

Scholarships: Seniors advise start early and consider all

BY JESSICA THACKER

SHOW ME THE MONEY! That's what many graduating seniors are saying but for so many now is too late, but it's not too late for them to give upcoming seniors the upper hand on getting scholarship money. This year roughly \$600,000 was earned by the graduating class of 2002.

When asked for her advice to upcoming seniors Courtney Alexander said, "Try for them all!" Alexander tried for every one that was available for her, starting at the beginning of her senior year. She has already received scholarships from Daughters of the American Revolution, Horatio Alger, and one that pays for all her books.

Other seniors agreed that the earlier students start applying and preparing for scholarships, the more likely they are to earn them.

"Most college-bound students start out really enthused and start trying for every one available," Guidance Counselor Dale Whitaker said, "but when they don't

get any of them they get discouraged and stop trying as hard."

Senior Rachelle Riddle said she wishes she would have applied for a lot more.

"If I would have tried for more, my chances of getting scholarships would have been better."

One of the top ranked students of the graduating class of 2003, Amanda Cummins, commented that she has already started working on getting scholarships.

"There is no better time than the present," Cummins said when asked why she started so early. Cummins has already received one of the top scholarships available, Governor's Scholars.

Whitaker said that the students that work hard on getting scholarships all the way through their senior year get one or more.

"Students that don't necessarily have 4.0 GPAs don't believe they are able to get scholarships," said Guidance Counselor Janice Miller, "but they shouldn't think that way."

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Five RCHS students to participate in summer programs

BY KARAH BOWLES

While most students are relaxing and kicking back next to the pool or working their summer jobs, four students will be participating in honors programs.

Senior Holli Best will participate in PEPP (Professional Education Preparation Program). Juniors Amanda Cummins and Ross Mc Lure will participate in GSP (Governor's Scholars Program), and Sophomore Jessi Riddle will participate in HOBY (Hugh O'brian Youth Leadership).

According to the application for PEPP, students who intend to pursue a career in medicine and plan to go back to their home county or similar area to practice are eligible. The focus of PEPP (which will be held at the University of Kentucky) is to prepare students academically and give them clinical experience.

Students will participate in a variety of activities at medical and dental school, and will be present at health-related seminars which cover topics like cancer, dentistry, autopsy/pathology, and organ transplants. While on UK's campus, stu-

dents will study chemistry and biology and visit the Labor & Delivery and Operating Room departments at UK Chandler Medical Center.

Students will also participate at different clinics which include facilities such as UK College of Medicine, Human Gross Anatomy Lab, psychiatric hospital, children's hospital, and area Health Education Centers, and rural hospitals.

"I want to be a doctor one day," said Best, who is the only student from RCHS participating in PEPP. "That's why I chose to fill out an application. I also thought that this program will be beneficial and fun."

Students who were chosen were carefully selected by the Selection Committee which reviewed the written personal statement, letter of recommendation, application, transcripts, and standardized test scores.

According to school guidance counselor Mr. Dale Whitaker, the Governor's Scholars Program is a five week summer program that concentrates on academic and personal growth for the soon-to-be se-

niors. These juniors have to demonstrate exceptional intellectual potential, high academic achievement, and creative ability.

Designed to help exceptional high school students achieve their academic, personal potential, and leadership capabilities, the program expands students' horizons, flexibility, creativity, and critical thinking, while also helping students focus on future possibilities for themselves.

"I met a lot of unique people and learned what college life would be like while participating in GSP," said senior Courtney Alexander, who was a GSP participant last year. "It also paid for my tuition at Eastern Kentucky University."

GSP can also provide opportunities that go far beyond academics.

"While at GSP I learned how to separate myself from people I did not like. I also learned that true friends are few and far between," said past GSP member John Bray.

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Library wins new equipment

BY JERRED STEVENS

The Rockcastle County High School Library Media Center has won \$18,000 of equipment. This includes free installation of the equipment.

The library media center is one of four libraries in the state, and one of 112 in the nation that received a 3M Detection System in the "3M Salute to School" program sponsored by 3M Corporation and the American Association of School Librarians (AASL).

The equipment includes an alarm to be placed at the doors of the library that will go off if anyone tries to leave without checking out a book, as well as a desensitizer to be placed at the desk to desensitize the magnetic strips, and 16,000 Tattle-Tape Security Strips to place on the books.

This will "make students more accountable to make sure stuff is checked out before they leave. It should also make for less frustra-

tion. When you look on the card catalog and it says the book is in, it should be in," says librarian Janet Wells.

To receive this prize, Wells had to answer six pages of questions and then write a one page essay, explaining why the school needed the equipment.

"Every year during inventory I have between two and three hundred books that mysteriously disappear, and this

equipment should keep this from happening," says Wells.

The equipment should arrive at the end of May or first of June, and will be installed during the summer. The only thing the school has to do is pay a \$2000 shipping charge which will cover registration, installation, and service for two years.

The first week of school next year, clubs will be invited to come help put the strips on the books. The time they spend will be considered as community service.

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