

What's happening

Through Friday

■ Attention high school juniors: The Rotary Club is sponsoring Camp Venture, a training and motivational summer camp for juniors interested in pursuing a career in business, particularly as entrepreneurs. The camp will be held at CSU Maritime Academy in June. At the camp, students will meet with experienced business people and meet other students who have similar interests. The deadline to apply is Friday. Go to the Davis High School Career Center for more information and an application.

Friday

■ Kids ages 1 to 12 are invited to Friday Night Live from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the city of Davis Gymnastics and Dance Center. For a \$5 fee, children can work on gymnastics skills, jump on the trampoline and more. Gymnastics and dance staff will be available for coaching questions, supervision and fun. Children under 4 years old must be supervised on the gym floor by a parent or guardian. For more information, call 530-757-5626.

■ Join Da Vinci Charter Academy for the "Party Like It's 1929! Magazine Launch Party Night," showcasing student-created magazines on topics from the Roaring '20s. Visitors can immerse themselves in the glamour and intrigue of one of America's wildest and most tumultuous decades and are invited to cast their votes for the best magazine of the night. The event is from 6 to 8 p.m. at 1400 E. Eighth St. and is free of charge.

Friday, March 7

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Sunday, March 9

■ Are you troubled by bullies? "Bully No More" will offer strategies and resources for addressing bullying from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Davis, 27074 Patwin Road. The free workshop is aimed at junior high and high school-aged youths and their parents and is presented by Uniting for Racial Justice from the UU church and the Davis Phoenix Coalition. Lunch will be provided.

Ongoing

■ If you haven't gotten a Grad Night ticket yet for your graduating senior student, purchase it online through the Davis Grad Night website at <http://groups.dcn.org/davis-gradnight/tickets>. Alternatively, download a form from the website and mail in a check. Ticket prices are \$90 through May 31; after that, tickets must be purchased at the door for \$110. Scholarship tickets are available through school counselors. Once you have purchased a ticket, submit a photo of your child during his or her kindergarten year for the "Kinder Wall" at Grad Night. For more information on this, please visit <http://groups.dcn.org/davisgradnight/kindergarten-photo-wall>

■ Applications for Sutter Davis Hospital Auxiliary scholarships are now available. Residents of Yolo County and Dixon who intend to pursue a human health-related career may apply. Application materials are available at the high school scholarship offices and at the hospital information desk, 2000 Sutter Place. The deadline for submitting the application is March 31. For more information, leave a message for the scholarship committee at 530-759-7485.

More flavors than just chocolate and vanilla

Over and over again I hear how discouraged people are by the competitive and costly aspects of getting into, and paying for, college. While this is certainly a valid concern, I like to point out that these issues are usually the case with a select subset of colleges that are very popular and well-known (whether for sports or academics or both) such as Stanford, USC, UCLA and the Claremont Colleges, to name a few in California.

There are, however, many more than just these "flavors" of college to consider. In fact, there are about as many different flavors of college as there are different tastes of people. So, why not taste the rainbow and look into performing arts schools, military academies and single-sex colleges? Although some of these are just as competitive, many are not, and it is beneficial to explore all options in order to find the right fit for you.

Let the music play

For students who wish to study music in college, it is helpful to have a clear understanding of the kind of experience you are looking for and your strengths and weaknesses. There are several music paths to evaluate:

- 1. Conservatory.** Offers focused, performance-intensive training for students who want to pursue a career in music. Examples include Juilliard and the New England Conservatory.
- 2. Within a university.** Another path is to select a conservatory, music college or music school within a university since it allows for a more "typical" college experience. Examples include: Oberlin and Carnegie Mellon School of Music, and locally, University of the Pacific.
- 3. Music departments.** Some universities have strong, and highly competitive music departments. Examples include Amherst and Yale.
- 4. Dual degrees.** Usually this is a five-year program leading to a bachelor of arts and a master of music. An example is Harvard/NEC program.

A variation on the theme: visual arts

Student life at art schools is unique when compared to a "typical" college experience. Visit and it becomes obvious with the tours of studios and



JENNIFER BORENSTEIN
COLLEGE CORNER

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displays. From fashion design to toy development to animation, art schools are launching students in to such varied career paths as architecture, advertising and digital media. If this is a path that seems interesting to you, be sure to confirm whether schools have accreditation since it matters for funding, grants and credibility.

The types of bachelor degrees that may be earned are arts, fine arts, architecture and industrial design. Some excellent schools to examine are Rhode Island School of Design, Pratt, Parson's the New School for Design, and — closer to home — CalArts and Otis.

An important component of this application process is the portfolio, which is a small, representative collection of an artist's current or recent work. All schools require submission of a set number of drawings/creations and may even specify the medium and content of such drawings. To get a sense of how your portfolio stacks up, plan on attending National Portfolio Day. This is a free event where representatives from colleges accredited by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design review your artwork, discuss their programs and answer questions about professional careers in art. Check it out at www.portfolio day.net.

Do you want to be all you can be?

If you love a challenge and flourish in a very structured environment, the United States Service Academies (U.S. Air

Force Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy) may be worth investigating. They provide undergraduate education and training of commissioned officers for the United States armed forces. Although the admissions process is quite onerous and very competitive, admitted students receive full tuition scholarships with an estimated value of between \$200,000 to \$350,000 for a commitment of at least five years of service upon graduation.

There are also many other military colleges (both two-year and four-year) besides these. Check out www.amcsus.org for more information.

If you are interested in the academies, here are the basics to consider:

- **Learn about the academies.** Research the expectations and the requirements.
- **Begin the process early.** In the junior year, fill out the online candidate questionnaire.
- **Visit.** Try out for their summer leadership camps. If this is not an option, then visit the academies, take a formal tour and/or join ROTC.
- **Nomination.** You will need a nomination from a member of Congress, senator or the vice president. Start the process for obtaining one in the second half of junior year.

Single-sex schools

Once the only way women could earn a higher education degree, women's colleges are now a choice rather than a default. There are 48 active women's colleges in the United States, most of which are small, private, liberal arts schools. Some are better known nationally such as Barnard and Mount Holyoke, while others like Mills College and Scripps are not.

Why choose this path? Well, the National Survey of Student Engagement studied random samples of female first-year and senior students from 26 women's colleges, and 264 other four-year institutions and found

Additional application requirements for specialized schools

Performing arts: Usually an audition and/or submission of written/performed pieces
Visual art: Submit portfolio
Military academies: Get nomination
Single-sex: No additional requirements

that women at single-sex institutions were more engaged in effective educational practices and reported higher levels of feelings of support and greater gains in college. See the survey results at <http://cpr.iub.edu/uploads/Umbach%20et%20al.%202007.pdf>.

For those of you concerned about the lack of coed social interactions at women's colleges, keep in mind that several of these women's schools provide students with ample opportunity to take coed classes. Scripps, for instance, is part of the Claremont Colleges, so Scripps students may take classes at any of the other schools in the consortium. The same is true with Mount Holyoke and the Five College Consortium (University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Hampshire, Smith and Amherst). At Barnard, students may take classes and participate in extra-curricular activities at Columbia. Students at Mills can cross-register for classes at UC Berkeley. In a nutshell, there are more options to take classes with men than meets the eye.

While we are on the topic of men, let's not forget that there are still some men's-only colleges in existence. Examples include Hampden-Sydney, Wabash and Morehouse, to name a few. Some students find this to be a more comfortable learning environment. Unlike the performing arts schools and military academies, single-sex colleges do not have additional application requirements. See box for more information.

Until next time

So if the traditional chocolate and vanilla flavors don't whet your appetite, explore specialty schools and discover what is most appealing to you. After all, finding a good fit is a necessary ingredient in the recipe of life.

— 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, or visit www.therightcollegeforyou.org

UCD students help kick-start kids' science projects

By Anne Ternus-Bellamy
ENTERPRISE STAFF WRITER

The school science project... It's usually the first big project elementary school children take on and everything from picking a topic to following through with experiments and conclusions can be daunting, not just for the students themselves but for their parents as well, who are often expected to shepherd their children through.

This year, a number of students kicked off their projects with helping

hands from graduate students from the UC Davis department of evolutionary biology.

During a two-hour, free program at the Stephens Branch Library in Davis earlier this month, grad students explained the scientific method, including how to develop a question, find information to support an experiment and more. They even provided a few experiments as examples.



UC Davis graduate student Frances Armstrong, above, talks with first-graders Wenqi Yang, right and Sean Liu. Armstrong is helping the two with science fair projects.

UCD graduate student Alisa Sedghifar, left, talks with sixth-grader Colin Carter about the reaction of a balloon, vinegar and baking soda as a potential science fair project.

WAYNE TILCOCK/ENTERPRISE PHOTOS

