

# Raising their voices | Advanced Treble Choir members become 'really good friends'



FRED GLADDIS/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Julia Gladding, at the piano, and fellow Advanced Treble Choir members Heather Perez, left, Sierra Marié and Natalie Anderson rehearse for upcoming performances. Said Anderson of the quartet, "We've bonded really well. We're really good friends."

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy

ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

On a warm and sunny afternoon last week, the lilting voices of four young sopranos filled the airy living room of the Perez family home in North Davis.

Davis High School senior Julia Gladding was at the piano, while arrayed behind her were fellow senior Natalie Anderson, junior Heather Perez and sophomore Sierra Marié, all second sopranos in the 36-member Davis High Advanced Treble Choir.

They gather weekly here for an hour of practice after school, just these four girls, while other ATC members meet in their own sections elsewhere. On this day, the girls began with "Kyrie Eleison," and under Gladding's gentle guidance, worked through the piece again and again.

They will perfect their lines here together in their sectional, then combine their voices with the larger choir at a later practice, preparing as they are for an upcoming fundraiser that will help make the choir's spring trip to New York City possible.

But as they work together after school every week, these girls aren't just classmates and choirmates — they've become more than that.

"We've bonded really well," Anderson said. "We're really good friends."

This is the third year Anderson and Gladding have been in the choir and both speak of the friendships they've formed, first with the older students when they were the

newbies, and now that they are the oldest students, with the ones coming up behind them.

Now they are the leaders — Gladding, in fact, is one of two student directors assisting choir director Karen Gardias.

But being leaders doesn't spare them from auditions. Gardias requires all choir members to re-audition every year, an intimidating process, Gladding said. "But it's good practice," she added.

Marié, the sophomore of the group, wasn't sure she wanted to audition. She hadn't participated in choir in junior high — though she does play the violin. But she's glad she did audition in the end.

"It's my favorite class," said Marié, who adds that all of the sophomores have become better singers since joining the choir.

Perez's older sister was in the choir many years ago but she found herself trying to decide whether to audition for ATC or the Madrigals.

"I had heard the ATC was a super close-knit group," Perez said.

She's since learned it's true.

"I really enjoy singing," she said. "And I love sectionals; it's my favorite part of the week."

The full Advanced Treble Choir performs several times throughout the school year, with their big performances coming during the holidays and at a spring showcase. In between, they'll head to New York where they will work with renowned composer Eric Whitacre and perform at Lincoln Center.

Choir policy is that all members who want to go on the annual trip, get to go. To ensure they all can,

students are busy fundraising, including at an upcoming "Uncork for Music" benefit, being held this Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. at the Pence Gallery, 212 D St.

While the students' main job will be performing there — they will be singing eight to 10 songs, Gladding said — the ATC Parent Support Group will host the afternoon of wine-tasting, food, silent auction, art and, of course, music.

Tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. To reserve advance tickets, email [atcboard@gmail.com](mailto:atcboard@gmail.com) or contact an ATC family. Those unable to attend but wishing to donate can make a tax-deductible donation to the choir.

The choir — either the full group or an octet — also can be hired to perform at parties and special events — another way members raise funds for their trips. Learn more by emailing [atcboard@gmail.com](mailto:atcboard@gmail.com).

Since it was founded in 2001, the choir has grown in size and caliber, with students not just performing throughout the year, but also sponsoring the Davis High and Davis Community Idol contests. In addition to Saturday's benefit, the choir will sing at the Harmony in our Lives benefit concert on Sunday, Nov. 17, and will perform Handel's "Messiah" on Saturday, Dec. 21. Visit the choir's website, <http://groups.dcn.org/dhstreblechoir>, for more information on those performances.

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## Pros and cons of public universities vs. private colleges

There are many instances in life where people have to choose between two similar yet distinct options that can play an elemental role in self-development — dog or cat? Giants or A's? iPhone or Galaxy?

One of the more crucial is public university or private college? Unfortunately, there is no magic formula or computer algorithm to answer this question. Following are some of the main aspects to consider.

### Basic information

There are roughly 2,300 four-year, not-for-profit higher education entities in the United States, of which about 700 are public and the remaining 1,600 are private (National Center for Education Statistics, <http://nces.ed.gov/pubs2013/2013289rev.pdf>). The main difference between them is how they are funded.

Public schools receive funding from state and local governments and can therefore charge relatively low tuition (although the publicly funded portion has been decreasing over time).

Examples are the University of California system, California State University system, and University of Oregon. The yearly resident tuition at these California schools ranges from about \$7,000 to about \$13,000, not including room and board and miscellaneous expenses.

Private colleges, on the other hand, receive almost all of their funding from tuition and thus charge higher tuition (ranges



from about \$25,000 to about \$45,000 yearly, not including room and board, etc). Some examples of private colleges popular with Davis students are the Claremont Colleges, Occidental and Whitman.

### Primary differences

Along with tuition, here are some other issues to consider:

■ **Size.** Public universities tend to be bigger than private colleges. They usually have a large number of undergraduates, ranging from several thousand to tens of thousands, and a sizable number of graduate students. Many of these schools have a significant percentage of students who commute and do not live on campus.

In comparison, most private colleges have a smaller number of undergraduates ranging from several hundred to several thousand and often few, if any, graduate students. Of course there are exceptions — USC, NYU and Stanford, for instance.

■ **Mission.** Public universities usually are tasked with making in-state students a priority. In general, they are more research-oriented and therefore offer

more graduate-level degrees. Most private colleges, however, are more liberal arts-focused and often require students to take core humanities courses. Many private colleges offer only bachelor's degrees.

■ **Class offerings and course structure.** In general, public universities usually offer a wider variety of majors and classes. At the lower-division level, many classes are large lectures that may have several hundred students. There are "break out" sections of about 30 students, each taught by graduate student instructors in order to provide more discussion opportunities. Most private colleges (depending on the size) usually have smaller average class sizes at the lower-division level and few graduate students instructors teaching sections.

■ **Application requirements.** By and large, the application workload is less onerous for public schools. Most private colleges require additional essays, tests and letters of recommendation.

So, which one is the "right" choice?

Not surprisingly the answer to which type — public or private — is right for you really depends on you. Below are the main advantages/disadvantages to evaluate:

■ **Impaction.** In the world of college admissions, it means that demand exceeds supply for a particular major and/or cam-

pus. It is mostly a public-school phenomenon. (See box for details on impaction.)

■ **Resources and costs.** Colleges with larger endowments, mainly the private colleges, are often able to spend more per student on educational services and financial aid awards. In addition, about 60 private schools (the more selective ones) have a stated policy of meeting 100 percent of a family's demonstrated need.

Public universities normally have less aid available, but there are various options such as the UC's Blue and Gold Scholarship. To get a better sense of the cost difference between public and private schools, use a net price calculator (every college should have one on their website) to estimate the total cost of attendance minus any grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible.

■ **National recognition.** The large size, research and sports teams at public universities may make their "name brand" more well-known nationally. Many of the smaller, less popular private colleges have limited name recognition once a student leaves the campus area so it may be harder to compete with students

### Impaction at California public universities

■ **16 of 23 CSU campuses** are designated as impacted for freshman. five campuses designate all of their majors as impacted. (<http://www.calstate.edu/sas/publications/documents/impactedprogramsatrix.pdf>).

■ **5 UC campuses out of 9** serving undergraduates have several majors closed to freshmen in 2014. Most of these majors are in engineering, business and biological sciences. <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/check-majors/by-applicant-level/freshman/index.html>

What this means for students is that they may have a harder time getting into their campus of choice and/or their desired major. As a result, they may not get the classes they want or need to graduate on time.

from well-known schools in a national job market.

### Wrap up

Keep in mind that whether a public or a private college/university is the right fit for you is a decision that should be examined along with many other crucial factors such as location, cost and student body characteristics. And don't forget there is a right college out there for you!

— Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of *The Right College For You*. Her column is published on the last Tuesday of the month. She lives in Davis with her family. Reach her at [jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).

## What's happening

### Wednesday

■ Children ages 6 to 8 are invited to spend a "howling" afternoon getting ready for Halloween during the city's Halloween Haunts program, which takes place from 2 to 5 p.m. at the Veterans' Memorial Center, 203 E. 14th St. Guests will enjoy crafts, games, songs, dance and treats and all are encouraged to come in costume. The cost is \$27 per child. Call 530-757-5626 or visit [www.cityofdavis.org](http://www.cityofdavis.org) for more information and to register.

### Saturday-Sunday

■ Youths ages 11 to 15 can receive **American Red Cross baby-sitter training** during a two-day program at the Community Pool Building in Community Park. Training includes child and infant CPR, choking rescue and first aid. Training hours are 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday and the cost is \$150. For more information, contact the Davis Community Services Department at 530-757-5626 or visit [www.cityofdavis.org](http://www.cityofdavis.org).

### Saturday

■ **Explore how children impacted by early trauma and loss**, including those

placed in foster care, can struggle with anxiety and depression at a program from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yolo County One Stop Center, 25 Cottonwood St. in Woodland. Reservations are encouraged, but not mandatory. For more information about this workshop or any of the Foster and Kinship Care Education classes, contact Cherie Schroeder at 530-574-1964 or [cherie@yolofostercare.com](mailto:cherie@yolofostercare.com). Information also is available at <http://www.yolofostercare.com>.

### Wednesday, Nov. 6

■ **Students interested in 4-H**, the largest youth development organization in the country, are invited

to the Norwood club's monthly meeting at 7 p.m. in the Holmes Junior High School multipurpose room, 1220 Drexel Drive. 4-H is for youths between the ages of 5 and 19.

### Thursday, Nov. 7

■ **"Born for Love — Attachment Parenting"** is a three-part class series which takes place Nov. 7, 14 and 21, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. This free class series will feature local marriage and family therapist Debra Wiegel, who will discuss ways foster parents, kinship providers and other caregivers can facilitate a child's secure attachment. Classes will be conducted at Woodland

Community College, 2300 E. Gibson Road, in Building 700, Room 727. Participants may attend any or all of the three-party series. For more information, contact Cherie Schroeder at 530-574-1964 or [cherie@yolofostercare.com](mailto:cherie@yolofostercare.com). Information also is available at <http://www.yolofostercare.com>.

### Friday, Nov. 8

■ Students attending elementary schools in the Davis Joint Unified School District get a day off thanks to a **teacher work day**.

### Saturday, Nov. 10

■ Looking for great bargains on new and used ski and snowboard equipment and clothing? Come to the

**annual Ski & Snowboard Swap**, sponsored by the Davis High School ski team. The event is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the DHS gym on Oak Avenue just north of 14th Street. Admission is \$3 for the first two hours, then free after 11 a.m. Several ski stores from the area will sell new equipment and clothing. Team members will offer ski and board waxing services. Have something to sell or donate? Bring it Saturday, Nov. 9, between 4 and 8 p.m., or before the swap on Sunday, from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Fees apply only to items that are sold. Proceeds benefit the Davis High ski team. For more information, email [blue devils.ski.team@gmail.com](mailto:bluedevils.ski.team@gmail.com).