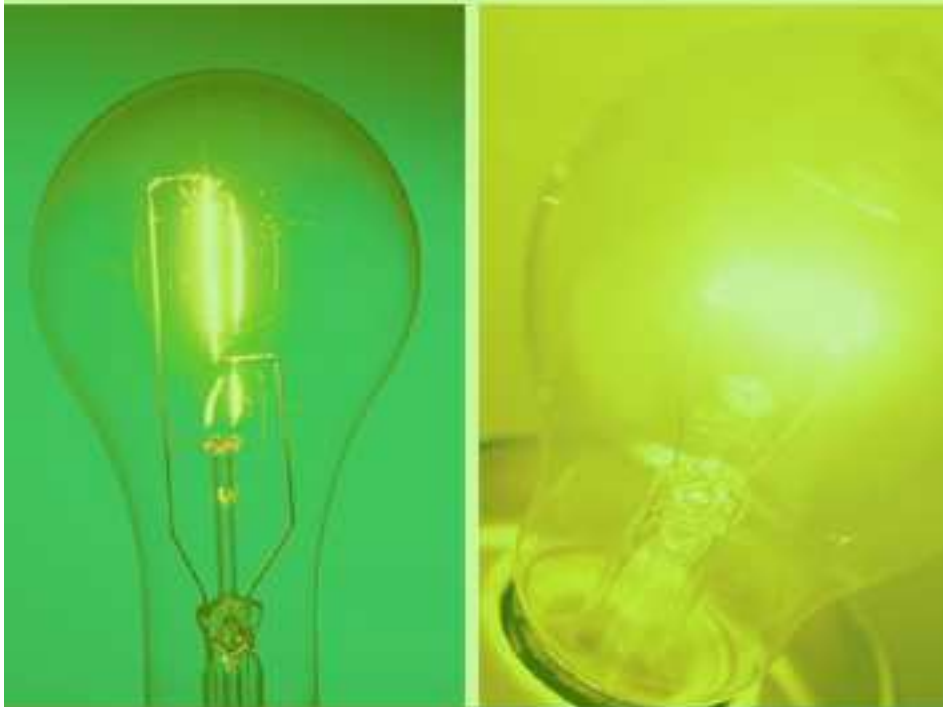


Gifted Summer Programs and Scholarship Opportunities in Florida



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Stetson University ~ DeLand, Florida



About Stetson University

- Oldest private university in Florida
- Oldest law school in Florida
- Four campuses (DeLand, Celebration, St. Petersburg, Tampa)
- 2,200 undergraduate students
- 60+ majors and minors





History of HATS

- **1996-97** – Began as *Following the Equator* Summer Programs at Stetson (DeLand; Grades 4/5)
- **1998-2000** – Evolved into *CHESS* (Challenges for Elementary School Students) in collaboration with the Belin-Blank Center at University of Iowa (DeLand; Grades 4-6)
- **2001-Present** – Evolved into *HATS* (Multiple locations around Florida; Grades 4-9)

Note: The director has over 10 years experience teaching and administering summer programs for gifted and high achieving students. She holds a Ph.D. from the University of Iowa with specializations in Gifted Education and ESOL.



Serving many students...

- 1) Approximately **15,000** Florida students (grades 4-9) have participated in BESTS (Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search)
- 2) Approximately **2,500** students have participated in summer programs (at Stetson or another Florida site)
- 3) **102** students have been awarded full summer program scholarships (top scorers in BESTS)
- 4) **2** students have received a \$4,000 scholarship at Stetson (as BESTS participants)





HATS Scholarship Winners

Stephanie has won 3 times!

www.stetson.edu/hats

Visit the Scholarship pages to view the 102 students who have won summer scholarships.

Stephanie Heung, Boca Raton, FL
2004, 2005, 2006 Winner



Interests and hobbies: Academic games, playing the clarinet in school band, reading, writing, video gaming

Last book read: *The Rivers of Zadaa*, by D.J. MacHale

What I liked about taking the above-level test through BESTS: I challenged myself with demanding material and proved to myself that I could handle a higher-level test.

School: Don Estridge High Tech Middle School, Boca Raton

Something different: "*I attended the 2006 Academic Games National Tournament in North Carolina. There, I won 7th place in Presidents and 7th place in Propaganda.*"



Our first Belin-Blank/HATS Scholarship recipient arrived at Stetson – Fall 2005!

www.stetson.edu/hats

Jenna Colonel
Oviedo, Florida



Jenna loves sports, especially the Yankees, and played softball for about six years. After graduating from Winter Springs High School, Jenna chose Stetson to pursue her biology major. “I really liked the environment of the campus, and the reputation.”

After Stetson, she hopes to participate in the Physician's Assistant Program at Shands Hospital in Gainesville.

Jenna's favorite books include *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Wuthering Heights*, and *End of the Affair*. Her parents are her greatest inspiration. “My mom does so much to make my family happy and successful, and my dad never lets anything bring him down.” When asked what she considered to be her most unique trait, Jenna said, “I work best under a lot of pressure.” Perhaps that explains Jenna's favorite quote: *Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but the number of moments that take our breath away.*

We hope she'll have many such moments at Stetson.

Welcome, Jenna!

**Jenna participated
in BESTS as a 7th grader**

Something different!

- *“Special programs outside of school are becoming vital to the education of gifted youth.”*
-Paula Olszewski-Kubilius
Northwestern University





Five areas of focus:

- 1. BESTS - Academic Talent Search**
- 2. HATS Summer Program**
- 3. Scholarship (Belin-Blank/HATS/Mark Twain Young Authors)**
- 4. Hatterdays (Saturdays Sessions for Children and Parents on Stetson campus)**
- 5. Mark Twain Young Authors (Full Scholarship to Hannibal, Missouri)**



1. BESTS – Belin-Blank Exceptional Student Talent Search

- Sponsored by the Belin-Blank Center at the University of Iowa (in conjunction with Stetson University)
- Similar to Duke’s TIP, but expanded to serve students in grades 4-6 (EXPLORE) and 7-9 (ACT)
- Eligible students are those scoring at or above the 95th percentile on any standardized test (based on previous year’s scores as 3rd-8th graders)
- **Benefits:** Accurate assessment of present ability; suggestions for programming; eligibility for recognition ceremony and summer programs in Iowa; **possible** scholarship to HATS summer program (based on score); **guaranteed** scholarship to Stetson (based on participation)



College of Education

Belin - Blank Center

The Connie Belin & Jacqueline N. Blank International
Center for Gifted Education and Talent Development





2. HATS Summer Programs

- Sponsored by Stetson University
- Offered at several Florida locations (Tampa, Orlando, Palm Beach County, Brevard County, Volusia County, etc.)
- Offered to the same students who are invited to BESTS (95th percentile in any area of FCAT or other standardized test and/or gifted program participation)
- **Benefits:** Affordable (\$260; \$210 family/multiple class discount; \$160 free and reduced lunch rates); hands-on, challenging, and fun; non-residential; supplies & T-shirt provided; wide selection of courses, dates, locations



A vertical strip on the left side of the slide features a glowing lightbulb on the left and a glass containing a yellow liquid on the right, both set against a light green background.

For example...

- **DEL-101 FORENSIC SCIENCE - CSI: DELAND**
What is Forensic Science? What evidence does an investigator utilize to solve a crime? Come and explore the science behind Fingerprinting, Footwear Analysis, Handwriting Analysis, Hair and Fiber Analysis, Blood Spatter Analysis, Tool Mark Examination, Profiling and Crime Scene Processing. Students in this session will also be working with latent print development. Join us for a spine-tingling week of Crime Scene Investigation. Let's crack the case and **Help Arrest The Suspects!**
(Grades 4-6/July 9-13, 2007/DeLand/Instructor: Lynn Albinson)





3. Scholarships (BESTS)

- **SUMMER PROGRAM**

- **Top scoring** boys and girls at every grade level in BESTS are awarded a one-week course at no cost (**\$260 scholarship**)
- Students are profiled on the HATS web site

- **STETSON**

- **Every** child who participates in BESTS and/or HATS will receive a **\$4,000 (\$1,000 per year) scholarship** upon attending Stetson as a college student (no minimal score required)

- **MARK TWAIN YOUNG AUTHORS**

- **Full scholarship** for 12 talented writers from anywhere in the U.S. to attend week-long workshop in Hannibal, Missouri (Applicants are selected based on their writing ability)





4. Hatterdays

- “**HATTERDAYS – the academic alternative to Saturdays**”
- One Saturday each month
- 9:00 to 12:00 noon
- On Stetson’s DeLand campus
- In-depth view of a topic
- Free Parent Sessions
- Dates posted on website
- In-depth, hands-on classes that are challenging and fun





5. Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop

Mark Twain's boyhood home in Hannibal, MO



Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop scholarships are awarded to 12 boys and girls (grades 5-8). Students submit a writing sample and teacher recommendations. All applications are blind-reviewed, and the students who are selected will spend one week in Hannibal, Missouri, the town where Mark Twain grew up. They will get to explore the famous cave, ride a riverboat, and enjoy a behind-the-scenes after hours tour of the Mark Twain Museum and Boyhood Home. All expenses will be paid (including air travel) for this unique writers workshop opportunity. This scholarship is open to any 5th – 8th grade child in the United States.



Young Authors (Grades 5-8)

- The **First Annual Mark Twain Young Authors Workshop** in Hannibal, Missouri
- In collaboration with the Mark Twain Museum
- June 25-29, 2007
- Modeled on the Iowa Writers Workshop
- Scholarships provided to 6 boys and 6 girls
- We received 120 applications from 17 states!





Timeline

- **AUG./SEPT.** – Districts report number of eligible students (95th percentile) to us so we can provide BESTS registration materials
- **SEPT./OCT.** – Districts distribute BESTS materials; students register online or by mail (Testing occurs in Jan., Feb., and April)
- **JAN.** – Course descriptions are provided to HATS by Site Coordinators
- **FEB.** – Course descriptions for HATS are posted online (www.stetson.edu/hats); students can begin registering for summer programs
- **SPRING** – Scholarship winners are notified
- **SUMMER** – HATS Programs are held in June and July (dates vary depending on location)





How can you and your district be more involved?

1. **BESTS** – Be informed. Establish a test site in your district if needed. Your students can register online at:
<http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/talent-search/howtoreg.asp>
2. **HATS** – Consider establishing HATS in your district or teaching one week next summer at your school or another site.
3. **Call us!** We'll work with you as we have in other districts to provide these exciting opportunities for your gifted and high achieving students.





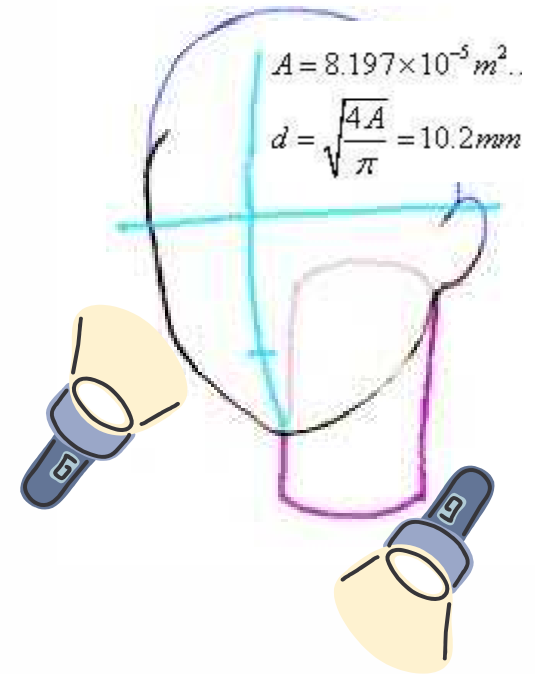
Frequently Asked Questions

- **Can we offer HATS only?**
 - No. Parents want the opportunity for their child to win HATS scholarships, and without BESTS, this is not possible.
- **Can we offer BESTS only?**
 - Yes. Many more children participate in BESTS because the rewards are immediate and it only requires a time commitment of one Saturday morning.
- **How many HATS classes should we offer?**
 - Start small... perhaps 4 for grades 4-6 and 2 for grades 7-9
- **How are materials distributed?**
 - We provide BESTS packets and HATS flyers to Site Coordinators based on numbers provided by them to us. We count and sort by school, so the Site Coordinator (or a designee) will then attach a list of eligible students and send to schools using the county transportation system. This collaboration helps us to keep costs down.
- **How do we find teachers for HATS?**
 - Look to your gifted teachers and teachers you know who are high energy, high enthusiasm, high knowledge. Consider those with unique interests and talents.
- **What are the costs?**
 - BESTS: \$50 (\$25 Free/Reduced Lunch)
 - HATS: \$260 (\$160 Free/Reduced Lunch) for a one-week program

The most frequently asked question of all...

- What do I say when parents ask how to use the information from an above-level test?
 - Discuss each subject as it relates to the subject(s) **you** teach.
 - Consider **subject area acceleration** if appropriate (very popular and successful)
 - Remember, above-level tests remove the **invisible ceiling** that grade-level tests use. This allows parents and teachers to finally “see” inside their heads. Be patient and open to considering new realities – that a child may very well have mastered subject matter in his grade level and is ready for greater challenge.

Teach them what they don't already know!





1996-2007 ~ 11 Years of inspiring inquiry and indulging curiosity!

- 2007 marks Stetson's 11th year of offering summer programs to gifted and high achieving students in Grades 4-9.
- What began as a two-week class for gifted 4th & 5th grade students to animate Mark Twain's book, *Following the Equator*, has evolved into a program that has served thousands of bright, curious, enthusiastic students.
- Consider making these opportunities available to your district's gifted and high achieving students.
- The effort is minimal, the rewards are great.



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Web Resources



- **Belin-Blank Center:**
<http://www.education.uiowa.edu/belinblank/>
- **Mark Twain Museum:**
<http://marktwainmuseum.org/>
- **Stetson HATS:**
<http://www.stetson.edu/hats/>



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