HAPPY NEW YEAR!

As the new year begins, I hope that you are gearing up for a successful semester. I am sure that you are concentrating on your classes and making this the best semester yet.

I am anxious to hear from those of you who are considering on returning to UBMS for another summer. We are planning another fun filled program; you won’t want to miss it! Please send your reply soon. We are recruiting and need to know how many slots are open.

What I Wish I Had Known (cont. on p. 4)

“After going through the stressful process of applying to colleges, I have one thought: I am so glad it’s over. However, I found there were a few steps I took that made the process smoother for me than what my friends experienced.”

“First of all, I started my research early, looking through catalogs and searching the College Board’s website to find schools. When I had a list, I explored each college’s website, looking at academic concentrations, reviews, and the schools’ statistics and student profiles. I would advise you to begin considering the type of schools you like as early as your sophomore year. Starting early reduces stress because deadlines won’t be such an issue.”

New Semester, New Start (cont. on p. 4)

“It is a new semester—whether you had the best semester or the worst semester during the fall, this is a new start. As you are thinking about your New Year’s resolutions, you should also think about your goals, both academic and personal.”

“It is easy to fall into the same routine as the last semester—especially the bad habits of the last semester. Try to learn new habits so that you can have a successful semester.”

“Get a planner and use it. Once you get your syllabi from all of your classes, record your due dates for assignments and test dates. This is a good way to stay on track.”

Know who to ask for help. You have so many people who want to help you succeed. Your teachers/professors are probably the first in line. Check out their office hours. Also, seek a tutor so you can get help before you get into academic trouble.”

Get to know your teachers. Introduce yourself during your first week of class. Let them know who you are. Take advantage of these extra hours of one-on-one time to get an edge on course material.”

Take initiative. Remember you are in high school or college to attain the best education possible and that education starts with YOU.”

(Continued on page 4)
January - College Planning Tips

**Sophomores:**
*Get off to a great start by looking at your study habits. What’s working for you?*
*Organization is the key to success. Track your extracurricular, volunteer, and work experience, the courses you have taken and need to take to stay on track.*
*Even though you won’t need to apply for financial aid until you are a senior, it is good to know about it. Financial aid is made up of four types of assistance: grants, scholarships, loans and work-study. Grants and scholarships are free money while loans must be repaid. Work-study allows you to earn money by working part time at a campus-approved job.*

**Seniors:**
*Start off your new year by filling out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after January 1 as possible.*
*Complete your tax returns as soon as possible. If you have to, for college deadlines, you may use estimated tax information on the FAFSA. Remember to make copies of your completed FAFSA and tax returns.*
*Have your high school send your first semester transcripts to the colleges where you have applied.*

**Juniors:**
*Start off your new year by scheduling 3-5 campus visits to colleges.*
*Get involved. Colleges seek well-rounded students who not only get good grades, but who are also involved in school activities.*
*Prepare to take the ACT or SAT tests. Take practice tests online or visit your guidance office, local library, or bookstore for good study guides.*
*Organize scholarship information according to deadline. Keep your planner or organizer updated with application deadlines so you won’t miss any.*

**Parents:**
*College is a worthwhile investment, but it can be an expensive one. Talk to your student about the costs involved. Keep in mind that being involved now in the financial aid process will help prepare your child to better manage money later in life.*
*If your student is a senior, you should request a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. The student and one parent will each need a PIN.*
*Help your student fill out their FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if he/she is a senior. Make sure that he/she is playing a role in the process.*

**College:**
*Go to Class. It may be cold outside but one of the reasons student struggle in their classes is because they don’t attend class regularly. Choosing just not to go can affect your grade if the instructor uses attendance a participation points. Also, you are missing out on key information that you cannot get from someone else’s notes every time you miss/skip a class. It is good to remember that if you skip class, you are throwing money away. You are paying for the privilege of attending class.*

**FAFSA Reminder.** It is that time of year again – time to apply for financial aid for the 2013-2014 school year. Check with your financial aid office to find out their priority deadline. Remember this is your gateway to scholarships, grants, loans, and work-study. A lot of aid is on a first come first serve basis so waiting until summer is a bad idea.

-From: Iowa College Access Network

www.icansucceed.org
Career: Conservation Scientist

How do you manage a ranch so that it supports the most cattle while maintaining the land so wildlife can live there? Solving this type of issue is the job of a range manager. A soil conservationist, on the other hand, might figure out how to restore farmland where the soil has been worn away. A water conservationist may look at how to assure a clean water supply for a growing town.

All of these scientists make complex decisions to come up with plans that balance economic goals with environmental impact – and meet government regulations.

Conservation scientists manage natural resources, such as rangeland and water. They develop programs that both make resources productive and protect them.

Do you know?

Schools rarely offer soil conservation as a major, but you can learn the trade in such programs as agricultural science or environmental studies.

The Society for Range Management certifies range managers who have earned a degree, gotten work experience, and passed an exam.

Are you ready to.....?

* Work outdoors
* Spend time in the office or lab as you advance in your career
* Record the types of soils, plants, and animals in an area
* Restore damages natural areas
* Prepare reports on the environmental impact of an activity such as logging

It helps to be...

A nature lover in good physical shape who enjoys working outdoors. You should enjoy the sciences and math. You must be able to both work independently and communicate with many types of people.

Did You Know...?

Having a specialty in the field, such as watershed management or agricultural economics may make you more marketable.

Outlook

Government economists expect jobs for conservation scientists to be slower than the average for all careers through 2020. Most new jobs will likely be on federally owned land, particularly in the Southwest. Graduates from accredited programs at four-year colleges should have the easiest time finding a first job.

Compensation

The U.S. Department of Labor estimated that conservation scientists earned an average of $62,290 in 2011.

Make High School Count

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a conservation scientist, you should:

* Get a good grounding in the life sciences, such as biology and ecology, and the physical sciences, such as statistics.
* You should also explore courses in such social sciences as economics and government.
* Get experience working with computers.
* Join the environmental club at your school or volunteer for a related government agency like the National Park Service or nonprofit group like the Sierra Club

-2012 The College Board
I Wish I Had Known (cont. from p. 1)

“Once you decide to which schools you are applying, create a grid with each one’s specific deadlines, including the application itself, recommendations, financial aid applications, and anything else the school requires. Be sure every part of the application is represented on the chart and check things off once they are mailed. (Photocopy each item, too, so if it gets lost, you don’t have to recreate it.) Get everything in on time. If you apply using the Common Application, make sure you complete any necessary supplements a school may require. The Common App can save time as long as you complete every portion.

After all your applications are submitted, relax. There is nothing more you can do now but wait. This can be terrifying, but stressing out won’t solve anything. Enjoy senior year; worrying about applications is not as much fun as spending time with friends. Remember: you will be accepted somewhere.”

“Three biggest pieces of advice: start early, be organized, and relax.”

By Dorry S., Natick, MA-Teen Ink

New Semester, New Start (cont. from page 1)

“Asking for help and getting to know your teachers are ways to show that you are in control of your education and dedicated to being successful.”

“Learn new skills. While you are obtaining a lot of knowledge in your classes, it is important to work on the skills that will help you get a job out of college. Working with others and time management are two of the most important skills that employers look for. Get involved in the activities that your school offers. Not only will those be future resume builders, but also you can learn invaluable skills when you are at it.”

-from: www.icansucceed.org
Iowa College Access Network

About Our Organization…

Who are we?

A life-enhancing college-prep program that provides opportunities for capable and motivated high school students to gain the academic and life skills necessary to enter and succeed in post-secondary education.

* 100% funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education
* Serving high school students from Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, and Missouri since 1992

Word of the Month

From: Number2.com
acquiesce (verb)

Accept or assent without open opposition; consent

"When asked if the children could play ball in the house, the doting grandmother acquiesced, thinking more about her grandchildren’s pleasure than about her china collection."

www.Number2.com
(ACT prep)

For Question on page 1
Answer: A