Important Dates For Seniors

- Exit Interviews (ALL Seniors) May 2
- Senior Reflections May 2
- Senior Track Sheet May 2
- PCP Graduation Ceremony June 8
- Senior Trip to NYC June 11-13

Important Dates For Returning Students

- Summer Program Dates June 21-July 30
- Summer Orientation June 5
- Last SAT test for 2008-2009 year June 6 (register by May 5)
- Last ACT test for 2008-2009 year June 13 (register by May 8)

NOTE: After the last testing date, waivers for the SAT and ACT will NOT be available until August 2009.

Gates Millennium Scholarship Winner

Karen Guzman, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School senior has been selected as a Gates Millennium Scholars (GMS)! This year, thousands of applicants applied for the scholarship. Only 1,000 students were selected for the GMS Class of 2009. The GMS Scholarship award provides support for the cost of education by covering unmet need and self help and is renewable each year.

The goal of GMS is to promote academic excellence and to provide an opportunity for outstanding minority students with significant financial need to reach their highest potential by reducing financial barriers for African-American, Hispanic American, American Indian/Alaska Native and Asian Pacific Islander American students with high academic and leadership promise. Karen, who has been a participant of Upward Bound for 4 years and is the current SGA president, has been accepted to eight universities including University of Maryland, Rutgers University, Boston University, and Florida International University. She is in the process of considering her college offers, and plans to make a final decision and select a college very soon. Congratulations Karen!
COUNSELORS’ CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS ON THEIR COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES AND SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS:

Kazeem Abass - Frostburg State University, Temple University, and University of Maryland
Germaine Biabo-Seutcha - Marquette University, Salisbury University, Stevenson University, and Ursinus College. Germaine has also been awarded over $65,000 in scholarships.
Nadirah Cogbill - Lincoln University, Pennsylvania State University, Dillard University, Alabama A&M University, Winston-Salem State University, Lock Haven University, Paine, Elizabeth City, Cheyney State University, Indiana University of PA, Kutztown University, and East Stroudsburg University
Tyiesha Crutchfield - High Point University, Loyola University, and Johnson C. Smith University
Jennifer Diaz - Bowie State University
Fabiola Duverne - Catholic University, Bowie State University, St. John’s University, Virginia Commonwealth University, and Hampton University
Gretchen Echegoyen - Messiah College and University of Maryland
Jamie Echegoyen - Messiah College and University of Maryland
Jemima Etienne - University of Maryland and Morgan State University. Jemima was also awarded a Horatio Algers Scholarship.
Hassan Ford - University of Maryland, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Old Dominion University, York College, George Mason University, and University of Maryland Baltimore County
Karen Guzman - Florida International University, Boston University, and University of Virginia
Danielle Hewitt - Norfolk State University and Coppin State University
Carrie Johnson - Salisbury State University, Art Institute of Washington, and York College
Steven Kry - Frostburg State University and Wesley College
Louis Lamp - University of Maryland
Gabriela Lopez - Old Dominion University
Jose Manzano - Stevenson University
Quaderah Martin - Pennsylvania College of Technology
Marcus Mayo - Hampton University
Jessica Melendez - Frostburg State University
Karla Melendez - Mount Saint Mary’s University and Frostburg State University
Leonce N’Dango-Koyakosso - Salisbury State University
Zenas Okanlawon - Towson University and George Mason University
Guadelupe Osorio - University of Maryland. Guadelupe has also been awarded a Posse Scholarship to attend Grinnell College.
Nana Pinkrah - Frostburg State University and Virginia Commonwealth University
Clara (Niki) Pittman - Howard University, Hampton University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Temple University and Towson University
Jewell Porter - Goucher College, Spelman College, Seton Hill University-Greenburg PA, Drew University, Penn State University, Eckerd College, Seton Hall University-South Orange New Jersey, Randolph-Macon College, Hampton University, and Old Dominion University. Jewell has also been awarded $363,649.00 in grants and scholarships.
Amia Price - Coppin State University
Alexis Pumphrey - University of Maryland, Morgan State University, and University of Maryland Baltimore County. Alexis was also awarded a Horatio Algers Scholarship.
Andres Quintanilla - University of Hawaii and University of Maryland
Chyna Reynolds - Pennsylvania State University and Seton Hall
Kevin Robeson - Towson University
Alexandra Rodriguez - Frostburg State University, and Salisbury State University
Olamilekan Solarin - Johns Hopkins University and University of Maryland. Olamilekan has also been awarded 20,000 in scholarships.
Rebecca Sosanya - Virginia Commonwealth University and Frostburg State University
Sonjah Stanley - University of Maryland and Howard University
Simone Wallerson - Spelman College, Towson University, University of Maryland Baltimore County, Robert Morris University, Virginia Commonwealth University, Hampton University, and Stevenson University. Simone has also been awarded 56,000 in scholarships.
Jasmine Washington - Hampton University, Franklin Pierce University, and Bethune-Cookman University, Florida A&M University, and Grambling State University
Morgan Wilder - University of Delaware and Gettysburg College
Andre Williams - Hampton University, Norfolk State University, Virginia State University, and Morgan State University
Nathaniel Williams - University of Maryland Eastern Shore, Morgan State University, and Bowie State University
Roshanna Williams - Howard University and Pennsylvania State University
Tatiana Wood - Stevenson University
Samrawit Yalewaker - University of Virginia, UMBC, University of Maryland, and Catholic University. Samrawit has also been awarded over 43,000 in scholarships and grants.
Bridging the Financial Aid Gap

How can families meet unmet need?

Appeal the financial aid offer. If the college's package of loans, grants, scholarships and work-study come up short, meet with the financial aid office. Write a letter to request a meeting and explain why the school should consider adjusting your aid offer.

Some pointers for the meeting:
• Prepare documentation for the financial aid office to review in support of your case, particularly circumstances not revealed on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.)
• Demonstrate that your family's financial circumstances have changed dramatically since you filed your FAFSA (i.e. death, unemployment, medical expenses).
• Different schools have different attitudes toward financial aid appeals. Some schools like to see the aid packages offered by other schools you're considering, while others might be put off by its inclusion.
• Be courteous when requesting additional assistance. You're not trying to drive a bargain on a used car. Approach the aid officer as an ally, not an adversary.

Look for scholarships. Sign-up on FastWeb.com and continue to review the results of your scholarship search. Keep your profile updated to be sure you're getting the most relevant results. You can also expand your search to offline sources. Check with your local library, organizations in your community and your employer for additional scholarship opportunities.

Consider a part-time job. If work-study isn't part of your aid package, ask if it's a possibility. Research the campus and surrounding community to find other viable employment options.

Get the most from your loans. First, be sure you're borrowing the maximum you can in subsidized loans. For instance, Stafford loans allow dependent undergraduate students to borrow up to $2,625 their freshman year, $3,500 their sophomore year and $5,500 for each remaining year. You can find more student loan information at www.FinAid.org.

If you still don't have enough money to cover the gap after maximizing your subsidized loans, you can approach a private lender for a supplemental loan. This loan won't have all the advantages of a Stafford loan, but it could get you to your dream school.

Reduce expenses. Explore ways to reduce the cost of attending school. Is the school in an area where you might be able to live at home or with relatives in the area? Can you meet the same academic goals at a lower cost institution? Consider accelerated programs where you might complete a degree in three years rather than four.

Source: www.FastWeb.com

2009 Summer Program Dates
June 21 - July 30, 2009
UPWARD BOUND SENIOR VISITS WITH FIRST LADY MICHELLE OBAMA AT THE WHITE HOUSE

Selected to attend a special Women’s History Month event at the White House, Upward Bound II senior Karla Melendez had the opportunity to meet Mrs. Obama and mingle with other celebrity guests on March 19, 2009.

“I had the opportunity to meet celebrities like Alicia Keys, Bobbi Brown [celebrity make-up artist], and Tracee Ellis Ross [from the TV show *Girlfriends*]. I also had the huge privilege to take pictures with Michelle Obama and give her a big hug which was one of the most exciting moments ever!”

Karla was among a small group of Montgomery Blair High School female senior students who were selected for this special opportunity. Karla, who has been accepted to several colleges, is planning to attend Trinity Washington University in D.C. this fall.

When recalling the events of that day, Karla remembers the message of hope and reaching for your dreams that was shared by Mrs. Obama. “It was the greatest experience of my whole entire life!”

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Spring College Tour

On April 8-9, 2009, Pre-College Programs students visited Norfolk State University, Old Dominion University, Hampton University, Bennett College, North Carolina A&T University, and Elon University. Students had the opportunity to tour each campus, learn about each schools’ academic programs, and ask current students questions about their college experience.
Tutor Counselor Spotlight

Luis Sanchez has been selected for University of Maryland’s Office of Undergraduate Studies Student Employee Award!

Luis is a college junior and is majoring in Computer Science and Astronomy. He has been a Tutor Counselor with Pre-College Programs for over one year. Luis was nominated by Pre-College Programs’ staff members, and he is highly regarded for his leadership and initiative, dedication to our students, and amicable personality.

Luis will be honored at a special Office of Undergraduate Studies Awards Reception in May.

Pre-College Programs Staff

Executive Director, Georgette Hardy DeJesus, Psy.D
Associate Director, Annie Foster Ahmed, M.Ed
Upward Bound II Advisor/Coordinator, Moya Malcolm, M.Ed
Upward Bound I Counselor, Sabrena Johnson, M.A.
Upward Bound I Counselor, Jonas Beaubrun, M.A.
Upward Bound Math & Science Counselor, Ryan Hill, MPA
Upward Bound Academic Coordinator, Michael Walker, M.A.
LIFT Coordinator, Tiffany Jones, B.A.
Business Services Specialist, Adrienne M. Smith
Alissa Mayers, Research Assistant
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