

# Educational Talent Search



# Student Newsletter



A Publication of the Educational Talent Search Program at Clarion University

Spring/Summer 2009

## SAVINGS ACCOUNT PLAN - GRANTS AVAILABLE

Through a grant obtained from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Department of Community and Economic Development, the United Way of Clarion County has gained the ability to offer the local community a Family Savings Account Program (FSA). The program entitles the participant to receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$2,000 over a two year period. The United Way is offering this program to ETS students to use for postsecondary purposes.

In order to be eligible, participants must reside in Clarion, Forest, Venango, or Jefferson County and have an income that does not exceed the following:

- \$34,450-Family of 2
- \$38,750-Family of 3
- \$44,100-Family of 4
- \$51,580-Family of 5
- \$59,060-Family of 6

Participants are required to save a minimum of \$10 a week with a maximum of \$1,000 per year to receive the matching monies. If eligible, you may participate in the program for two years. The account must be with an approved financial institution. All monies in the account, including interest earned, belong to the individual saver. The United Way of Clarion County's asset partners include any branch offices of Northwest Savings Bank.

For more information contact Rhonda at ETS (814-393-2071 or 1-888-533-6487) or email [rmcmillen@clarion.edu](mailto:rmcmillen@clarion.edu) and you will receive a follow-up call and email with more information. Please note: Participants must meet guidelines and there are a limited number of available opportunities.

## PRIVACY ON FACEBOOK

Facebook continues to grow in popularity. Below are a few statistics about usage taken from Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/press/info.php?statistics> (June 17, 2009).

- There are more than 200 million active users.
- More than 100 million users log on to Facebook at least once each day.
- There are over one billion chat messages sent daily.
- The average user has 120 friends.
- More than four billion minutes are spent on Facebook each day (worldwide).
- More than 30 million users update their status at least once each day.

With all this activity, it is important to retain some privacy. Facebook has a number of ways for you to do this. Below are a few that you may want to consider.

-Use Friends lists to allow people to have different amounts of access to your information. You may have lists for friends and different lists for family, allowing diverse privacy policies.

-You can remove yourself from Facebook searches. In other words, you can request friends, but they won't be able to find you.

-(This is an important one!) Remove yourself from Google search. Use the privacy settings to turn off the public search option.

-Use the photos privacy page to limit those who can see the photos that you post.

These are just a few of the privacy settings that will make Facebook a more private and controlled application and networking tool. For more information, visit <http://www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/> or <http://www.facebook.com/privacy/>.

## GEOCACHING FOR "NEWBIES"



Yes, I am a newbie at geocaching. I'm preparing for an ETS program which I plan to offer next year, so I'm not writing from personal experience. I hope by the time our program rolls around, I will be an expert. (LOL!) In case you haven't heard of geocaching, it is a worldwide game of hiding and seeking treasure. (Bet that got your attention!) Now, I'm not talking about gold or jewels here, but rather trinkets and baubles placed by a fellow geocacher. The way it works, is a person (geocacher) can place a geocache (treasure) anywhere in the world, pinpoint its location using a GPS device, and document its existence and location online. Typically, a geocache is a weather tight small box or canister which is then hidden in a chosen location. It could be located in a park or along a bike trail or walking path. The geocacher then places some small items in the container (i.e.: dog tags, coins, etc.) along with a log for people to sign when they find the container. The rule of geocaching is: take something out, put something in. Once you find it, you should have an item to place in the container. Then, after you sign the log and place your item in the container, close the container and place it exactly where and how you found it.

### What you need?

1. A GPS device and extra batteries. Units can be purchased or borrowed.
2. Coordinates for the geocache.
3. An item to place in the container.
4. A map of the area and a compass.
5. Appropriate clothing for the weather. (You know - rain gear, long pants for wooded areas...)
6. Bottle of water, maybe a light snack. (Some times it takes awhile...you might get hungry.)
7. A friend. (Never go alone!)

### Some general guidelines for geocaching:

1. Register with [www.geocaching.com](http://www.geocaching.com); it is free. Read through the "Getting Started" page.
2. Locate a geocache in your area (an easy one to start).
3. Research the geocache: where is it located, what is the terrain, approximately how long should it take, how difficult is it to find?
4. Download or manually input the coordinates in the GPS device.

5. Mark where you start to ensure your safe return.
6. Be kind to the environment - practice "cache in trash out."
7. Have fun!
8. Share your experience.

I don't know about you, but it sounds like a blast to me! Watch for information on our upcoming adventure!

— Kelly

## TIPS FOR WRITING RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Request recommendation letters from people who know you and can attest to your strengths, achievements, and overall character (teachers, employers, counselor, community leaders, etc...).

When requesting a letter of recommendation, provide the person with a sheet (generic resume) that includes the following:

- ✓ who the letter should be addressed to, including the address
- ✓ list of activities you have been involved in
- ✓ place and time of any employment
- ✓ summary of volunteer work
- ✓ any other information that will assist the recommender in writing a great letter.

Remember, they are helping you. Do not make them come to you and request this information.

- ✓ Give your recommender a deadline, allowing at least two weeks to complete the letter. Make sure you have allowed enough time for your letter to be written and mailed before any deadlines. Allowing at least two weeks is considerate on your part. Waiting until the last minute may not allow the recommender enough time to do you justice and may cause you both unnecessary stress.
- ✓ Let recommenders know your application results.

For a sample Recommendation Request Form, talk with your ETS or school counselor, or you can develop your own.

— Mrs. Rupp  
Union High School  
Guidance Counselor

ANSWER KEY from page 4:

1. D, 2. C, 3. A, 4. G, 5. E, 6. H, 7. B, 8. J, 9. I, 10. F

## GOT SCOOP? INFORMATIONAL INTERVIEWING!



Informational interviewing is the first step once you have narrowed your career interests. An informational interview is a conversation with a professional in a specific career. Informational interviewing can strengthen your interest in a career or eliminate it. Find out as much as you can about a career field, and what better way than to talk with people who work in that field every day. Informational interviews help to:

1. Confirm that a job is for you.
2. Prepare you for a real job interview.
3. Identify what skills you currently have or need.
4. Find opportunities for networking for the future.
5. Learn the salary range.
6. Understand the training you need and/or where you can obtain it.
7. Identify possible employers.

In advance, prepare questions that you would like answered. You can research the career on the internet if you need help determining questions. Here are a few questions you might want to consider.

1. What do you do during your work day?
2. What do you like about your job? What would you change about your job?
3. How long have you been in this field?
4. What is the starting salary for this job?
5. What education/training is required?
6. What first interested you in this type of work?
7. What does the future hold for this field?
8. Is there anything I should know that you haven't covered?
9. Are there other people that you would recommend I contact?

Most people are excited about what they do and are willing to share. After the interview is complete, mail a thank you note and thank them for their time.

Once you conduct a few interviews, you will have several scoops of information to fill your bowl!

## TECH TIPS

Recently, I attended a technology conference and found a number of new interactive websites. Some of these may be especially beneficial to you. (Think, of course, in terms of studying...) — Rhonda

[www.letterpop.com](http://www.letterpop.com)

Letterpop is a free online newsletter application with drag and drop capabilities. There are Google ads on the free subscription accounts, but you can email directly from this application.

[www.glogster.com](http://www.glogster.com)

Think of glogster as an interactive poster where you can add sound, pictures, links, movies, and more. These posters (glogs) can be embedded.

[www.stumbleupon.com](http://www.stumbleupon.com)

Stumbleupon locates quality sites for predefined areas of interest. Set your interests and start stumbling. Providing feedback defines your search even further. Be warned, this can be quite a time eater!

[www.kerpoof.com](http://www.kerpoof.com)

Kerpoof is an interactive movie/story creating site. I've only looked at this one, and I haven't used it. However, I am told that making comic and cartoon type movies is very easy!

<http://museumbox.e2bn.org/>

Add text, images, video, or sound to the sides of a cube. This would be great for a report!

[www.evernote.com](http://www.evernote.com)

This site is just one of many online personal notebooks. Organize your notes, thoughts, and important information and have it available at your nearest internet connection.

[www.sliderocket.com](http://www.sliderocket.com)

This online presentation application is compatible with PowerPoint. Everything is searchable, taggable, and embeddable. Start with the introductory video on the home page.

[http://www.coolhunting.com/archives/2008/06/awesome\\_highlight.php](http://www.coolhunting.com/archives/2008/06/awesome_highlight.php)

Awesome Highlighter allows you to highlight content on a website to share or save for future use.

<http://www.mystickies.com/>

Mystickies allows you to place a sticky note onto any site and write information on that note. The cool thing is - it's still there at your next visit, but only you can see your note!

<http://www.mywebspiration.com>

This site allows you to think visually by creating webs and diagrams. The current beta version is free and permits online collaboration.

## WHO SAID THAT?



With a new President leading our country (#44), it is a great time to check your knowledge on "words of wisdom" from our Presidents. How many can you get right?

- A. John F. Kennedy \_\_\_\_\_
- B. Franklin Roosevelt \_\_\_\_\_
- C. Abraham Lincoln \_\_\_\_\_
- D. Thomas Jefferson \_\_\_\_\_
- E. Bill Clinton \_\_\_\_\_
- F. Barack Obama \_\_\_\_\_
- G. Jimmy Carter \_\_\_\_\_
- H. George Washington \_\_\_\_\_
- I. Richard Nixon \_\_\_\_\_
- J. Lyndon B. Johnson \_\_\_\_\_

1. "Never spend your money before you have it."
2. "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to open one's mouth and remove all doubt."
3. "We need men that can dream of things that never were."
4. "We become not a melting pot but a beautiful mosaic. Different people, different beliefs, different yearnings, different hopes, different dreams."
5. "If you live long enough, you'll make mistakes. But if you learn from them you'll be a better person. It is how you handle adversity, not how it affects you. The main thing is never quit, never quit, never quit!"
6. "It is far better to be alone, than to be in bad company."
7. "It is common sense to take a method and try it. If it fails, admit it frankly and try another. But above all, try something."
8. "We can draw lessons from the past, but we cannot live in it."
9. "If you want to make beautiful music, you must play the black and white notes together."
10. "With the changing economy, no one has lifetime employment. But community colleges provide lifetime employability."

(See page 2 for the answers.)

## SAVING NICKELS & DIMES...AND A WHOLE LOT MORE



Are you getting ready to go to college soon? Have you started to put some money aside? Start planning now by creating a strategy to save some money. Can you do without that can of pop each day? Small decisions like this can make a difference. Take a look at how much money you could save (or save your parents) over one year.

### Total spent in one year

1 pop or bottled water per day at \$1.00	\$365.00
1 fast food combo per week at \$5.00	\$260.00
1 coffee/hot chocolate a day at \$2.50	\$912.50
1 snack per weekday at \$.50	\$130.00
1 pizza & drink a week at \$10.00	\$520.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,187.50</b>

Wow! That's a lot of money saved in just one year. Making choices to pack your lunch, fill your water bottle at home, or take your cup of coffee or hot chocolate in a mug to go, could really save you some cash. Why not turn that into savings for your education and your future?

## COLLEGE ADMISSION CRITERIA

Colleges and universities consider many factors when making admission decisions. The most important is your high school record including the courses you took, and the grades you made. Competitive schools look to see if you took the most rigorous program possible at your school. Aside from your academic work, schools review other factors. The well-rounded high school student exhibits achievement in areas such as work, summer experiences, community service, school, sports, extra-curricular activities, and awards.

Some of the most common factors considered for admission to college are listed below.

- Courses taken (strength of program)
- Grades (GPA)
- Class rank
- Standardized test results - SAT or ACT
- Counselor and teacher recommendations
- Activities outside the classroom
- Application questions and essays
- Personal interview (if required)
- Special talents and skills

If you have questions, talk with your guidance or ETS counselor.

## VERSUS: ACT VS. THE SAT

### ACT

Test Fee \$31.00 (\$46 with writing)

#### ACT Mathematics Test (60 Items, 60 Minutes)

SCORE - 1-36

23% Pre-algebra, 17% Elementary Algebra, 15% Intermediate Algebra, 15% Coordinate Geometry, 23% Plane Geometry, and 7% Trigonometry

#### ACT Reading Test (40 Items 35 Minutes)

SCORE - 1-36

25% Prose Fiction, 25% Humanities, 25% Social Studies, 25% Natural Science

#### ACT Writing Test (30 Minutes)

Optional

SCORE 1-36

#### ACT History and Science Exams

#### English (75 Items, 45 Minutes)

SCORE 1-36

#### Method of Scoring

Scores are based on number of right answers.  
No penalty for guessing.

Total Composite Score - 1-36 (does not include writing)

### SAT

Test Fee \$45.00

#### SAT Mathematics (70 Minutes)

SCORE - 200-800

20% Arithmetic, 35-40% Algebra, 25-30% Geometry, 10-15% Data Analysis

#### SAT Critical Reading (70 Minutes)

SCORE - 200-800

Sentence Completion, Critical Reading, Social Narrative (Reasoning, Comprehension, Vocabulary, Analogies, and Short Passages)

#### SAT Writing (60 Minutes)

Mandatory

SCORE 200-800

#### No SAT History and Science Exams

Included in the SAT Writing

#### Method of Scoring

Scores adjusted for guessing. Correct answers carry full weight; penalty applied for each incorrect answer.

Total Score - 600-2400

## SUCCESSFUL PEOPLE

Do any of these qualities sound like you? If yes - great. If no, think about what it would take to claim these characteristics as your own. Qualities of successful people include:

Persistence

Positive attitude

Inquisitiveness

Diligence

Can-do attitude

Initiative

Careful planning

Responsibility

Sense of right and wrong

Follow-through

Sense of humor

Goal-setting

Stephen Covey (1989) in his book Seven Habits of Highly Effective People shares these principles:

Be proactive - exercise initiative and take responsibility

Put first things first - prioritize, do what is most important first

Begin with the end in mind - what do you want the final project to look like

Think win/win - work cooperatively

First understand - then be understood

Synergize - two can produce more than one

Sharpen the saw - take time for renewal



For more information on postsecondary education or questions pertaining to Talent Search, contact:

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Clarion University of Pennsylvania is an affirmative action equal opportunity employer.

Visit [www.clarion.edu/ets](http://www.clarion.edu/ets) for upcoming programs.

As soon as events are posted, students or parents may register.

[Check out our blog @ clarionu-etsub.blogspot.com](http://clarionu-etsub.blogspot.com)

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