going).

Once you've narrowed your list to three to five colleges, it's time to revisit or start visiting! An on-campus visit will tell you a lot about the "feel" of a school and whether or not it's right for you. Most campuses offer fall visit weekends where you can spend the night and experience the college. Contact colleges now for information.

This process should all sound familiar to you from our discussions last year! Come see us, and we will help!

We are enjoying meeting with each of you individually and hope to continue to assist you in your college search efforts!

DID YOU KNOW?

The Counseling Center maintains a section on the LHSN web site that may be useful to you. We keep current information about upcoming college fairs with links to their web sites where available. We also post information about financial aid workshops, college open house information, and general information about various colleges. All of these postings will have contact information, or web site links if we have their web site information. We maintain this site to assist you. Please visit this site regularly as the information we post there changes daily. Go to www.lhsn.org Click on **Academics** and then **Counseling News**.

COLLEGE FAIRS/OPEN HOUSES

Each year, college admissions representatives crisscross the nation, bringing information about their colleges to a location near you. Through information sessions and college fairs, colleges try to put a human face on their institution and interest prospective students in learning more. **Information sessions** are smaller, more intimate meetings, hosted by one or a small number of colleges. Often held at area hotels, students and their parents who have expressed an interest in a particular school by writing for information or signing up at its website, are invited to group talks about the college and its offerings.

College Fairs are much larger events, held in gymnasiums, convention centers, or hotel ballrooms, and attracting numerous schools. Presented by private groups, by area colleges, and by the National Association of College Admissions Counselors (NACAC), College Fairs bring together admissions personnel and college alumni, for large numbers of students from area high schools.

Information sessions and college fairs give you a chance to explore many college options quickly and efficiently. Plan to attend and take advantage of this opportunity. Give yourself adequate time and get to the Fair early before it fills with students.

Helpful hints for attending College Fairs

1. Bring a notebook for notes, a bag for materials, and a pen.
2. It's also a good idea to preprint labels for yourself with your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, school, date of graduation, and possible major area of interest; use these labels for the contact cards you'll be given at each table, and save yourself the time needed to complete them.
3. Have a list of questions with you and jot notes about the answers you get from each college representative. Ask about the most popular majors, the percent of students who live on campus, the availability of internships, the percentage of students who receive financial aid. Find out if admissions decisions are made without regard to financial need (need blind) and if merit scholarships are available.
4. You might want to learn how you can arrange a campus visit, investigate support services, and ask about campus safety. In short, try to get answers that are not readily available through guidebooks and websites.

INFINITE SCHOLARS COLLEGE FAIR will be held Saturday, August 29th at McCluer South Berkeley High School from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM. You must pre-register to attend online at www.infinitescholar.org. Once you have registered, an admission ticket will be displayed that you must print and bring with you to gain entrance. You will be asked to bring a transcript and two letters of recommendation. If you plan on attending this fair, you will need to be gathering your letters of recommendation NOW. To get a copy of your transcript, you must come to the Counseling Center and fill out a transcript request form. Remember, if you are not eighteen, you will need to have a parent sign this request too. ***Transcript requests for this college fair must be turned in to the Counseling Center no later than August 25th to avoid the \$5.00 late request penalty.***

COLLEGE THAT CHANGE LIVES will be held Monday, September 14, 2009 at the Doubletree Hotel & Conference Center-St. Louis. The program begins promptly at 7:00 PM with a 30-minute information session, and a college fair begins immediately afterwards, lasting approximately 1.5 hours. You do not need to pre-register. For more information, please visit their website at www.CTCL.com and click on the CTCL Events.

ROCKWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT COLLEGE FAIR will be held Tuesday, September 15th at 6:30 PM at Marquette High School 2351 Clarkson Rd, Chesterfield, MO.

MOACAC COLLEGE FAIR will be held on Monday, September 21st at the University City High School gymnasium at 7:00 PM.

LUTHERAN COLLEGE FAIR will be held Tuesday, September 22nd at St. Paul's Lutheran Church 12345 Manchester Rd., Des Peres, MO. Registration begins at 6:45 PM. There will be a Financial Aid Presentation at 7:00 PM with the college fair beginning at 7:30 PM. For more information on this fair, please visit their website at www.lutherancolleges.org/events/collegefairs.

PARKWAY COLLEGE FAIR will be held Wednesday, September 23rd at 7:00-8:30 PM at Parkway Central High School 369 N. Woods Mill Rd, Chesterfield, MO.

INCARNATE WORD ACADEMY COLLEGE FAIR will be held Thursday, September 24th. There will be a short financial aid presentation from 6:30-7:00 PM with the fair beginning at 7:00 PM. The fair will be held on their campus at 2788 Normandy Drive.

NACAC PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS FAIR Unfortunately this fair is not held in St. Louis. The closest fair is on Saturday, October 10th from 1:00-3:00 PM at Roosevelt University, Chicago College of Performing Arts, Auditorium Building 430 S. Michigan Ave. For a listing of the schools that will be in attendance, please visit the website at www.nacacnet.org.

NACAC COLLEGE FAIR will be held Sunday, October 18th from 12:00-3:00 PM at Saint Louis University Simon Recreation Center 3639 Laclede Ave. For more information, please visit their website at www.nacacnet.org.

WESTMINSTER ACADEMY CHRISTIAN COLLEGE FAIR will be held on their campus November 5th from 6:30-8:30 PM. They are planning on over 50 Christian colleges to be in attendance that evening. For a listing of the colleges, please visit their website at www.wcastl.org/upper/college/collegefair.php.

DUKE UNIVERSITY will have a representative in St. Louis at Clayton High School on September 13th at 6:00 PM. You will need to RSVP to attend at www.admissions.duke.edu.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY will have a representative at the Marriott St. Louis Airport on Saturday, October 3rd at 10:00 AM. You will need to RSVP to attend at admissions.nyu.edu/visit.

TULANE UNIVERSITY will have a representative in St. Louis at the Hilton St. Louis Frontenac on October 20th at 7:00 PM. You will need to RSVP to attend at 1-800-873-WAVE.

MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY will be in St. Louis at the Sheraton Westport Lakeside Chalet from 7:00-9:00 PM on November 19th. This session is for prospective students and their families.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY has set dates for their 2009-2010 Show Me Days. The dates are: October 3, November 14, February 13, and March 27. Show Me Day begins at 10 AM at the Show Me Center. The day will include a campus tour, complimentary lunch, and an academic fair. To attend any of these dates, please register at www.semo.edu, click on "Visit". You may also register by telephone at 573.651.2590.

SOUTHEAST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY is hosting their Multicultural Showcase on Saturday, November 7 at 10:30 AM. This program will highlight academic programs, scholarship opportunities and social outlets for multicultural students on campus. Register for this event online at www.semo.edu. If you have questions, contact Turan Mullins at tkmullins@semo.edu, or 314.560.3533.

COLLEGE VISITS TO LHSN

Remember, if you are interested in meeting with a particular school, you will need to come to the Counseling Center to sign up. You must sign up by 3:00 PM the day before the visit. You will not be able to sign up the morning of the visit, so plan ahead. Passes will be delivered to you. You must go to class first and give the pass to your teacher. These passes do not automatically excuse you from class; leaving class is at the discretion of your teacher and all work assigned during your absence must be made up.

College	Date	Time/Location
Benedictine College	September 9	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Avila University	September 9	Counseling Center 9:00 AM
Chamberlain College of Nursing	September 10	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Missouri University of Science & Technology	September 10	Counseling Center 10:15 AM
Baylor University	September 11	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Concordia University Mequon	September 11	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Vanderbilt University	September 16	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Drury University	September 17	Counseling Center 2:15 PM
Concordia University Austin	September 23	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Bethany Lutheran College	September 23	Counseling Center 10:30 AM
Valparaiso University	September 23	Counseling Center 12:00 PM
Drake University	September 30	Counseling Center 1:45 PM
Missouri State University	October 6	Counseling Center 10:30 AM
University of Central Missouri	October 8	Counseling Center 12:00 PM

College	Date	Time/Location
McKendree University	October 20	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
University of Missouri Kansas City	November 3	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
John Brown University	November 5	Counseling Center 8:45 AM
Concordia University Mequon	November 6	Counseling Center 8:45 AM

SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarship information may be found on the Naviance website and in the scholarship notebooks in the Counseling Center. Naviance may be accessed from the LHSN website home page. You will find Naviance listed in the lower right hand corner of the page, if you click on this link you will go directly to your Naviance sign-in page.

Normally, all the scholarships listed on Naviance may also be found in the scholarship notebooks. Please be sure to look through these books, and/or the website from time to time to see if there are any scholarship opportunities for you. We may update scholarships on a daily basis.

The scholarships listed on Naviance and in our notebooks are not a complete listing of all scholarships that may be found. These scholarships are ones that we have been mailed, or been made aware of. Please be sure to do additional searches on your own, as you may find scholarships that may apply to you that we are not aware of.

WEBSITES TO SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION - www.WeeklyScholarshipAlert.org, www.fastweb.com, and www.schoolsoup.com. If you stop by the counseling center, we have a flier available for the FastWeb website if you would like to pick one up.

BRIGHT FLIGHT SCHOLARSHIP CHANGES

The Bright Flight scholarship is changing for high school seniors graduating in the class of 2010. Beginning in the fall of 2010, students whose ACT or SAT composite scores are in the top 3 percent of all Missouri students taking those tests will be eligible to receive an annual award of up to \$3,000, while students who score in the top 4-5 percent on those tests will be eligible to receive an annual award of up to \$1,000. (Award amounts are conditional on sufficient state appropriations.) The ACT scores to strive for are a 31 (top 3 percent) or a 30 (top 4-5 percent). The qualifying SAT scores for 2010 graduates are not yet available. Seniors must achieve a qualifying score by the June 2010 test date.

COLLEGE PLACEMENT TESTS: ACT & SAT

ACT: www.act.org

October 24, 2009 - Register by September 18
December 12, 2009 - Register by November 6
February 6, 2010 - Register by January 5, 2010
April 10, 2010 - Register by March 5
June 12, 2010 - Register by May 7
ACT High school code - 262-985

SAT: www.collegeboard.com

October 10, 2009 - Register by September 9
November 7, 2009 - Register by October 1
December 5, 2009 - Register by October 30
January 23, 2010 - Register by December 15
March 13, 2010 - Register by February 4
May 2, 2010 - Register by March 25
June 5, 2010 - Register by April 29



- **REGISTRATION FORMS** for both tests are in the Counseling Center. These forms will give you dates, times, testing locations and other important details.
- Test registration forms take time to read and complete. It is important to do an accurate job when completing them because this information is sent to prospective colleges.

LHSN APPLICATION PROCEDURES

LHSN's procedure for sending in college applications is that everything, including the application, fee, transcript and recommendations, is sent in together in order to maintain accountability and accuracy. This eliminates the problem of documents arriving at admissions offices in a piecemeal fashion. The Counseling Center needs **five working days** to process your application, so please plan ahead. Do not anticipate that your information will get out within a day or two. **A penalty of \$5.00 will be added for applications dropped by less than five working days prior to the deadline.** The Counseling Center does not guarantee that applications turned in with fewer than five working days will be processed in time to meet postmark deadlines. **A lack of preparation on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part!** Hand in the entire application together, and please hand it directly to a person, Mrs. McFarland, Mrs. Burreson, or Mr. Snyder. Do not give your applications to anyone else, i.e. office aides. Be certain that you complete **your portion** of all of your forms. We will make one copy of your application packet to keep in your file folder located in the open files at the back of the Counseling Center.

Helpful Hints for College Applications

- **It is your responsibility to watch your admissions deadlines very closely.** Write down each college and/or scholarship deadline in a special calendar. Always be looking about two weeks ahead so that you are aware of what deadlines are coming up next.
- **Apply early.**
- **Look over completed applications.** Applications can be a reflection of character and personality. Incomplete or messy applications, those written in pencil or those with misspelled words are sometimes automatically eliminated from consideration. Ask a parent to check over spelling, grammar and neatness.
- **Transcripts** must be sent to colleges directly from our office. They are not considered "official" unless this happens.
- If the colleges you are applying to require an essay, personal statement or autobiography, allow extra time for composing.

- **Letters of Recommendation** are often required in the college admission process. You may be relying on teachers, coaches, advisors, or counselors to write these recommendations. Give these people at least **two weeks** notice when asking for a recommendation. This allows them adequate time to complete the recommendation accurately. Remember to thank these people for their time and interest in writing these letters.
- **The Common Application** is a special form released by the College Board that allows students to apply to several competitive colleges using the same application form. This can be done online at www.commonapp.org. We do have a few in the paper format in the CC.
- **Ask questions!** No question is a “dumb” one! Please allow us to assist you!

NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse

Athletes planning to compete for a Division I or II college or university must meet eligibility requirements through the NCAA Clearinghouse. Please see Mrs. Burreson or Mr. Snyder as soon as possible to start this process. You can access information at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The registration fee is \$60.

Miscellaneous College Information

Clemson University along with several other HBCU's has a program entitled the **Call Me Mister program**. This program was developed in an effort to address the critical shortage of African American male teachers in our school systems. If you are a black male student interested in becoming a teacher, and apply to this program, if accepted the program will pay for your education.

The Call Me Mister program combines the special strengths and resources of Clemson University with the individualized instructional programs offered by four historically black colleges in South Carolina: **Benedict College, Claflin University, Morris College, and South Carolina State University**. To provide even greater opportunity and access, students have the option of first attending one of several two-year partner colleges before transferring to one of the four-year institutions to complete their baccalaureate degree. In addition, the project has limited enrollment in the middle school Master of Art in Teaching program. If you would like more information, or an application, please visit their web site at www.callmemister.clemson.edu/indec.htm.

Washington University is eliminating need-based loans as part of the undergraduate financial aid packages to low- and middle-income families.

Specifically, this means that both entering freshmen and full-time returning undergraduate day students who have parental incomes of less than \$60,000 will not be expected to take out need-based loans; instead, they will receive grants from the University that will not need to be repaid. Also, families with parental income somewhat higher than \$60,000 may receive additional student loan relief based on demonstrated need and their financial circumstances.

The goal of this loan relief is to increase the ability of students from low- and middle-income families to attend Washington University.

Harvard University announced that from now on undergraduate students from low-income families will not have to pay tuition. To qualify, the student must be an honor student and meet Harvard admission requirements with a family income of \$40,000 or less a year. To find out more about this program, please visit Harvard's financial aid web site at:

www.fao.fas.harvard.edu or call the schools financial aid office at 617-495-1581.

Senior Timeline – What you need to be doing!

Get Applications

Talk to college reps that visit LHSN

Work on Essays

ACT Registration deadline: September 18

SAT Registration deadline: September 9

Tour Colleges

Narrow College List

Interview

Attend College Fairs, Open Houses