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STUDENTPATHS

Illinois Edition

inside

**¡PÁGINA 9
EN ESPAÑOL!**

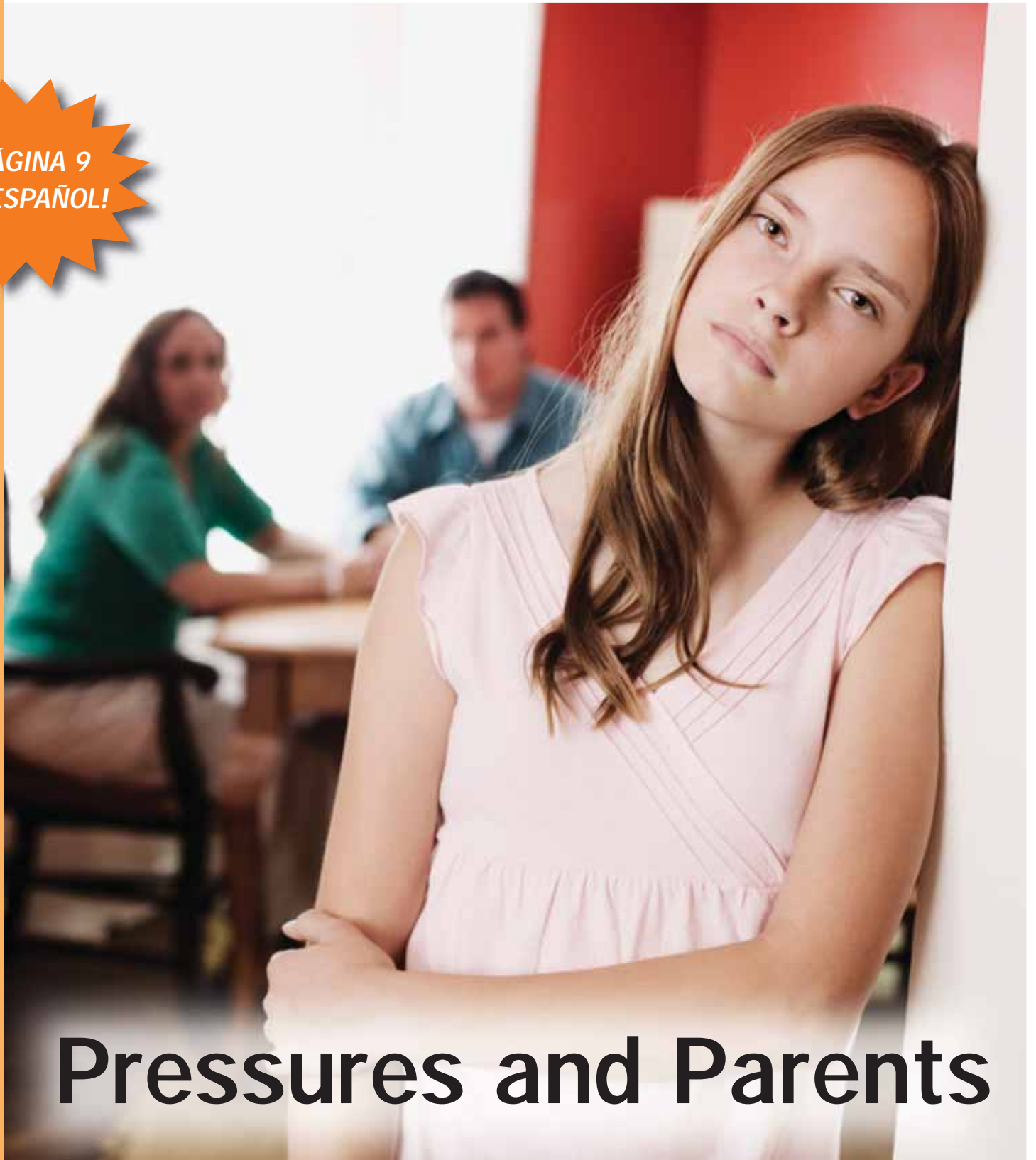
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SPRING '12

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Pressures and Parents

Visit <http://www.studentpaths.com/studentimpactsurvey/>

Don't forget to complete the Student Paths online survey for this issue!

- Request free information from colleges and military branches you are interested in
- Share feedback on Student Paths and your transition to life after high school
- Get information on becoming a Student Paths student contributor



IMHO

What are you so passionate about that if you got to do it as a career it wouldn't even feel like work to you?



Daniel Adams, Ringgold, Virginia - *Auto body.*

Shanell Maggitt, Pomona, California - *Entertaining people, but also teaching them lessons that will change their lives for the better.*



Wykil Abel, Danville, Virginia - *Architecture and playing the keyboard.*

Jeniffer Navarro, Moreno Valley, California - *Taking care of kids, because they make me feel like one again.*



Final exam – Match the celeb with the college they attended:

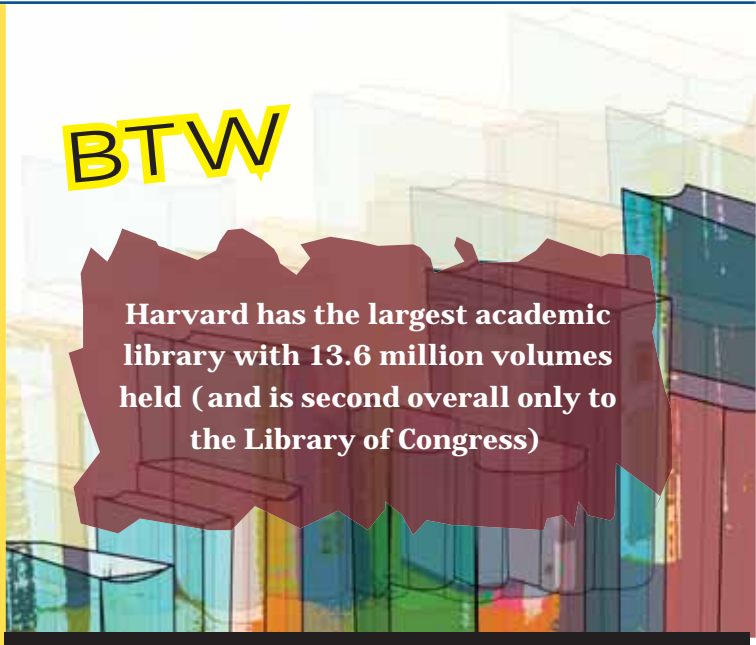
- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Julia Roberts | a. Columbia University |
| 2. Will Ferrell | b. Vassar College |
| 3. President Obama | c. Brown University |
| 4. Tim Allen | d. Univ. of Southern Cal. |
| 5. Emma Watson | e. Harvard University |
| 6. Natalie Portman | f. Georgia State Univ. |
| 7. Lisa Kudrow | g. Western Mich. Univ. |

Answers: 1f, 2d, 3a, 4g, 5c, 6e, 7b

Score:
7 = You've got a job waiting for you at E!
4-6 = Not bad, now what was their major?
1-3 = Looks like you need a subscription to a few Hollywood mags
0 = You're spending too much time studying :)

BTW

Harvard has the largest academic library with 13.6 million volumes held (and is second overall only to the Library of Congress)



FYI

College student marriages each year

42,500

College student divorces each year

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Wacky scholarships



	Candy scholarship	Lefty scholarship	Common Knowledge scholarship	Music Student scholarship	Fungus scholarship
<p>What's this?</p> <p>How much?</p> <p>Who can enter?</p> <p>When's it due?</p> <p>Find out more!</p>	<p>The American Association of Candy Technologists (AACT) sponsors the John Kitt Memorial Scholarship for students who have demonstrated an interest in confectionary technology</p> <p>\$5,000</p> <p>Sophomores, juniors or seniors</p> <p>April 16</p> <p>http://bit.ly/w31Qt6</p> 	<p>Need-based scholarship at Juniata College (Penn.) for left-handed students with a good GPA that was first given by Fred and Mary Beckley, who were left-handed</p> <p>\$800 - \$1,500</p> <p>Sophomores, juniors or seniors who attend Juniata</p> <p>Application is part of the college's financial aid form</p> <p>Contact John Wall at wallj@juniata.edu</p>	<p>Competitions consist of one or more quizzes ranging from "common knowledge" to specific academic subjects, books, websites and movies</p> <p>\$250 - \$2,500 with a maximum amount of \$5,000</p> <p>High school students, college students, graduate students and parents</p> <p>Current and upcoming quizzes appear in your account once you register</p> <p>http://bit.ly/x71pNC</p> 	<p>Write 250 words or less finishing this essay "Dear School Board Member – why we need music education in our schools..."</p> <p>Five \$1,000 scholarships</p> <p>Students in grades 9 through 12</p> <p>Last year was Dec. 31</p> <p>http://bit.ly/yBSUzb</p> 	<p>The Mycological Society of America offers several graduate fellowships for students who are studying mycology (spores, mold and fungus)</p> <p>\$500 to \$2,000</p> <p>Graduate and undergraduate students who are members of the Mycological Society of America</p> <p>February 15</p> <p>http://bit.ly/yiiDx2</p> 



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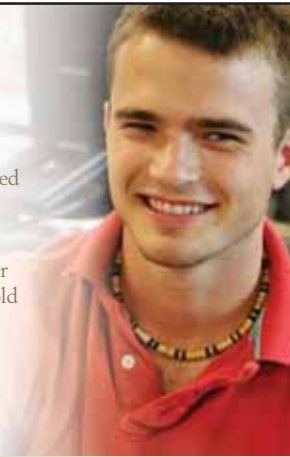
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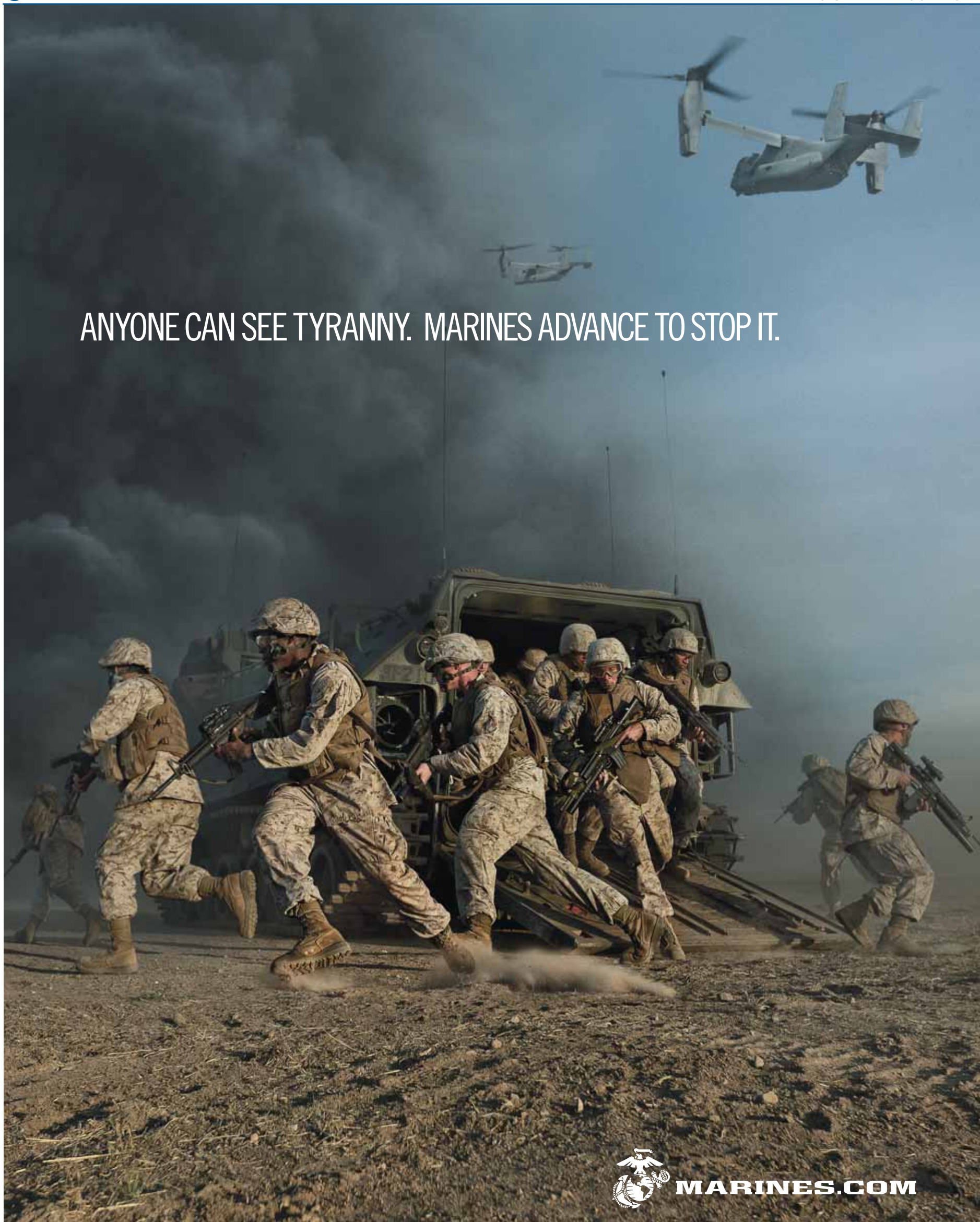



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Emerging Programs of Study — by Flora Richards-Gustafson

It was hard to imagine having a cell phone that allowed you to access the Internet, surfaces that charge electronics without the need to plug them in or tablet computers 15 years ago. Today there are similarly emerging programs of study that you may not know about that are unique and can lead to interesting careers.

Human Factors Psychology

Human Factors examines how humans relate to their environment as well as the safest and best methods to do so. Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's human factors psychology program offers an undergraduate program focused on aviation and aerospace safety that allows students to use flight simulators and other equipment in order to help the FAA improve efficiency and safety.

Joseph Grgic graduated with a master's degree in human factors from Missouri Western State University in 2011. He was surprised by the diversity of the field and said: "My background was in cognitive psychology, but I have had to expand it to include computer science, design and business. The field is constantly changing, but one thing is constant: the ability to understand how and why people interact with an interface always involves (mental processes)."

Studies in War and Peace

The studies in war and peace degree (SWAP) at Norwich University combines political science, history and social sciences. This major allows you to examine the origins of military institutions and their impacts on societies.

Dr. Steve Stoderger at Norwich said the SWAP major teaches students important leadership and communication skills. While Norwich is a military university, you don't have to be in the military to attend.

Student Matt Johnson said he chose the SWAP major because it's unique and fit his strengths and interests well. The career outlook for those with a SWAP degree is "bright," according to Dr. Stoderger.

Information Assurance

If you have always wanted an excuse to hack computers and get paid to do so, a degree in information assurance (IA) may be right for you. Dr. Josh Pauli at Dakota State University explains IA is securing computers and networks from hackers and adds, "No matter the industry, everyone relies on technology. Hospitals, banks, schools — they all have a security department."

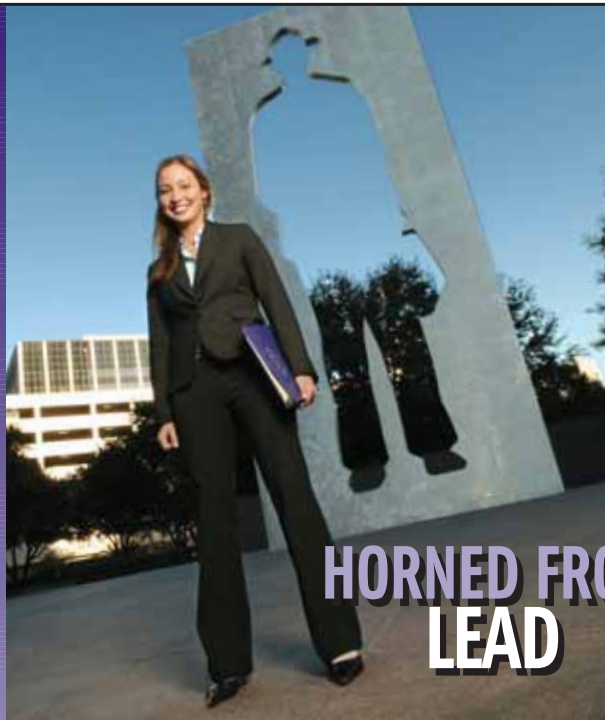


Mike Klein, a current graduate DSU student, received a Cyber Corps Scholarship for the IA program. He feels IA is important because "most individuals and businesses create new software or hardware without taking into consideration the security of the design. The Internet wasn't designed to be secure."

Comic Arts

At the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, you can hone your skills as a comic artist, storyteller and illustrator. For those thinking about a Comic Art major, Barbara Schultz with MCAD advises students to make their own three-page comic to see if they really enjoy the process or prefer to make single illustrations.

Cartoonist Nikki Cook, a 2004 MCAD graduate, said, "Comics are incredibly complicated and need tons of different skills just to produce one piece. You don't need to be big and famous and have tons of work to be counted as a cartoonist — you just need to be making comics."



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With mastery of three languages, Panamanian native Corina Arango could have studied anywhere in the world. But she found TCU's international focus and increasingly diverse student body to be the perfect fit.

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Pressures and Parents

— by Brian Dorrington

Learning to listen to their advice while staying focused on your future

Nick Wasmiller succeeded. He effectively camouflaged himself as a college student during his tour of Ferris State University despite having his mom by his side. Sure, some students must have noticed that he was still in high school. But he had a chance to take in the campus, dorm life and the recreation center without feeling like all eyes were turned toward the prospective new kid.

Then his mom blew it. After the tour, the two decided to visit Nick's girlfriend in her dorm (she was a freshman at Ferris State at the time).

"I just didn't really want to stick out as the high school kid coming for the visit," Wasmiller said, pausing to laugh. "And here is my mom, just commenting on everything from the walls to the bathrooms. She was saying 'hi' to everybody who was going by. I was just like, 'get in the room and don't be talking to those people!'"

Stress and tension run high when you are forced to deal with important decisions and deadlines while making the transition from high school to life after high school. It is a serious issue that can be overwhelming and annoying. But dealing with your parents does not have to be.



Talk to your parents

Ginny Kleaver looked at several colleges throughout her senior year, both near and far from her home of Gwinn, Mich. But, as her search continued, her future plans evolved into a "huge, scary pile of unknowns." Meanwhile, communication with her parents stalled. Both parties were afraid of what was to come.

"It was a tough period because my parents went to high school in a completely different social and economic climate than I did," said Kleaver, a recent graduate of Gwinn High School. "My parents felt that I had to go to college to be a success. I also think they wanted me to go to college because they didn't go. It's hard to relate to them, in general, about high school or college. It's so different from when they were young."

As deadlines near, the easiest thing to do is shut down or put off any decisions. But, sometimes, the easy solution is not always best.

"Talk to your parents," Kleaver said.

"Part of why I didn't is because I didn't want to hear what they had to say; I wanted to make the decision myself. I was afraid they would want me to do something I didn't want to do or that they would put pressure on me to go to a different school. But, looking back, I honestly don't think they would have and I could have really used their feedback."

No matter how great your relationship is with your parents, concerns and issues are bound to come up. To get through these issues, they must be discussed.

"It would have helped me to discuss my con-

cerns about college with my parents, and I am sure it would have helped them to discuss their concerns with me," Kleaver said. "If we had communicated our fears and ideas to one another, we could have worked together to solve them instead of leaving them unsaid and me getting hysterical over the huge challenge that was my future."

Narrowing down the options

Michael Morse and his parents talked about what type of school he was interested in, which helped him narrow down the prospects.

"My dad graduated from a two-year technical school and he felt that his peers with four-year degrees (though their education was, perhaps, less area-specific) got paid more automatically. He tried to impress upon me that a four-year education would give me more flexibility and job growth potential. That was hard for me to accept at first."

Conflicting interests

While you may have one school in mind, your parents may have a completely different idea of what is best for you. The results are predictable – you may be left butting heads.

"I have a great relationship with my parents but, even so, going through the process of narrowing down colleges was tough," said Kristin Westerfield, a senior at Lawrence Central High School in Indianapolis.

Westerfield had the advantage of having her older sister, Erin, already go through the process.

"My dad wanted me to go to his alma mater, which wasn't in my interests at all.



For a while, I was dead-set against Ball State, almost 90 percent because that was where my parents went. Obviously, it couldn't be a fun school to go to if my parents went there.

But, after spending time there and really looking at what Ball State has to offer, it is back in my options.

"I want to know about every school in the country and find the absolute perfect one and I don't think [my parents] are that open to out-of-state choices. It is partially because they want me close and partially because they prefer in-state tuition, but I see both of those things as easy to overcome."

Westerfield was able to overcome part of this conflict by exploring her options first hand.

"After spending a week at Ball State and driving to Indiana University a few times, I realize that they really are far enough to be far but close enough for me to be able to come home," she said. "Overall, my parents are right. It's certainly more cost-effective to stay in-state with no airplanes and no out-of-state tuition. But the thrill of going far away still sounds exciting to me."

Solo mission

While Westerfield was able to watch her sister make the transition from high school to college, many other students will be the first in their families to go the college route. For them, the transition can feel a lot more lonely.

"I'm pretty much doing the college thing on my own," said Katie Sanders, a senior at Tartan High School (Minn.). "When I told my parents that I wanted to go to school, they really didn't take me seriously. I had to really push and make them see that I wasn't just joking around and that I was serious about doing this."

"I guess the reason why my parents couldn't see this happening was because none of their other children had gone to college. And I hadn't gotten straight A's my whole life, though I have gotten pretty good grades."

For students like Katie, it is more crucial to take a proactive approach when looking at colleges and using other available resources. Without knowing where to look for jobs, loans and scholarships, the burden can become overwhelming.

School counselors, for one, are experts in these areas. By communicating your goals, future ambitions and college interests to them, they can get you started in the right direction.

Friends who are currently going through the process, or have recently, are also great to turn to. Nobody should have to deal with important issues alone.

Perhaps the biggest issue of all when making the transition from high school to your future is that you're on the verge of independence, but you are not yet independent. With this in mind, work closely with your parents through the process, if possible.

"Work on everything that has to do with your college plans with your parents and be patient and reasonably accepting of everything your parents put on the table," said Adam Schwartz, a recent graduate of Lawrence Central High School. "Your parents have been living for a lot longer than you have, which means they have, hopefully, learned a thing or two about life. Yet, each student needs to stand by his ideals, lest you or your parents forget who's future it is."



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The Real Story

on life after high school

Exploring New Options to Build Confidence

Alison Vandenburg

Georgetown University
School of Foreign Service
Washington, D.C.

From: St. Paul, Minn.



As I reach the halfway point in my second semester this year at college, I can't believe how quickly things have gone. This year my path has been filled with twists and turns as I've tried new things, taken more classes and challenged myself like I never did my freshman year. I've learned not only how much I'm capable of, but that I needed to push myself in order to be happy with my life at college.

Extracurricular activities

It started in the fall semester when I took some new extracurricular activities – singing in an a cappella group and becoming an economics tutor for students in Introduction-level classes. It felt great to be singing again! And working as a tutor led me down the path to where I am today, a declared International Economics major, which has definitely been a highlight of my journey this year. I finally know what I'm doing in college and can stop the stressing that bogs down so many students as they try to decide what they're studying.

Heavy workload

This spring, I pushed myself even harder as I signed up for five classes and 19 credits and, although it has been a struggle to keep up with my workload, I know it was the right decision to challenge myself academically. In addition, I became

business manager of my a cappella group, started planning cultural trips into Washington D.C. as an arts coordinator for a campus organization, joined the special events staff of our International Relations Club and began working as the communications director for a new undergraduate research conference we're planning here at Georgetown. It sounds like a lot of work, and that's because it is, but at the same time I'm so passionate and proud of everything I'm doing it's completely worth the late nights and the running from meeting to meeting. At the beginning of the semester, I was convinced that I would never be able to do any of these jobs and that I was completely unqualified to be chosen for any of them. And, yes, I'm learning on the job, but I'm also excelling! This year I've discovered that I'm more capable than I think I am and that may be the best thing I've learned so far.

Building confidence

So there you have my condensed sophomore year and it's not over yet. The next few months will be crazy as I study for midterms, get ready for my group's spring concert and plan numerous on- and off-campus events. There are days when I don't feel like I can do it and when I just want to fly home to Minnesota and do nothing but sleep. But those are the days that I remind myself of all I've done this year and all I have yet to accomplish. And that (plus a little coffee) gets me through! When I started freshman year, I could never have imagined myself doing all these things. The great thing about college is the freedom you have to explore new options and find out what you love doing. You'll learn that you can do more than you ever would have imagined.

Check out the following videos!



Sharayah Le Leux
<http://bit.ly/zZt9n9>



Megan Lynch
<http://bit.ly/ygVJDI>



Hannah Smothers
<http://bit.ly/yyCwjT>



Jelani Hayes
<http://bit.ly/y1yoca>



John Bernstein
<http://bit.ly/Ajwcb9>

Lo que aprendí este año

Anderson Nelson • Kennesaw State Univ. • Dacula, Georgia

Mi primero año en Kennesaw ha sido una experiencia que me ha cambiado la vida. Cuando entre a la universidad, era tímido y tenía miedo de tomar decisiones.

Ahora veo la vida de frente y tomo decisiones sin miedo, con confianza y autoridad. En el proceso, descubrí cualidades en mí mismo que no sabía que existían.

Esto también me ayudó a tomar una pausa y decidir realmente que era lo que quería hacer en la vida. Yo creo que estoy más cerca de descubrir quién soy en realidad.

Durante los primeros meses de la Universidad, decidí ponerme en situaciones en las cuales en el pasado no me hubiera sentido muy cómodo y en las que me hubiera resultado difícil obtener buenos resultados.

Por ejemplo, me uní al equipo de presentaciones de la iniciativa iSchool. Yo siempre fui el tipo de persona que le huía a hablar en público; cuando era mi turno de dar una presentación mis latidos se elevaban, y mientras estaba parado hablando, solo pensaba en regresar a mi asiento.

Lo que aprendí durante mi tiempo en el equipo fue que hablar en público no es algo a lo cual se le tiene que tener miedo; el hablar en público es una de las pocas oportunidades en la vida donde las personas están obligadas a escuchar lo que estás diciendo.

Me di cuenta que no hay nada que uno no pueda lograr si pones todo tu esfuerzo y dedicación. Yo me esforcé, y por lo tanto me convertí en un buen hablante público, y vi los buenos resultados ya que los beneficios fueron tremendos – esto me dio la confianza para presentarme para el equipo de presentaciones de Students in Free Enterprise.

Durante todas mis actividades, descubrí muchas cosas sobre mí mismo que no sabía: yo era bueno para dirigir un grupo, bailar Bachata, jugar billar y cartas. Aprendí que las personas pueden lograr cualquier cosa que se pongan en mente, y que donde estas ahora no determinara donde estarás mañana.

También me gustó la idea de estar rodeado de personas que son diferentes a ti. Todas esas experiencias de este año, me ayudaron a pausar y reflexionar acerca de que quería hacer con el resto de mi vida.

Los cambios son inevitables en la vida, ya sean para bien o para mal. Pero tú eres el único que puede decidir cómo cambiarás. Cambia con sabiduría; la persona que cambiarás será la persona que estarás mirando en el espejo.



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Finding your passions — by Kalsey Larson

Imagine never having to work a day in your life. Sounds pretty good, right? Unfortunately, it's not likely you can survive without any type of career. But what if you felt so passionately about your job that you never felt as though you were working?

In order to wake up every day feeling excited about what lies ahead, you first must wake up to your passions.

"Go explore a few things," said Tom Nelson, who found his passion on the journey to owning his own business, Shield Technologies. "It's unrealistic for a 15-, 18-, 20- or even 22-year-old to know where that passion is. You might have some idea, but until you experience the world, you can't be sure."

Not about the money

Nelson graduated from college, earned his master's degree and began working at a Fortune 500 company. He was quickly moving through the ranks and showed great potential to be successful there, but after 13 years of employment he became frustrated and yearned to make a bigger impact and enjoy his day-to-day life more.

"You are in control of your own destiny," Nelson said. "If you're doing something for money or prestige, it's probably not your passion. Sometimes people believe their passion is there because the rewards are there, but more times than not passion has nothing to do with money."

After leaving the Fortune 500 company, Nelson bought a business – it failed. He then started a business – it, too, failed.

They say third time's the charm and, for Nelson, that was the case. His company is now four years old and is a successful and enjoyable endeavor for him. He advises students to be unafraid of



Do what you love and never work another day in your life

failure because you don't learn anything from success.

Many adults can provide insight to aid you while you search for your passions. Find a mentor, ask questions of people who are in careers you might be interested in and listen to stories that people share about their journey to finding their passions.



Interests can be careers

"I always knew that art was my passion," Anastasia Balfany, of Lakeville, Minn., said. "But it took me awhile to discover I could pursue it as a career and not just as an interest."

Balfany is now an artist and illustrator who said she has been blessed with the opportunities that life has presented her. She began looking at art and design colleges, but was receiving backlash from friends and family.

"When it came time to make a decision, I knew that even if I did fail, I would rather try to pursue my passion for art than look back with regret and wonder," she said.

Balfany attended the Rhode Island School of Design.

She says that at a few rough times she was concerned that she might not have made the right choice, but she

now knows that her life would feel purposeless if she weren't able to work with her passion every day.

As you think about what your passions may be, keep a positive attitude. Take unique classes. Strike up conversations with different people and, if a friend invites you to an event you know nothing about, don't hesitate to go.

Most importantly, get involved. Experiences can lead to a better understanding of who you are and what you enjoy. By keeping an open mind, seizing opportunities and living fearlessly, you'll discover where your true passion lies.



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Managing your online identity

— by Laura Theobald



Your after-prom party rocked. And you've got the pictures to prove it. And pictures this good — they've just got to be seen, right? Hello, Facebook. But seen by whom? Before you upload your life into cyberspace, think about who exactly will be viewing those party pictures. Your friends, definitely. Your parents, maybe. But your college admissions officers? It's possible.

While a recent survey by Kaplan found that 24 percent of colleges are now trolling Facebook and other social networking accounts of their applicants, educational consultant Steven Roy Goodman says it's hard to put a number on how many are actually doing it.

"A lot of colleges are hesitant to say that they do this because it appears a bit unseemly," Goodman said. "But just because they don't announce it publicly doesn't mean that they don't do it behind closed doors."

One example that did make news was a student denied admission to Reed College in Portland, Ore., due, at least in part, to his blog on LiveJournal. According to Admissions Dean at the time, Paul Marthers, the student's blog contained hostile comments about the college and certain officials. "I counsel students to be extremely careful about this," Goodman said.

If you're on the margins or are a later applicant to college, admissions officers are more likely to poke around on the Web for information on you, said Goodman. If they're trying to decide between you and another student, risqué or illicit information on your MySpace page is an easy way to give you the boot and admit your competition.

Even if you are admitted, you should still exercise caution with what you post. At Louisiana State, two swimmers were kicked off the team for criticizing their coaches on Facebook and, at the University of Colorado, a football player was suspended from a bowl game for threatening another student on Facebook. And USA Today reported that John Brown University in Siloam Springs, Ark., expelled a student after seeing Facebook photos of the student in drag and reading his posts that he is gay and goes clubbing.

Parents are also savvy about MySpace and Facebook and, even if yours are comfortable with what you post, your roommate's parents might not be. According to The New York


Times, the University of Michigan, New York University, the University of Washington, Dartmouth and Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., have all heard complaints from parents who don't like what they see on their child's roommate's Web page. They all requested room changes for their children, though not many were granted. Colgate University reported the most complaints, 20, and Michigan reported hearing complaints just hours after roommate assignments were posted.

And don't think colleges are the only ones checking in on you — Goodman says he's heard from students who are applying to jobs that have had employers checking up on them.

"Employers are basically double checking to make sure there's nothing fishy going on here with this young applicant," he said.

Even students in middle school have faced repercussions from MySpace postings. In Costa Mesa, Calif., 20 students from TeWinkle Middle School were suspended after anti-Semitic comments and death threats surfaced, USA Today reported. Another student, this one in high school, in Colorado was suspended for posting pictures of himself holding handguns and faces the possibility of criminal charges.

But not everyone agrees that using the Web to research students is ethical. Students, obviously, argue their free speech rights are being clipped. Even some adults are saying the same.

"Using such spaces as a barometer of admissibility or employability is fraught with problems," said Sandra Foy, a college counselor at Seattle Preparatory School. "I think that students talk to each other on these sites much as they would in real life. The difference is that college admissions officers and employers aren't part of those conversations. Somehow it seems an invasion of their privacy to enter these, as well." 



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Positive attitudes create positive experiences

by Macaela Bennett

Hometown: Morton, Illinois • High School: Morton High School

It is no secret. Most students do not thoroughly enjoy attending school and revel in the excitement of snow days and summer breaks. I am not attempting to convince you that school is as fun as going to Six Flags in July, but as a soon-to-be high school graduate, I am going to share some wisdom that made my high school experience more enjoyable.

Expect Happiness

I learned one of the most important life lessons the summer before my sophomore year. I was a counselor at a summer camp and it was "Fight Night." This was the most intense game night with a rope ring, battle music and warrior paint. I had a massive headache, I was exhausted from carrying lumber for two hours and I had the worst attitude. I remember walking down the hill that led from my cabin to the fight ring to meet my campers and thinking to myself, "Just act excited and it will all be fine." As I walked closer, there was mud flying out of the ring, rotten eggs being thrown and battle cries from the boys' cabins. Within five minutes, I found myself having one of the most fun experiences of my life.

Attitude is Everything

Reflecting on that night, I realized that my attitude was the determining factor in whether or not I had fun. When I was convinced that I was going to be miserable, I was. But when I told myself to set aside my problems and put on a happy face, I had an incredible time.

While school is not the best comparison to "Fight Night," I know that my attitude largely determined my high school experience.

Enjoy High School

Find the funny and favorable aspects of every high school experience. It is astounding how your attitude completely determines your day. Try going to soccer practice without dreading the sprints at the end and just being excited to become a better player; I guarantee you will enjoy it more.

Life is made of many stages. Every one of them will have enjoyable and miserable moments, but all you can do is see how every experience and person can impact and transform you into a better person.

Learn from Mistakes

Another important aspect of attitude is how I allowed tough circumstances affect me. High school can be extremely fun, but it can also quickly take a turn for the worse. The reality is that everyone endures at least one terrible high school experience. It is inevitable when you have hormonal teenagers crammed together into one building for long periods of time.

Don't allow the bad experiences dictate your high school career. "Hindsight is 20/20." Looking back on all of the "bad" things I have endured over the past four years, I can now see how each one played a part in transforming me into who I am today. My difficult experiences have made me a determined, motivated and optimistic person. These are qualities that have given me more job, college and scholarship opportunities than I could have ever imagined. I am thankful for every obstacle God has thrown my way because I became a better person as a result.



Check out the following videos!



Claire Gillespie



<http://bit.ly/wuTgNX>



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