

What's happening

Today

■ The city of Davis Gymnastics and Dance Center's School of Witchcraft and Wizardry will host "A Night of Spells" beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center Gym, 23 Russell Blvd. All students should dress up as their favorite Harry Potter character for an evening filled with spells, fun and games and a haunted fortress. The Great Hall tables will be laden with students' favorite snacks, such as cauldron cakes, licorice wands, butter beer and acid pops. Register in advance, online or in person, for \$12 per wizard, ages 9 to 12. The fee at the door will be \$17. The evening will conclude with a screening of part of a "Harry Potter" movie on the big screen, beginning at 8:30 p.m. For details, visit www.cityofdavis.org and search for the Fall Recreation Guide, or call the Parks and Community Services Department at 530-757-5626.

■ Families are invited to **Bike Party Davis**, a fun-for-all-ages bike ride around Davis. Decorate your bikes with lights and meet at Ken's Bike-Ski-Board, 650 G St., for a ride leaving at 8 p.m.

Sunday

■ Join **Nature's Theater** for a public performance of "Donna Bump: It's Bumpin Time" at 2 p.m. at Davis Community Church, 412 C St. Nature's Theater features local kids performing in a fun-filled comedy show focused on empowering kids to care for the planet and each other. Space is limited to 100 seats. RSVP to jfalyn@naturestheater.org.

Monday

■ Halloween is celebrated in style with the **Davis Downtown Treat Trail** from 2 to 4:30 p.m. Participating downtown merchants invite costumed kids ages 10 and younger to come downtown and trick-or-treat. The event always occurs, rain or shine. Take a break from the candy hunt at the Varsity Theatre, 616 Second St., with a free showing of "It's The Great Pumpkin, Charlie Brown." Showtimes are at 2, 2:35 and 3:10 p.m.

Saturday, Nov. 5

■ The Citrus Circuits high school robotics team hosts its third annual "Women in STEM seminar" from 1 to 5 p.m. in the DMG Mori auditorium, 3805 Faraday Ave. The event will feature STEM advocates speaking about their experiences in the field, including Jennifer Choi, professor of biomedical engineering at UC Davis; Jennifer Sinclair Curtis, dean of the UC Davis School of Engineering; Seetha Reddy, president of Reddy Anthropology Consulting; and Lan Le, director and founder of STEM RISE, a nonprofit that works to improve the educational performance of K-12 students in STEM.

Nov. 12-13

■ Learn skills and information to provide responsible care for children in the absence of adults in an **American Red Cross CPR course** for ages 11 to 15. Students will learn Child & Infant CPR, rescue breathing, choking rescue, preventing disease transmission and first aid. This course includes hands-on activities, videos, role-plays and lively discussions. Participants must be at least 11 years old by the last day of this two-day course. Participants will receive certifications in Babysitter Training, and Pediatric CPR & First Aid (valid for two years). The class is two days from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Davis Senior Center, 646 A St. The cost is \$150 and pre-registration is required. Register at the city of Davis Parks and Community Services Department, 23 Russell Blvd. or online www.cityofdavis.org.

Saturday, Nov. 12

■ Bring the whole family to **Family Movie Day** at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St. in Davis. A free movie — rated G or PG — will be shown at 2 p.m., complete with free popcorn. To find out the movie title, call 530-757-5593.

Friday, Nov. 18

■ Parents are invited to take the night off — and spend it out on the town — during "Parents Night Out" at the Civic Center Gym. Children ages 6-13 will be supervised by city staff from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., enjoying gymnastics fun and games. The cost is \$12 in advance or \$17 at the door. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

Saturday, Nov. 19

■ The **Origami Club** welcomes all skill levels and ages — including beginners — to an afternoon of origami beginning at 1 p.m. at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St. in Davis.

■ It's **International Games Day** at the Stephens Branch Library, 315 E. 14th St. Come for a fun time and play lots of different games at the library, beginning at 2 p.m.

Help for students, from students



MEGHAN BOBROWSKY/ENTERPRISE PHOTO

Davis High students — from left, Jessica Yang, Ethan Tang and Sheehan Selim — have created ESJ Tutors, a program providing all students with affordable and effective tutoring services.

ESJ Tutors provide services for fellow students in need

By MEGHAN BOBROWSKY
Enterprise staff writer

School can be difficult and overwhelming sometimes, and no one understands that better than students. That's why three Davis High School seniors created ESJ Tutors, a program designed to provide students of all ages with affordable and effective tutoring services.

Co-founders Ethan Tang, Sheehan Selim and Jessica Yang all take Advanced Placement classes at Davis High and want to share the study habits that have helped them succeed in their rigorous courses.

"We mainly started ESJ because we realized that a lot of people tutor on their own and on the side, and we wanted to provide a base for tutors," Yang said. "If parents wanted a tutor, they could just contact ESJ tutors and find (one) easily and not have to search so many websites for tutors."

ESJ Tutors offers services in math up to multivariable calculus, English, physics, biology, chemistry, some world languages and

history. Since the program was established in February, the group has tutored about 20 students, Tang said.

Sessions for math and science cost \$8 for 30 minutes and \$15 for a full hour, and services for humanities cost \$9 for 30 minutes and \$16 for a full hour. Accepted forms of payment are cash and check.

Tang explains the mission statement of ESJ Tutors.

"It's to foster education growth in the community because we benefited from a lot of resources when we were students," he said. "And now, we want to support those resources and (keep) them going for future generations."

The group also gives back to the community by donating 30 percent of all profits to Explorit Science Center's Sassenrath Scholarship Fund, which aims to support science programs at low-income schools for a free or reduced rate.

"Explorit is all about giving education to students. They have a lot of science camps, and they're all about spreading information. That's what ESJ tutors is all about," Yang said. "We're giving information to younger students and helping them with their (learning) process."

Selim said that ESJ Tutors has

"It's to foster education growth in the community because we benefited from a lot of resources when we were students."

Ethan Tang
ESJ Tutors

donated more than \$500 to the scholarship fund so far.

"That \$500 is a significant amount that has probably helped some students or some school do something that hopefully has inspired students (to) learn," Selim said.

So where does the tutoring magic happen?

Clients can choose one of three places to meet: their homes, the Stephens Branch Library or their school library, according to ESJ Tutors' official website, ESJTutors.wixsite.com/Davis.

"We want to cater to our clients' needs, so they (might) want to meet at home where they feel comfortable learning or if it's more of a convenience when

you're at school, we could meet at the public library," Selim said.

Interested students can select a tutor from a list of six DHS seniors and one UC Davis freshman with a range of learning methods.

"I know a lot of kids don't learn in the same way. Some of them prefer to be read (to), and some of them like acting out the words," Yang said. "So it's helped me discover new ways in teaching English and math."

ESJ Tutors hopes to expand its capabilities by recruiting more tutors, Yang said. Potential tutors can email esj.tutors@gmail.com.

"We want people who are passionate about their subject because it's one thing to just know a subject," Selim said. "But I feel like when someone actually enjoys it, it makes it a lot easier to learn it."

Yang said the clients are the focus, so tutors who are flexible are desirable.

"I would want (the clients) to know that we're passionate and always open and available for feedback," Yang said. "It's more about the clients than more about us. We're trying to adapt to them and their needs."

— *Meghan Bobrowsky is a senior at Davis High School and an Enterprise staff writer.*

How to get in-state tuition elsewhere

More and more of the students I work with are applying to, and then attending, out-of-state public universities. Why? Well, these schools have a lot going for them. They tend to be big universities with well-known football programs and the corresponding fanatical fans and alumni. Think the Ducks, Beavers, Huskies, Wildcats and Buffs, to name a few.

Many of these schools also have strong academics and honors programs as well, and are in desirable cities. The real kicker, though, is that students often have a higher probability of admission at these universities compared to the more selective and internationally known UCs.

Considering that the tuition at out-of-state public schools is usually less than at private colleges and universities, and that their applications generally tend to be more straightforward and therefore less time-consuming to complete, the increase in interest in applying to out-of-state public universities makes a lot of sense.

Let's not forget that there are many out-of-state public universities that offer the Western Undergraduate Exchange scholarships, which entitles admitted California students to significant tuition savings — they usually end up paying 1.5 times in-state tuition, which can be a saving of about \$10,000 per year.

Unfortunately, these schools are not the more popular out-of-state public universities and even at the schools that do participate in the WUE, the scholarship may not be offered for certain popular majors



JENNIFER BORENSTEIN
COLLEGE CORNER

such as engineering and nursing. Here's a link http://wue.wiche.edu/search_results.jsp?searchType=all.

So the question that comes up regularly when I work with students who are applying to the more selective out-of-state public universities is, "Can I declare residency in those states in order to qualify for the in-state tuition?" It would be nice to do so because the savings in tuition can be significant (usually about \$20,000 per year in many cases). And, we all probably know of, or have heard of people, who did this.

Back in the day at my UC, my best friend from Texas just needed to finish her freshman year at our college and then show proof of a local lease to declare California residency and qualify for in-state tuition for the following three years. For better or for worse, it is not that way anymore.

Here's the deal: Every state is different in its residency requirements, but in general, states have made achieving residency more onerous. The key components of establishing residency tend to be similar, though — some degree of physical presence in the state, an intent to stay in that state and financial

independence. Another similarity is that states with strong public universities (Michigan, Washington) usually have higher thresholds to meet residency status for tuition requirements than states with public university systems that are not as selective (New Mexico, South Dakota).

For those who decide to try to go this route, it generally takes at least a year to declare residence and often means a child has to become financially independent from his or her parents. This financial independence may mean that a student will need to have a part-time or full-time job and have no co-signers on any student loans. Some families choose to have their student take a year off between high school and college for this to happen.

With this complicating patchwork of requirements, where can a family go to get guidance on the residency issue? Well, first check the state universities' websites because many have explanations of their in-state tuition rules.

Also, check master lists that link to each state's policies on declaring residency on websites like www.finaid.org/otheraid/stateresidency.phtml and/or just check the states' websites.

There are also professionals who can help families navigate this process, either college financial planners, attorneys or tuition specialists. Yes, believe it or not, over the past few years a few companies have popped up to guide families through this process. In Colorado, for example, two such

Considering that the tuition at out-of-state public schools is usually less than at private colleges, applying to out-of-state schools makes a lot of sense.

companies were Tuition Specialists and In-State Angels, but there have been some interesting lawsuits between them; also, the state of Colorado is getting involved, so at this time their fate appears uncertain. Read more at <http://bit.ly/1iLiICR>.

The bottom line is that a student should not assume that paying in-state tuition at an out-of-state public university is likely. If the school is a favorite and out-of-state tuition makes attendance a challenge, there are private scholarships to apply for and student loans to consider.

However, for some savvy families or families looking to transition to another state anyway, there is always a chance this could work out. Lucky for us Californians, we have some wonderful options here at home!

— *Jennifer Borenstein is an independent college adviser in Davis and owner of The Right College For You. Her column is published monthly. Reach her at jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org*