



The Star News



Winter Review

inthisissue

Educational Talent Search began this year with a busy line up of college visits, ETS Family Nights, ACT Test Prep Workshops and Financial Aid nights.

We visited the University of Louisville, Kentucky State University and Eastern Kentucky University for their spotlight days where faculty and staff at the colleges come out to showcase their programs. These informative sessions are great times to learn about what the schools have to offer and to talk to faculty who teach these classes! We also learned about admissions and financial requirements for each school. We all came away with a better understanding of what is expected of students in college, how different college campuses are from high school and each other, and most importantly, to determine whether or not that college seems to be a good “fit” for you!

We had one ETS Family Night in March that was on the rainiest night of the season. Attendance was sparse, but we hope that those who did join us learned a lot about presentation and the importance of how to out your best foot forward.

We had three ACT test prep workshops

and all three were well attended. We had Mr. Patrick Brooks present special sessions on the Math and Science and the English and Reading sections. He gave students a lot of test taking tips for the ACT and made it fun as well. We hope to have him back with us next year.

We have been busy visiting the high schools twice a month and meeting individually with our juniors and seniors to make sure that they’re on track for graduating and for gaining acceptance into a college or university. We have been concentrating on scholarship applications and the FAFSA. We did offer a financial aid night which assisted students and their parents in completing the FAFSA and to look for scholarships to apply for. This was an intensive evening but very worthwhile. We teamed up with Upward Bound students and accomplished quite a lot with the help of Summer Gortney from the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

All of the Talent Search staff look forward to our upcoming camps and activities and hope that you are ON TRACK to join us in our adventures!

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ETSSummer2012

HS Spring Break Trip	4/2-4/5
St. Louis, MO	
Senior Recognition	5/22
BCTC Cooper Campus	
Middle School Camp	6/11-6/14
Student Ambassador Camp	6/18
HS Overnight Camp	6/21-6/22
Dayton, Ohio	



College Major: Urban Social Analysis

Have you ever taken walk in the inner city or decided to spend a day downtown at the Civic Center or even stopped at Triangle Park to sit and enjoy the scene? If you have then I am sure you have noticed person who are less fortunate flocking to area parks and open areas in the downtown areas. Have you ever wondered what you could do to try and help or what the city could do to help them get the resources they need to get back on their feet? If so, you may be interested in majoring in Urban Social Analysis in college. The University of St. Louis offers this degree through the MICAH HOUSE program.

Micah House is a faith-based program that brings together students in a wide variety of majors to seek long-term solutions to the problems of the urban poor. As a community of students committed to action as well as to study, we explore the challenges facing America's inner cities and put what we learn to the test in model service projects in St. Louis. Students of all faiths are welcome.

The strength of Micah House lies in the friendships that form when students study, pray, serve, and spend time together. There are two ways to become involved. Incoming freshmen from around the country are admitted in May of their senior year in high school. They live on a special floor of Marguerite Hall, gathering as a community once a week and taking four of their normal Core courses in special sections centered on questions of peace and justice. They serve the poor in the Historic Shaw Neighborhood, near campus. Older students join the program by taking at least one course in urban problems and joining us for service and community events. Students may take the equivalent of a minor by completing the Micah House Certificate in Urban Social Analysis.

While the Micah Program is a certificate program and equiv-

alent of a minor, it is a compliment to many other majors of study. The program enrolls students in more than twenty-five majors, including areas as diverse as Psychology, Pre-med, Engineering, and Communication. Participants come from all races, regions, denominations, and backgrounds. Since friendships in the program are close and the service is rewarding, most students who join Micah House remain involved throughout their college careers.

For more information about the Micah House Program or the Urban Social Analysis degree please contact the Director, Donald Stump, or the Coordinator, Debra Wilson, at (314) 977-3615 or by email at MICAH@SLU.EDU. You can also access information from the Department website: <http://www.slu.edu/outreach/micah>

Information in this article originates from the St. Louis University website: <http://www.slu.edu/x12928.xml>



Photo credit: www.slu.edu

Career Spotlight: Engineering

Engineers apply the principles of science and mathematics to develop economical solutions to technical problems. Their work is the link between scientific discoveries and the commercial applications that meet societal and consumer needs. Many engineers develop new products. During the process, they consider several factors. For example, in developing an industrial robot, engineers specify the functional requirements precisely; design and test the robot's components; integrate the components to produce the final design; and evaluate the design's overall effectiveness, cost, reliability, and safety. This process applies to the development of many different products, such as chemicals, computers, power plants, helicopters, and toys.

In addition to their involvement in design and development, many engineers work in testing, production, or maintenance. These engineers supervise production in factories, determine the causes of a component's failure, and test manufactured products to maintain quality. They also estimate the time and cost required to complete projects. Supervisory engineers are responsible for major components or entire projects. Engineers use computers extensively to produce and analyze designs; to simulate and test how a machine, structure, or system operates; to generate specifications for parts; to monitor the quality of products; and to control the efficiency of processes. Nanotechnology, which involves the creation of high-performance materials and components by integrating atoms and molecules, also is introducing entirely new principles to the design process.

Most engineers specialize. Civil engineering, for example, includes structural and transportation engineering, and materials engineer-

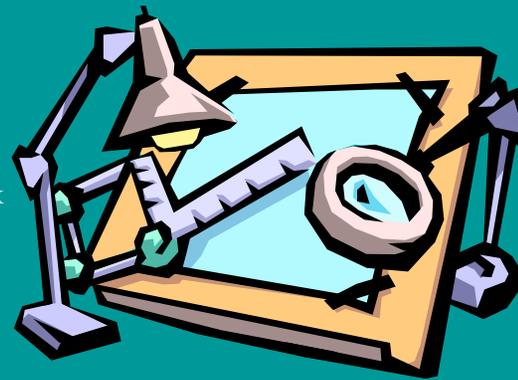
ing includes ceramic, metallurgical, and polymer engineering. Engineers also may specialize in one industry, such as motor vehicles, or in one type of technology, such as turbines or semiconductor materials.

A bachelor's degree in engineering is required for almost all entry-level engineering jobs. College graduates with a degree in a natural science or mathematics occasionally may qualify for some engineering jobs, especially in specialties that are in high demand. Most engineering degrees are granted in electrical and electronics engineering, mechanical engineering, and civil engineering.

However, engineers trained in one branch may work in related branches. For example, many aerospace engineers have training in mechanical engineering. This flexibility allows employers to meet staffing needs in new technologies and specialties in which engineers may be in short supply. It also allows engineers to shift to fields with better employment prospects or to those which more closely match their interests.

Engineers are employed in every State, in small and large cities and in rural areas. Some branches of engineering are concentrated in particular industries and geographic areas; for example, petroleum engineering jobs tend to be located in States with sizable petroleum deposits, such as Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Alaska, and California. Other branches, such as civil engineering, are widely dispersed, and engineers in these fields often move from place to place to work on different projects. Engineers can earn anywhere from 43,000 to 166,000 per year!

Information in this article was obtained from www.BLS.gov



College Profile: Saint Louis University

Saint Louis University (SLU) is located in midtown St. Louis, Missouri, in the heart of the arts district. This Jesuit university was founded in 1818 and welcomes individuals of all faiths and backgrounds. It boasts a school of medicine, a law school and a second campus in Madrid, Spain.

With a student body of 8100 undergraduates and 5100 graduate students (including medical and law students) all 50 states are represented as well as nearly 80 countries. Saint Louis University holds students to a high academic and personal standard stating that, “First, we believe in educating "the whole person" -- mind, body, heart and spirit. The more whole you are, the more you can contribute to the world”.

Interested in challenging yourself? This may be the school for you!

- ◆ Catholic Institution.
- ◆ Second campus in Madrid, Spain
- ◆ Average ACT for admitted freshman is 27 with a 3.7 GPA.
- ◆ There are nearly 100 undergraduate programs offered.
- ◆ Student to faculty ratio is 13:1.
- ◆ Average class size is 22.8.
- ◆ Tuition for undergraduates is \$32,180 with 95% of students receiving financial assistance in the form of aid or scholarships. The average financial aid package is \$27,805.
- ◆ 91% of freshman live on campus.
- ◆ NCAA Division 1 in 18 sports and is part of the Atlantic 10 Conference.
- ◆ Mascot: the Billiken. A billiken is said to bring good luck and a wish for things as they should be.



Photo credit: www.stlouisarch.com

Financial Aid

“Neither a borrower nor a lender be” – wise words from *Hamlet’s* Polonius, but how realistic are they? Even Shakespeare himself had to borrow money in order to write and produce his plays. For many students, college offers the same door to success that Shakespeare found in his writing; however, as the average cost of college continues to rise to over \$8,000 per year, the dream of attending college is threatening to become more of a fairy tale than a reality... or is it?

Many students and their families find the solution to their college financial needs in the form of direct student loans. For many, the mere mention of taking out a loan for school is enough to make them cringe; however before totally disregarding the idea, consider the facts about student loans.

- **Fact 1:** A direct student loan is money that can be borrowed from the government via the college you attend. You may also find other loans for education at banks, but they will not be federally supported.
- **Fact 2:** All loans must be repaid.
- **Fact 3:** All student loans are not created equal. Direct students loans are the most common, and regulated through the US Department of Education. Other loans will vary depending upon where you get the loan, the terms, interest rates, and payment options may vary. No matter the loan source, be sure to look for the lowest possible interest rates, determine if an interest rate is variable or fixed, and check the fine print for hidden fees and charges.
- **Fact 4:** Applying for direct student loans offered from the government is your safest bet. Student loan programs such as the Federal Perkins, Stafford, and PLUS loans offer undergraduate students up to \$14,000 per year for college. They also offer low interest rates (from 3.4%-7.8%) and repayment grace periods of up to six months until after you have left school or graduated.
- **Fact 5:** If you are thinking of using a federal loan to cover the cost of college you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA). Students wishing to apply for any form of government aid must complete and submit the online form prior to beginning classes at the college or university of their choice. Seniors, if you have not already completed the FASFA, please do it immediately! Every second that you wait may mean hundreds of dollars lost towards your college education. For more information please visit www.fasfa.ed.gov.

Parent's

Corner



Spring has sprung, daylight savings has gone into effect, my daffodils are coming up and the trees are starting to bud. We have been blessed with a short winter, though the recent tornadoes more than made up for the lack of winter drama.

Talent Search is gearing up for our spring and summer activities and I hope that you will encourage your student to participate and be active in as much as they are able. We spend a lot of time planning events so that your student will get the most out of these experiences. Our hope is that by exposing them to college admissions offices, careers, college majors and financial aid resources and by having discussions about what to expect in college they will be better prepared and successful college students.

Our final **ETS Family Night and Senior Celebration is May 22, from 6pm – 8pm** in the AT Building on the Cooper Campus of BTC. This is a new location for us but one that I hope will be easy to find and be festive for our event. We look forward to a fun evening as we say farewell to our seniors! All participants and their families are invited. Please plan on joining us!

Middle School Camp will be June 11-14. We have a fun filled, education packed camp planned and hope that your middle schooler will be joining us! We will stay at UK in one of the residence halls and venture out from there for college visits, educational, social and community service activities.

For **high school** students we will have a **two-day overnight excursion to Dayton, Ohio, June 21-22.** We will explore our neighboring state and stay in one of the residence halls at the

University of Dayton. We have a lot of really sensational activities planned, so don't let your student miss this trip!

Talent Search Advisors will also be talking to students about our **ETS Student Ambassador program.** Two students will be chosen from each of our schools to represent us on trips and activities as well as assist us in recruiting other Talent Search students. We will be taking applications for students interested in being an Ambassador. **Leadership training for Ambassadors will be on June 18.** This is an all day event that promises to not only build on leadership skills but to be fun as well! Participating in the ETS Student Ambassador program will look GREAT on college and scholarship applications too!

Participation in our spring and summer activities requires a commitment from your student. We expect them to do well in their classes at school, (at least a 2.5 gpa) and to come and participate in our monthly workshops and other activities. By participate, we mean join in the conversation and do the homework we assign and discuss (which helps them focus on their future and academic goals). We wish we could take all 700 students on all of our trips, but our budget simply won't allow it. Please remind your student of these few requirements to maximize their opportunities that Educational Talent Search can provide for them!

Have a safe summer. We look forward to our continued work with you for the academic and personal success of your student!

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