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to their future"

STUDENTPATHS

Michigan Edition

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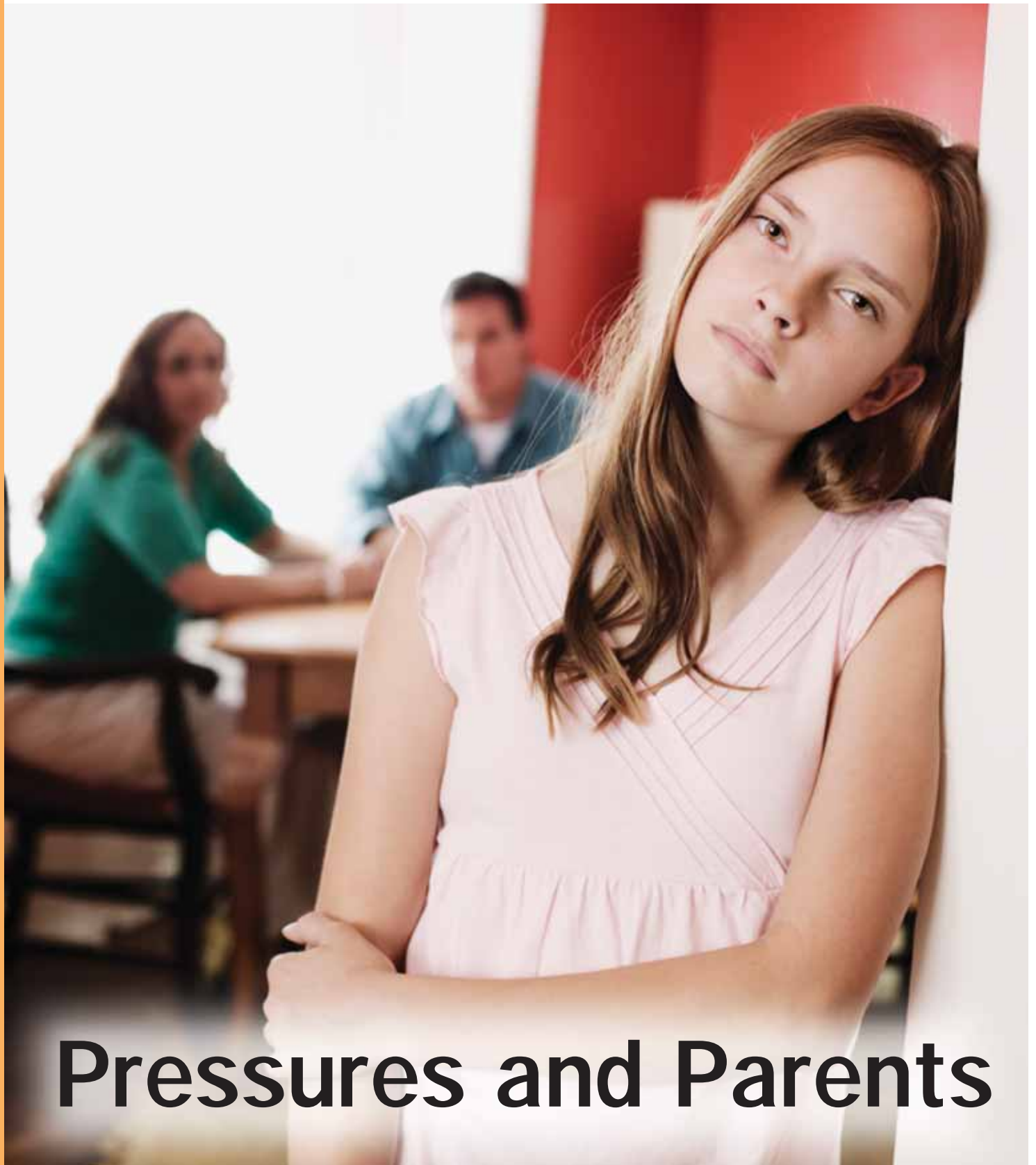
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SPRING '12

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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

2,750



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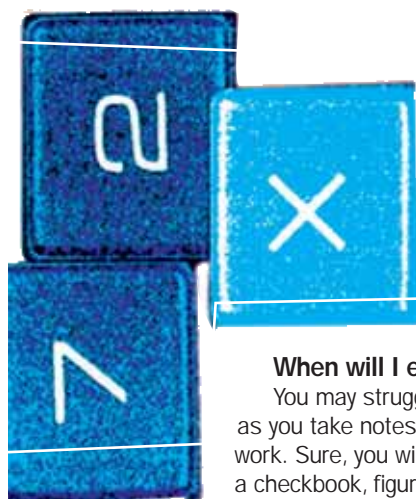
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Wacky scholarships



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



Choosing Your Path

When will I ever use this stuff?

— by Flora Richards-Gustafson

You may not realize it, but applied mathematics improves things you use every day

When will I ever use this?

You may struggle with this common question as you take notes during math class or do homework. Sure, you will need to know how to balance a checkbook, figure out if a 20 percent interest rate is really a good deal or know how to divide a batch of cookies in everyday life. However, there are also times when plotting graphs, creating algorithms, using geometry and other forms of math have helped you in ways that you do not know thanks to applied mathematics.

Applied mathematics is a scientific field that uses math to design and improve things such as cars, computers, medicine, scheduling processes, information and communication systems — things you use every day. While you may dread your math homework today, you may find that math is the tool you need to get the job of your dreams.

What is Applied Mathematics?

"Mathematics is a language of science," said Dr. Amanda Hattaway, chair of the applied math department at Wentworth Institute of Technology. "The term 'applied mathematics' refers to the mathematical principles and techniques used in a variety of fields such as physics, engineering, biology, physiology, chemistry and economics."

One of the most common misconceptions about math, according to Hattaway, is that math is not important in the real world. "Math plays a key role in the development of new technologies in a vast range of areas, from medical imaging to fraud detection to profit maximization," she said.

Many students do not realize how applicable and interesting math is

when they first start studying applied mathematics. Stacy Marshall, a student at the University of Colorado who is pursuing a degree in applied mathematics, says she had no idea just how much math she used in her everyday life before college:

"You use math whether you want to or not. Like when you pay for a coffee, decide on the best time to call a friend, plan a party or add a new contact in a cell phone — there is always some level of math involved."


Careers in Applied Mathematics

"When you have a degree in applied math, you can work almost anywhere you want," said Devon Salino, an applied mathematics major at the University of Florida. With such a degree, you can work as a consultant or computational scientist, conduct research, develop new products, help individuals and companies with their finances, create new software, help invent new medicines or work for the government.

According to Hattaway, data mining is a type of applied mathematics that is going to see great growth now and in the future. Data mining is like working as a math detective because it involves discovering information others didn't see in sets of information, as well as finding patterns to help solve problems.

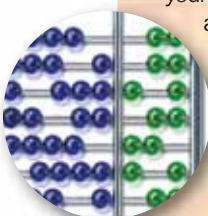
In the medical field, Hattaway said data mining is used to help improve a patient's health services and uncover genetic causes of diseases. Stores use data mining to send customers personalized information about products and promotions. Mathematicians also use data mining in forensics to solve crimes, as well as in security, e-commerce, power engineering and astrophysics.

Using Math in the Real World



Social Networks:

The math behind social networks tells about your influence on others, reduces the amount of spam you receive and suggests people who you may want to add to your friend list. Applied mathematics is one of the reasons why checking up on your social network friends is so addictive.



Estimating Population Size:

Whenever you plan a party, make cookies for a bake sale or estimate the number of friends who have smart phones so you can convince your parents to buy you one, you are using applied mathematics. Scientists use the same principles to estimate population sizes to track endangered species, learn the number of people who purchased a particular product or estimate the number of individuals with a specific disease.

ANYONE CAN SEE TYRANNY. MARINES ADVANCE TO STOP IT.




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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."

Making friends in college — by Kalsey Larson

Safety & Health

Hone your social skills and meet new people

Although it's not common to see college friends wearing those matching "best friends forever" necklaces or key chains that were so popular in the sixth and seventh grade, having friends in college is crucial. For many students, college is the first time in years that they have to start from scratch and make new friends. This can make everyone feel nervous or lonely from time to time.

"It was such a relief when, after a week or so in our dorm, my roommate broke down and told me how nervous she'd been to meet people," said Kristen Larson, who attended the University of Minnesota-Duluth. "I thought I was the only one who felt that way."

Leave your comfort zone

Larson and her roommate became good friends during their freshman year together. Making friends with roommates or fellow floormates is a great place to begin developing relationships.

"Our floor had an open-door policy," said Kali Strain, who attended the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. "By keeping our door open, other girls on the floor would stop in to watch a TV show or just say hello."

It can be hard, but it is important to take a risk and place yourself out of your comfort zone a bit to develop friendships. Joining an interesting social club or group creates a safer environment to meet peers and relate to other students.



Friendship can also be found by going to class a few minutes early and striking up a conversation with the person next to you, going to functions alone and asking someone sitting alone if you could join them or looking for a job or volunteer work on campus or in the community.

"I remember being horrified the first time I had to go to lunch alone," Strain said. "But I was hungry, so I went. A girl was sitting alone by the window and I asked to join her. She was so welcoming and we ended up eating lunch together a few times a week."

Be a good friend yourself

In order to keep friends you must be a good friend yourself. Being a good friend means being non-judgmental — be mindful of what you say because it's easy to offend someone

and lose a friendship. Remember to also choose your friends based on whom the individual is, not what other people think of them.

Friendship comes back to the golden rule: Treat others as you would like to be treated. Other things that make a good friend are listening, being trustworthy and making friends a priority.

Remember that developing friendships takes time. Don't be discouraged if, by the third week on campus, you still don't feel as if you have a best friend yet. Keep getting involved and investing in the relationships you have begun to develop. You'll look back soon enough and realize you have friends for life.

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."

What advice would you give to current high school students on dealing with their parents?



Makenzie Thiel

Definitely take into consideration what your parents are saying but, ultimately, the decision is yours. You know what is right for you, not anybody else. Most of all, you want to look back and know that YOU made the right choice instead of thinking about what could have been.



Bertel King Jr.

Respect your parents and try your best not to blow them off. After all, it may be their money on the line here. At the same time, this is your life, and doing something you are not passionate about will only be a waste of your time and their money. It is in your interest and theirs to let you grow into who you are and to be open about it.



Maia Castillo

If your parents are having a hard time accepting your decision to go somewhere far away they should realize that it takes a really big person to have the courage to do so, especially if you are picking a school where none of your high school friends are going with you. If you are staying close to home, and they don't appreciate that, then make sure you explain to them how appreciative you will be of their close support.



Michael Quach

They aren't just trying to get in your way. They probably want what is best for you after all. If they initially say no to a school (either applying or attending), the way to change their mind isn't to be argumentative. Just show them that you are passionate about what choice you've made and listen to what they have to say, too.



Megan Lynch

Your parents may bug you, nag you and bother you, but most importantly ... they love you. Try to put yourself in their shoes and remember how important you and your life are to them.

The Real Story

on life after high school

The lessons I learned this year

Megan Lynch

University of Wisconsin

From: Jefferson, Wisconsin



Looking back over the past academic year, I cannot believe how much I have changed as a person. I thought I had everything figured out in high school and I had a pretty concrete image of what college would be like. Little did I know that life really changed and surprised me with something new every day.

I came to school thinking I knew exactly what I wanted to major in and the exact outcome of my future. I thought I had enough friends from high school, and that I'd meet a few people but not get too close.

I was positive that I was going to love living in dorms and would love the independence of being away from home. Some of these things still ring true, but boy was I off on others.

Relationship changes

My first major revelation would be the relationships I made and the few I, unfortunately, lost. It's very easy to be best friends with someone you see every day in the hallways and in class, but when you take away that ease, you realize the work it takes to keep up a relationship.

I started seeing the friends I used to spend seven hours a day with only once or twice a week. I realized that I had lost the best friend that I thought I needed to survive. While this was occurring, I was making

a new friend every hour in every class and lecture I attended. I met neighbors in my residence hall and random people in the cafeterias. There was a new face and a new potential friend everywhere I looked.

My Facebook friend amount went from 250 to 400 in the first two weeks of school. I started becoming close with an entire new crowd and it felt amazing. That's my favorite part of college: the amount of potential friendships and relationships.

College isn't easy

My second revelation should have been expected, but I was still a little overwhelmed -- college courses are not easy like high school electives. I had to work my tail off all semester!

Professors don't care if you come to class or not; they will be there teaching even if only two students show up. Professors are not going to check and see if you completed the homework; they just expect you to do well on the exams. It takes self-motivation and responsibility to be successful in college. Your grade depends on the work you put into it.

Don't forget that you pay for college, too. It's not like high school where you can fail a class and retake it easily. Money is very valuable -- spoken from a poor college kid.

Keep dreaming

The biggest lesson I have learned is to keep dreaming. From what I've experienced, life changes quickly and it flies by. Pursue your dreams and don't take no for an answer.

There will always be people entering and leaving your life, but be sure to not let the right ones slip away. Don't forget to actually learn something, too!

College is a place to define yourself. You can study hard and do well or float by not making a difference. It's a fresh start to the rest of your life.

Check out the following videos!



What I've learned this year

Sharayah Le Leux • California Baptist Univ. • Ontario, Cal.

The road is ever widening. There will be twists, turns and obstacles you will have to jump over along the way. No one said going to college would be easy.

Now, as I am so close to finishing my sophomore year of college, I cannot help but look upon the decisions I have made thus far. There have been good and bad ones, but I always ended up learning something. Bad things will happen, but it is how you let them affect you that really matters.

I always try to look on the bright side of life no matter how terrible things can be. There were quite a few times this year that I felt like things really could not get any worse, but then there were times where I could not have been happier. Here are just a few things I've learned this year that may help you, too.

Don't take all general education classes in one semester. Rather, take an even mixture of major and general education ones. There needs to be play time along with work time and I consider my major classes as my play time. Both contribute to what I want to do with my life and, if I wasn't enjoying my time, I would reanalyze my goals.

The harder I work in the classes I need for my major, the easier it becomes to define what I want to further achieve.

I've learned that, although it is great to be involved in college (especially since I commute), when you are constantly on the go it is hard to find time for anything else unless you are a super-organized, time-managing expert.

Further, taking a class with your best friend can be distracting. But, if you do choose to take a class with a friend, sharing textbooks is not a good idea. Yes, it cuts the costs, but it also cuts your accessibility to the textbook, which can be frustrating.

Visit ratemyprofessors.com. Due to its guidance, I've been led to amazing professors who challenge my abilities and have avoided professors who would have put me to sleep.

Outside-of-school scholarships are not impossible to obtain. Regardless of how unrealistic something seems, you should put 100 percent into it because it could very well surprise you and become a reality.

Overall, the ups and downs of this year are what helped make the year exciting and I would not have it any other way.



Anderson Nelson • Kennesaw State Univ. • Dacula, Georgia



My first school year at Kennesaw has been a life-altering experience. It never occurred to me that I could change to such a degree in such a short amount of time.

When I first came to college, I was a shy, quiet kid afraid to tackle life head-on. But now I am tackling life not only head-on but also with confidence and authority. In the process, I discovered traits about myself that I did not know existed.

It also caused me to pause and discover what I truly want to accomplish in life. I believe that I am closer to finding out who I truly am.

We discover more about ourselves during college than in high school. During my first couple months in college, I decided to place myself in situations that I was uncomfortable with and where I had problems performing in the past.

As an example, I joined the presentation team for the iSchool initiative. I had always been the type of person who dreaded public speaking; when it was my turn to give a presentation my heart rate increased and throughout my time up there I kept on wishing that it was time to go back to my seat.

What I realized during my time on the presentation team was that public speaking is not something to be feared; public speaking is one of the few opportunities in life where people have to listen to what you are saying. If you mess up your speech the audience will not know and you just move on.

I realized that there is nothing that people cannot accomplish if they are dedicated to it. I was dedicated, became a better public speaker, and it paid off and the benefits are tremendous -- it gave me the confidence to audition for the Students in Free Enterprise presentation team.

During all of my activities, I found out a lot about myself that I did not know: I was good at leading a team, dancing the Bachata, and playing billiards and spades. I came to the realization people can accomplish whatever they put their minds to and where you are today doesn't determine where you will be tomorrow.

I also love the aspect of being surrounded by people who are different than you. Having all those experiences this year caused me to pause and decide what career path I want to pursue. I always saw myself as an investment banker or a financial analyst, but now I see myself doing something different, something that encompasses all those aspects that I enjoy in life. I still try to keep my mind open to changing it.

Change is something inevitable in life and it can be for better or worse. But you are the only one who can decide how you will be changed.

Ask the Real Story team: What are your plans for this summer?



This summer, I plan on getting a part-time job and saving money for my next year of school, spending time with friends and family from home and enjoying a few months without tests and homework! — Hannah Smothers



I am hoping to land an internship in either journalism or education. — Jelani Hayes



This summer, I will be shadowing various psychological health professionals (including neuropsychologists, clinicians and nurse practitioners) as they visit and evaluate patients at the patients' homes. I will also be interning at both a clubhouse that serves adults with psychological disorders and a residence occupied by a group of men who suffer from traumatic brain injuries. Finally, I will be a trip camp counselor, taking kids to beaches, amusement parks and museums. — John Bernstein



This summer my plans are simply to get ready for the transition to college. I plan to keep my job and go to college because I feel it will be a great way to learn even more about myself. — Faith Jones



I am taking two online general education courses and spending much needed time with the sun and friends. — Megan Lynch

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."



Making the Grade

— by Amy McMullan

Students should not expect extra credits or grade negotiations to boost their GPAs



Let's be honest. As a student, you know that grades are important. And, if you are planning to attend college, you probably put some extra effort into getting good grades.

In high school, even as you work hard to get the best grades possible, teachers are

usually open to providing additional opportunities.

"High school teachers were willing to provide opportunities to make-up missed work, re-take a test or even just give a few bonus points to boost my grade if I was on the fence," said Andrea Gullixson, a student at Gustavus Adolphus College.

But, in college, grading is very different. Most professors don't offer extra credit and even fewer are willing to negotiate grades.

"In high school there was enough extra credit to pump a grade up," said Kayla Tigges, a student at Truman State University in Missouri, "but that isn't the case in college."

That isn't to say that there isn't ever any extra credit offered in college.

"I was offered extra credit in a class for attending a lecture outside of class and writing a commentary on it," Gullixson said.

Dana Keuhn, a student at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire added, "Occasionally professors will offer extra credit for attending forums or lectures related to the topic of the class."



Professor perspectives

Dr. Robert Pearson, assistant professor of applied statistics & research methods at the University of Northern Colorado, explains his reasoning for not

offering extra credit.

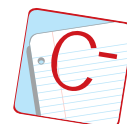
"I primarily use exams to assess how well students have mastered the material covered in class," Pearson said. "I don't feel that offering individual students extra credit opportunities aids in that measurement."

Dr. Richard T. Toomey, associate professor of chemistry at Northwest Missouri State University, noted that he will only provide extra credit opportunities to the entire class at the same time.

"It isn't fair to give just one student [extra credit]," Toomey said.

Pearson acknowledged that other professors offer extra credit at their discretion, but that "it just doesn't fit into my model of grading as an assessment of achievement in a class."

In regards to negotiating grades, Toomey feels that "it is an issue of integrity. I'm not going to give [students] something that [they] didn't earn. The bar has been set."



Don't pass up any opportunities

You shouldn't count on extra credit, but if it is offered take the opportunity.

"Just like in high school, extra credit can make a difference," Gullixson said.

"An A- can become an A with just a few extra points."

If you pass on those rare opportunities, don't expect professors to create another extra credit assignment for you near the end of the term.

"Professors would not provide additional opportunities for extra credits," Keuhn said, "especially if you had not taken advantage of previous ones they had offered."

As far as trying to negotiate grades, it is probably best not to even try it.

"I've never heard of a professor who is willing to [negotiate grades]," Gullixson said. "You are graded based on your performance."

In Toomey's opinion, even attempting to negotiate grades shows that you "can't take responsibility for your actions."

"Looking for extra credit is the wrong focus," said Pearson. "Attending class, being engaged and trying to learn as much from a course as possible is the correct focus."

"All I want out of my students," said Toomey, "is for them to care about their education."

Finding your passions

— by Kalsey Larson

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

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 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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by Jordan Harper

Senior year tips On the road to college

Hometown: Niles, Michigan • High School: Brandywine H.S.

Dear students,

Senior year is great. It really is. There are so many opportunities to have fun, get involved and simply enjoy yourself. Then February comes. It will be (if you're anything like me) a whirlwind of scholarships, applications, deadlines, forms, money (or lack thereof) and a bunch of other things.

You will get sick and tired of hearing terms like "due dates," "fees," "transcripts" and "letters of recommendation." Then, just when you think you're done, a whole new wave of scholarship competitions, interviews, job searches and craziness will hit you harder than it did the first time. Don't get worried, though, because you will enjoy every bit of it. All of it is good; there are no bad decisions, only different ones.

Tips for Success

So, with that said, here are my five tips for senior year that I wish I'd have followed and hope you follow.

1. If it is free, fill it out. No matter how much you "guarantee you won't ever go there" or "won't win it," things change. After finding out that I wasn't getting as much scholarship money as I thought I would, I am probably going to a certain school that I made fun of all throughout high school. As far as scholarships go, once you do one, you might as well do a million. They all ask for the same basic information and a general essay that you will use more times than you ever thought possible.

2. Find out where your family is financially. This is probably my most important piece of advice. Don't wait until March to find

out that you can't afford to go to your dream school. Talk with your parents/guardians as soon as possible and realistically determine where you can afford to go before you get your hopes too high.

3. Get involved in what you want to get involved in. There are countless opportunities for seniors out there because we are "the future" and people in the community like to support us. Look for jobs, internships, volunteer activities, clubs, teams and organizations to get involved with. Some pay, some don't, but there are great experiences to be had. Most importantly, do things that are fun and related to your interests.

4. Ask for advice. Your church, school, community and family are full of people who went through what you are going through. My life has been forever changed by the countless hours of conversations I had with people all over the community. Find someone in the area of expertise that you are interested in and call them. Odds are you will find someone to talk to who has great advice.

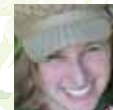
5. Have fun. Enjoy the process of senior year, because it only happens once (hopefully). There are so many great opportunities out there and, like I said earlier, there are really no bad decisions, just different ones. Do what you are interested in while putting your full effort into it. There are great rewards out there for those who work hard for what they believe in and what they enjoy.

College Update

I am enjoying many different activities inside and outside my school. College in the fall is the goal, but the destination is not quite clear yet. I do know what I want to major in, though. 📖

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SENIOR

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following videos!



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