

# Sweethearts influence choice

**W**ith Valentine's Day month in full swing, I thought I'd address the issue of love and relationships with respect to college admissions.



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More often than not, I work with students who make their relationship with a significant other a crucial factor in deciding where to apply and attend. Sometimes they want to apply to the same schools with their boyfriend or girlfriend. Other times they are trying to decide if they should attend the school where their boyfriend or girlfriend was admitted to or to attend a different college close by.

There are many important issues to consider here, and as always, the situations are very specific to the individual — their temperaments and needs, and the strength of their relationship. What is right in one case is not necessarily right in another.

I've gone through this with dozens of students over the years and seen quite a variety in the way this plays out. In some cases, students started the process completely set on applying to and then attending the same school as their significant other but broke up before their high school career ended. In other cases, students broke up, but still attended the same school.

Other times, I have seen students go to different colleges while keeping the relationship going. They find time to visit over weekends and get together over breaks, depending on how far schools are apart.

It's really hard to know what will be the right option. Some students feel the relationship is such a vital part of who they are and what they want that they cannot imagine breaking up. They may change where they want to go to college to keep the relationship going. These students put their relationships first and where they go to college second, which likely indicates their priorities. Sometimes these priorities are not equally matched by the other individual in the relationship, which creates its own set of decisions to make.

While it's not easy to generalize

how to navigate college with a high school relationship in the mix, I can provide some overall guidance about issues to consider in these situations.

**1. Honest communication is key.** During the college application process, have a heart-to-heart about how the future looks. Discuss the pros and cons of whether to stay together or break up. Try to come to a mutual agreement. This really depends on the couple and their goals and their levels of commitment. It also may and will evolve over time, so check in with each other occasionally to make sure both people are still on board with the plan.

**2. Flexibility is crucial.** In other words, keep college options open. This may sound harsh, but I always suggest planning for both outcomes: staying together and breaking up. Move forward with applying to colleges that are right for the individual but also include colleges on the list that appeal to both people. Let the relationship have its own trajectory and have the college application process operate in a parallel but simultaneous universe. The truth is a lot can change in the senior year of high school.

Parents play an important role but help most by taking a back seat. Usually, students will find what is best for them more easily if parents let their students take the driver seat. As many a wise and experienced mom or dad has shared with me, parents may have very strong feelings one way or another and want to support their child; but really, only the couple can and should decide how they want their relationship to be in college.

**3. Feelings can change in college.** Have you heard the term "turkey

drop?" Not a pleasant term, but it refers to the situation where a person in a relationship comes home from college for Thanksgiving and breaks up with their high school sweetheart. Even the most well-thought-out plans for keeping a relationship going can face the hurdle of the college transformation process. Be aware of this when applying and deciding about college.

**4. Plan appropriately.** If the answer is to stay together, do some research and set up guidelines to make it work. For instance, what are the college rules about visitors in dorms? What are both people comfortable with in terms of how often and for how long to visit?

In many ways, social media and the internet are helpful for keeping in touch, but they also present some unique challenges — too much Face-Time and jealousy over posted pictures.

Also, find activities that students can do together even if they are at different schools, such as study abroad programs and summer internships.

In the end, there is no magic answer and no way to avoid some difficult emotional decisions. All students (and parents) can do is be respectful of each other and their significant others and try to plan accordingly.

And since I am feeling a bit like a columnist who answers letters by writing about relationships, I had the idea (and received approval from the powers that be at The Enterprise) to invite readers to email me questions or concerns about any college admission topics they would like me to address for my next column. Email me at [jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org).

I look forward to hearing from you and hopefully helping you to find the right college for you!

— 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](mailto:jenniferborenstein@therightcollegeforyou.org), or visit [www.therightcollegeforyou.org](http://www.therightcollegeforyou.org).

## Calendar

### Today

■ Da Vinci Charter Academy 11th-graders have been working on their 1929 night. All are invited to the launch party of the students' "Party Like It's 1929!" magazine from 6 to 8 p.m. at the high school campus, 1400 E. Eighth St. This project has teams of 11th-grade students creating a magazine, from scratch, showcasing the culture, events and advancements that occurred during the Roaring 20s.

### Saturday

■ Meet for a brisk morning walk at 8 a.m. at Common Grounds Coffee in Oakshade Town Center (Pole Line Road and Cowell Boulevard in South Davis) for a 3.5-mile, 80-minute walk. Coffee, tea and socializing will follow at 9:20 a.m. Please do not bring dogs. For information, contact Richard Crescitelli at [rcresci@rocketmail.com](mailto:rcresci@rocketmail.com) or Marilú Carter at [mccarter@ucdavis.edu](mailto:mccarter@ucdavis.edu).

■ The California Duck Days festival returns from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area headquarters, 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road) in Davis. The annual event takes place in the heart of the Pacific Flyway, the migratory route of various birds, features a wide variety of wetland and bird field trips, workshops and activities for everyone. On-site activities for families include interactive exhibits, wetland-themed arts and crafts, trout fishing and visits with live ducklings. Trips are available for preregistration at <http://yolobasin.org/californiaduckdays/fieldtrips>. Prices range from \$10-\$35 per person; parking is \$20 per car.

■ The Yolo County Health & Human Services Agency will present a free soil fertility gardening class from 10 to 11:30 a.m. at the Hanna and Herbert Bauer Memorial Community Garden, 137 N. Cottonwood St. in Woodland. Preregister by Feb. 22 by contacting David Linebarger at 530-666-8429 or [david.linebarger@yolocounty.org](mailto:david.linebarger@yolocounty.org).

■ The Center for Spiritual Living, Davis offers a free spiritual discovery class from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Oakenshield Room in Village Homes in West Davis. Lunch will be provided. All attendees must be there for the opening session at 10 a.m. Register either online at <https://csl.davis.breezechms.com/form/DiscoverClass> or by calling 530-302-5738.

■ All are invited to stop by the Stephens Branch Library children's area conference room for a free session with four Master Gardeners from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This is a comprehensive workshop with details on site preparation, soil improvement, fertilizing, pest control, irrigation and more.

■ The Davis Fencing Academy's open house is from noon to 4 p.m. to celebrate its new location at 2121 Second St., Suite A-105, between Swim America and Momentum Dance Studio. The new location boasts Olympic-caliber grounded metal fencing pistes and an indoor/outdoor laser pistol range. Attendees can learn about fencing and modern pentathlons and receive a complimentary introduction to fencing and laser-pistol marksmanship. Fencing lessons will begin at noon, 1, 2, and 3 p.m. and marksmanship instruction will happen continuously throughout the afternoon.

■ The Stephens Branch Library presents Catch-a-Beat at 2 p.m. in the Blanchard Room, 315 E. 14th St. in Davis. Enjoy stories of music, dance, and world cultures told through movement in a fabulous program by performer Tina Rogers.

■ The UC Davis Arboretum and Public Garden

invites the community to take a guided tour through the Eric E. Conn Acacia Grove and experience this collection during its winter bloom beginning at 2 p.m. at Putah Creek Lodge. For more information, parking suggestions and directions, visit [arboretum.ucdavis.edu](http://arboretum.ucdavis.edu) or call 530-752-4880.

■ Davis Parent Nursery School's Mardi Gras Auction is from 5:30 to 10 p.m. at Davis Veterans Memorial Center. The \$25 ticket includes Creole food, dancing and access to raffles and silent and live auctions. Get them at [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com).

### Sunday

■ NAMI Yolo, the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness, will hold the next Family Support Group meeting from 1:30 to 3 p.m. in the Cafeteria Main Conference Room at Woodland Memorial Hospital, 1325 Cottonwood St. in Woodland. Meetings will continue there at that time on the second and fourth Sundays of every month, except on major holidays. Family Support Groups are relatives (18 and over) of people who experience mental illness. The groups are led by trained family members of people who experience mental illness. Meetings are confidential — share as much or as little personal information as you want. For information, call 530-756-8181 or visit [www.namiyolo.org](http://www.namiyolo.org).

■ A free monthly program is presented from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Stephens Branch Library at 315 E. 14th St. in Davis in the children's area conference room. Master Gardeners of Yolo County will discuss winter planting and care of edible flowers, fruit trees, herbs and vegetables. For more information, contact UC Cooperative Extension at 530-666-8737 or [mg.yolo@ucanr.edu](mailto:mg.yolo@ucanr.edu).

■ The Davis Arts Center is offering an introductory workshop, "A Taste of Reiki," from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in the main atrium of the Arts Center, 1919 F St. in Davis. Reiki Master Teacher Elizabeth Fulmer will provide a presentation and demonstration. Participants will receive a simple seated treatment offered by local Reiki practitioners, accompanied by Brenda Mohr's gentle singing bowls. A time of conversation over refreshments completes the afternoon. The fee is \$15. Register at the Davis Arts Center by calling 530-756-4100 or online at [www.davisartscenter.org](http://www.davisartscenter.org).

■ The Stephens Branch Library presents a family movie at 2 p.m. in the Blanchard Room, 315 E. 14th St. All children and their families are invited to view a family-friendly movie (G or PG) and enjoy popcorn at the library. For movie title, call 530-757-5596. This popular event is held on the last Sunday of each month.

■ Central Park Gardens of Davis will offer a special tour, "Parking Lot to Public Garden," from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Docents with Master Gardener training will be stationed in each of seven themed gardens to discuss how it developed and the problem-solving techniques used to maintain and encourage its sustainability. A question-and-answer session with refreshments will follow the tour. Reservations can be made on the Central Park Gardens website: [centralparkgardens.org](http://centralparkgardens.org). The gardens are at the corner of Third and B streets in Central Park.

■ The Israel Matters Committee at Congregation Bet Haverim invites all to a screening of a double feature, "Wild Israel!" about the wide variety of wildlife in Israel from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Bet Haverim Social Hall, 1715 Anderson Road. Popcorn will be provided. For more information, email [gmrooks3@gmail.com](mailto:gmrooks3@gmail.com).

## City receives opportunity-zone designation

Special to The Enterprise

A segment of Davis less than 1 square mile in size has been designated an "opportunity zone" by the federal government, providing tax benefits to individuals who invest in the area.

Established by the Federal Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, opportunity zones are an economic development tool designed to spur economic development and stimulate investments and job creation in low-income areas.

Last summer, the U.S. Treasury certified 8,761 U.S. census tracts as opportunity zones, including the 879 tracts nominated by California.

The designations remain in effect for a 10-year period, until 2026.

"We're pleased to have this opportunity to offer tax advantages for new investments in our community," said Mayor Brett Lee. "This opportunity zone designation will provide additional incentives for business

development benefitting the local neighborhood, broader community and investors."

The Davis Opportunity Zone is about 0.8 square miles in size, bordered by Interstate 80 on the south; the north-south Union Pacific rail line on the west; then on a line running east along Covell Boulevard to L Street, south to Eighth Street, east to Pole Line Road and south to I-80; and stretching west to encompass everything between the freeway and the railroad track, including the Nishi parcel.

The key benefits are the capital gains tax credits now available for a wide range of eligible business investments that may attract new private investment and funding opportunities to the community. Investors can obtain tax benefits even if they do not live, work or have a business in an opportunity zone.

Investments made by

individuals in any designated opportunity zone through any qualified opportunity fund are allowed to defer or eliminate federal taxes on capital gains until the date an investment is sold or exchanged, or Dec. 31, 2026, provided the gain is reinvested in a qualified opportunity fund. IRS regulations for how these funds will work are still pending.

Those interested in learning more about opportunity zones or qualified opportunity funds may visit the California Opportunity Zone Portal at <https://opzones.ca.gov> and

confer with their accountant or qualified financial advisor.

Those interested in opportunity zone investment projects should visit the California Opportunity Zone Marketplace: <https://beta.oppsites.com/about/california>.

"The city greatly values this opportunity zone designation and the potential for economic stimulus that it presents," said Davis city manager Mike Webb.

"Our primary role is to make sure everyone in the community is informed about the designation and investment opportunities it can provide."



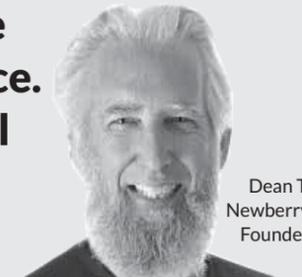
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