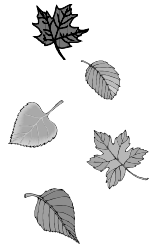




Educational Talent Search Student Newsletter



A Publication of Clarion University's Educational Talent Search

Fall 2006

LISTSERV, HOMEPAGE, AND NOW A BLOG?

Over the last few years, ETS has made an effort to reach you in the most efficient ways possible. Traditionally, this has been the US mail. We have initiated listservs and increased the information available on our website. All forms that you need for ETS, all events, newsletters, and tons of links to information are now available online at www.clarion.edu/ets. (We even managed to shorten the URL we had before!)

A lot of information comes through this office, and sometimes there is no quick, expedient, or meaningful way to get it to you. I can send it on the listserv, but then it is lost forever... So, I began a blog in October to post pertinent information such as websites, scholarships, surveys, and more. Just in case you don't know, a blog is short for weblog and means "to author an online diary or chronology of thoughts." Already I have posted information on the SAT, ACG (check out this grant opportunity), and more. Please visit - <http://ClarionU-ETSUB.blogspot.com>, add it to your favorites and check back OFTEN!

Well, I am interested in hearing your thoughts and ideas of how ETS can better get information to you. Drop me a line at rmcmillen@clarion.edu and don't forget to check the blog and website.

www.clarion.edu/ets

<http://ClarionU-ETSUB.blogspot.com>

blog. (n.d.). *Webster's New Millennium™ Dictionary of English, Preview Edition (v 0.9.6)*. Retrieved October 31, 2006, from Dictionary.com website: <http://dictionary.reference.com/browse/blog>

ACADEMIC COMPETITIVENESS GRANT

The US Department of Education explains the ACG - Academic Competitiveness Grant at <http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/English/AcademicGrants.jsp>.

The 2006-07 eligibility for students in PA included these options:

- Scores of 3 or higher on two AP tests
- Nine credits earned through dual enrollment
- Proficient or above on PSSA and coursework including four years of English; three years of math including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and other advanced courses; three years of science including at least two lab sciences; three years of social studies; and one year of foreign language.

This program is new. Expect changes and updates. Current awards are \$750 for PELL eligible freshmen.

PREPARING A BIBLIOGRAPHY

One of the easiest ways to keep track of sources while working on a paper is to list each on a separate index card. Be sure to create a complete card for every source you examine. Using cards makes it easy to alphabetize and organize your sources. Once you have your cards in order, you have a preliminary bibliography for your research paper. If you've used a book in your research, be sure to write down these items:

- The book's call number
- The book's title
- Author's name, last and first
- Publisher
- Place and date of publication

Check out these websites for further help:

www.easybib.com

www.citationmachine.net

KEYS FOR BUILDING GOOD STUDY HABITS



Self-awareness - be aware of your strengths and weaknesses. Set a schedule to complete assignments and be strict about meeting deadlines. Do challenging assignments first and easier ones last.



Proactivity - participate in classroom and extracurricular activities. Volunteer to do a special project; read an assignment aloud; or work ahead.



Perseverance - keep trying, even if you don't get it right the first time. Don't let obstacles get in your way; remove them or go around them.



Goals - set realistic goals for school and in your personal life. Prioritize goals; set steps to achieve your goals; and work with others to reach them.



Buddy System - get help when you need it. Study with a partner; join a study group; or get a tutor.



Study Space - have a dedicated space that is free from distractions. Have good lighting, a table or desk, and a comfortable temperature. This should be a noise free zone, no phones or TV.



Notes - take good notes. Review notes daily. Do it immediately after class. Recall any facts or examples you didn't have time to write down. Underline or highlight important concepts.



Communicate - talk with teachers. If you are not sure about an assignment or the teachers' expectations, talk to them and get it clarified.



Schedule - manage your time. Keep track of your commitments and plan time to study. Study at the same time each day. Make productive use of free time and study halls at school.



Responsibility - take responsibility for your decisions. Stay focused and make positive decisions about your priorities, time and resources.



Photo taken at the ETS digital photography workshop.

JOB WELL DONE



The Director's Award is presented in recognition of outstanding contributions to Educational Talent Search. For the 2005-06 program year, the following were acknowledged for their support and involvement:

Sandy Best	Secretary AC Valley
Ralph Boyles	Technology Specialist Edinboro University
DJ Bradley	Technology Specialist Edinboro University
Vera Campbell	Counselor Oil City High
Terry Kerr	Guidance Secretary Titusville Middle
Cheri Keyes	Teacher Brookville
Jessica Kluck	Student Philadelphia University
Jeanne Schmader	Teacher Clarion-Limestone
Deb Shirey	Librarian Union
Peg Siegel	Secretary North Clarion
Kathy Snyder	Teacher Redbank Valley
Scott Stahl	Principal Oil City Middle
Barbara Thompson	Director Clarion Free Library

Join us in thanking them and tell them - job well done!

THE ETS TRIP TO WASHINGTON DC: A DAY TO REMEMBER

The Educational Talent Search trip to Washington D.C. on August 10th was a very memorable and enjoyable learning experience. Even though there was a limited amount of time to enjoy each stop, everyone gained valuable knowledge every step of the way.

Our first visit was a drive around the Iwo Jima Monument. It made us all proud to know that so many Americans made such great sacrifices in the names of justice and freedom. We saw that monument at 6:30 in the morning; our DC day had just begun.

Our cheerful bus driver then dropped us off at the FDR Memorial. The Memorial was constructed out of beautiful purple-red stone which bore engravings of many of Franklin D. Roosevelt's inspiring quotes. Who knew that one man could have had so much wisdom? Out of all the quotes the one that the students liked the most was, "The only thing to fear is fear itself." There is much wisdom and knowledge to be gained by learning about the lives of great men and women.

The next memorial we visited was dedicated to a man of like stature, Thomas Jefferson. On the walls of his memorial were the writings we know today as the very foundations of this nation - The Declaration of Independence. No true American could ever forget all of the amazing individuals who fought so valiantly for the rights and freedoms that we all enjoy today.

After a hectic, yet comical breakfast at McDonalds, the ETS group walked to the Smithsonian Castle. The Castle is the oldest building at the Smithsonian Institution. Inside the Castle were a number of international artifacts including a coin collection of old or outdated U.S. currency, as well as African and Indian art; not to mention the crypt of the institution's benefactor, James Smithsonian. The courtyard of the Castle was a landscaping work of art, which led us to our next stop, the National Art Gallery.

According to what we were told, the National Art Gallery is so gigantic that if one were to spend an entire day there it would still be almost impossible to ponder for a few moments upon each and every piece of artwork. Therefore, it would also be extremely easy to become lost in such a place; so we were advised to stay together as one large group to be led on a condensed tour of the museum. Nevertheless, the artwork we were able to see was absolutely stunning.

Another fun experience for the students of ETS was none other than our lunch in a restaurant called

Johnny Rockets. Johnny Rockets prides itself on its authentic looking 1950s setup and friendly atmosphere. The burgers and fries are prepared as they would have been in the 50s, delicious and not to mention, in above average serving sizes. Everyone was refreshed and in excellent moods upon leaving for our next stop.

On the schedule, we were to go to the World War II Memorial, but instead we swung around to the back of the White House. The main events at this location were taking pictures and listening to a woman who had evidently been protesting there against war for quite awhile. She had a small camp set up which included a tent with big yellow signs and posters around it in several different languages. As we looked through the fence at the White House our group leaders called us back to the bus for the half hour ride to the National Zoo.

Everyone was allowed to look around the Zoo as they pleased, as long as everyone reported down to the "Mane Dining Hall" (pun intended) at 7:00 for dinner. The animals looked just as exhausted as all of the group leaders and students, and yet we were all content to have had such an eventful day.

After dinner, we boarded the bus again to head for home; but not before making a stop for some ice cream at Dairy Queen.

ETS is a wonderful program that enables students to go and visit places that they wouldn't normally be able to go on their own, especially financially. We, the students of ETS, greatly appreciate the funds and grants given to us so that we may become well rounded citizens, as we learn and experience the more wonderful aspects of our society.

- JoyAnne G. Bulkley-Bear

(The ETS Washington DC incentive trip was made possible through continued federal TRIO funding and a special grant through the Venango County Youth Philanthropy Fund.)



DO YOU KNOW A CYBER BULLY?



With the popularity of Instant Messaging (IM), e-mail, webpages and blogging - bullies aren't just found in the school halls anymore. Teens are bullied, harassed, and "hit on" in cyberspace just as in real world situations. Not everybody who uses the internet practices good manners. Remember, you are responsible for your behavior, even online. Avoid sending anything that may hurt someone or be interpreted as harassment. Never post anything on the internet that you wouldn't want known to the public. Everyone in a "chatroom" can see everything you type. Some rooms have chaperones or monitors who are responsible for maintaining order, but even in some of these rooms what you type is immediately displayed. The monitor can kick someone out of the room who is acting in an inappropriate manner, but he or she may be able to act only after the fact. Newsgroups, sometimes called bulletin boards or forums, are places where you can read and post messages or download or upload files. Unlike "chatrooms," newsgroups are not live or "real time." If you post a message it remains on the newsgroup for people to look at later. Think before you click!

Things that may be considered as cyber bullying:

- Threatening e-mail
- Nasty IM session
- Repeated notes sent to a cell phone
- Website set up to mock others
- "Borrowing" someone's password and pretending to be them
- Forwarding supposedly private messages, pictures, or videos to others

The cyber bully hides behind the anonymity of the internet. Kids feel free to say things on a computer screen that they would never say face-to-face. The cyber bully does not have to be bigger or stronger than the victim. A cyber bully can feel removed from his actions, almost as if someone else, is doing the taunting. Without seeing the consequences of his behavior (the hurt or tears on another's face), a bully doesn't feel sympathy or remorse.

The cyber bully may believe he cannot be caught, but everyone leaves footsteps in cyberspace. Everything is traceable. If you are being taunted online, you can type in the name of the webpage on www.whois.com and find out who paid for the offending page. Similarly, e-mails and IMs can be traced through screen names and addresses provided by the ISP. Uncovering the responsible party may take time, money, effort, and possibly the help of an expert, but it can be done.

What should you do if you become a victim? The best thing to do if you get an offensive message or experience people in a "chatroom" acting in a disrespectful way is to ignore them. **Do not respond.** If you are bullied through chatroom or IM, the bully can often be blocked. Some messages may be considered harassment, a punishable offense by federal law. If someone sends you messages or images that are lewd or obscene with the intent to abuse, annoy, harass, or threaten you, report it to your internet service provider and the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children's CyberTipline® at www.cybertipline.com or by calling 1-800-843-5678. You should also report it to school authorities if the incident takes place at school or involves students from your school. **Tell an adult about any online bullying.** Keep records and print off messages. **Get a new number or account and give it out one person at a time.** Keep a diary to record if any abuse starts again.

Tips for avoiding online bullies:

- Don't give out your private information
- Don't exchange pictures or give e-mail addresses to people you meet on the internet
- Don't send a message when you are angry - take a break and unplug for a while
- Remember that online conversations are not private. Others can copy, print, and share what you say or any pictures you send.

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Giannetti, C. and M. Sagarese. (2006). The Newest Breed of Bully, the Cyberbully, *National PTA Newsletter*, retrieved October 20, 2006, from http://www.pta.org/archive_article_details_1117639656218.html

Magid, L. (2004). Teen Safety on the Information Highway, *National Center for Missing & Exploited Children and The MASTER Teacher®*, retrieved October 20, 2006 from <http://www.safeteens.com/safeteens.htm>

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Courage is fire, and bullying is smoke.

— Benjamin Disraeli



IMPORTANT SKILLS FOR EVERYONE

Regardless of your educational or career goals, there are important skills everyone should develop. Whether you plan to pursue a degree or not, developing these skills will increase your desirability in the job market, as well as be beneficial in other life situations.

Communication skills: writing, speaking and conversational skills can be honed by serving on the school newspaper, debate team, or even reading the morning announcements.

Work ethic: show social and personal responsibility - be on time; show up when you say you will; recognize right from wrong.

Motivation/initiative: meet challenges.

Teamwork/cooperation: work well with others.

Problem solving: engage in classroom debates and discussions.

Interpersonal skills: promote respect and make everyone feel welcome and safe.

Computer skills: take computer courses; use computers to produce homework or a publication.

Flexibility/adaptability: make the most of opportunities to learn and grow.

Honesty and integrity: display exemplary sportsmanship; do the right thing even when it is not popular.

Dependability: volunteer or lead a club.

Get things done: complete projects/assignments on time; develop a program of study and adhere to it.

Intelligence: elect a challenging academic program; plan early to meet college costs.

Common sense: be responsible for your own behavior; avoid things that jeopardize your health and welfare.

Maturity: make wise decisions; be a leader.

Self-confidence/poise: participate in fine and performing arts programs; captain an athletic team.

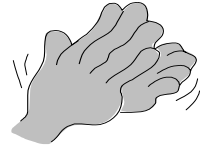
Decision-making ability: be optimistic and realistic about the college admission process and career options.

Time management: balance academic, extra-curricular, and home responsibilities.

References:

Rutgers University Career Services New Brunswick (2004). Top Skills/Qualities Sought by Employers. *CAM Report, March 2004*. Retrieved March 7, 2006, from <http://careerservices.rutgers.edu/~cswebpg/toptenskills.html>

OUTSTANDING



Congratulations to these ETS participants for their outstanding participation in 2005-06 ETS activities and programs:

Brookville

Trevor Klatko

Janelle Spuck

Clarion-Limestone

Michele Troutman

Cranberry

Candyce Latshaw

Stephanie Salsgiver

Franklin

Brittany Kluck

Keystone

Bradley Fox

Aaron Reddinger

Oil City

Emma Knavel

Nicole Simpson

Clarion Area

Karly Burns

Cameron Slike

Redbank Valley

Melia Allen

Melinda Bloch

Aubrie Hepler

Bobby Kozakovsky

Joshua Little

Taylor McMillen

Lindsey Neiswonger

Kaitlyn Potter

Brandy Shreckengost

Holland Skinner

Nicole Snyder

Chelsea Unger

Each year the Award of Excellence is presented to ETS participants that display exceptional academic performance, leadership skills, and community involvement. The 05-06 awards were presented to:

North Clarion

Macy Bauer

Amber Delaney

Brookville

Bryan Blair

Dylan Buffington

Trevor Klatko

Redbank Valley

Aubrie Hepler

Union

Wes Smith

Keep up the good work! Our spring schedule should be available around the first of the year - check online and watch your mail.

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

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Visit www.clarion.edu/ets for upcoming programs
and <http://clarionu-etsub.blogspot.com> for important
up-to-date information.

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