We are well into our school year, and it is time to decide on a project if you haven’t chosen one yet. Needing ideas? Ask your science or math teacher for help. There are also many suggestions in your UBMS Take-Home Folder. Remember to send us your project proposal. It doesn’t have to be much; just a paragraph about what you are doing and how you plan to complete it.

If you are eligible for Bridge, watch for the application in your mail. We need it returned by January 15, so you need to decide whether you are interested, and if you are, send the completed application to us as soon as possible. Check the UBMS website for other info. Karen

For Today’s Job Market, College is a Required Course (cont. on p. 4)

After suffering the largest share of job losses in the recession, Americans with no more than a high school education have continued to lose jobs during the sputtering recovery, while better-educated people have gained millions of jobs, according to a Georgetown University study.

Over nearly five years of financial turmoil, Americans across a broad spectrum have suffered blows to wages, benefits and savings. But when it comes to employment, the crux of financial survival, the study revealed a tale of sharply different economies, defined by education.

(Continued on page 4)

5 Reasons to Be Flexible About Your Career (cont. on p. 4)

You may feel pressured to plan out your whole life before you start applying to colleges. That’s not necessarily the best approach. Though some people have well-focused career goals early in life, other’s don’t—and they still find their way to the right job.

People change. While a certain career may seem like a good fit for you now, think about how different you may be in five, ten or twenty years. As you get older, have more experiences and learn new things, your feelings about what you want to do may change.

The world changes. Webmasters didn’t exist a generation ago. The world changes so fast that new careers appear all of the time, while others become less common. Pay attention both to the changes in your interests and to developments in the career world.

There’s no perfect career. When choosing a career, you’ll try to match your skills and interests with work in certain areas. There won’t be one perfect match -- even jobs that sound ideal will probably involve some things you dislike. But many jobs will suit you and allow you to use your talents.

(continued on page 4)

ACT Test Dates
December 8, 2012
February 9, 2013
April 13, 2013
June 8, 2013

From: Number2.com
(ACT prep cite)

Given the following two equations,
3 + xz = 19
15/z + 5z = 95/z

and the condition that z does not = 0, which of the following MUST be true?

a. x = 4 and z = 4
b. x = 19 - 3z
c. z = 19/x - 3
d. x - z > 0
e. None of the above must be true.

(Answer on page 4)
November - College Planning Tips

Sophomores:
* It's not too early to start thinking about how to impress potential employers.
* Are you preparing to pay for college? Start talking to your parents now.
* Talk with family members, friends, teachers, school counselors and coaches about their college experiences.

Juniors:
* Plan to take the ACT and/or SAT exams, if you need them. Find out registration and test dates. Get ready for the exams by using online practice tests or study guides.
* Review websites and brochures from the November College Planning Tips.

Seniors:
* Look into financial aid options. Continue to research and apply for private scholarships.
* Beware of deadlines. Begin or continue to send in applications for admission. Most colleges accept online applications, and some may waive the application fee for applying online.
* Beware of scholarship search and financial aid services that cost money. Much of the information is available at no cost. Check with your high school counselor.
* Attend a financial aid presentation in your area, if available. Ask your school counselor for the date, time, and location.

College: Tips from a College Professor
1. Be prepared to work.
   ▪ Students who have not had to put much effort into high school get a rude awakening when college doesn't come easily.
2. Become more independent.
   ▪ Many of your college professors will not be as available as your high school teachers.
3. Attend all of your classes regularly.
   ▪ Skipping classes is bad form. It is your responsibility to make up any work that you miss.

Parents:
* Don't let a poor economy derail your child's college plans. Make sure you're saving as much as you can, because much of the burden of college costs falls on you and your child. Sometimes paying for college means a change in lifestyle or finding alternative means of funding.
* Encourage your child to use a planner or organizer to help them manage their time, set goals and stay on a path to success. Check in with your child to make sure they use one throughout the school year to keep track of assignments, activities, important dates and deadlines.

Embrace teamwork.
* Some professors require students to work on their homework in groups of four to six people. This gives them an additional support system.

Keep trying, even if it's not clicking.
* Try to do all of the problems in your assignment even if they're not all required. This is especially true for math courses. The more preparation you do, the more prepared you will be for quizzes and exams.

-From: Iowa College Access Network
Career: Biomedical Engineers

In 2001, a doctor in the U.S. performed gall bladder surgery on a woman in France. Strange, but true. The surgeon used a remote to control a robotic arm that performed the actual work on the patient.

The surgical robotic arm is an exciting biomedical engineering achievement. But it's far from the only one. Biomedical engineers work to make prostheses (artificial body parts) better, diagnostic procedures more accurate, and drugs easier to take. Thanks to biomedical engineers, becoming healthy and staying that way is getting easier every day.

Did you know?

Researchers are testing the iPill, a pill with a computer chip that will check the body for information before releasing the drug.

Biomaterials specialists are working on ways to grow organs in a lab so people who need transplants won't have to wait for healthy organs to become available.

Did You Know...?

Outlook

Government economists expect jobs for biomedical engineers to grow much faster than the average for all careers through 2018. In fact, they think it will grow faster, by far, than any other career they studied. As people in the United States get older, there will be a great need for the medical solutions that these engineers come up with. However, more students have been earning bachelor's degrees in this field. For an edge in the job hunt, go to graduate school.

Compensation

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that the average yearly earnings of biomedical engineers, as $82,550 in 2009.

Are you ready to......?

* spend your days in the lab
* work as part of a team
* write reports
* use computers
* test and repair equipment
* research and learn about new materials

It helps to be...

A creative, curious problem solver who wants to help others. If you like machines, but think the human body is the most interesting machine out there, then this could be a great career for you.

Did You Know...

Outlook

Government economists expect jobs for biomedical engineers to grow much faster than the average for all careers through 2018. In fact, they think it will grow faster, by far, than any other career they studied. As people in the United States get older, there will be a great need for the medical solutions that these engineers come up with. However, more students have been earning bachelor's degrees in this field. For an edge in the job hunt, go to graduate school.

Compensation

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Make High School Count

Preparation is the key to any career. To become a biomedical engineer, you should:

* Challenge yourself in math and science, with classes like calculus, physics, chemistry, biology.
* Pay attention in English. You'll need to be able to read a lot of complex material and write about your work.
* Build up-to-date computer skills.
* Get an internship or summer job at a hospital or rehabilitation center to get a feel for patient needs and the health care industry.

-2012 The College Board
For Today's Job Market, College is a Required Course (cont. from p. 1)

From late 2007, when the recession began, to early 2012, the number of people with jobs in the least-educated group fell by more than 5.8 million, or 10 percent. In the middle group, recession losses were not as steep and were almost completely reversed by early this year. And in the best-educated group, in which there was no net loss during the recession, the number of people with jobs climbed by 2.2 million, or 5 percent.

The researchers relied on the government's Current Population Survey; another count, called Current Employment Statistics, showed deeper job losses, but the overall patterns were similar.

The disparity in employment based on education has been growing since the 1980s, Carnevale (director of the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown, , and co-author of the report) said, but "both recession and the recovery have sharply accelerated that structural change."

From - Omaha World-Herald 8/16/12

Reasons to Be Flexible About Your Career (cont. from page 1)

You can only plan so far ahead. Did you ever hear someone say something like, "I fell into my career"? That's because as important as planning and research are, chance still plays a role. Keep an open mind, learn to tolerate some degree of uncertainty and watch for opportunity.

Satisfaction is key. Many people feel pulled to a job that's familiar, popular or profitable. In the long run, however, people are generally happier and more successful if they choose a career that matches their interests and strengths. Take the time to develop our interests and then look for a career that will satisfy and fulfill you.

-fit: bigfuture.collegeboard.org

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