What Could Knock UBers Off the College Path?

During October’s monthly meeting the freshman and sophomores talked a little about what they think could be obstacles on their road to college. Right is a list of their concerns with the number of students expressing that concern noted.

These concerns will be addressed in future newsletters and at our monthly meetings. This newsletter has an article on the back page about gaining your parent’s support.

Money is the number one concern and your first line of financial aid defense is getting enrolled in Oklahoma’s Promise and ensuring you are fulfilling the requirements of the scholarship. The next line of defense is for seniors to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid which will be addressed in the next newsletter.

UB Students Volunteer for Halloween Blast

Seven OSU-OKC Upward Bound students volunteered at this year’s Halloween Blast. Each volunteer logged two hours of service. The UB students manned the imagination station, cotton candy station, and dunk for donuts booth. Thank you to Angie, Suzan, Ebony, Shaquisha, Tomme, Sarah and Sabrina for helping make the Halloween Blast a great event for area children. Please enjoy photos from the event throughout this newsletter.
How Do Colleges Use ACT Scores?

ACT scores are one of the tools universities use when selecting students for admission. But they also use score reports for other purposes, such as course placement and student guidance. Here are five examples of ways universities use score reports:

- **Admissions.** ACT test results — along with high school grades, academic preparation, and extracurricular activities — help college admission officers identify which students will thrive at their institution. Scores alone do not determine admission.

- **Course placement.** ACT scores, academic background, and high school grades are used together to determine which college classes would be most appropriate.

- **Academic advising.** College advisors look at ACT results, high school grades and classes, projected college grades, employment plans, and other factors to help students find the perfect fit for their course of study.

- **Scholarships and loans.** Some scholarships may use ACT scores and estimated grades to identify qualified candidates. ACT’s unique score report also provides information about student’s educational needs, extracurricular achievements, and educational plans. Joined with other data, agencies can evaluate applications for both scholarships and loans.

- **ACT Writing Test.** If students take this optional test, any college that receives their scores will also receive writing scores and comments along with subject area scores and a composite score. Colleges may review students essays to help them make admissions or course placement decisions.

Source: www.actstudent.org

Hello Students and Parents,

My name is De'Shaun Thornton and I am the new lead counselor of Upward Bound here at OSU-OKC.

I am very excited to be here working for a program that has meant so much to me and been a part of my life for over eight years. I came up in Upward Bound under the direction of Mr. Benjine Boykin as a high school student at Northwest Classen. Upon graduation, I continued my education at St. Gregory’s University and came back one summer as an intern for OSU-OKC Upward Bound. As a college graduate and now as a master’s student, I owe much of my success to what Upward Bound had instilled in me as a youth and I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to advocate for the program and its students. I look forward to meeting all of you and assisting our students in reaching their goals.
FAQs for FastWeb

1. How do I update my profile?
To make a change to any of the information in your FastWeb profile, you can update by going to FastWeb and log in as returning user. Click on the “My Profile” link in the upper right corner of any FastWeb screen. Next, click the “Edit” link in the upper right corner of the screen directly across from your name. This will allow you to edit your information.

2. Is my profile information private?
Yes, your profile information is private by default. It is secure and viewable only by you.

3. How do I remove all of my personal information (including my email address) and cancel my FastWeb account?
Send an email to info@FastWeb.com, subject line: Close Account. To help us better serve you please provide a brief description of why you would like to close your account.

4. How do I decide which FastWeb emails I would like to receive?
Under My Account tab, check or uncheck the appropriate boxes under the subhead Subscriptions to subscribe or unsubscribe from the various FastWeb mailings.

5. My intended major does not appear in the dropdown menu, why?
If the major you are looking for does not appear in the dropdown menu, it is because we do not have scholarships in our database for that particular major—you will have to pick something else related. Also, please only type in the major and not “Bachelors of Science” or “Master’s degree,” etc. before the major.

6. Why am I getting a message that my mailing address is invalid?
The system has difficulty recognizing apartment numbers or units at the end of address. Please insert the street name only. For example, if your mailing address is 123 Road Avenue, Apt #1; insert: 123 Road Avenue.

7. How can I enter a career objective if it is not listed?
If your career objective is not listed, it simply means that there are no scholarships in our database that require that career objective as a prerequisite. You can select something close to your intended career objective instead—this will not hurt your scholarship matching chances.

8. The system is saying that my e-mail is already listed or invalid—why is that?
It is likely that you already have an existing account with FastWeb. You can only register each e-mail address one time. If you need your old account deleted, notify us at info@fastweb.com.

Source: www.fastweb.com

Seniors: Dell Scholarship Opens Nov. 1
Do you qualify?

The Dell Scholars Program is more than a check. Rather, the program aims to provide Dell Scholars with everything they need to begin and complete college. Dell Scholars receive $20,000 each to continue their higher education over the course of six years. In addition, the Dell Scholars Program provides its students with technology, a private scholar networking community, resources, and mentoring to ensure they have the support they need to obtain a college degree.

To be eligible to apply for the Dell Scholars Program scholarship, you must meet the below listed criteria:

- Have participated in Upward Bound for two years
- Senior in high school
- Earning a minimum of a 2.4 GPA
- Demonstrated need for financial assistance
- Planning to enter a bachelor’s degree program at an accredited higher education institution in the fall directly after your graduation from high school.
- U.S. citizenship or permanent residency

Dell Scholars are students who demonstrate their desire and ability to overcome barriers and to achieve their goals. Applications will be evaluated on: determination to succeed; future goals and plans to achieve them; ability to communicate the hardships you have overcome or currently face; self motivation in completing challenging coursework; and demonstrate need for financial assistance.

Visit www.dellscholars.org for more information.

9th, 10th & 11th graders:
Take a look at this scholarship application so you can be positioning yourself now to apply for this scholarship when you are a senior.
Addressing Your Family’s Concerns About You Going to College

If you go to college, statistics show your children and even their children are more likely to go.

Families with higher levels of education tend to have a better standard of living. Plus, higher education enables you to help your family. With more earning potential, you can give back to your parents, help your siblings and more. There are so many reasons to go.

So, if you come from a family of college-goers, keep it up. And if you’re the first in your family to consider college, tell everyone, “I’m going.”

Talking to Your Family: Make Your Case

Are you afraid your family might have concerns when you tell them you want to continue your education? That’s totally natural. Here are some possible concerns from a parent’s point of view:

- **“I need you to help around the house.”**
  It’s possible you can pursue your education without leaving home. And in the long run, you getting an education may be an even bigger help to the family.
- **“I need you to get a job and contribute to the family income.”**
  Some kids pay their own way through college, reducing the family’s income needs. And with more education, you will be able to get a better-paying job in the future, helping you contribute more to the family in the long run.

- **“I didn’t go, and neither did anyone else in the family.”**
  Our economy has changed quickly in just the past few decades. Job requirements or expectations for your parent’s generation may not be the same for your generation. Today, many of the best jobs require additional education.
- **“We just don’t have the money.”**
  Many students come from families with very limited incomes. But they found ways to go. You might be surprised at how many financial aid resources are available. Cost might be a hurdle, but it’s not a roadblock. Talk with your Upward Bound counselor.
- **“You don’t need more education for the jobs available around here.”**
  It might seem that way, but some jobs may have more educational requirements than parents realize. And they may not be aware of all the opportunities. Also, it’s possible you may not live in one place all your life. Job markets can change rapidly, so the career flexibility more education can provide will be a valuable asset.
- **“You have a child of your own to care for.”**
  Being a parent can make getting an education more difficult. But thousands of parents have done it, and you can too. Many schools provide services, such as on-campus daycare, for students with children. And with more education, you will be a much better provider for a child in the long run.
- **“Your grades aren’t good enough.”**
  A child whose grades haven’t been the best can still go. If you still have a year or more before high school graduation, it’s not too late to work on raising that GPA. If you will be graduating soon, consider community colleges, which can have more open admission policies. Trade and technical schools are other good options.

- **“You aren’t ready to be independent.”**
  Almost every parent or guardian feels this way at some time. Many are surprised at how a little independence can help kids show more responsibility. In general, college helps students gradually ease into adult independence. And if you go to a local school, you can continue to live at home until you both feel you’re ready to be more independent.

Source: www.college.gov

Student Talent Show Performers Needed

Start thinking about what you’d like to do in the student talent show at the annual holiday event December 5. Parents will be invited to attend this special meeting.

To make this event a success we need students to unleash their hidden talents and perform. Sing, dance, recite, improv, juggle, show us some tricks. It’s all for fun and entertainment and performers will earn extra stipend money.

Contact Mrs. Berousek if you’d like to participate, 945-8623 or berouse@osuokc.edu.