

February 10, 2012

PHS College and Career Center Weekly Bulletin

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### Seniors • Class of 2012

If you have been **admitted to your ED school, but also applied to UC**, you should notify UC now to withdraw your application (so your potential spot can go to someone else!). Mail a letter including your full name, application ID#, birth date, which campuses you applied to, and most important, your signature on the letter. Send to UC Undergraduate Application Processing Service, P.O. Box 4010, Concord, CA 945-24-4010.

These are application deadlines for some **colleges still open to applicants** for Fall: Clemson U- 5/1; Drexel U- 3/1; Purdue - 3/1; U of Hawaii - 5/1; U of Pittsburgh - rolling until full; Montana State - 7/1.

Check out the section on **GAP YEAR** programs for info on upcoming GAP YEAR FAIRS

Remember to look at the **Scholarships** section! **Several application deadlines are approaching!**

### Juniors • Class of 2013

**Junior Parent Orientation** to the college application process will be held the evening of **Wed. Mar. 7**, for all parents of junior students. The Counselors and Sandi Brod will provide lots of useful information, so put it on your calendar now!

**Reminder!** Look at **Spring testing dates** for SAT or ACT, and any subject tests that your potential colleges might require.

**Winter Break is just around the corner.** If you are planning a college trip, here are some tips for getting the most out of your visit:

**Pick up:** Course catalog, college newspaper, brochures on special programs

**Look at:** Students, bulletin boards and posters all over campus

**Make sure you have time to:** Go to an info session, take a tour, talk to students, meet faculty/coaches

**Check out:** Housing, dining facilities, activity centers, athletics and recreation, library, and surrounding community

Remember to look at the **Summer Opportunities** section. Many summer programs are directed at rising seniors and can give you a chance to "try college on" for a few weeks.

**Case Studies Night is May 15.** This event is for both junior parents and students to learn about how various types of colleges evaluate applicants.

**Check out** the upcoming **College Fairs** listed in the section in **College Fairs and Regional College Visits**, below.

### Sophomores • Class of 2014

If you're **considering applying to any colleges** that require **SAT subject tests**, you may want to take one or more at the end of this year. The link, below, will take you to a site that has a list of colleges that require them. Note that some colleges will take ACT scores in place of SAT plus subject tests. You will not need subject tests for UC, with some exceptions based on the major or college you are applying to.

[http://www.compassprep.com/admissions\\_req\\_subjects.aspx](http://www.compassprep.com/admissions_req_subjects.aspx)

**Sophomore Academic Planning Night** for all sophomore students and parents is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. Make a note of it!

**It's not too early** to develop a plan and some learning strategies for taking the SAT and/or ACT junior year. See your counselor!

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Remember to look at the **Summer Opportunities** section. Many summer programs are directed at rising juniors and can give you a chance to have a snapshot of college life for a few weeks.

Check out the upcoming College Fairs listed in the section in **College Fairs and Regional College Visits**, below.

If you're planning to visit any colleges during Winter Break, see the Junior's section for tips on getting the most out of your visit.

### Freshmen • Class of 2015

This is a good year to at least meet your counselor. Make an appointment and just introduce yourself to your counselor so he or she can start getting to know you. Your counselor can help you with lots of issues at PHS.

**Second semester is here!** Keep up with your classwork and if you need help, be sure to ask for it!

Check out the **Summer Opportunities** and **Volunteer Opportunities** sections – many programs are available to rising sophomores

**Definition of the Week: GPA: Grade Point Average:** Though GPA is reported on high school transcripts, colleges often compute their own version of the GPA, counting only certain classes or “weighting” the GPA by adding extra points for Honors and AP courses.

### SAT REASONING AND SUBJECT TESTS • Register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

<u>Test date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline (w/ fee)</u>
March 10	<b>February 10</b>	February 24
May 5	April 6	April 20
June 2	May 8	May 22

### ACT TEST • Register at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

<u>Test date</u>	<u>Regular Registration Deadline</u>	<u>Late Registration Deadline (w/ fee)</u>
<b>February 11</b>	-----	-----
April 14	March 9	March 23
June 9	May 4	May 18

All test dates include the optional writing test, which is not “optional” for UC applicants; other colleges may also require the writing test. Visit the College Center to pick up a practice test booklet.

*Be sure to arrive prepared the day of your test by checking out this **Test Day Checklist** at <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-test-day-checklist>*

A **Mock SAT** will be held at PHS on **Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>** for interested Juniors and Sophomores. Put in on your calendar now! Details to follow...

### SAT Question of the Week (answer at end of Bulletin)

How many integers satisfy the following inequality?  $|n+1| < 4$

Answer Choices: (A) One (B) Two (C) Four (D) Seven (E) Eight

**Note:** On the ACT math test, you have 60 minutes to answer 60 multiple-choice questions. On the SAT, you have 70 minutes to complete 44 multiple-choice questions and 10 questions requiring a student-produced response.

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## **WHAT'S HOT!**

### **Sandi's tour of Colleges in Seattle and in British Columbia!**

Schools toured: were **Seattle Pacific University, Seattle University, University of British Columbia, Simon Fraser, and Emily Carr school of Art and Design University**. All of the colleges/universities had something special to offer.

This week's feature... **Emily Carr school of Art and Design** is well known in Canada, but a hidden gem for international students. Emily Carr has been an art school for 86 years and has 1,800 undergraduate students from more than 60 countries. The art school is located on Granville Island, which is full of artists, restaurants, markets, which all make up a very happening scene. International students have an easy time of applying to British Columbia colleges and are almost always eligible for off campus work permit as well. In addition, a graduate may stay in Canada and work for three years before having to return home. This gives students and opportunity to work in their field and return home with paid work experience and the beginning of an impressive resume. Canada does not have the unemployment problem we seem to have and students at the art school told me they had found jobs in their fields, especially in Industrial and graphic design. Undergraduate majors offered are: Communication Design, Industrial Design, Animation, Interactive and Social Media Design, Film/Video, Visual Arts, Ceramics, Illustration, Drawing, Painting, Sculpture and Photography. The professors are all working artists and bring real life experiences in the classroom. Many professors and students collaborate on a myriad of projects. The facility is very "cool" looking and definitely reflects the art scene of B.C. For more information go to [www.ecuad.ca](http://www.ecuad.ca) **Check back next week for the next installment...**

**West Virginia University's PI Reed School of Journalism** is among a select group of programs that is fully accredited by the accrediting council of Journalism and Mass Communication and a member of Association of Schools of Journalism and Mass Communication. Since its founding in 1939, students have been offered innovative curriculum and real-world experience, interning at such places as ABC's Good Morning America; The Associated Press; NBC News, London; PBS; USA Today; The White House; MTV and more. This intimate community values a liberal arts education and is a special place where students from diverse backgrounds develop their communication skills and use their creative talents to make a lasting impact on their communities and the world. In 2011, the first graduates of the school's new Converged Journalism major graduated and "represent a new breed of journalists – professionals equipped with the skills to produce content across media platforms in today's converged newsrooms".

**The World Affairs Council** is hosting a program entitled [Examining Online Rights and Freedoms](http://www.worldaffairs.org/events/2012/examining-online-rights.html) on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> in San Francisco. The Internet has become an indispensable tool, bringing unprecedented access to information and the ability to express oneself to billions of people worldwide. Many believe access to the Internet should be included in the Declaration of Human Rights, but the debate over Internet freedom continues and it is fierce. Join Rebecca MacKinnon and Jillian York, two internet theorists on the forefront of this debate, for a discussion the complex power dynamics amongst governments, corporations and citizens in cyberspace. To register, go to <http://www.worldaffairs.org/events/2012/examining-online-rights.html>.

**The University of Northern Colorado**, in Greeley, CO, was founded in 1890 and 1 in 3 attendees are first-generation students. All 50 states are represented as well as 32 countries outside the US. UNC offers more than 100 programs. UNC is part of the Western Undergraduate Exchange, offering reduced tuition to students coming from California and other western states. For more information about WUE, please visit [www.unco.edu/admissions/wue.asp](http://www.unco.edu/admissions/wue.asp) or download a WUE flyer at [www.unco.edu/admissions/pdf/wue.pdf](http://www.unco.edu/admissions/pdf/wue.pdf). For general information about UNC, go to <http://www.unco.edu/life/components/viewbook/index.html>.

## **NEWS**

Here is an excerpt from the *Campus Overload* BLOG in *The Washington Post*. See the link below to read the full text. It's worth the read! **[Getting rejected from your dream school\(s\) isn't a bad thing.](#)**  
*Eric N. Harris, a junior at the University of Maryland.*

There are only so many ways that a school can say that you aren't worthy to attend, and rejection letters seem to follow a similar style. Some of my favorite phrases: 1) "we're truly regretful," 2) "this year's applicants were very competitive," 3) "we turned away numerous valedictorians and one Nobel Prize winner," and 4) "shame your family doesn't have a campus

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building named after them.” The letter ends as the Dean “wishes you success at whatever sub-par school accepted you. This should not be difficult as your classmates are also rejects.” (I may have made that one up.)

To read more, go to [http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/campus-overload/post/getting-rejected-from-your-dream-schools-isnt-a-bad-thing/2012/01/26/gIQA8BINVQ\\_blog.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/campus-overload/post/getting-rejected-from-your-dream-schools-isnt-a-bad-thing/2012/01/26/gIQA8BINVQ_blog.html) .

Whether you are interested in fine arts, graphic design, theatre, music, photography, creative writing, or moving image arts (filmmaking), **Santa Fe University of Art and Design** is an ideal place to get the education and experience you need to build your career. Santa Fe University of Art and Design (formerly the College of Santa Fe) was recently ranked among the best colleges in the Western Region by *U.S. News & World Report*. To learn more, visit the University website at <http://www.santafeuniversity.edu/> .

### **GAP YEAR INFO**

Interested in knowing more about Gap Year possibilities? There are two **Gap Year Fairs** coming to the bay area! **San Anselmo Fair, March 1**, Sir Francis Drake HS, 6:00 to 8:30 pm. **San Francisco Fair, March 4**, Jewish Community HS of the Bay, 1:00-3:30 pm. For more information on either location, visit [www.usagapyearfairs.org](http://www.usagapyearfairs.org). USA Gap Year Fairs is a national circuit of events that bring together reputable Gap Year organizations, interested students and parents, high school college counselors and the Gap Year experts. These events are designed to provide students with a broad exposure of Gap Year Programs and the opportunity for face to face conversations with the people who work in the field. For students and parents interested in Gap Year, these fairs are the legitimate source to connect with reputable organizations that focus on Education, Service and Personal Growth.

**Student Conservation Association**, [www.thesca.org](http://www.thesca.org) . SCA is a nationwide force of conservation volunteers that helps thousands of people answer the call of conservation every year. For people 18 and over, SCA offers 3-to-12 month expense-paid opportunities in dozens of disciplines at nearly 500 national parks, forests and other public lands in all fifty states. SCA is one of the only Gap Year programs that pays people to intern.

**Where There Be Dragons**, [www.wheretherebedragons.com](http://www.wheretherebedragons.com) .

Accredited-Semester programs for students ages 17-22 that combines innovative itineraries and diverse program components with hands-on experiential learning. Conduct programs in India, China, Himalayas, Andes and Amazon, Africa, Central America and Indonesia.

### **SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Oxbridge Academic Programs** will be hosting an information session on **Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>**, on their summer academic programs in Oxford, Cambridge, Paris, Montpellier, Barcelona, and NYC! 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Palo Alto, Siena/Carrara Room, 675 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94301

**California State Summer School for the Arts (CSSSA)** seeks students talented in visual, literary, media and performing arts. Students attend workshops at California Institute of the Arts, led by professional artists and performers, and receive 3 units of CSU college credit. Alumni include Zac Efron and James Franco. For applications and other information, visit [www.csssa.ca.gov](http://www.csssa.ca.gov) . Applications are due by **Feb. 28** for the July 14-August 10 program.

**UC Berkeley** offers classes through its **Academic Talent Development Program (ATDP)**, with challenging classes for grades K-12. Full info at <http://atdp.berkeley.edu> , email [atdpoffice@berkeley.edu](mailto:atdpoffice@berkeley.edu) , or call 510-642-8408. The **deadline** for applications for grades 7-12 is **Feb 29** for new students and Feb 15 for returning students.

**UC Summer School for Math & Science (COSMOS)**: Spend 4 weeks at Davis, Irvine, Santa Cruz or San Diego, working along with university researchers and faculty exploring topics in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) This is an enrichment program, not a replacement for high school work, and admission is competitive. Applications are online NOW! Full info available at [www.ucop.edu/cosmos](http://www.ucop.edu/cosmos)

**JSA (Junior State of America)** Summer School Program offers college-level classes which develop critical thinking, debate and team-building skills. Three and four week programs are offered at Stanford, Princeton, and Georgetown Universities, as well as an international experience in Beijing, China. Dates and subject matter vary by location. There is even a Freshman Scholars program for students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade. All other programs are

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open to high school students graduating in 2013 or later. Application deadlines vary by location. Learn more and start your application at <http://jsa.org/summer/apply>.

**Boston College Summer Experience Program** – Thinking about where to apply to college and what to study? Spend 6 weeks at BC and take college courses, earn college credit, and live and study with your peers as you experience college. This program for **rising seniors** is worth checking out! Call 617-552-3800 or e-mail [bce@bd.edu](mailto:bce@bd.edu) for more information.

The **New England Center for Investigative Reporting**, based at **Boston University's College of Communication**, is again offering a unique Investigative Journalism Workshop for High School Students in July 2012, for students who are interested in journalism or writing. The two-week program will give participants hands-on and academic training in investigative reporting and the chance to work on investigative stories that could be published in school newspapers or in major media outlets in New England. Students will spend two weeks on the BU campus participating in investigative reporting workshops led by university faculty, as well as award-winning local and national journalists. To find out more about the workshop, visit <http://necir-bu.org/training/summer-investigative-journalism-workshop-for-high-school-students/>

#### **COLLEGE FAIRS • REGIONAL COLLEGE INFORMATION SESSIONS • CAMPUS OPEN HOUSES**

**Kenyon College** in Gambier, OH, is hosting **Junior Visit Day**: March 24, 2012! This Saturday event offers information on the college search and advice on applying to colleges, as well as a discussion of the financial aid process. Register online at <http://www.kenyon.edu/jrvisit> .

**Bryn Mawr College**, a women's college in Bryn Mawr, PA, is now accepting registrations for *Bryn Mawr in View*, their spring open house event for **high school juniors, sophomores, and their families**. At this event, you will learn about the college and be introduced to a typical day of a college student at Bryn Mawr. Register now at <http://www.brynmawr.edu/admissions/in-view/register.shtml> .

The **East Bay College Connection** is a **regional college fair** for high school students and their parents, teachers, and counselors. The fair is held at the Saint Mary's College of CA campus in **Moraga on Saturday, April 14**. Colleges from across the country will be represented. For more info, go to [www.stmarys-ca.edu/east-bay-college-connection](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/east-bay-college-connection) .

**Regional College Fair on Friday, April 20**, at **CSU East Bay**. Register at [www.wacac.org](http://www.wacac.org)

**The 2012 San Francisco National College Fair** is coming up on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. For detailed information and to see a complete list of schools attending, go to <http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/ncf/Spring/Pages/SanFranciscoNCF.aspx>

#### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID**

**PG&E \$1 Million Scholarship Program**, awarding up to \$1 million in scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$30,000. PGE will award scholarships to bright minds who have given back to the local community or who have overcome great personal challenges. Share your story. **Apply by February 17** at [www.pge.com/brightminds](http://www.pge.com/brightminds)

**Montana State University's Scholarship Program is open to all students!** All Students need to do to qualify for their general Achievement Award scholarships is apply to the school and send their official ACT or SAT scores. No separate application is necessary; however there are applications for the Distinction Awards and departmental scholarships, offered from various academic colleges on campus, for interested students. To learn more about scholarships and to download their other scholarship applications, go to [www.montana.edu/wwwnss/scholarships](http://www.montana.edu/wwwnss/scholarships)

The **American Institute for Management Sciences** will award three \$1,000 scholarships to graduating high school students interested in pursuing **technology or engineering**. **Deadline: February 29, 2012**. For info, go to [www.masteraims.org](http://www.masteraims.org)

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**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

**Reading Partners** is an educational non-profit that teams up with elementary schools in under-served communities and provides one-on-one literacy tutoring to students reading below grade level. This is accomplished by bringing in community volunteers to work with students twice a week for forty-five minutes. Anyone interested in education or willing to help change the life of a student is welcome to volunteer. No prior experience is necessary and the curriculum we use is easy to follow. There is an Americorps site coordinator always available in the center to support our tutors, and we also hold monthly tutor trainings for further support. For more information please visit [www.readingpartners.org](http://www.readingpartners.org).

**MISCELLANEOUS**

The College Center is located in **Room 20** in the Science Building. The Center is open every day from 8 a.m. to 3:10 p.m.

**ANSWER to SAT Question of the Week: D**

**Questions, Comments or Additions to the Bulletin?** Please send to [sandytodd.phs@gmail.com](mailto:sandytodd.phs@gmail.com) with "CCC bulletin" in subject line. Bulletin submissions must be received by Tuesday at 3 pm to appear in that week's bulletin. To receive the College Center Bulletin via email, contact Kim Hebert at [kim@heberts.us](mailto:kim@heberts.us) with your email address. Please include your name, your youngest high school child's name and graduation date. Students are encouraged to sign up to receive the bulletin, too!