

**OAKLAND
UNIVERSITY**

**Pre-College
Programs**

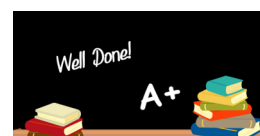
GEAR UP GAZETTE

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Back To School Issue...

Hello GEAR UP Students and Parents,



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In this welcome back school edition of the GEAR UP Gazette we are pleased to bring you information regarding our Fall 2011 Saturday Academies, an advice column from a current Pre-College Programs' mentor, a timeline for our GEAR UP senior and much, much more.....

First, let me introduce myself. I am Tiffany Elliott, the new Coordinator for the Department of Pre-College Programs. I am very happy to be working with all of you during this very important year in your life. To help make easy your transition, OU's Pre-College Programs is dedicated to creating, implementing, and facilitating programs that focus on your college access, goal setting, social awareness and skill sets. One of our goals is to provide our GEAR UP students with the tools and information necessary to successfully complete high school and successfully transition into a post-secondary institution of higher learning. Through our College Day programs, Saturday Academies, and various pre-college resources, we will provide ongoing academic support to you.



So, for the next nine months we are here to expose you to a college environment, enhance your study skills, and provide you with the opportunities to find out what you need to get to that next level in your educational career.

Welcome back class of 2012! Let's make this a remarkable year.



This fall Oakland University's GEAR UP Saturday Academies will focus on ACT readiness for our GU seniors. We will also be offering our seniors concurrent Saturday Academies, GEAR UP for math and GEAR UP writing along with the

Saturday Academies "ACT Ready"

"ACT Ready" Saturday Academies. So, whether you choose to focus on skills and techniques to help you improve your ACT score or you are interest in improving your classroom grade; join us at no cost to you. To attend our Saturday Academies you can register at the annual *GEAR UP conference, Saturday September 24, 2011 from 10:00 am-2:00 pm*. The dates for our upcoming GEAR UP Saturday Academies are as follows:

Saturday Academy Dates

9:00 am-12:00pm
October 8th
October 15th
October 22nd
October 29th
November 5th

Mentor's Message...

Hello everyone! I am Charla Holt a Secondary English Education major. In the fall, it will be the start of my 4th year at Oakland University and my 2nd year working for Pre-College Programs. Making it this far has been a wonderful, adventurous journey. It all started at my high school Weston Preparatory Academy, Detroit. The events from my senior year helped me make a smooth transition from a small graduating class of 46, to a public university of over 19,000 students.

Throughout my senior year I made sure I stayed involved in student activities and my goal was to leave a lasting impact at my school. I was voted senior class president and my main goal was to make sure my classmates had a wonderful senior year. I was a part of the Girl's Varsity Cross Country team, and a Student Council member for the school. I was in charge of planning a number of events that included our annual school talent show, Black History program, School Awards show (Grammy's) and Prom. Although I was heavily involved, I made it mandatory that I did not have too much on my plate, so that I wouldn't lose focus on my studies and applying to colleges.

I am thankful to have had an amazing counselor, Christina Gonzales. She was dedicated to all of us and she was very adamant about taking us on college tours, and preparing us for college in general. My senior year was full of trips to various colleges. Ms. Gonzales taught me to ask questions at every college I

visited. The questions varied from: can I pick my own roommate, to, what is the average class size. I listened to her advice and the advice from my teachers, because they've been through college and they knew what to expect.

One of the main things my teachers told me was get to know my professors. I took those

"Seek they're advice, hear their words, and move forward on your path to success"

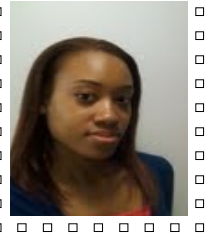
words and ran with them. I made a lasting impression on all the professors I've had. Even my very first professors remember who I am when we see each other in passing. My teachers also told me to stay involved and network. So I did just that! I positioned myself so that I could connect with the right people. I was fortunate to earn a Public School Academies (PSA) scholarship upon coming to OU. Mildred Taylor is the director of PSA, and over the years of being at Oakland, I kept in contact with her and she is the person that told me about Pre-College

Programs. It was because of her, that I applied to be a student mentor.

Since I am an education major, I thought it would be best to meet faculty in the school of Education. I landed a job in the School of Education and Human Services Dean's office. Working in the dean's office has afforded me the opportunity to make a personal connect with the School of Ed. Dean, as well as network with my future professors.

My senior year of high school is full of great memories that helped me be successful in college. I am so thankful to have had supportive people in my corner, leading and guiding me in the right direction. I truly believe that if I didn't have them, I would not have made as easy transition as I did. My advice to you is to talk with your teachers and counselors. They've been in your shoes before and they have a lot of knowledge that can be beneficial to you. Seek they're advice, hear their words, and move forward on your path to success!!

Charla-



GEAR UP/College Day Summer 2011 College Road Trips Recap

Would you buy an expensive car without taking it on a test drive first? Would you buy a new pair of shoes without trying them on? "I DON'T THINK SO" and believe me college is no different. You should make sure the school you choose fits your educational goals and lifestyle before you drop ten stacks on making yourself smarter; and this summer that is exactly what Oakland University's GEAR UP students did.

Over the summer OU GEAR UP students' took a road trip to four of Michigan's Higher Educational Institutions. Students visited both private and public colleges and universities and spent a combine total of 40 hours getting a taste of what college is really like. From July 25-July 28, 2011 GU students spent each day navigating through the college campuses of University of Detroit-Mercy, Wayne State Univer-

sity, Northern Michigan University, and Grand Valley State University. The journey to these schools provided GU students with the opportunity to learn firsthand about college



culture and social norms. Also, during their visits the students were taken on

a campus tour led by the college/university staff. In addition, they received multiple academic presentations which included everything from admissions requirements to campus life.

GU students were elated at this opportunity to journey to the various campuses. It is our goal to provide firsthand explorations of college life, so that informed decisions and plans can be made for their future. We hope to continue exposing our GEAR UP students to college life while assisting them in their transition into a post-secondary institution of their choice.



Senior Year Timeline: September to December

- Sign up for the ACT if you have not taken it, or if you are not satisfied with your score.
- Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Start asking for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers now or at least three weeks before application deadline.
- Begin writing a personal statement and college essay(s).
- Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school.
- Attend as many college fairs as possible.
- Apply for admissions at the colleges you've chosen.
- Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college where you have applied.
- Start gathering the information you will need to begin financial aid applications.
- See your school counselor for help finding financial aid and scholarships
- Keep working hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- You must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).



***Rule of Thumb: Apply to all the colleges/ universities you would like to attend by Halloween of your senior year.**

Senior Check List:



Get in the habit of collecting and saving important documents such as:

- ✓ Report Cards
- ✓ Awards (list of award won/received)
- ✓ Extracurricular Activities (list of activities you are involved in)
- ✓ Community Service Projects (list of volunteer projects)
- ✓ Employment (Resume)
- ✓ Writing Sample

“Get Live, Get Active” Parent Info:

These particular documents will come in handy when you start filling-out college applications, as well as when you are writing your personal statement/college essays

Hello Parents,

Oakland University GEAR UP Program is looking to support you and your student during their senior year in high school. GEAR UP wants to work closely with GU parents by providing you with steps and information to help your graduating senior make the best choices for college. Here are a few things you can do this fall to help your student for a successful senior year and beyond.

1. If your student is not satisfied with SAT/ACT scores, suggest a re-take.
2. Help your senior narrow college possibilities and collect applications.
3. Work with your student to complete college applications approximately two weeks before they are due. Offer to proofread them. Verify that the school guidance office is sending transcripts and test scores to the colleges your student has chosen.
4. Go on as many campus visits as possible between now and December .

5. Check college policies.

6. Attend as many college fairs and financial aid workshops as possible.

7. Help your student search online for scholarships and for general information about financial aid issues.

8. Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA..





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GEAR UP/COLLEGE DAY

*"Are you moving closer to
a scholarship?"*

The mission of Oakland University's GEAR UP/College Day Program is to provide an opportunity for underrepresented students to discover firsthand the potential of a college education, and to be made aware of the information, knowledge and skills they will need in order to complete high school and adequately prepare themselves for a successful entrance into college.

Pre-College Programs Department Staff

Reginald McCloud-Director

Tiffany Elliott-Coordinator

Jill Osmon- Executive Secretary

Kara Dubay-Student Assistant/Mentor

Rodrina Moore-Student Assistant/Mentor

We're on the Web!
Oakland University
GEAR UP



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KnowingHow2GO Resources

Scholarships and Financial Aid Websites

www.fastweb.com

www.collegeboard.org

www.mappingyourfuture.org

www.michigan.gov/mistudentaid

www.fafsa.ed.gov/



ACT Test Prep Internet Websites

www.actstudent.org

www.number2.com

www.testpreppractice.net/ACT

www.Test-guide.com/ACT

