

Find and apply to likely/safety schools

It has been a rough admission cycle for some seniors. With that in mind, I decided to focus this column on some positive steps juniors can take to optimize their chances of being admitted to colleges that are a good fit for them.

It all begins with setting up the “right” college list, and the key is to find likely/safety schools (roughly greater than 66 percent acceptance rate) that meet the students’ needs in terms of academics, social fit, location, weather, size, and cost.

One of my tried-and-true ways of identifying these likely/safety colleges is through the organization Colleges that Change Lives. These are excellent schools that are not hard to get into. Why? Well, much like Warren Buffett looks for stocks that are undervalued and tries to buy them at low prices, knowing that they are worth more than their stock price reflects, the colleges identified by Colleges that Change Lives are great schools but are not always well-known nationally. A bit like an undervalued stock.

Loren Pope was the impetus behind this movement. An education writer and journalist at The New York Times as well as an independent placement counselor, he wrote a book called “Colleges that Change Lives” in 1996 that highlighted 40 colleges (mostly small, liberal-arts colleges) that he felt would provide as much, and maybe even more, than the more well-known schools to “fully educate students and to give them rich, full lives.”

Pope argued that the less-selective institutions often offered superior education experiences. In 1998, the higher education institutions he identified banded together and created a non-profit organization called CTCL Inc. with a mission to



help students find a best-fit college that develops a lifelong love of learning.

What I like about adding a few of these schools to a college list is that they mostly fit into the likely/safety category, but they have more to offer than just being relatively easier to gain admission. They do something transformative with their students. These schools accept and admit a wider swath of students but still graduate students who are competitive with graduates from Ivy Leagues in terms of getting into graduate schools.

So what are some of the Colleges that Change Lives that juniors should consider adding to their likely/safety category on their list? The ones on the West Coast that you may have heard of are Whitman College, University of Puget Sound, Willamette University, Evergreen State College, Saint Mary’s College and Reed College.

Other colleges from the list that tend to be popular with local students but are not on the West Coast are St. Olaf College, Clark University and Eckerd College.

Most of the schools Pope identified are private schools which means they carry a high price tag. But it may be worth the trade-off to get into a school that’s a good fit and provides a quality education. Plus

many of them are very generous.

I have had students receive up to \$50,000 of merit money from Willamette, for instance. Saint Mary’s offers several merit scholarships of about \$15,000 per year for students who have a 3.7 GPA and above without any additional scholarship application required. Although this may not make the CTCL schools cheaper than a UC or CSU, keep in mind that the cost would be for four years only whereas at many state institutions it can take longer than four years to graduate.

To learn more about each individual school, visit <https://ctcl.org>.

What I like is that there are profiles for each college that provide not only the basics such as enrollment, tuition and admission statistics but also a “Worth Noting” section that describes special features of the school. For example, Whitman’s “Worth Noting” section points out that “In the past 10 years, Whitman students have won 55 Fulbright Scholarships, 23 National Science Foundation and 11 Watson Fellowships.” Not too shabby for a school with 1,500 undergraduates and no graduate students!

And, Pope’s book is really helpful as well. In it, he lays out a more detailed explanation of what makes each school unique and why he decided to include them on his list.

If these schools sound interesting, a great way to learn more about them is to attend the Colleges that Change Lives College Fairs that happen in the Bay Area every summer. This year it will be in Marin on July 30, or in Santa Clara on July 31. (For more information, visit <https://ctcl.org/events-all/>.)

All of the schools will have representatives for students to meet and question. Students may sign up to receive information, get to know the admissions representatives for their areas and learn more about the school. Attending the fair also shows demonstrated interest. Showing demonstrated interest increases chances of admission at most private colleges, all else being equal. (See my column, “Do your one-stop shopping at career fairs” at <https://wp.me/p3aczg-2ZKb> for more information about demonstrated interest.)

Of course, there are many other great schools to put in the likely/safety category but they tend to be the large, public out-of-state schools. Schools like University of Oregon, Oregon State University, University of Arizona, University of Colorado at Boulder, Montana State University, Bozeman and Washington State University, to name a few. These also are more expensive schools than the UCs and CSUs and generally they don’t have as much merit money to offer.

The big difference between the CTCL schools is the size of the school. Most of the CTCL schools are small, which is not always the right fit for student. But if it’s the right school for you and everybody that attends is “your type” of person, then even if it’s small, maybe it’s still the right place. And, hey, what’s not to like about a school who wants you?

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Spring wines — they’re coming up rosés

In this toxic political environment (piled on top of our literally toxic natural environment) seeing the world through rose-colored glasses, at least occasionally, is an important survival tactic. Investing in oddly-tinted eye-wear, however, can be expensive and embarrassing. Easier and more fun: fill a wine glass with rosé and check out the view from there.

You’ve probably noticed the sudden rosening of the wine shelves at your local market — the 2017s have arrived. And though you can certainly buy some execrable examples for \$5, I’ve noticed that most bottles between \$10 and \$15 are eminently drinkable — at worst a bit boring, at best a forceful reminder that the big bad world has its everyday charms and small pleasures still.

When the 2017 Domaine Fontaine Gris de Gris arrived at the Co-op, I grabbed my first bottle of the season and paired it with a big salad made from farmers market greens (and purples and reds), a piece of smoked salmon, a chunk of Cowgirl Creamery Red Hawk, and a loaf of sourdough bread. A perfect



spring meal.

This is the wine that importer Kermit Lynch calls one of the finest rosés on the planet. Not having sampled *all* the planet’s rosés (but what an enticing prospect), I don’t know if he’s right, but year after year I come back to this beautifully colored, bright, fresh, fruity-yet-savory blend of grenache gris, grenache noir, carignan, cinsault, and mourvedre. It comes from the vineyards of Bruno Laboucarie in the Languedoc-Roussillon region of France and is a serious bargain at \$14 (\$2 less than it costs at Kermit Lynch in Berkeley).

Better known than rosés from Languedoc, the rosés from Provence have grown exponentially in popularity (and in supermarket displays) in the last decade. I often find these \$10-15

bottles at the predictable-and-interchangeable end of my rosé spectrum. A happy exception: the 2017 Chateau de Brugue. This blend of grenache, cinsault, and syrah has the mixed berry and melon flavors that I so enjoy in a rosé with enough assertive acidity to balance them nicely. And enough savory notes to remind me that the Brun family estate grows olives as well as grapes.

This \$12; bottle (Co-op) might well be my go-to rosé of the 2017 season. I can’t wait for the new crop of Romas so I can pair the Brugue with fresh tomato pesto over squid ink pasta.

The Co-op has for many months stocked two Biokult wines from Burgenland — a large plain area southeast of Vienna, Austria. While the name “Biokult” (not to mention the prosaic label) isn’t particularly romantic, it does pragmatically highlight the estate’s biodynamically-grown grapes, which include grüner veltinger, zweigelt, and pinot noir. A third Biokult wine has just come in, the 2017 rosé, made from 100-percent zweigelt, one of the

most widely planted red wine grapes in Austria. It’s actually a relatively recent grape—a 1922 cross between blaufränkisch (one of my favorite grapes) and St. Laurent (about which I know nothing).

Wine made from grapes with such (to us) uneuphonious names as grüner, zweigelt, and blaufränkisch can be a hard sell in this country. We’re used to the more melodic French and Italian sounds like cabernet, pinot noir, grenache, and barbera, but as NYTime’s Eric Asimov said a decade ago, it’s time to get over it: “The pure pleasures available by being open to some of the less familiar Germanic wines are now too great to allow a little matter like language to stand in the way.” This Biokult zweigelt is racy and tangy with wild strawberry and lemon notes—as fun, food-friendly, and romantic as its more melodic French siblings. Try it with a picnic dinner of beet Rubens and red potato salad.

From Germany’s Rheinhessen region comes the delicious 2017 Fritz’s Rosé, a blend of 85 percent portugieser and 15 percent pinot meunier. Made by the Hassebach family (from whose

Gunderlock estate comes — say wine experts — the “greatest riesling in the Rheinhessen as well as one of the greatest in the world”), it’s fruity and lush, more peach than berry, with enough minerality to make it sophisticated and elegant.

While it’s eminently suited for drinking by itself on a sunlit patio, it becomes even more interesting with food. Sauté your favorite in-season vegetable in olive oil with lots of spring garlic slices for a good pairing or take the wine in another direction and try it with sushi or crab cakes. I may not be able to afford one of those fabulous rieslings, but this very nice rosé is just \$13 at the Co-op.

Although some rosés do very well in their second or even third season, you can’t count on it. So consult your wine merchant or make sure you’re buying the 2017s for the freshest, most fun bottles. Chill them well, but take them out of the fridge 15 minutes before serving. And don’t forget to watch this poor old world from your full rosy glass.

— Susana Leonardi is a Davis resident; reach her at vinosusana@gmail.com

YoYoSA honors annual scholarship winners

Special to The Enterprise

On April 19 the Yolo Community Foundation recognized the recipients of the YoYoSA scholarships at a reception in their honor. Rosaamelia Cordova of Woodland High School, Amanda Nazario of Davis High School, and Julia Escamilla of Winters High School were all recognized as scholarship recipients at the Yolo Youth Service Awards and will each receive \$1000 scholarship to support post-high school education, which may include college, vocational, or technical school.

The YoYoSA program is designed to promote and reward Yolo County youth volunteering with local nonprofit organizations and encourages Yolo County nonprofits to engage with youth volunteers.

Cordova is a member of the Woodland Public Library Teen Advisory Board, Nazario volunteers with Yolo Food Bank, and Escamilla works with Winters Robotics, Inc. All

NAME DROPPERS

of these nonprofit organizations were awarded a \$500 grant sponsoring each YoYoSA student scholarship recipient.

President of the YCF Board of Trustees Meg Stallard said “We’re pleased to honor these three students for their commitment to their communities. They are all outstanding students who have made a great impact! We know they will continue to serve their communities wherever they chose to live. We thank them for their service.”

YCF strives to boost local philanthropy by serving donors, nonprofits, and youth in the Yolo County area, and is proud to recognize tomorrow’s leaders in local philanthropy through the YoYoSA program. For more information about YCF, please visit its website at www.yolocf.org.

U.S. Air Force Airman Gerardo J. Castro of



From left, YoYoSA winners Amanda Nazario, Julia Escamilla and Rosaamelia Cordova; Yolo Community Foundation President Meg Stallard; and Saira Delgado, field representative for Assemblywoman Cecilia Aguilar-Curry, celebrate the students’ achievements

Woodland graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas.

Castro is the son of Vanessa M. Perla and Mari Perla, grandson of Roberto Perla, and nephew of Amalia Perla, all of Woodland. He is a 2016 graduate of Pioneer High School in Woodland.

The airman completed

an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness and basic warfare principles and skills.

Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate degree through the Community College of the Air Force.

Margaret Ji of Davis has recently been named to the dean’s list at Boston University for the fall semester.

Each school and college at Boston University has their own criterion for the Dean’s List, but students generally must attain a 3.5 grade point average (on a 4.0 scale), or be in the top 30 percent of their class, as

well as a full course load as a full time student.

Founded in 1839, Boston University is an internationally recognized institution of higher education and research. Consisting of 16 schools and colleges, BU offers students more than 250 programs of study in science and engineering, social science and humanities, health science, the arts, and other professional disciplines, along with a number of multi-disciplinary centers and institutes integral to the University’s research and teaching mission. With more than 33,000 students, BU is the fourth-largest private university in the country and a member of the American Association of Universities.

— Do you know of someone who has won an award or accomplished something noteworthy? Email it to newsroom@davisenterprise.net or send it to Name Droppers, The Davis Enterprise, P.O. Box 1470, Davis, CA 95617