

# NYSACAC NEWSLETTER

Winter 2012



## Message From the President Welcome From President Kent Rinehart



The NYSACAC tag line is “Leading the Way” and in looking at the next few months, that tag line couldn’t be any more accurate.

Our membership continues to grow! We are over 1,000 members strong and expect it to continue to grow through June. Recognizing the extraordinary financial pressures at the high schools across our state, NYSACAC now offers a flat fee pricing option for our high school members. Special thanks to our membership co-chairs, Dave Follick and Erin Craig, for their hard work in this area.

We just completed a very successful Advocacy Day in Albany where HS, College, and CBO members were together lobbying for our students. The lawmakers were thankful for us sharing our perspectives on the Dream Act and higher education funding in New York State.

Registration has opened up in our one day Professional Development Forums. We will be offering six forums throughout the state – from Buffalo to Long Island – and will talk specifically about helping students find an emotional and financial fit when selecting a college. We are working with NACAC and are optimistic we will be able to offer Continuing Education Units (CEU’s) to participants. Last year, over 500 professionals from across the state participated in one of our forums. Register today to reserve your spot!

We will be hosting a fundraising event at Pizzeria Uno’s in Syracuse on March 8 just prior to the Syracuse National Fair. If you are in the area that night, come out and meet up with some colleagues and a portion of your bill will be donated to NYSACAC.

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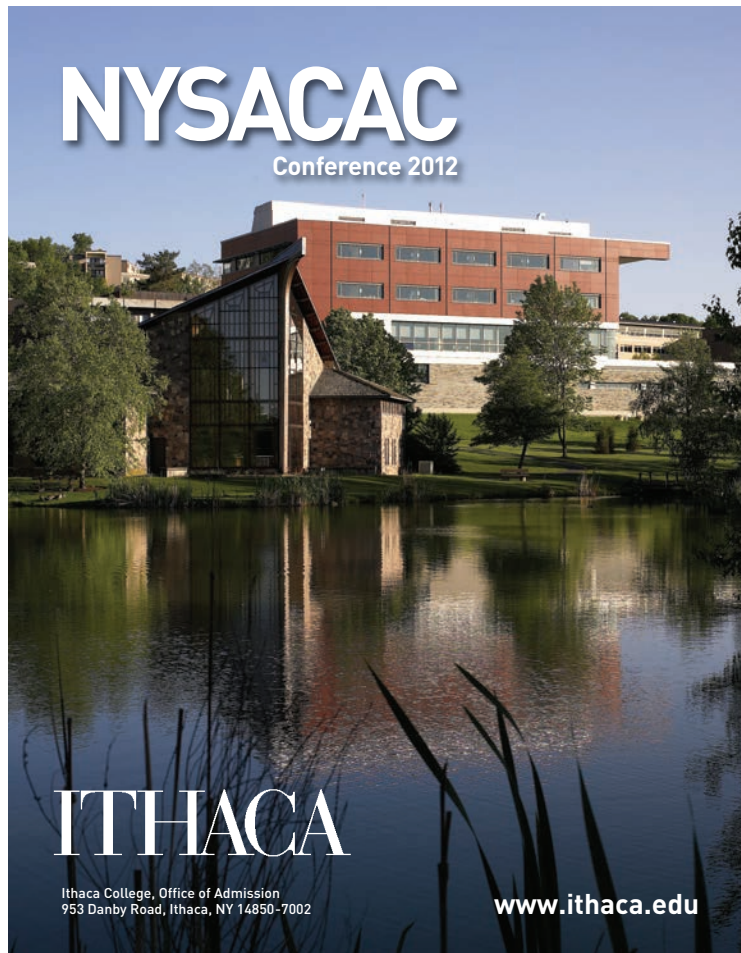
This spring, we will be awarding a scholarship to a high school senior (recommended by a NYSACAC member) who is attending a NYSACAC member college. Details will be posted on our Web site shortly. Special thanks to Karen Staller and Sean Callaway for their leadership in this area.

The year concludes with our signature event - the NYSACAC Annual Conference. The Conference will be hosted on the beautiful campus of Ithaca College, June 6-8. We hope you will be able to join nearly 800 of your fellow colleagues for a few days of learning, sharing, and networking. Just prior to the Annual Conference, the Coming Together Conference will be held on June 5-6 and will focus on college retention and completion.

As we continue to “lead the way” for our students, I want to acknowledge and thank the Executive Board for their hard work and dedication in helping NYSACAC lead the way. Finally, I want to thank Kathleen McArthur, NYSACAC Executive Assistant, for her continued support of the myriad of activities that NYSACAC embarks upon.

If NYSACAC can help you lead the way, please do not hesitate to call upon us.

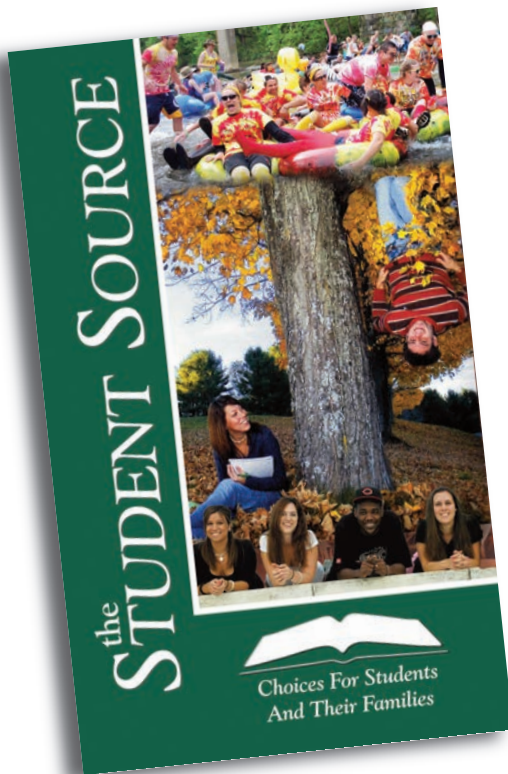
Kent Rinehart  
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# College Search 21st Century Style

By Jonathan Hoster- Undergraduate Recruitment Specialist, L.C. Smith College of Engineering

NYSACAC NEWSLETTER Winter 2012

It's no secret that technology is ingrained in the majority of Americans' lives, and the college search portion of teenagers' and families' lives is no different. In addition to many colleges having an admissions office presence on popular social networking platforms like Facebook and Twitter, an increasing number of colleges (and students) are joining specialized social networks like [Zinch](#) and [Cappex](#), which connect students to colleges (and vice versa) just like Facebook connects coworkers, family members, or long-lost friends.

For students who are unable to make in-person visits to campuses or college fairs, [CollegeWeekLive](#) offers excellent "virtual" opportunities to connect with college admissions representatives as well as current students. CollegeWeekLive hosts several major college fairs each year along with specially-focused events around the STEM disciplines, diversity outreach, etc. At the CollegeWeekLive college fairs, participating colleges have a virtual booth filled with documents in PDF format, admissions staffers, and current students. Prospective students can enter a particular college's chat room to chat live with admissions reps and often watch live videos of current students answering their questions.

In-person visits are going high-tech, too. Take a look at Penn State's use of a [SCVNGR](#) (pronounced "Scavenger") trek to add a shot of additional excitement to their ["Spend a Summer Day"](#) open house program.

One of my favorite exhibits from the NACAC Annual Conference in New Orleans this fall was without a doubt the [Welcome to College](#) booth, which was hard to miss with its souped-up, flashy, renovated 1973 RV named [Mary](#) (Mobile Automated Research Vehicle). Marv travels to high schools and colleges gathering data (and videos) on students' approaches and decision-making around the college process. Marv is equipped with a flat screen across his back window and an Xbox Kinect motion sensor that cues him to fire up questions when someone is in front of his screen. There are over-sized video-game like buttons on the façade of the RV that students use to answer his questions. He has a camera, too, that can shoot video clips of students discussing their college search. Best of all, his license plate area is hollowed out and doubles as a prize shoot, which rewards students at random as they answer Marv's questions. Welcome to College is still a very new company, but its concept – emphasizing the importance of the campus visit and allowing students to provide online feedback about their visits – is fresh, new, and exciting.

There are certainly other technology companies that are interfacing significantly with students and families in the college search process. But, for me, those mentioned here are the most interactive and the most innovative. If your students aren't currently connecting with colleges (and other students) in these ways, introduce them to these platforms that just might add a needed spark to their college search. ★



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**Stay informed through NYSACAC's Facebook & Twitter page to receive news and information related to members.**

<http://www.facebook.com/nysacac> <http://twitter.com/#!/NYSACAC>



# Getting Involved in NYSACAC

By Christine Stumm- Assistant Director of Admissions, University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences,

As a current Executive Board member, VP of Communications, past co-chair of the Newsletter Committee, member of the Annual Conference Steering Committee, conference workshop presenter, and grant recipient, I have learned a lot about NYSACAC and its members. My involvement with NYSACAC began shortly after I was hired as an Admissions Advisor. I was encouraged by my supervisor, Jennifer Hess who is also an active member, in order support my professional growth. After seeing all of the activities on her resume, I realized I needed to really put forth an effort to add to my own credentials. I have found that what I do for NYSACAC also enhances my performance at work. I have learned and practiced new skills, made important networks and friends, received accolades and an award, and utilized the resources available to NYSACAC members. In addition, having a lot on my plate makes me want to work harder and keeps my momentum going.

If you would like to get involved in the organization, you must be sure that you will make time to dedicate to NYSACAC and put forth your best effort in what you do for the organization. The work we do impacts thousands of counselors, administrators, and students. In addition, it's important to have a supervisor who supports your involvement in external activities. Your supervisor will be happy that you are developing new skills, learning new things, meeting new contacts, representing your institution, and getting your school's name out there.

Take action! Join a committee, write a newsletter article, present at the Annual Conference, attend the Professional Development forums, and voice your opinions and concerns with NYSACAC. Contact us at [nysacac@nysacac.org](mailto:nysacac@nysacac.org) or find the appropriate contact at: [www.nysacac.org/contact](http://www.nysacac.org/contact). ★

## New This Year: Counselor College Fair at the 2012 Annual Conference

By Casey J. Pedrick- College Counselor, Stuyvesant High School, NYSACAC Marketing and Publications Committee



For the first time in over three decades, the conference will feature a college fair specifically aimed at high school counselors. “New York is a big state, and we recognize the desire of counselors at the high school level to have face-to-face contact with admissions counselors, while not always having the time or the means to make a visit to campus. The Counselor College Fair is the perfect way to bridge that gap,” says Dave Coates, School Counselor at Kenmore East High School and President-Elect of NYSACAC.

The fair will not only feature colleges within New York, but also across the entire northeast region of the United States. It is the Conference Committee's hope that 75-100 college partners sign up to kick off this new initiative. The \$50 fee to participate will be used to provide conference grants to high school counselors. There will be no separate registration for the college fair. Colleges can simply add it as part of their individual registrations. Only one member of the college needs to complete this registration for the school to participate. ★

# The 2012 Conference “Beyond the Headlines” Why You Can’t Afford to Miss It!

By David Coates- School Counselor, Kenmore East High School and President Elect

The 2012 New York State Association for College Admission Counseling Annual Conference will be held on the gorgeous Ithaca College campus. Upon your arrival, you won’t believe the beautiful view of Cayuga Lake you take in from campus. Turn around, and feast your eyes upon Ithaca’s new Athletic and Events Center which is less than a year old. You will recognize the Athletic Center’s tower from our conference materials. To experience this and much more, mark your calendars for the 34th annual Full Conference from June 6-8, 2012 and the 15th annual Coming Together Conference from June 5-6, 2012.

This year’s conference will have a different and more varied schedule. There will be something for everyone each and every day. We have a newly formatted conference welcome and awards recognition that will jump start the conference in a very positive fashion. This leads into a featured educational session on cutting edge topics that promises to engage both high school and college admission counselors. Wednesday’s social is a “Black and White” themed event that you won’t want to miss.

Thursday’s schedule starts early and ends late! We have our annual General Membership Meeting over breakfast, two educational sessions, the Keynote Address, the new Counselor College Fair, Legislative Session, excursions to downtown Ithaca, BOCCE under the lights and a conference social with live music and other surprises. This year’s Keynote Address will be given by Jeff Selingo, a leading authority on higher education worldwide. Mr. Selingo is Vice President and Editorial Director of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. He writes a regular blog and column for *The Chronicle* and *The Huffington Post* called “Next,” where he explores innovation in higher education. Mr. Selingo’s Keynote Address will certainly take you beyond the headlines in all topics related to college admissions counseling.

We finish the conference with an energized schedule on Friday. We will have breakfast for the early risers, two more educational sessions, the closing session and the ever popular slide show during lunch. Friday’s educational sessions promise to be dynamic and informative, so plan to stay through lunch; you won’t want to miss out!

Visit [www.nysacac.org](http://www.nysacac.org) and click on “Enter the NYSACAC Conference Site” link to learn more about the conference and the surrounding Ithaca area. Conference grant information is currently available online and registration is open. So don’t delay, register today! We look forward to seeing over 700 high school and college admission counselors in the beautiful Finger Lakes region at Ithaca College during the first week of June.

Please see the new conference pricing structure below for NYSACAC members and non-members. Join NYSACAC today and register prior to May 15 to take advantage of the early registration fees!

	Member (prior to 5/15)	Member (after 5/15)	Non-Member (prior to 5/15)	Non-Member (after 5/15)
Coming Together (includes Tuesday night housing)	\$130	\$150	\$150	\$170
Full Conference-Residential	\$260	\$310	\$310	\$360
Full Conference-Commuter	\$190	\$210	\$210	\$230
One Day-Commuter	\$130	\$140	\$140	\$150



# Teaching College

## How Classroom Courses Can Walk Students Through the College Admissions Process

By Eric Neutuch- Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center

FAFSA. EFC. SAR. HESC. TAP. FWS. SUNY. CUNY. EOP. HEOP. SEEK. CD. COPE. ASAP. The college transition process is an alphabet soup of terms.

The more knowledgeable that our students are of college vocabulary the better they will fare in the college admissions and transition process. This echoes other areas of life; drivers who can change tires get to their destinations faster, and tax-filers who understand adjusted gross income have it easier.

At my adult education center, our college preparatory program engages a mix of recent GED completers, immigrants who completed high school degrees in their countries, and older adults seeking to enter college for the first time. All of these groups have limited college knowledge and almost universally weak social capital for navigating the college admissions process. To address the needs of these populations, my center created the College Knowledge Workshop, a 30-hour course that walks adult students through the college admissions, financial aid, and college transition processes.

The College Knowledge Workshop has two aims—(1) that every student get into college and receive a financial aid award and (2) that every student be prepared to transition successfully to college. To reach these objectives, participants research careers, majors, and colleges, and they apply to college. Almost universally they choose to apply to CUNY. They complete the FAFSA and TAP financial aid applications, and they strategize about how they will be successful in college. They examine the benefits of continuing one's education and also risks around student debt, high levels of remediation, and non-completion. The highlight of the Workshop is a visit to the Borough of Manhattan Community College for a full-day of programming. Reading, writing, computer use, and data analysis are integrated into the Workshop in an effort to bolster participants' readiness for college placement exams. Independent math, reading, and writing classes offered at my center also prepare students for college placement tests, and required one-on-one college counseling addresses technical issues for which the classroom format is not well-suited.

The pulse at my center is that students who might have delayed college enrollment are going sooner than they otherwise would have because of the College Knowledge Workshop. A student wrote on an anonymous survey, "As adults, being out of school for a long time is daunting but the Workshop made me feel that I can and will succeed when I attend college."

The Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center is not alone in offering a highly structured and highly monitored classroom course aimed at advancing college vocabulary, college application completion, financial aid application completion, and successful enrollment among participants. Such courses are a part of the curriculum in small high schools, charter schools, and in afterschool programs. The College Board, College Summit, and the New York City Department of Education offer resources that can be useful in running classroom-based programming, and of course, colleagues within NYSACAC can be helpful as well!

*Eric Neutuch is the Project Director for the College Connections Project, a newly funded TRIO program at the Manhattan Educational Opportunity Center ([www.meocollegeconnections.org](http://www.meocollegeconnections.org)). ★*

# The Benefits of Mentoring

By Christine Stumm- Assistant Director of Admissions, University at Buffalo School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, NYSACAC VP of Communications



My first real mentor relationships were with two supervisors in an office that I worked in at the start of my undergraduate career through the end of my master's program. After 12 years, we still meet for lunch to catch up on personal and professional matters. My mentor today is my current supervisor of five years, and I'm sure our relationship will continue indefinitely. These mentors are self-motivated and driven women who have had a great impact on my professional life including giving me advice on career paths and options, providing me opportunities to expand my responsibilities and contributions to the office, nominating me for awards and giving me praise and confidence, and by being a friend.

In each of these mentor relationships, the greatest thing I learned was how to be productive and effectively manage and multi-task projects. Specifically, I learned how to not procrastinate and to do things right away. Instead of adding something to your to do list, do it right away. Secondly, I became motivated, inspired, and encouraged. My mentors have resumes that are very impressive, which inspires me to add to my own. I have gotten more involved in activities outside of my regular job duties. I have attended 15 conferences and events, received six awards and grants, made nine formal presentations, and have been actively involved in four committees within the past five years. Thirdly, I gained confidence. With the praise and guidance I received from my mentors, I became more confident in my work and can now do things quicker and more efficiently without second guessing myself and without having to check on everything. It's now easier to step outside of my comfort zone. Lastly, I gained knowledge and learned how to get things done faster. My mentor teaches me new skills, provides advice, and keeps me informed. With a mentor, you learn from another person's vision, experience, and education.

I encourage you to find a mentor or mentee and maybe even start a mentoring program at your institution or organization. Make sure you find a good mentor who is likeable, trustworthy, and honest. They must be good at their job and smart. Also, make sure you are a good mentee who is easygoing, flexible and will consider doing anything your mentor encourages you to do. You should be reliable, listen carefully, take notes, and always try your best. Take your mentor or mentee to lunch or coffee and exchange personal profiles or resumes. As counselors or advisors, you already know how to mentor. Learn how you can utilize your proficiencies to benefit other individuals besides students to develop and empower your staff, build professional relationships with them, and gain new knowledge. ★

The College Fairs Committee is currently working on compiling a list of Spring College Fairs taking place throughout the state. If you are hosting a fair which is open to all institutions please email the details to [College.Fairs@nysacac.org](mailto:College.Fairs@nysacac.org). The listing will be available on the NYSACAC website beginning in March. ★



# Forums, Facts, and Fit

## Professional Development

Professional development forums are just around the corner...haven't registered? Register now at <http://www.nysacac.org/regional-forums>.

Most applications have been submitted. Many decisions have been mailed. Decision day is near. With May 1<sup>st</sup> lurking in the near future, students are bound turn to you for guidance in figuring out what makes a school the right match for their future. Join us this year as NYSACAC's six professional development forums throughout the state venture beyond the application and explore the topic "*Beyond the Application: Understanding the Dimensions of Fit.*" Please see the following schedule to find a forum near you:

SYRACUSE REGION: Thursday, March 8, 2012 - Fayetteville-Manlius High School  
ROCHESTER REGION: Wednesday, March 14, 2012 - Rush-Henrietta High School  
ALBANY REGION: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 - Niskayuna High School  
BUFFALO REGION: Monday, April 2, 2012 - Nardin Academy  
MANHATTAN REGION: Tuesday, April 17, 2012 - Fordham University (at Lincoln Center)  
LONG ISLAND REGION: Friday, April 20, 2012 - The Wheatley School

We look forward to an in-depth discussion among high school and college counselors regarding the current trends in higher education and the real meaning behind the word "fit." Meet high profile college representatives who are anxious to share their expertise and assist in the exciting process of finding a good match.

The tentative schedule for each of the forums is as follows:

8:15-8:45 am: Breakfast  
8:45-9:00 am: Welcome & NYSACAC update from Delegate/Board Member  
9:00-9:15 am: Discuss the higher education landscape & broad concept of "fit"  
9:15-10:00 am: Panel I\*: Discover and understand a student's path to finding the right financial fit (moderated by NYSACAC member)  
10:00-10:15 am: Q & A/Discussion from Panel I  
10:15-10:25 am: Break  
10:25-11:30 am: Panel II\*: Delve into the deep reasons behind finding emotional fit within a school. Discuss the varied dimensions of fit and how perceptions are altered throughout the college search process.  
11:30-11:45 am: Q & A/Discussion from Panel II  
11:45-12:00 pm: Wrap up/Closing  
\*Panelists will differ in each area

To register, please visit the NYSACAC website, or contact one of our Professional Development Co-Chairs:

Kristen Collins  
Adelphi University  
516-877-3021

Lauren Shallash-Sangimino  
Stony Brook University  
631-632-1012

[Professional.Development@nysacac.org](mailto:Professional.Development@nysacac.org) ★



The poster features a red background with the text "2012 NYSACAC REGIONAL FORUMS" in white and blue. Below this, a yellow banner reads "Beyond the Application: Understanding the Dimensions of Fit". At the bottom, a list of regional forums is provided: SYRACUSE REGION: Fayetteville-Manlius High School; ROCHESTER REGION: Rush-Henrietta High School; ALBANY REGION: Niskayuna High School; BUFFALO REGION: Nardin Academy; MANHATTAN REGION: Fordham University (at Lincoln Center); LONG ISLAND REGION: The Wheatley School. The poster also includes images of graduates in caps and gowns.

# NYSACAC Coming Together 2012

## Why You Should Attend

By Lawrence Q. Alexander II- Director of College Counseling, Young Women's Leadership School of Astoria

### To Remember...

#### Come to Ithaca! June 5-6

I had a very cute, yet brutally honest 6<sup>th</sup> grader come into my office after a school-wide college fair back in October. She had 3 questions and 1 statement:

**Question 1:** So, your job is to help kids with college, right?

**Question 2:** Is that ALL you do, ALL day?

**Question 3:** Don't you get tired of talking about college?

**Statement:** I don't know if I'd want your job.

If we're all honest, there are some days where we're not sure if we want our jobs, either. The job is high on demand and short on supply. The hours are long and the pay is short. The students have high expectations of us but none of themselves. The rest of the building fails to see your office as the classroom that it is. Been there?

By the time June rolls around, the CTC is not only timely; it's necessary. I attended my first conference last year and it was nothing short of amazing! Between the inspiring speakers and innovative workshops, I left Rochester with the motivation to answer that 6<sup>th</sup> grader.

I remembered why I chose this profession and why I love it. I remembered that the high demands are merely opportunities to display poise and creativity. I remembered that the long hours were worth the wide smiles on my students' faces, when they receive their college acceptance letters. I remembered that the short pay keeps me from becoming complacent. I remembered that the students' expectations are warranted, as I may be the only adult they can believe in. I remembered that the school building doesn't have to understand what I do; I understand what I do. I remembered!

Come to this year's conference. Revive. Renew. But most of all: Remember! ★

#### Paying for College with Plastic? HESC Suggests Alternatives to Paying for Tuition with Credit Cards

With college bills looming, some students and families may be considering paying with a credit card. According to a Sallie Mae/Gallup poll, cash-strapped parents charged an average of \$5,822 to help pay for their child's higher education, while students charged an average of \$2,542. The New York State Higher Education Services Corporation (HESC), the State agency that helps people pay for college, advises students and families deciding how to pay their college bills to consider the long term impact of credit card debt. Read more...[http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/Paying\\_for\\_College\\_with\\_Plastic](http://www.hesc.com/content.nsf/SFC/Paying_for_College_with_Plastic) ★

# Union College's Trimester System

By Matt Malatesta- Vice President for Admissions, Financial Aid and Enrollment, Union College

Guidance counselors know students can get hung up on minutia when choosing a college. Not-so-crucial factors like the weather and where high school friends are attending can dictate life-altering educational decisions that would undoubtedly be better made with different criteria.

One of those factors, which I think gets more play than it should, is a school's academic schedule. Some students worry, unnecessarily, I believe, about whether they will share breaks with friends and how their schedule will match up with internship and work opportunities.

At Union College, we are particularly aware of students' concerns on this topic, as we have long employed a somewhat unusual trimester system, which breaks the school year into three ten-week terms.

So how do you advise students on this topic?

Honestly, I think it's much ado about nothing, and that is what I would tell students.

Institutions around the country organize academic calendars differently, and there are pros and cons to every system. Having been a high school teacher for a decade and visiting hundreds of high schools in my admissions career, I have seen many academic schedules and approaches, yet those schedules are not what define those institutions.

Most colleges offer fall and winter semesters. Others, like Dartmouth, organize the year into quarters, making summer session (a separate concern for most schools) part of the academic year. At Union, we offer three terms: fall, winter and spring. (I like to joke we're the only school in the Northeast with a spring term!)

What we have found is that our students really like the trimester system. (And, in fact, have even fought passionately to keep it.)

Our model allows for more courses – three per term, equaling nine per year, as opposed to the average eight per year taken in semester schools. I personally believe giving students that extra class every year encourages experimentation. More courses increase the diversity on our students' transcripts and support the cross-pollination and interdisciplinary approach we treasure at Union. These additional courses also allow us to keep each individual class small. While the term is shorter in length, instructors and students report the courses can be more focused, accelerated, and challenging.

Union students also enjoy how trimesters divide up the year. We start right after Labor Day and break for six weeks at Thanksgiving. The long break allows students to work, intern or even enjoy a mini-term abroad. The next trimester lasts from January until spring break, which separates winter term from spring. To me, it feels like our breaks are crisper. When you are on break, you are *really* on break. Instructors and students don't lose momentum with a break in the middle of class.

-Continued

# Union College

## Continued...

I think another plus to trimesters is that they encourage more students to study abroad. At Union, more than 60 percent of students leave the country for a trimester. In my experience, I decided to do a trimester abroad in my senior year because it was only one-third of my year. I would not have wanted to give up half of my senior year on campus. My wife, a student athlete at Union, was also able to study abroad because the trimester system gave her a sports-free term. At semester schools, sports can straddle both terms.

Of course, there are also cons to trimesters. Shorter terms mean condensed classes, which can be good or bad. Our summer does not line up perfectly with what other college students encounter, though in our experience only one company was ever unwilling to grant flexibility to a Union student regarding an internship, and employers like students who can work through August.

The take-away for me is that a school's academic calendar is relatively unimportant. There are many factors to consider when choosing a college: academics, programs, instructors, the environment, reputation, and school culture. The academic schedule should be the least of a student's concerns. ★

## New Twist to a Great Tradition: Local Campus Tour Options

**By Casey J. Pedrick- College Counselor, Stuyvesant High School, NYSACAC Marketing and Publications Committee**

There is so much to be excited about at this year's annual conference, and you will want to participate in the events, both fun and educational, to maximize your time. With this in mind, this year you will have three options for campus tours of local colleges.

With Tour Option A, you will visit all three of the participating campuses. Your morning will start at Cornell University, a member of the Ivy League. Learn about Cornell's seven undergraduate colleges and how its status as a land grant university can benefit your students. You will receive lunch and a tour at SUNY Cortland, one of the founding members of the State University of New York. Learn more about the three schools of studies within Cortland and discover how they have achieved a 99% pass rate on teacher assessment tests and have earned 23 national championships in eight different sports. In the afternoon, you will tour Tompkins Cortland Community College (TC3). One of SUNY's 30 community colleges, TC3 offers campus housing, making it a great option for students who want to go away to college. For those students who want to stay close to home, TC3 is a leader in online education. At TC3, you will learn about the enrollment options that will best meet your students' needs.

Tour Option B will be an afternoon visit to Cornell University.

Tour Option C will be a midday tour of both SUNY Cortland and TC3. ★

# Why We Return

## A Reflection on Camp College from two seasoned mentors

By Marie Nocella- Senior Assistant Director of Admissions, Syracuse University

Jo Anne Phang- Regional Director of Admissions, Syracuse University

Who wants to spend a summer weekend, or two, with one hundred high school students, staying in a college dorm? We do!! If you have not been involved with Camp College, you may be asking yourselves why we feel this way. We would like to share with you why we return, and what we continue to learn, at Camp College.

Camp College is a signature program of NYSACAC. The leadership and support of this program make it all possible, but the people make it worthwhile. The setting is perfect to share experience and knowledge with colleagues, and networking comes naturally, but the number one reason we return each year is for the students.

This program is an opportunity not only to educate students about the college process, but also to share expertise with other mentors. We learn from each other in presentations, we share ideas during planning and debriefing meetings, and adopt new strategies borrowed from each other to teach our students. Mentoring at Camp College is not just for the students, it's also for each other.

This type of collaboration, in such an open and caring environment, lends itself naturally to networking among colleagues. Each year, we renew relationships with people from other schools, colleges, community based organizations, and other programs. We also have a chance to meet new people and form new relationships. We learn about each other and form great partnerships to help our students. Many visits, referrals to opportunity programs, and presentations stem from connections made at Camp College.

We have learned a great deal from colleagues at Camp College and have certainly developed professionally from these wonderful experiences, but Camp is for Campers, those student that make the Camp College experience so touching that we are drawn back year after year.

When students first arrive at Camp College, they are not always thrilled to be there. They are upset that they are not in small groups with their friends, that their dorm roommate is someone they do not know, that they have to eat meals in their mentor groups, and that there they are required to wear their Camp College t-shirts, and yes, even at the dance. They come believing that this will be their only time on a residential campus, that they can't afford a private school, their grades aren't strong enough to attend a four year school, and their opportunities are limited.

It is such a rewarding experience to watch our campers learn. It is always amazing how some of the students are so completely unaware of the possibilities of higher education. Sometimes, it's like we are on the show, 'Mythbusters'. It is our privilege to help students discover the reality of access to higher education.

Over one short weekend, we are blessed to see a transformation. Our campers bond with us and their new friends as they internalize the information and encouragement around them. A particular honor, is when we hear our students quote us in the final skits. The most gratifying moment of all is to watch the 'Ah ha' moment on a campers' face. It's that time when they realize and begin to understand that their dream is possible, and we are so thankful for the opportunity to witness these moments each and every Camp College. It is then that we realize that Camp College has made a difference and that we were lucky to be a small part of that change. ★





# Save the Date

## Philadelphia Area Catholic College tour

The Philadelphia Association of Catholic Colleges (PHACC) will host the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual Philadelphia Area Catholic College tour. Join us as we explore the Catholic colleges throughout the Philadelphia area while also providing the opportunity to network and connect with college counseling professionals and admission representatives.

When: July 23-27, 2012

Who: public and private high school counselors and independent counselors

Where: Cabrini College, Chestnut Hill College, Gwynedd-Mercy College, Rosemont College, Neumann University, Manor College, La Salle University, Immaculata University, Holy Family University, Saint Joseph's University, Villanova University

Cost: \$100 deposit; \$50 refund upon completion of the tour

Registration: **Save-the-Date!**(**this will be a link to the pdf**) Please contact John Oles (Chestnut Hill College) at [olesj@chc.edu](mailto:olesj@chc.edu) or 215.248.7093 for information regarding registration.

WEBSITE: <http://phacctour.cocodot.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PHACC> ★

## Would you like to be a committee member?

Involvement in the committee planning process can be a fun and rewarding way to develop professional skills. The organization is always open to new members on our various committees. If you have an interest in being a leader, join one of our committees today.

Phone: (866) 370-1008

Email: [nysacac@nysacac.org](mailto:nysacac@nysacac.org)

**Newsletters are published in October, February, and May. Submission deadlines are as follows: September 30, January 15, and April 15. The newsletter is distributed electronically. Print copies are available upon request.**

### ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

**Articles submitted for consideration for publication should be concise. Articles may be edited. Please include contact information of persons mentioned in articles, as well as the contact information of person(s) submitting articles. Email submissions to [newsletter@nysacac.org](mailto:newsletter@nysacac.org).**



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