

**Calendar**

- March 13 –SAT test
- March 25– last day to sign up for May SAT
- April 10– ACT test
- April 17– NACAC College Fair– SF
- April 29– last day to sign up for June SAT
- May 1– last day to submit intent to register to chosen college



**Inside this issue:**

Social Networking– A Blessing or Curse in College Admissions	2
Getting Off the Waitlist	1
How Do I Get Recruited?	2
Tips For Attending Community College	2
Admission Ethics– Consider Your Fellow Student	2
Course Scheduling– Beware of Taking the Easy Way Out	3
Spring College Fairs	3

## Social Networking– A Blessing or Curse in College Admissions?

Social networking seems to have permeated our lives. So is it a blessing or a curse when it comes to the college admissions process? I pose this question given the recent controversy over Tuft University’s decision to accept YouTube videos as part of a college admissions application. While our students now live in a world filled with Facebook Twitter, YouTube, and they only know what else, there are serious questions regarding the efficacy of social networking in the college admissions process.

It is ironic that our government has gone to great length, and probably advisably so, to insure the privacy of students through the Federal Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA), yet students have become so public through social networking. For example, students’ own parents may have difficulty getting information because of FERPA, but

the entire world may have access to very private student information.

As I advise young people through the college admissions process, I caution them regarding their public profile. Many need to change their email addresses from the provocative to the professional. Some do not know that their Facebook account should have a restricted privacy setting. Even with the privacy settings, however, there is still risk that unflattering information will be revealed. Yes,

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## Getting Off the Waitlist

As college admission decisions come in, students may end up on waitlists. Some colleges maintain unreasonably long waitlists where there is no hope of getting off the waitlist. If a college

is a student’s first choice, the student may take steps to help him get off the waitlist. Simply sending in the card or email asking to be on the waitlist is rarely sufficient. The student should

take further steps to let the college know that it is the student’s first choice, as well as send any new information. Letting the college know that there is no financial need may also help.

# How Do I Get Recruited?

The athletic recruiting process is not what most families expect. Thus, many students miss opportunities. While a few student athletes have coaches knocking at their doors, most students must do the recruiting to take advantage of available college sports opportunities. This effort can take considerable time. So, what can a student do?

- Make sure your academic profile is within a coach's reach.
- Prepare an athletic resume and cover letter and send them to the coaches at colleges where you have an interest.
- Offer to send film to coaches. Films should include whole game tape and not just highlights.
- Meet with a coach when you visit a college.
- Attend summer camps. Summer is a time when coaches have more time.
- Be cautious of using recruiting services. They are expensive and sometimes coaches will ignore them. Coaches would rather hear directly from students.
- Keep a coach

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## Tips for Attending Community College

Some seniors will opt for community college over a four year university. While this may be the optimal choice for a particular student, the student will face unprecedented obstacles due to the California economic crisis. In the past, students could wait until after high school graduation to register at a community college. This is no longer advisable. Students should be taking the time during the Spring semester of their senior year to register and take placement tests so that they can register for Fall classes at the earliest possible date. Some students are even registering at multiple community colleges to insure that they get the classes they seek. Even with careful planning, students will face cancelled classes at the last moment because of insufficient enrollment or for other reasons.

## Admission Ethics— Consider Your Fellow Student



Some students face an ethical dilemma when choosing a college. While they may be tempted to accept an admission offer at more than one college by May 1st (the national deadline to sign with a college), it is unethical to do so, and if their colleges discover the dual registration, they may end up losing both admissions. A student is prohibited from accepting an offer from more than one college. Thus, it is imperative that a student do her homework beforehand. Even without the prohibition, a student should consider the impact that this selfish act may have on other students who would love to attend the college in which they have wrongfully reserved a space.

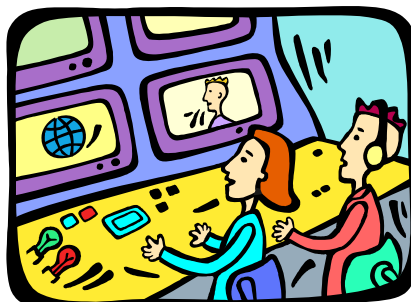
## Social Networking *(continued from page 1)*

while college admissions officers do not have substantial time to review all Facebook pages, they are randomly checking, and somehow, they do get access to information despite the privacy settings. What is a student to do? Do not post controversial information or compromising pictures on Facebook or any social networking website.

I will be loath to advise students to submit YouTube videos online to support college

applications. There are so many other ways that a student can showcase a unique talent, personality or accomplishment other than through the public domain. For instance, I advise my visually artistic students to keep a portfolio of their work as early as freshman year to put on a DVD, and my athletically inclined student to have his coach or parents video sporting events. Then, there are always essays and recommendations to bring out the

best in students. Besides, will our students feel compelled to hire Frances Ford Coppola, Steven Spielberg, or Roman Polanski to script and direct their college admissions YouTube video?



## Course Scheduling— Beware of Taking the Easy Way Out

As students contemplate next year's class schedule, there is a temptation by rising seniors to take an easier schedule. This could be a serious mistake. While colleges will be considering academic performance to date, they are also seriously looking at strength of curriculum. They will question a student's moti-

vation to learn if a student takes an easy senior schedule.

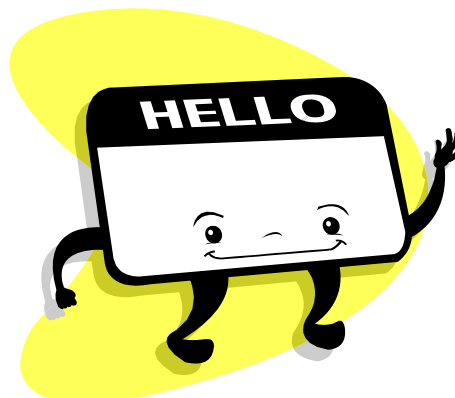
This is not just a precaution for seniors. All high school students should take heed. While GPA is important, the strength of curriculum is also a major factor in college admissions. Thus, a student should challenge himself

throughout high school. While not every student is meant to take all honors and AP classes, each student should carefully evaluate his curriculum to include a challenging curriculum based upon his capabilities.

## Spring College Fairs

NACAC will host college fairs throughout the country during the Spring. This is a great way for high school freshmen, sophomores and juniors to test the waters and learn about different colleges. The San Francisco fair will take place on April 17, 2010 at the Concourse Exhibition Center in San Francisco from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Students can

register in advance online and receive a bar code to give at the fair to colleges in which students have an interest. This will save them time at the fair so that they can concentrate on discovering the information they seek from college representatives.





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## Recruiting *(Continued from Page 2)*

informed of key athletic accomplishments and respond to all coach communications.

- Register with the NCAA by the end of your junior year and send your test scores to the NCAA.
- Take unofficial and official visits to determine whether the team, coach and college are good fits. You also need to

pick a college that is a good academic and social fit as you may be an injury away from competing or you may later decide to terminate your athletic career for other reasons.

- Parents need to stay in the background for at least two reasons. If parents are overly involved, a coach may question a student's motivation because the student is not making the effort. In addition, because college athletics involves such a significant time commitment, a coach may be concerned about "living with the overly involved parent".

