

NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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REFOCUSING: THE PURPOSE OF COLLEGE

The poetry of Irving Feldman honors the search for a coherent self in the face of “endlessly proliferating doubles.” What does this have to do with going away to college? It reminds us that college is more than a career step or even a place of intellectual enrichment. It can be a place where we discover through trial and error, that self-within-us that we can come to understand as authentic, as real, as honest. Regardless of the college or university one attends, that experience will challenge you as never before, not merely with its academic workload and social adjustments, but with how you learn to translate failure and success and use it to more clearly define your own sense of self and purpose.

Any college or university you attend will afford you the type of experiences which can lead to the growth and fulfillment you seek.

Colleges Get Even More Selective This Year

(“Dallas Morning News,” by Holly K. Hacker, 4/6/10)
High school seniors with ambitious college plans are learning that April is the cruelest month – as most have now heard from some of the nation’s most sought-after universities. (See list on page 2). Seniors and their parents may wonder why there are such historic levels of college rejection. For starters, more students applied to top colleges. Theories about the reasons abound: Many top colleges now use a common application, so it’s easy to apply to more schools. They offer more generous financial aid packages, putting an **Ivy League** education within reach of middle- and low-income families. Plus, many colleges encourage students to apply because the **U.S. News & World Report** rankings give extra points to colleges that turn down lots of kids. Tom Allen, a college admissions consultant in Dallas, said it’s always been hard to get into Harvard and Yale. But now, relatively less competitive colleges such as Vanderbilt, Northwestern and Duke universities are drawing more applicants – and therefore more rejections. “More parents are supporting their kids whose ambitions are becoming higher and higher to get into the very best schools,” Allen said. And those kids are playing the odds, he said: “If you want to get into the best schools, apply to as many as you can.” The increasingly cutthroat world of college admissions has prompted some humorous responses. At Stanford, one satirical publication reported that the acceptance rate had dropped below 0 percent. College counselors remind students that many colleges with higher acceptance rates also offer great educations.

Reading Into Those University Spring News Releases

Each spring, many selective colleges send out statistics-laden news releases that attempt to spin admissions results in the most positive light. Numbers aside, these announcements are written in a language all their own. In the spirit of the season, Eric Hoover of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, chose key phrases from this year’s crop of press releases and proposed some translations. Here is one example: “These young men and women are in a large sense the next generation of leaders, innovators, scientists, engineers and humanists who will make significant contributions to society ...” Eric Hoover’s translation: “These young men and women are in a large sense the next generation of corporate executives, lawyers, consultants, plastic surgeons, and neighborhood association presidents who will make substantial financial contributions to our institution.”

The Illusion of Ever-lower College Acceptance Rates

(“washingtonpost.com/answersheet blog”, by Valerie Strauss, 4/3/10)
I have found myself getting increasingly annoyed as I read the latest, incredibly low admissions statistics for some of the nation’s most elite schools. Why release such figures unless schools want everyone to know how preciously elite they are? Moreover, the real problem is that these super-low selectivity rates suggest something about college admissions that isn’t actually true. It seems reasonable to look at ever-lower acceptance rates at the nation’s most elite colleges and think that it is exponentially harder than it used to be for highly qualified students to get into one of these schools. It isn’t! In fact, high-achieving students have a slightly easier time today getting into the nation’s most selective schools than they did in 1992, according to a report by the Center for Public Education. Surely it is true that many students who could succeed at Harvard don’t get in. But that has long been true. I wish selective schools would include information that would help tell the real admissions

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ACCEPTANCE RATES AT SOME TOP U.S. COLLEGES class of 2014:

<u>School</u>	<u>Applied</u>	<u>Accepted</u>	<u>Rate</u>
Harvard	30,489	2,110	6.9%
Stanford	32,02	2,300	7.2%
Yale	25,86	1,940	7.5%
Princeton	26,24	2,148	8.2%
Columbia	26,17	2,397	9.2%
Brown	30,13	2,804	9.3%
MIT	16,632	1,611	9.7%
Dartmouth	18,778	2,165	11.5%

SOURCE: *Dallas Morning News* research

WAITING LISTS OFFER SCANT HOPE

(*"New York Times," April 14, 2010*)

Ashley Koski, ranked third in the senior class at Thomas Dale High School in Chester, Va., has wanted to attend Duke University since she was 12. Late last month, she learned that Duke had neither accepted nor rejected her. It had offered her a spot on the waiting list — along with 3,382 other applicants, 856 more than a year ago. Being in such a state of limbo, led Ms. Koski to state, "I'd rather have a yes or no. I can't make plans and be excited like the rest of my friends." The reasons for expanded wait lists include the uncertain economy, which makes it hard for schools like Duke to estimate how many of the 4,000 it has accepted will say yes. If Duke's best guess holds, no more than 60 will be admitted through the narrow gate of what is essentially a giant holding pen. Most Ivy League colleges had sharp jumps in applications, as did similarly selective colleges like the University of Chicago, Northwestern, Stanford and MIT. The admission process is a complicated dance of supply and demand for colleges. And this spring, many institutions have accepted fewer applicants, and placed more on waiting lists, until it becomes clear over the next few weeks how many spots remain. Last year MIT accepted fewer than 80 out of 722. This year Yale placed nearly 1,000 on its waiting list, an increase of more than 150. Dartmouth increased its list^{by} about 80, to 1,740.

Seniors Still Looking for Colleges???

Space Availability Survey:

After May 5th, 2010, visit the following website for a list of colleges with space available for qualified students in their fall 2010 freshman class: <http://www.nacacnet.org>

The Case for a "Useless" Degree in the Humanities!

"Newsweek Web Exclusive" by Andrew Bast, 4/6/10

Computer science, accounting, marketing—the purpose of many majors is self-evident. They lead to well-paid jobs and clear-cut career paths. But comparative literature, classics, and philosophy—according to the new conventional wisdom—offer no clear trajectory. Many schools are even slashing liberal arts from their curriculum. It's true that studying the humanities will surely elicit snide comments from your uncle like, "All that studying so you'll be able to ask, 'You want fries with that?'" "Still, majoring in the liberal arts is still the best use of your college tuition. A degree in history or religion or languages can be anything you want it to be. Say you're interested in a career that makes lots of money. After a few years of work, an M.B.A. would be a good bet. But an undergraduate degree in business isn't necessarily going to give you a leg up. "We obviously take people with marketing or business backgrounds," says Bruce DelMonico, director of admissions at the Yale School of Management, "But we don't value those over liberal arts or humanities backgrounds." Stats don't lie. One in five of the school's 2010 class was a business major, the same number majored in humanities. "It's not a question of, 'do you have the particular classes,' but it's do you have the mindset, the temperament, the intellectual horsepower to succeed?" In your first job out of college, pretty much everything is going to be learned at work. From there, erecting a successful career means moving onto a new position by building on prior work experience more than it does falling back on a Methods of Accounting or Communicating Your Message Effectively class from your junior year. In fact, there is a good chance that when you're pitted up against four other candidates and you can explain to the hiring manager how your history degree has helped you understand complex

problems in perspective, you stand apart as someone who's more insightful than the others who are just towing the line. Of course, if you want to, say, go to medical school, or be an engineer or a nurse, you're pretty much bound to studying chemistry, physics, or biology. But the vast majority of professional fields—from the law, to the military, to writing, to academics, to teaching, to hospitality, to administration, to management, to business, the list goes on and on—can be had with a strong, foundational, liberal-arts degree. Being able to engage others intelligently about art, music, and politics may also actually make you an enjoyable person to be around. Even in this relentlessly digital age, there's much to be said about learning about what it means to be human. And yes, that can indeed get you a good job.

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Junior CHECKLIST for May / June

- _____ June 5 SAT - May 5 regular deadline
- _____ June 12 ACT - May 7 regular deadline
- _____ Take AP exams May (results arrive in July)
- _____ Make appointments for summer interviews at selected colleges. (Be sure to follow visits with thank you notes.)
- _____ Start a file of brochures and applications for schools you like.
- _____ Finalize plans for summer jobs, camps, and educational opportunities.
- _____ Read local newspapers to find out which civic, cultural, and service organizations in your area award scholarships to graduating seniors. Start a file.
- _____ If you play a spring sport and hope to continue as an undergraduate, make sure that college coaches know about you now, live or on video tape. By spring of your senior year it might be too ^{late}.

Few Schools Backing Off “No Loan” Pledges

(“Washington Post” by Daniel DeVise, 4/8/10)

When both Williams and Dartmouth colleges announced over winter that they would retreat from pledges to fund full student need through grant aid alone, it seemed more than possible that other schools would follow. A new survey, however, suggests that most colleges with “full-need” pledges do not plan to abandon or even weaken them.

The Institute for College Access & Success surveyed 52 schools with pledges to meet the full demonstrated financial need and to either limit or eliminate loans from those packages. They found no other school planning major changes in their policies in the next two years. A list of the schools and their pledges can be found at: http://www.projectonstudentdebt.org/pc_institution.php

Click on any school for specific details on school policy.

Quote of the Month:

“The budget crisis in California is SERIOUS. Our junior colleges have cut programs by 35% and are allowing incoming students to take only three classes. Our Cal State system is impacted climbing from 490,000 applicants to almost 700,000. The reasons for this vary but mainly deal with many students not being able to afford private schools or the UC schools which average about \$7,000 more a year. Our UC system is undergoing the same dynamic as programs are being cut and timely graduation is challenged. I am sending all of my students, who are willing, out of ^{state} to college. The “California Dream” has become a nightmare. It is a very sad thing to watch.” *(Anonymous high school counselor, NA CA C Listserve, April 2010)*

Senior CHECKLIST for May / June

- _____ It’s still not too late to apply to colleges with rolling admissions. (But don’t expect financial aid.)
- _____ Fill out and return all college papers regarding housing, student orientation registration, loan applications, etc.
- _____ Request that final high school transcript be mailed to school you will attend.
- _____ Write polite letters of refusal to colleges you will not attend.
- _____ Notify counselor which school you will be attending and of any awards or scholarships you receive.

5 Tips for Smart Student Money Management in College

- 1.) **Consider buying prepaid phone cards.** This is a very cost-effective way to call home from anywhere at any time without incurring long-distance charges.
- 2.) **Open a checking or savings account near the college.** If you already have an account at home, then ensure that deposits and withdrawals can be made at school. Be sure to clarify any associated fees. Your parents could also provide you with an option, such as a debit card, where they control the amount that is deposited in your account.
- 3.) **Beware of credit card offers.** Talk with your parents about the risks and responsibilities of accepting these offers. It’s smart to have your parents involved in any credit card acceptance decisions. When you investigate these offers, look for a company that promotes responsible use of credit. Consider a joint credit card where your parents can limit the maximum transaction amount. Talk with your parents about for what the card can and cannot be used. If they say it should be used only for emergencies, then you should both clearly define the meaning of an emergency. Some students think for an evening out is an emergency!
- 4.) **Don’t forget to consider transportation costs** to and from school, including the cost of a car or several trips annually by train, air, or bus.
- 5.) **Most importantly, use smart budgeting.** Ask your parents to help you create a realistic money management plan and then adhere to it, holding yourself accountable for all expenditures.

COLLEGE NEWS Signs of the Times

The president of **Reed College** (OR), Colin Diver, has been summoned to a meeting where federal and state authorities told him that the college must shut down drug use and distribution at the college. The meeting was highly unusual in that officials warned President Diver that Reed could face a cut-off of federal funds - including student loans - if it is not deemed to be taking "adequate steps to combat illegal drug activity."

The **Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority** has been notifying 16,599 students state-wide that the state's College Access Program has used up its funds, and will only be able to pay out money to students who applied by March 7, 2010 - even though the application deadline was March 15.

As part of its outreach to low-income students **Vanderbilt University** (TN) has instituted a no-loan initiative in which need-based loans normally included in undergraduate financial aid awards for new and returning students have been replaced with Vanderbilt grants and scholarships.

The **University of California** system is using a wait list this year for the first time ever. Administrators say the economic uncertainty has left them unsure of how many students they can take - and also, of how many accepted students will actually enroll. Many private colleges are also mailing out more maybes this year.

The **American Association of University Professors'** latest annual report on faculty salaries reflects the economic realities: a paycheck that barely grew from the year before. With an inflation rate of 2.7%, that means that many professors actually had less buying power than the year before.

For 2010 Freshmen: "I Wish Someone Had Told Me"

"The College Crier," Devon O'Brien, - <http://www.dcb-creatingfutures.com/>

GO TO CLASS - the temptation is there to sleep in (don't schedule early classes if you can avoid it). Class attendance can make a difference in your grades.

BE ON TIME TO CLASS - class disruption may be noticed by your professor and it won't be appreciated by your classmates.

COMMUNICATION is critical - if you are having difficulties with someone like a roommate or professor, talk it out.

BUREAUCRACY reigns in college- yes, you will need to navigate the system. Learn the procedures, deadlines, actions you need to take and who to talk to if you need help. Remember your fellow students aren't the experts - go to those who are so you stay on track.

SUPPORT SYSTEMS are crucial, especially in the early weeks - make friends, get to know people, talk to everyone!

CLOSE TO HOME - resist the temptation to go home every weekend. By staying on campus you'll get more connected, make new friends and learn about the happenings on campus. Never can tell, staying on campus may open up a whole new world.

EXPECT TO FEEL LONELY, FRIGHTENED AND ISOLATED - this is a big change. The comfort is that you're not the only one going having these feelings. When feeling down call home, call a friend, talk to your RA and realize these feelings are natural.

READ EVERYTHING - both to stay in touch and be aware of important information. You may find that even advertisements are exciting. After all, they're addressed to YOU!

JOIN IN ON ALL THE ACTIVITIES you can while still doing well in your classes. Getting involved can make the homesickness just a little easier.

PROFESSORS are just people too - don't be afraid to use their office hours, get to know them, ask questions when you don't understand. The professors are there to help you - don't be left behind.

Applications at California State Universities

("The Press Democrat" by Kerry Benefield, 3/28/10)

More than 609,000 undergraduate applications were submitted to the CSU system this year, and another 100,320 to UC campuses. At the same time, shrinking budgets have caused the UC system to cut freshman enrollment by 1,500 students this fall, and the CSU system to cut 40,000 over two years. And those who are admitted will pay significantly more to attend. CSU and UC fees will go up 30 and 32 percent respectively. One such example of California high school seniors is Drew Pawlan. He was turned down by San Diego State University and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, was wait-listed at Long Beach State and earned admission at Oregon State University and Arizona State University. He also was accepted at Syracuse University in New York with a financial aid package that would pay \$43,000 of the private school's \$51,000 annual price tag.

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SMOOTHING THE COLLEGE TRANSITION

By now many of you seniors have notified your selected school of your intent to register. After such a difficult and important decision, there is usually a great sense of relief. But it's not the time to let down because now all the specific preparations for beginning the freshman year must be taken care of. So here are some suggestions for helping to make your transition from high school to college a smooth one.

Share your mail from the college with your parent(s). In many cases, they will have to sign something or be the ones to do it. If they don't know about it, they can't help you.

Many colleges are now having "mini orientation" sessions during the summer. These group sessions are designed to help you get acquainted with some members of your class, meet faculty and administrators, and, in general, get you ready for the fall. If you have a choice of sessions to attend, go to an early one.

Respond to all Housing Information ASAP to ensure your best choice of residence halls and roommates.

You may be assigned a faculty advisor. If you are told who it is, get in touch with this person during the summer. He or she will be your best contact person if you have questions before you arrive at college. Some colleges automatically assign you to your first semester classes. Others let you register for the classes you want. Hopefully, in that case, you will get your registration materials early enough in the summer to think seriously about what you want. But don't think too long. Classes are usually assigned on a first come basis. Some of your first-choices could be filled by the time you register, so have a list of alternative courses ready.

Immediately follow-up on all correspondence relating to student or parents loans if you plan to use them. Colleges are firm about not letting students attend class or move into residence halls until all financial matters are complete.

Know the placement test policy for English and Math courses. Usually students with SAT scores of 550 in verbal and/or math are exempt. Call your school to double check if in doubt.

COLLEGE NEWS

Signs of the Times

More and more campuses are now indicating a welcoming climate for **ROTC programs**. They contend that attitudes have become more positive since Pentagon leaders for the first time advocated revising the law that bans gays and lesbians from serving openly in the ranks. Previously some college administrators had considered the ban on gays in the military discriminatory and had cited it as a reason to keep full ROTC programs off campus.

There are still a handful of U.S. colleges and universities picking up full tuition for every student they enroll. One school, **Webb Institute, N.Y.**, offers a double major in naval architecture and marine engineering. The **Cooper Union** in New York City focuses on architecture and the arts, as well as engineering. And there are also two Christian schools: The **College of the Ozarks**, a "work school" in rural Point Lookout, Mo., and **Berea College**, a liberal arts "work school" in Berea, Ky.

The economic woes of the **California State and University** systems stem from the fact that they have never had guaranteed funding: Unlike K-12 education, universities are not guaranteed a steady stream of funding. In the last 40 years, higher education's piece of the state's spending pie has been sliced in half—even while enrollment has jumped 2.5 times.

Once a voracious consumer of American higher education, **Japan's undergraduate enrollment** in U.S. universities has fallen 52% since 2000; graduate enrollment has dropped 27%.

The Surge in New Medical Schools

The Assn. of American Medical Colleges predicts a shortage of at least 125,000 physicians by 2025. New schools and expansion at existing schools will increase first-year enrollment by 21% in 2013. Such growth was spurred by the AAMC's 2006 call for a 30% increase in medical school enrollment. Many of the new schools' deans say they hope they can help ease the shortage of primary care doctors in their areas. However, new schools alone won't solve the primary care shortage. Primary care spots are not being filled because of the pay differential. Students have more choices of other residencies because of what has been built over the last decade. Attracting applicants has not been a problem for the new schools that have started recruiting or enrolling students. "The problem is just narrowing it down," according to Cynda Ann Johnson, founding dean of the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine in Roanoke, VA. Despite lacking full accreditation, nearly 1,700 students applied to be part of the school's charter class of 42 students that begins Aug. 2. For full article go to: <http://www.ama-assn.org/amednews/2010/03/29/pr120329.htm>

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GREAT STARTER WEBSITES FOR JUNIORS

College and University Rankings

The Education & Social Science Library has developed a great page which lists all the links which rank colleges and university in regard to certain criteria. In addition to the ubiquitous US News and Princeton Review rankings, you can access 25 rankings, such as: Kiplinger's 100 Best Values in Public Colleges and Wall Street Journal's Top 50 Feeder Schools <http://www.library.illinois.edu/edx/rankings/rankgen.html>

The Admission Game College Planning Quiz

<http://www.theadmissiongame.com/>

The college planning process is full of myths and legends that confuse even the most college-savvy among parents and students. Here is a 20 question quiz to test your college admission IQ? Click under "Are You Ready?" You'll receive your score immediately. You can also sign-up for a free newsletter and blog-posting updates concerning the latest college admissions issues and applicant advice.

The College Planning Scholarship Guide [http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/pnwguide/pnwguide](http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/pnwguide/pnwguide.htm)

[.htm](http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/pnwguide/pnwguide.htm) Unlike most scholarship searches on the Internet, this Guide requires no personal profile for use, provides you access to 100 percent of the scholarship data, and is free. The engine that drives the Guide was designed for CPN by Microsoft as a charitable gift. To begin selecting scholarships, click on "Select Scholarship Eligibility." You can also order the updated 9th edition of the 40 page "Money Maze Workbook" for \$9.95 plus shipping.

The Keys to College Admission

<http://www.collegeplan.org/cpnow/keys/keys.shtml>
This webpage is an issue of the Beyond High School (BHS) newsletter, published by the College Planning Network, and it is dedicated to the college selection and admission process. You will find a step-by-step walk through the process of identifying prospective colleges and preparing admission materials.

Meritaid.com

This free website was created by the founder of fastweb and cappex. Students can complete a profile, then access the college merit scholarships available that match up the profile. They don't sell their email lists to 3rd parties. The site includes a comprehensive directory of merit scholarships and academic scholarships from colleges across the country. Best of all, you'll hear from great colleges that want you to apply!

California Community Colleges with Residence Halls

<http://www.cccco.edu/tabid/832/Default.aspx> - Click the "Community Colleges," tab at the top, then "Dormitories" under "College Listings." Here you can find links to the 11 Calif. CC's with dormitories for on-campus living. There are also addresses, contact information, and web links for any of California's 108 community colleges. You can access a listing of all the colleges, either in alphabetical order or organized by region. Also includes a printable map of all community college locations.

Hidden College Costs

(By Kathleen Carmichael, Ph.D., Northwestern University)

Yet even with careful college planning, you may encounter costs that take you by surprise. These costs crop up in the form of "miscellaneous fees" charged by your school for services or as penalties. Some colleges and universities provide lists of these fees on their Web sites. More often students learn of these fees only after they have incurred them.

Here are some fees to be aware of:

Application and admission: These fees don't just apply when you enter school as a college freshman. You may find them added to your tuition statement or sent as a separate bill if you take a leave of absence or even if you transfer to another "school" (e.g. from School of Speech to Journalism School) within your college or university.

Course materials / laboratory use: You might assume that these fees would be built into tuition, but frequently materials-intensive classes (ranging from art to engineering) will saddle you with additional required costs.

Card replacement: Hang onto your student ID and meal card to avoid paying replacement fees (usually \$15-\$20).

Late tuition payment: Penalties for late payment are stiff, generally ranging from \$50 to \$100.

Service fees for cancellation, adding / dropping classes and late or changing registration: A little preparation can mean significant savings in change of registration fees. If you like to "shop around" for classes, do so the semester before you plan to register.

Official documents: Just because you've completed coursework, don't think you'll get those records for free! Transcripts, diplomas and 'good student' auto insurance certification all come at a price.

Missed student health appointments: Many schools charge for missed appointments with health services. It pays to call ahead.

Returned checks: Don't bounce checks to your school! Not only will your bank charge you, the school may also charge you as much as \$60.

Dorm damage: Just like a landlord, your school reserves the right to bill you for wear and tear to its housing facilities for anything ranging from broken fixtures to adhesive tape left on the walls.

SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST OPPORTUNITIES

THE AKASH KURUVILLA MEMORIAL SCHOL- ARSHIP \$1000 scholarship awarded annually to one male and one female enrolled full-time in an accredited U.S. university in the Fall of 2010. Based on need and requires a minimum high school 3.5 GPA. Must submit a 750 word essay answering the question “What does the phrase “American Dream” mean to you and how do you embody Application Deadline: June 24,2010. <http://the American Dream?>” and a 500-word personal statement. Postmarked application deadline: June 1, 2010.

All details at: <http://www.akmsf.com/criteria.php>

AMERICAN GROUND WATER TRUST (AGWT)

Three scholarships exist for high school seniors interested in a career in environmental engineering and specifically ground water science. Scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$2,000. Must write a 500 word essay for any of the scholarships with the title - “Ground Water - an Important Environmental and Economic Resource for America.” ^{Also} required: a 300 word summary of a high school ground water related project that you have completed (or is in progress); and/or a description of your vacation/out of school work experience that is related to the environment and natural resources. For complete rules and application form: <http://www.agwt.org/scholarships.htm> Application Deadline: June 1, 2010

XEROX TECHNICAL MINORITY SCHOLARSHIP

Xerox is offering \$1,000-\$ 10,000 scholarships to college full-time students who are considering an undergraduate or advanced degree in Chemistry, Engineering, Information Management, Physics or Material Science. Must also be of African American, Asian, Pacific Island, American Indian, Native Alaskan or Hispanic descent. Your application must be postmarked before September 30, 2010. <http://www.xeroxstudentcareers.com/why-xerox/scholarship.aspx>

RONALD REAGAN COLLEGE LEADERS

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM Seniors! Save this one! Applicants must apply during their sophomore year in college (2011-2012).

Offers scholarships to college undergraduates who demonstrate leadership on behalf of the cause of freedom, American values and constitutional principles. The Foundation awarded \$217,000 in new and renewed scholarships in academic year 2009-2010 in amounts of \$7,500, \$5,000, \$2,500 and \$1,000. Requires an essay of 500 to 750 words. Although the program is merit-based, the Foundation will take into consideration evidence of financial need. Application and guidelines will be available each mid-August, with deadline of January 15 for that year. <http://www.thePhillipsFoundation.org/> Click on “Scholarships” on left.

2010 PEACE POETRY AWARDS - Ages 13-18

Awards of \$200 for youth, ages 13 to 18. Send 2 copies of up to 3 typed unpublished poems which “explore and illuminate positive visions of peace and the human spirit.” Maximum of 30 lines per poem. Put name, address, phone#, and age in upper right hand corner on one copy of each poem. No fee for youth entries. Winners and Honorable Mentions will be notified by October 1, 2010. Postmarked Deadline: July 1, 2010. <http://www.wagingpeace.org/menu/programs/awards-&-contests/bmk-contest/index.htm>

College Admission Acceptances - Continued from page 8

What does all of this mean? Three things:

- More students with more choices. Students who used to have one or two acceptances from safety schools now have three or four.
- More uncertainty. These students can still only attend one college, meaning more colleges will get “no thanks” notes from many admitted students.
- Bigger waitlists. Many colleges expect an increase in the number of admitted students who attend somewhere else, so they’re padding their waitlists, just in case.

If you’ve been waitlisted, ask yourself if you’d still want to go to this college if they called today and said “Yo, our bad—you can come.” If the shine is off this college, take your name off the list and move on. If not, be prepared to wait from mid-May to even late June for the college to run through the wait list, knowing financial aid may be limited at that point. Of course, be sure to deposit at another college by May 1st, just in case.

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College Admission Acceptances— a Year of Wow!

(“www.collegeisyours.com” by Patrick OConnor)

Students, parents and school counselors are still spinning from a month of college news that has surprised even the most cautious college watchers. Thin envelopes, noisy e-mails, and overworked websites have left a cloud of data and decisions that ask two questions—what happened, and what’s next?

First, a look at what happened:

- As expected, all highly selective colleges reported an increase in the number of applications—but the increase was larger than expected. This means more students were applying to college than ever before, AND these students were applying to more colleges than ever before, meaning many selective colleges offered admission to less than 10% of their applicants.
- Why were students applying to more colleges? First, the economy. High unemployment and the tight housing market are still making parents cautious college consumers. As a result, students applied to economic safety schools (this is why public colleges saw big application jumps) and to more colleges that were out of reach, hoping to find one that would offer a better financial aid bargain.
- Second, Harvard and Yale. Word continued to spread about the bargain these schools are for families that make less than \$160,000 a year; as a result, more families who thought they couldn’t afford an Ivy are applying to Harvard and Yale. While this is good for these colleges, it makes admission that much harder, meaning the “traditional” Harvard and Yale families had to apply to more colleges. This explains part of the reason why colleges as small as Swarthmore saw big application jumps.

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