



# THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FOR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

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## SENIOR CHALLENGE: FACING UNCERTAINTY

Although Lin-Manuel Miranda, the creator and star of the Broadway mega-hit “Hamilton”, is speaking to 2016 graduates at UPenn, his thoughts on what they face could very well be addressed to high school graduates: “My dear, terrified graduates — you are about to enter the most uncertain and thrilling period of your lives. The stories you are about to live are the ones you will be telling your children and grandchildren and therapists. They are the temp gigs and internships before you find your passion. They are the cities you live in before the opportunity of a lifetime pops up halfway across the world. They are the relationships in which you hang on for dear life. They are the times you say no to the good opportunities so you can say yes to the best opportunities. They are the stories in which you figure out who you are. There will be moments you remember and whole years you forget. There will be blind alleys and one-night wonders and soul-crushing jobs and wake-up calls and crises of confidence and moments of transcendence. I feel so honored to bear witness to the beginning of your next chapter.” Dare to read these words to your friends at lunchtime...don’t text them...read them aloud and listen to the silence. Luckily you have another high school year to prepare to enter the “most uncertain and thrilling period of your lives”. This newsletter is meant to help in that process: providing the information that will help you maximize your potential.

### \*\*CHANGE OF 2017-18 FAFSA SUBMISSION DATE\*\*

Good News!! 2016-17 high school seniors planning on attending college any time between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018, can now submit a FAFSA earlier than ever before. Students will be able to file the 2017–18 FAFSA as early as **Oct. 1, 2016**, rather than waiting until Jan. 1, 2017, the traditional date for many years. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year. Students and families will be allowed to use earlier income information. Beginning with the 2017–18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017–18 FAFSA, students and parents (as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information. At this point it is difficult to predict how this change may alter college and university financial aid deadlines and how many schools will also require 2016 income information when it is available. <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/about/announcements/fafsa-changes>

### Comparison and Concordance of the New SAT & ACT

New SAT results and concordance charts are in. But what do they mean? How have scores changed from the old SAT? And how can scores help students determine whether the SAT or ACT should be favored? *Compassprep.com* has analyzed the available research and concordances to create a comparison tool in both chart and table forms. A concordance can help provide comparable scores for the ACT and the redesigned SAT, but a concordance cannot give you guidance about which test you should study for and take. If you took the old SAT in January 2016 or earlier and want to know if you are “done”, the concordance tables can help you see where your old SAT score stacks up in comparison to the new SAT and to the ACT. The old SAT and redesigned SAT are completely different tests, so you should not favor the New SAT simply because of experience on the old exam. Consider taking practice tests for the New SAT and ACT. If you have taken a New SAT — real or practice — then the concordance chart can be helpful. If you have taken both a New SAT and an ACT — real or practice — but are undecided about the best step forward use the chart to inform your decision. <http://www.compassprep.com/comparing-act-and-new-sat-scores>. \*Be sure to read the article on p. 4 to understand the controversy over these comparison charts.

### Univ. of Calif. Application Is Now Open

The fall 2017 UC application for undergraduate admission is now available! Students can start filling out the application online today. Applicants can only submit the application between Nov. 1 – 30. For freshman application info, go to: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/freshman/index.html> ++For info on the UC Personal Insight Questions, go to: <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/personal-questions>

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### Tips on Acing the New SAT

The major differences between the New SAT and the older version:

- The content itself is more challenging
- The reading comprehension is, on average, one grade higher
- The passages themselves are more specific
- The essay is longer but now optional, but is still required by many colleges
- In math, they took away the calculator for part of the test and the content was expanded to include trigonometry and additional geometry
- Multiple choice goes from 5 choices to 4 and there isn't any penalty for guessing; you get points for questions answered correctly but there is no advantage to leaving blanks
- The composite score goes from 400-1600 points instead of from 600-2400 points
- Obscure vocabulary words are gone; words are now ones that you use at work or in college.

### How Well Does Your Counselor Know You?

(*"BCF College Planning Blog"*)

Most likely, your senior counselor will be asked to write a college recommendation letter for you. In some lucky cases, that person knows you well by now, but if not, it is important to schedule an appointment to make sure your counselor is aware of the following:

1. Why do you want to go to college? What do you hope to get out of the college experience?
2. In what academic environment do you learn most comfortably?
3. Explain any low grades or irregularities which appear in your record.
4. Why have you chosen the colleges on your list?
5. What do you want your colleges to know about you?

Without this conversation, your counselor will need to rely on hearsay and guesswork in supporting your college application(s). You should also be prepared to share a resume of your extracurricular, volunteer, work and travel experiences so that the counselor gains perspective on your development throughout high school.

### Common Application Changes Gender-Identity Options

Students using the 2016-17 Common Application will now be asked to state their "sex assigned at birth." There also is an optional free-response text field in which applicants may describe their gender identity. The changes follow calls from students and advocates to change how the standardized application form asks about gender. Previously, applicants were required to choose "male" or "female." The new prompts are meant to help students express themselves in a way in which they feel most comfortable. Aba Blankson, a spokeswoman for the Common Application has stated, "The feedback from our members and advisory committees has been consistent that, yep, this is the time, this is the right way to go."

### ACT Will Change Scoring Scale for Writing Test

(*"Chronicle of Higher Ed"*, Eric Hoover, 6/28/16)

The ACT plans to change the score range for the optional writing test on its college-entrance examination. Starting this fall, the writing test will be scored on a 2-to-12 scale. The writing test itself will not change. Last year the ACT revised the writing test, and students began receiving results on the same 1-to-36 scale used on the multiple-choice exam. But the change caused confusion. Some college counselors have complained for months about what they describe as an inexplicable gap between top students' high overall scores and low writing scores. Relatively few colleges require the essay sections of the ACT or the SAT, but some of the nation's most-selective colleges still do.

### Excellent Internship/Co-op Programs to Consider

As an example, **Northeastern University** in Boston has one of the most extensive cooperative education programs in the country, letting students split their time between classes and short-term, work assignments. Instead of squeezing internships into their schedules, students alternate semesters of academic study with semesters of full-time employment. For other top programs, here's a list compiled by *U.S. News*. They invited college presidents and deans from more than 1,500 schools to nominate up to 10 institutions with stellar examples of internships/co-ops.

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/internshipprograms>

## The College Connection Newsletter

### SENIOR CHECKLIST FOR SEPT./OCT.

\_\_\_\_\_ Make a list of test names, dates and fees, registration dead lines, college application deadlines, and financial aid applications (including scholarships) and deadlines. (Most Schools accept scores from the December SAT, for regular deadline applicants.)

\_\_\_\_\_ Prepare resume and listing of interests, strengths and goals to give to teachers, counselors and employers for letters of recommendation.

\_\_\_\_\_ College bound athletes applying to Division I or Division II schools need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center for Certification in order to play college athletics. WEBSITE: <http://www.eligibilitycenter.org>.

\_\_\_\_\_ When registering for SAT or ACT, if you mark the code 9999 as one of your college or scholarship codes, your scores will be sent automatically to the NCAA Eligibility Center.

\_\_\_\_\_ Narrow your list of colleges between 6 - 8. Consider fall campus visits. Browse through campus catalogs and brochures located in your school's Career Center and check out college websites.

\_\_\_\_\_ Attend college visitation meetings at your school

\_\_\_\_\_ Work hard to keep your grades up. Admissions committees will closely review the first semester of your senior year.

\_\_\_\_\_ Register @ <https://www.collegeboard.org> for October 1 SAT Late Deadline: September 13, 2016 (late fee-\$28); November 5 SAT - Deadline: October 7, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_ Register @ <http://www.actstudent.org> for October 22, ACT. Deadline: September 16, 2016. (photo ID valid for 2 yrs.); December 10 ACT – Deadline: November 4, 2016

\_\_\_\_\_ Start working on the first draft of your admissions essay(s)

\_\_\_\_\_ Listen to morning bulletins for local, state and national scholarships for which you might apply. "Deadlines usually range from November 1, 2016 to May, 2017"

\_\_\_\_\_ If applicable, prepare applications for early decision. These deadlines begin November 1. Know the difference between "early decision" and "early action".

\_\_\_\_\_ Register for the *Common Application* at: [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org) to see a list of the 500+ schools which now accept the common application.

\_\_\_\_\_ Checkout the new *Coalition Application* website at: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/students.html> to see current list of 90+ schools.

### NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER REMINDER

In 2016 the NCAA enacted academic rule changes that impact the class of 2017 and beyond. These standards determine whether college-bound student-athletes are eligible to practice, compete and receive financial aid in their first year at an NCAA Division I school. <http://www.ncaa.org/about/student-athlete-eligibility>

### COLLEGE NEWS

++ Two days after celebrating its 35th commencement, **Burlington College** (VT) was forced to close because of "the crushing weight of the debt incurred by the purchase of the Archdiocese property on North Avenue."

Burlington had for years been buckling under the debt from a doomed land deal in 2010, engineered by a former president, Jane Sanders, who is the wife of the U.S. senator and Democratic presidential contender Bernie Sanders.

++ In 1996 little-known Dave Matthews played an outdoor solo gig at **Sweet Briar College** (MA). Twenty years later The Dave Matthews Band has announced it's releasing a recording of that show, as well special-edition T-shirts featuring the school's vixen mascot, with all proceeds donated to the tiny all-women's private college that almost permanently closed last year because of financial problems.

++ Among the 800,000+ applicants who submitted the Common App during the 2015-2016 application cycle, 47% chose to write about their background, identity, interest, or talent; 22% chose an accomplishment, 17% about a lesson or failure, 10% about a problem solved, and 4% about an idea challenged. The prompts are the same for 2016-17.

++ Each year nearly 50 high-school seniors travel to **Santa Clara University** (CA) seeking a prize. Already admitted but still undecided, they are finalists for the Johnson Scholars Program. Ten incoming freshmen are chosen to get a full ride, study-abroad opportunities, and a summer stipend for an internship, research, or service.

++ Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and other Senate Democrats are calling on federal regulators to step up efforts to protect consumers from educational programs that engage in fraud and deceptive marketing, in light of the ongoing case against **Trump University**.

++ **Northwestern University** (IL) plans to hire 20 new faculty members as part of a \$150 million response to growing interest in computer science.

## COLLEGE NEWS

++During the summer, officials at colleges across the country have noticed the swift adoption of Pokemon Go. Students who might appear to be aimlessly wandering have actually been exploring their campuses, desperately looking for Pokémon and congregating around “Poké Stops,” where they reload on supplies such as “Poké balls”.

++A House subcommittee has blocked a Senate effort to provide low-income college students *federal Pell grants* to take classes throughout the year and instead approved an appropriations bill that would cut \$1.3 billion out of the program. TRIO, and GEAR UP programs all increased, while SEOG and Federal Work Study were level-funded.

++**Harvard College** and **Berklee College of Music (MA)** have formalized a partnership to offer a new five-year dual degree that will enable students to earn a Bachelor of Arts at Harvard and a Master of Music or a Master of Arts at Berklee starting in fall 2017.

++**Univ. of Calif.** faculty has approved the new *AP Computer Science Principles* course for use to meet the College Preparatory Elective freshman admission subject requirement. The course is being offered for the first time in the 2016-2017 academic year, with the AP exam in May 2017. Other schools will probably follow suit.

++**North Central College (IL)** is acquiring **Shimer College** under an agreement between Illinois institutions that leaders hope will have **Shimer**, a small four-year Great Books college, becoming its own division in a larger institution.

++In fall 2015, **Utica College (NY)**, a private school with 2,900 students, announced a 42% reduction in tuition from \$34,466 to \$19,996 for the 2016-2017 academic year. Lowering the published price meant running the risk of losing money on the families who could afford to pay full freight. Applications from students looking to transfer to Utica went up 65% and up 10% for would-be freshmen. Interestingly, the average family income grew 25% to \$93,170.

## What’s a College Test Score Worth? An ACT-vs.-SAT Dispute

(“*The Washington Post*”, by Nick Anderson, 5/12/16)

The ACT and the College Board, overseers of the nation’s two rival college admission tests, are exchanging unusually pointed words over an effort to help students interpret scores on the revised SAT. First, the College Board released a set of Concordance Charts that showed how new SAT scores compare with the old SAT scores and ACT scores. It turns out that the new SAT scores are somewhat higher on the 1600-point scale than comparable results from the old version of the test. A new SAT 1300, for instance, corresponds to a 1230 on the sections of math and critical reading in the old version of the test. The College Board, which owns the SAT and is based in New York, also asserted that a new SAT 1300 corresponds to 27 out of a maximum 36 on the ACT. Counselors, students and parents across the country were puzzling through these complexities when the ACT suddenly weighed in. Marten Roorda, chief executive of ACT, which is based in Iowa, challenged the College Board’s analysis: “The College Board recently has been promoting its new ‘SAT Score Converter,’ which, it says, allows you to compare scores on the new SAT with the old SAT and with the ACT test. However, this mathematical makeover comes with several caveats the College Board didn’t tell you about. For example, after past SAT revisions, such as that from 2006, concordance tables were created after more than a year’s worth of data were in. With data from only the March 2016 SAT available, it’s clear that the current sample stands a significant chance of being different from the whole. Speaking for ACT, we’re not having it. And neither should you. Meaningful concordance is difficult to achieve, particularly when you have tests that are so different — not only the new SAT from the old SAT, but both SATs relative to the ACT, which, for example, continues to have a science test that the SAT lacks. We urge you not to use the SAT Score Converter.” College Board’s senior vice president for research, Jack Buckley, then responded: “Several months ago we reached out to ACT to express our strong interest in conducting a new SAT-ACT concordance study to update the existing decade-old study. We look forward to working with ACT in a renewed spirit of cooperation.” Some context about this exchange: The ACT, launched in 1959, had for decades smaller market share than the SAT, which debuted in 1926. The ACT has long billed itself as an achievement test in four sections: English, reading, math and science, plus an optional essay. In 2012, the ACT overtook the SAT and became the nation’s most widely used test. Both the College Board and the ACT are competing intensely for state contracts to deliver testing services in public schools. For students, the bottom-line question remains the same: What is my test score worth? (*Editor note: And each college will evaluate scores differently depending on the academic level of the school and comparative scores of other applicants.*)

## SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST LISTINGS

**JACK KENT COOKE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP** Offers high school seniors up to 40 scholarships, worth up to \$40,000 per year to attend a four-year, accredited undergraduate school. Based on exceptional academic ability and achievement, financial need, persistence, a desire to help others, and leadership. Check website for application which opens in September and closes in November. <http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship>

**DEED EDUCATIONAL ELECTRONIC SCHOLARSHIPS** \$2,000 scholarships for high school seniors planning on pursuing a certificate or degree that could lead to a career at an electric utility, including, but not limited to power plant technology, electrical power technology, and electrical distribution systems. To obtain login credentials for the application website, you must fill out the request for credentials form. A DEED administrator will respond to you via email. **Application Deadlines are February 15 and October 15 each year.** Website: [http://www.publicpower.org/Programs/Landing.cfm?](http://www.publicpower.org/Programs/Landing.cfm?ItemNumber=31245&navItemNumber=37529)

**ItemNumber=31245&navItemNumber=37529** Click on "Scholarships & Grants" under "Features", then click on "For Students".

**STOKES EDUCATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM** Open to 2017 seniors, with minimum SAT score of 1600, or ACT of 25 and 3.0 GPA who **plan to major in Computer or Electrical Engineering, Computer Science.** Pays full tuition at the college of your choice, reimbursement for books and certain fees, housing and travel entitlements during summer employment. **Application deadline online or postmarked November 15, 2016.** Guidelines at <https://www.intelligencecareers.gov/nsa>. Click on "Students" at the top, then scroll down to "Stokes Educational Scholarship Program". First you must submit an online resume, then post-mail required packet. If questions, call: 410-854-4725.

**COCA-COLA SCHOLARS PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIP** 2,000 Semifinalists are selected in mid-November and notified by email around December 1. Semifinalists must then complete a secondary application due in mid-January, including essays, official transcripts, and two letters of recommendation. 150 regional finalists will be named Coca-Cola Scholars and receive awards of \$20,000 each. The remaining 100 regional finalists will be awarded educational stipends of \$1,000. <http://www.cocacolascholarsfoundation.org/applicants/> **Deadline: October 31, 2016.**

**2017 HORATIO ALGER ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIPS** 106 National Scholar awards for up to \$25,000 each, and a variety of state and "targeted" scholarships are available. For example Oregon offers five \$10,000 scholarships. Applicants must demonstrate critical financial need (\$50,000 or less AGI). Requires a 200 word Personal Statement, a 250 word Adversity Essay and an Adversity Questionnaire verified by a school official. <https://scholars.horatioalger.org>. **Application Deadline: October 25, 2016** You must fill out the Eligibility Quiz to access the application.

**VOICE OF DEMOCRACY COMPETITION** A National Audio Essay Scholarship open to high school students, **grades 9 – 12.** It consists of a 3 to 5 minute tape-recorded essay on the **2016-17 theme: "MY RESPONSIBILITY TO AMERICA"**. Each state winner is provided with a five-day all-expense paid trip to Washington, D.C., plus the opportunity to compete for National scholarships totaling over \$130,000. 1st Place Winner: \$30,000. Other scholarships range from \$1,000 to \$16,000. Entry must be sent to the local participating VFW Post. Click "Find A Post" at very top of page. <http://www.vfw.org/VOD>. **Deadline for entries is November 1, 2016**

**UNITED STATES SENATE YOUTH PROGRAM** Entering high school juniors and seniors, who are actively serving in leadership positions for the entire 2016-17 year, must be nominated to apply by their high school principal or designated school official. **Application deadline dates vary by state (9/20 to 11/4).** Click on your state on the left for details. The 55th Anniversary program will be held in Washington, D.C., from March 4-11, 2017. Two student leaders from each state will spend a week in Washington experiencing their national government in action. All transportation, hotel and meal expenses will be provided. Each delegate will also be awarded a \$5,000-\$10,000 College Scholarship, depending on the state. <http://ussenateyouth.org>

**2016 WENDY'S HIGH SCHOOL HEISMAN SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS** Must be a high school senior, participating in at least one of 43 eligible school-sponsored sports, with a 3.0+ GPA and be a leader in school and in the community. School officials can nominate their high achievers by completing the website form. This year's application has two phases to make it easy for you to complete and submit your application on time. Phase 1 has an earlier deadline of **October 3, 2016** and must be reviewed by a school official by **October 4, 2016.** Phase 2 has a later deadline of **October 24, 2016.** <https://www.wendyshighschoolheisman.com/application/are-you-eligible>

## SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTEST LISTINGS

**RON BROWN SCHOLAR PROGRAM** A minimum of 10 four year renewable awards for \$10,000 per year are available to African American high school seniors who plan to attend college full-time. Scholarship is based on Financial Need, Academic Achievement, Essay, Extracurricular Activities, Leadership Experience, Community Service, and Recommendations. **Early Applicant Deadline: November 1, 2016** to be considered for the Ron Brown Scholar Program and also forwarded to a select and limited number of additional scholarship providers. Click on “Apply to be a scholar” at <http://www.ronbrown.org>

### NATIONAL YOUNGARTS FOUNDATION

YoungArts is a national program to recognize the achievements of high school seniors and other young artists 15-18 years old (gr.10-12) on Dec. 1 in areas of Dance, Classical Music, Jazz, Theater, Visual Arts, Photography, Film & Video, Voice and Writing. Award amounts vary but can be as high as \$10,000. **Application deadline is October 14, 2016, which includes all submission materials.** Fill out an ARTS application at the ARTS website: <http://www.youngarts.org/apply>. Pay the \$35 per discipline fee (fee waivers for low-income students) and receive an ARTS ID# which is required.

### ATTENTION: ART STUDENTS!!

The National Portfolio Day Associated has announced the schedule for the 2016-17 season. This year’s schedule includes 38 undergraduate events located in 31 states from 9/24/16 to 1/22/17. <http://www.portfolioday.net/2016-17-schedule>

### Time to Address These Financial Aid Questions:

If financial aid is critical to your ability to attend college, now is the time to get organized around the possibilities.

++1. Discuss cost/affordability at home. Set forth your parental requirements about college first thing. If you are going to place limits on distance, cost, or some other distinguishing characteristic of a college, make that clear to your child right up front. If you make your issues clear right from the beginning, you will save yourself and your child a considerable amount of anxiety down the road.

++2. Manage expectations. Know where your transcript and test scores will be most competitive and set your college expectations accordingly. Colleges preferentially package financial aid, and will be sure to treat well those students whom they value most highly. Students who appear to be very good—but not superior might be admitted with “gapped” financial aid awards. Financial aid will fall short of meeting the family “need” (the differential between total cost of attendance and your family’s expected family contribution). Even colleges which claim to meet 100% of “need” will do so for only the most superior students.

### What Does Your Online Presence Say About You?

*(“Thecollegewhisperer.com”)*

College Admission offices know what you did this summer. And we’re not talking about the essentials of boosting your profile in the work place or in your community service endeavors. No, we mean all those Tweets, Facebook posts and other online ventures that you thought nobody, other than your closest friends, would notice. Guess what? When you post on the Internet, it’s out there and it stays out there. Assume that whatever you post online, in whatever forum, will be seen and/or read by a college admissions officer. Do give yourself an online presence. Don’t let a lurid photo or an indiscreet 140 characters sink your college application.

### Student Loan Interest Rates Fall to Lowest Levels in a Decade

*(“NAICU Washington Update”, 05/16/16)*

Borrowers taking out federal loans for the 2016-17 academic year will see the interest rates on those loans drop half a point to their lowest levels in a decade. Interest rates on Stafford and PLUS loans: 1) Stafford undergraduate loans will drop to 3.76% from 4.29%; 2) Stafford graduate loans will drop to 5.31 from 5.84%; 3) PLUS loans by parents will drop to 6.31% from 6.84%. Rates are tied to the high yield of the 10-year Treasury note at the most recent auction prior to July 1, plus a fixed percentage. The rates take effect every July 1, and will be fixed over the life of any loans that are taken out during the 2016-17 academic year.

### BEST WEBSITES FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ASSISTANCE

<http://www.admissionpossible.com> When this website states that it contains “Everything you need to know about finding, applying and getting into the best colleges for you”, it is not just blowing smoke. You’ll find it well worth your time. One glimpse will be all you need to explore its richness.

<https://www.unigo.com/scholarships> – This is a MUST SEE website. You can get free personalized matching from over 3 million scholarships and 7,000 colleges! Great for college search with 600K student reviews for 7K colleges. Check out the top 10 colleges for tons of topics. Get matched to colleges by telling about your academics, learning style, adaptability, etc.

<http://collegeapps.about.com> – Scroll down this webpage to discover informative and well researched questions and answers to a wide, yet essential variety of college related topics. Two examples: “Twelve facebook photos you must delete before applying to college”; “Learn About Common Application Essay Option #5: Transition to Adulthood”.

<https://www.cappex.com> – Here is free comprehensive and easily navigated website which address many college admission questions. It allows you to 1) Compare colleges, find tuition and admission information and discover your admission chances from more than 3,000 schools, and includes statistics and majors; 2) Read college Reviews where you can see what college students are saying about each school. Currently features more than 1.4 million reviews; 3) Conduct a scholarship search to find the ones that match your strengths and skills best, offering more than \$11 billion. Now includes the secure **meritaid.com** database, whose old website is rated as a security risk.

<http://www.youniversitytv.com>– This site requires FREE registration, after which you can access hundreds of video tours for both public and private universities and colleges around the country. Also checkout their Career Videos.

### Helping People to Live More Comfortable Lives

“People in human factors and ergonomics study how to make technology more usable, comfortable, safe, healthy, and productive,” says Professor Alan Hedge, the director of the Human Factors and Ergonomics Laboratory at **Cornell University**. “We work on the design of simple products all the way through to complex systems like the space shuttle. The field is very broad and covers everything from the design of products like the iPhone or the iPad through to airplanes or even the control rooms of nuclear power stations.” The Human Factors and Ergonomics Society provides “Explore the Possibilities...Pursue a Career in *Human Factors/ Ergonomics*”, a four-page brochure that provides an overview of the educational requirements to enter the field, typical employment areas, and typical salaries. Visit: [www.hfes.org/Web/Explore%20the%20Possibilities.pdf](http://www.hfes.org/Web/Explore%20the%20Possibilities.pdf)

### Attention:

#### Future Journalism Majors

Journalism has undergone major changes as a result of declining advertising revenue and the emergence of the Internet and social media. A great website for understanding the changes and how to prepare for them is **SchoolJournalism.org**. It is a project of the American Society of News Editors and several nonprofit journalism organizations. It provides a wealth of resources for students who are interested in journalism. The Students section features a list of colleges and universities that offer degrees in journalism, links to national and state journalism scholarships, and information on summer exploration programs for high school students. The Journalism Training section provides detailed information on journalism fundamentals, specialized writing, multimedia, social media, and design and data journalism.

## The College Connection Newsletter

### WHAT IS THE “COALITION APPLICATION”?

The Coalition Application is a brand new free application option offered by the *Coalition for Access, Affordability and Success*. The 90+ Coalition member institutions include many of the top U.S. universities and colleges. ALL high school students, grades 9-12 can use it. The platform tools—the *Locker*, a *Collaboration Space*, and an *Application Portal*—have been designed to help students craft their individual narrative incrementally and well in advance of filing an application. The *Locker* offers a private space for students to collect and organize materials throughout their high school journey. Whether storing classwork or personal writing, students can confidentially save documents that may be useful later in their college search or application. Colleges will neither have access to nor be able to review the *Locker* itself. Students can upload document files, video files, audio files, image files, spreadsheets, and presentation files to their *Locker* in their most widely used formats. Students will have greater flexibility in submitting unconventional application materials such as videos or artwork to some member schools. When a student elects to send her/his official transcript and/or recommendation to a college, the system will attach the locked document to the college indicated. Students will not be able to preview/download/view official transcripts and/or confidential letters of recommendation. The essay prompts for 2016-17 are similar to the Common App prompts, but also include “Submit an essay on a topic of your choice”, which the Common App no longer includes. The recommended word limit is between 500-550 words. Whether a student ever decides to use the *Coalition Application* itself, the *Locker* can be used as a private resource to help prepare for the college application process, and a student can use the *Locker* even if they do not intend to use the Coalition application. All member institutions state that they do not have a preference for one application over the other and the both the Common App and Coalition App will receive equal consideration in the admission process. Website: <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/students.html>. Click on “Member Schools” at the top of the page. Click on the link for any school of interest. Then find “Admission” or “Apply Now” to double check whether the school is using both apps. Currently *thecollegewhisperer.com* has stated that “58 colleges are on board for 2016-17 (down from 90 member colleges, the remainder taking a “wait and see” stance).”

### THE COLLEGE CONNECTION NEWSLETTER

FUTURE FOCUS EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

145 Brooks Lane  
Ashland, OR 97520

FOR SUBSCRIPTION INFO, CONTACT NEWSLETTER STAFF:  
[futurefocus@jeffnet.org](mailto:futurefocus@jeffnet.org)