



# Scholar Talk

**Inside this issue:**

How to Write a Scholarship Thank You Letter	1
Local Scholarship Opportunities for College Students	1
CBF's 5K Race for the Future	2
Cash Crunch: Budget Your Bucks	2
Alternative Sources of Income for Students	2
Land a Great Internship	3
Scholar Spotlight	3



**Important Dates:**

- 3/1/09**  
FAFSA Deadline
- 4/4/09**  
CollegeBound's Race for the Future 5K Run  
Du Burns Arena, Baltimore
- 6/15/09**  
Deadline for returning scholars to submit Spring 2009 grades, Financial Aid Award Letter, Student Aid Report and 10 community service hours

Happy Spring!!



## How to Write a Scholarship Thank You Letter

The first step after receiving a scholarship is to thank the donor who has provided you the financial assistance. A thank you letter sent via the conventional "snail mail" (i.e. post) is the perfect way to extend your gratitude towards the donor. A scholarship thank you letter helps the donor know more about the person to whom he/she has donated the funds for pursuing higher studies.

Writing a scholarship thank you letter is not difficult, but keep in mind the following tips:

- Write the date on the top, left side of the letter.
- Add your name and address just below the date, again on the left side.
- After skipping a line, write the donor's name. Write his/her address in the following lines.
- Follow with the subject of the letter, for instance -

"Expressing Gratitude".

- Address the scholarship donor by using formal salutation, along with appropriate prefixes. For example, "Dear Mr. Smith" or "Dear Mrs. Williams."
- Remember, the writing style for a scholarship thank you



letter is formal. Therefore, use words that are suitable for formal letters.

- Start the letter by expressing your sincere gratitude to the donor for his/her contribution to the specific scholarship that you have received. Express your

gratitude in a sentence or two. "I am honored to receive the scholarship" or "I am glad to have the opportunity to thank you personally for the scholarship" will be a good start.

- After expressing your gratitude, tell the donor a little about yourself - where you grew up or why you chose the school or college. This should not exceed four lines.
- Tell him/her about your interests, extracurricular activities, future plans and goals in the next paragraph, which should not exceed four or five lines.

Conclude the letter by thanking the donor once again. Type your name, print the letter and then sign the letter above your typed name with a pen in cursive.

Source: Adapted from an article on <http://lifestyle.iloveindia.com>.



## Local Scholarship Opportunities for College Students

If you are a CollegeBound scholar and you need money for college, read on. The Baltimore Community Foundation and the Central Scholarship Bureau are two local organizations that may be able to help you out.

The Baltimore Community Foundation has a common application with awards ranging from \$500—\$10,000. Visit their website to download and print a copy of their application at [www.bcf.org](http://www.bcf.org). The deadline to

apply is April 1st.

The Central Scholarship Bureau also has a common application with many scholarships and grants. In particular, check out the Straus Scholar Grant, which is designed specifically for sophomore, junior and senior college students.

Central Scholarship Bureau also offers interest-free loans to families who qualify. Students can borrow up to \$10,000 per year based on need. Visit their website for

more information and to apply at [www.centrlsb.org](http://www.centrlsb.org). The deadline to apply is May 31st.

If you attend a Maryland college or university you may be eligible for scholarships from your delegates and state senators. Visit [www.mdelect.org](http://www.mdelect.org) to find your elected officials and info on how to reach them. Contact each person to see what you need to do to apply. Awards can range anywhere from \$200—\$9,000 per year.

Article by Jamie Crouse.

## CollegeBound's Race for the Future 5K Run

Do you need some volunteer hours or do you like to exercise? Get involved with CBF's 1st annual 5K run to benefit our scholars—you! Assist with administrative duties, distributing water, etc. on Saturday, April 4. Call us for more details. Or, maybe you are a workout maniac, enjoy running, and would actually like to run the race. If so, sign up to run at [www.charmcityrun.com](http://www.charmcityrun.com) or call 410.783.2905 for a registration form.

**Due June 15th**

1. Spring 2009 grades
2. At least 10 Volunteer service hours
3. SAR
4. FAAL

### Sign up for our eNewsletter!

We are getting ready to launch an online eNewsletter for all friends of CollegeBound—students, parents, donors . . . everyone!

The eNewsletter will be separate from Scholar Talk, so you will still receive Scholar Talk four times a year. If you are interested in keeping even more up-to-date with all CollegeBound news, sign up at

[www.CollegeBoundFoundation.org](http://www.CollegeBoundFoundation.org).

All you need is an email address.

## Cash Crunch: Budget your Bucks

College brings a tremendous amount of responsibility. You will more than likely be required to handle certain tasks that were once taken care of by your parents, the biggest one -- banking your own money.

First things first, look for a bank close to your college, especially one with an ATM on or near campus. It's a good idea to make sure the bank has cash machines all over town, says Janet Farrar Worthington, co-author of *The Ultimate College Survival Guide* (Peterson's, 1998). If you have to use your card at a different bank's ATM, there's often a service charge.

In addition, find out if a potential bank charges a monthly checking fee. Some banks charge for each check you use if you don't maintain a

minimum amount in your account. To ward against that, keep your checkbook balanced at all times. Here's how:

- 1) Immediately after writing a check, record the check number and dollar amount in the checkbook register.
- 2) Do not write a check before you put a deposit in the bank to cover it. Even though checks usually take two to five business days to clear, it's a risky habit to develop.
- 3) Hang on to deposit slip receipts until you receive a monthly statement indicating the deposit was received. Your slip may be the only way the bank can trace your deposit should a problem or mistake occur.
- 4) Once you receive a statement, compare it to your canceled checks, deposit slips,

ATM receipts, and checkbook register. If everything matches, put a check next to each corresponding entry.

5) Add up all of the outstanding checks, including any ATM receipts.

6) Subtract the total amount of the outstanding checks from the total of the final balance on the bank statement. This figure should match your checkbook balance. If not, go back, look things over, and check your math.

7) If the numbers still don't add up, take your checkbook and statement to the bank. (Some advice: Have a friend or relative look it over first just in case the error was made on your part.)

Source: Alexandra Anastasio ([www.collegebound.net](http://www.collegebound.net))



## Alternative Sources of Income for Students

You could use a few extra dollars but you'd like to avoid punching a clock or calling home. Maybe one of these unique tactics can be a source of income for you.

**Surveys and Experiments.** Students and professors doing research in the psychology or behavioral studies department sometimes need participants for surveys and experiments and are willing to pay. Amounts vary widely by school, but generally you can expect to collect between \$5 and \$30. Check with your school's psychology or behavioral studies departments for opportunities. Friends in those majors may also know about openings not publicized.

**Focus Groups.** Find local market research companies and ask to register as a possible focus group participant. You could make a few dollars in exchange for offering your opinion about a

new ad campaign or sampling food.

**Play to Your Strengths.** Offer to edit papers or provide tutoring for a course you already had success in. If you're a tech whiz, offer to fix buggy computers. Musically inclined? Set up shop on a busy street corner (check local laws first) or in a coffee shop and pass the hat around.



**Refing.** Check campus intramural sports leagues or local youth leagues. A few games won't take much time and may have the added benefit of a good workout.

**Plasma Donation.** Consult your physician first; if you're

cleared you might be paid \$15 to \$30 (or more) for each donation. Generally, you are allowed to donate up to two or three times per week. [BloodBanker.com](http://BloodBanker.com) lists places in the U.S. where you can donate.

**Sell Off Some Stuff.** The Web is a great place to sell things. Craigslist, eBay and Amazon are just a few of the places where you can sell personal items. Do you have consumer goods that you don't use, need or want? Sell them online and get cash back. Sports equipment, CDs, stereos, computers, video games, appliances, furniture, clothing -- there's a

market online for all of it. Also check consignment or secondhand shops, they may be willing to buy your used stuff.

Source: Adapted from an article by Chris Diehl on Fastweb.com

## Land a Great Internship

It's one of the most common and frustrating career dilemmas college students face: "To get a good job after graduation, I need experience. But how do I get experience without having a job in the first place?"

One common - and wise - solution: An internship, paid or unpaid, part time or full time.

Easy enough. But how do you get one? Well, one or more of the following strategies is likely to do the trick:

### Work with a Career Counselor at Your School.

Career counselors know where other students from your school are interning now or have interned before. They also work closely with on-campus recruiters from organizations in the area and even nationally. Thus, career counselors can be a prime source of internship leads for you.

### Talk to Your Professors.

Like career counselors, your professors will also know where at least some students are interning now or have interned before. Additionally, many professors have consulting, research and other ties to various companies and organizations outside of academia; thus, they may be aware of internship programs hosted by these organizations.

### Network with Your Fellow Students.

If a student you know has an internship that intrigues you, ask him for advice on landing a similar internship yourself, either with the

same organization or elsewhere. Chances are that students who have internships now have a better sense of the many internship opportunities that exist, in both their own organizations and in others. So be sure to tap into their collective knowledge, especially as it relates to people you should contact.

### Use Your School's Alumni Network.

Most campuses, usually through their career services or alumni offices, work hard to establish and maintain contacts with alumni working in various organizations and industries. Consider contacting some alumni from your school to check into internships in their places of employment. You'd be surprised by how strong the fellow alum tie can be.

### Tap into the Resources of Your Own Family, Friends and Acquaintances.

Does your mother's company have an internship program? Does your sister's friend's nonprofit organization offer any internship possibilities? Many college students don't think to ask their family members, friends and acquaintances to help them with career-related tasks like internship hunting. Be sure you don't fall into this trap.



### Page Through an Internship Directory.

If you stop by your school's career services or campus library, or spend some time browsing in your campus or local bookstore, you'll undoubtedly find one or more internship directories listing internship programs at organizations around the US. Several companies publish these guides, including *Peterson's Internships* and *The Internship Bible*. These books are typically well indexed so you can search for internships by organization, field of interest and geographic location.

### Check out Internship Sites on the Web.

Search for internship opportunities on the Web. If you're willing to go almost anywhere for your internship, you'll be able to find many opportunities.

Once you've developed a list of internships, you can work with a career counselor to ready yourself for the important tasks to follow. Among them: developing and writing a resume and cover letter, learning how to follow up with prospective internship providers to keep yourself in the front of their minds, and preparing for internship interviews.

With time and diligence, your efforts will pay off -- in an internship that gives you the experience you need to land the future job you want.

Source: [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

## Scholar Spotlight

The following students earned a 3.4 GPA or higher for the Fall 2008 Semester:

Brittany Atkinson, UMCP  
 Jasmine Baines, Frostburg  
 Treeka Baylor, Towson  
 Latia Blake, Towson  
 Ellen Blonder, Towson  
 Donovan Brooks, Virginia Union  
 Qjara Butler, UMCP  
 Stephen Conger, Towson  
 Matthew DeBeal, UMCP  
 Jazmine Dorsey, George Washington  
 Amon Dow, III, Morgan  
 Latoyia Evans, Frostburg  
 London Faust, UMCP  
 Nichole Foster, Towson  
 Casie Fowler, Stevenson  
 Cierra Francis, Stevenson  
 Anastasia Hall, UMCP  
 Felicia Harris, St. Mary's  
 Ranisha Harris, UMCP  
 Sharday Holmes, Coppin  
 Kimberly Jordan, UMCP  
 David Lai, UMCP  
 LaWanda Lewis, Frostburg  
 Sabrina Lindsey, Towson  
 Brittiney Little, Towson  
 Peter Manrodt, St. Mary's  
 Miranda McDaniels, Univ. of the Arts  
 Donta Miller, Carnegie Mellon  
 William Neal, Capitol  
 Camille Neysmith, UMCP  
 Jeffrey Oguamanam, UMCP  
 Jennifer Oswald, Princeton  
 Thomas Palmerino, UMCP  
 Aaron Parker, UMBC  
 Mehwish Qureshi, UMCP  
 Tyra Salisbury, Morgan  
 Suzanna Sample, St. Mary's  
 Samantha Shivers, UMES  
 Amara Sillah, UMCP  
 Charmaine Slade, UMCP  
 Latia Stokes, Frostburg  
 Octavia Sykes, UMCP  
 Theresa Tibbels, Towson  
 Jessica Turrall, Johns Hopkins  
 Ashley Waith, Stevenson  
 Amber Ware, Towson

The following students earned a **4.0** for the Fall 2008 Semester:

Juanica Armstrong, Frostburg  
 Rebecca Crawford, Wilberforce  
 Shekinatu Fasancy, American University  
 Joseph LoGrande, Morgan  
 Tynae Quince, Coppin

**Congratulations!!**



## CollegeBound Foundation

*Building the Pipeline from High School to College to Work*

CollegeBound Foundation  
300 Water Street  
Suite 300  
Baltimore, MD 21202

Phone: 410.783.2905  
Fax: 410.727.5786

### Questions?

**Jamie Crouse:** 410.783.2905 x207  
jcrouse@collegeboundfoundation.org

**Jamie Tang:** 443.677.1701  
jtang@collegeboundfoundation.org

**Patrick Young:** 443.677.1729  
pyoung@collegeboundfoundation.org

### \$ Apply for Financial Aid \$

Don't forget to file your 2009-10 FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). This form qualifies you for thousands of dollars in federal, state and private sources (CBF!!) of financial aid. The deadline is March 1st.

## Notes to our Scholars!

Dear Scholars,

As you progress through the semester, consider the impact your choices will have upon your future. If you are dedicating less than your best efforts to your academics, re-focus now! There is still time to get those grades back on track. Also, start preparing for the summer. Taking summer courses may help you get ahead or recover academically.

Earning that baccalaureate degree will make you stand out from most adults. However, is it enough to be truly competitive as you search for that first "real" job? Especially in the current economy, you need additional skills and accomplishments that enhance your résumé. Seek out internship opportunities. Investigate the resources offered by the career center. Some of the best career-building experiences will not pay you now, but they *will* pay off. Remember to use professional email format when you are asking about your future.

Meanwhile, have fun and take advantage of the full college experience.

Patrick Young  
Retention Specialist

Jamie Tang  
Retention Specialist

Scholars,

Take some time out of your hectic schedule this spring and thank the people who have made you scholarship possible. Check out the thank you letter tips in "How to Write a Scholarship Thank You Letter."

If you feel like you're still struggling to pay your college bills, check out several articles on managing your cash. First, if you are on the prowl for some scholarships, take a look at "Local Scholarship Opportunities for College Students." Get some ideas on how to save money in "Cash Crunch: Budget Your Bucks" and learn some new ways to earn money the non-traditional way in "Alternative Sources of Income for Students." Do you need something to do over the summer? Brush up your skills with tips in how to "Land a Great Internship."

As the spring arrives, it is going to start getting warmer. Don't let the warm weather tempt you . . . Make sure you continue to go to classes and study hard. When all that hard work pays off with great grades at the end of the semester, then go out and enjoy the great weather. Have a great spring semester!

Jamie Crouse  
Scholarship Program Administrator