



# READ ME.

'GAMI GUIDANCE  
NEWS YOU CAN USE

March/April  
2007



## What is the Right College for

With the tide of college age children of Baby Boomers nearing its crest and a growing percentage of high school students reaching for higher education, getting accepted to college now can seem daunting. This doesn't have to be, says James Boyle, President of College Parents of America, if the parents and students follow a few straightforward steps. "Before beginning the search," says Boyle, "it's important for students to look inward and ask very tough questions of themselves about what they want out of college, and out of life. If they address these questions first, they will find that there are many colleges out there that fit within their life plan."

There are, in fact, more than 3,500 nonprofit colleges and universities across the United States. Highly selective and moderately selective schools, which accept less than one-half of their applicants, add up to just about 150 institutions: That's less than 5 percent of the total number of your choices for higher education.

This leaves plenty of schools that offer students more of what they and their parents are seeking from a college education. Some may be schools that students know already because they have friends who attend them or because their parents are alumni. By broadening their search to include colleges that specialize in their passion, high school students can turn up some surprising alter-

natives, in-state and out.

The majority of U.S. college students, more than 80 percent, attend a public college or university in their home state, Boyle notes. However, it can be helpful to remember, when considering the in-state university system, although many schools offer the same curricula-: one campus might specialize in technical fields, while another excels in liberal arts. For this reason, families need to ask about specialty programs at each location. Matching the student's interests to the right campus can prevent a transfer down the road that could delay graduation. If the search for the perfect school turns up an option far from home, parents shouldn't assume the choice will be more expensive than an in-state school. The myriad of financial aid options available, both need-based and merit-based, can level the playing field.

Before they begin to fill out their applications, students need to take one more step. After considering the chances of admission at desirable schools, they should identify two or three "reach" schools, two or three "safety" schools. "That process," says Boyle, "will yield a final list of six to eight schools and help reduce some of the anxiety associated with the application process." It is likely that a student will receive multiple acceptances, says Boyle. What then? Don't jump at the first acceptance letter. Revisit the reasons a school was a favored choice before applying and think very carefully about the future.

"Students should make their decision in a measured way." Says Boyle, "so that they have the best shot at happiness and success when they leave for college in the fall."

## Message from Mr. Quinn...

Absegami Guidance Department Supervisor

Springtime is right around the corner and with that comes new opportunity for those who want it. Have you been down in the Guidance Office lately? Get on to coin3, research college websites! Make your own breaks by seeing what's out there for you.

Also, we have planned our 6th Annual College Fair for JUNIORS! The big day is April 20, we hope to see you there! College bound juniors, if you have not already done so, the time is now to start your college search!

I wish you all the best in the 3rd Marking Period.

## Thoughts to think about...

"You will never be the greatest You can be if you sellout by using substance."

Unknown.

"Don't tell me that you don't use but your friends do... Because drugs are like bumble bees, if you keep hanging out with them sooner or later you're gonna get stung. Help your friends change- or get new friends!"

Anonymous

# NEWS YOU CAN USE!

## Mar/APR'07 Guidance Calendar

**March 23 through 26-** All counselors are at GTMS to schedule incoming 9th grade students— see your counselor first thing in the morning should you need assistance!

**April 11-** College Admissions Workshop- Wed. night 6:30pm in the Senior Café', all interested parents are invited to attend. Break out sessions include scholarships, SATs, and NCAA Clearinghouse!

**April 20-** College Fair for Juniors—Friday morning during period 2.

**April 25-** Annual JOB Fair— Get your summer job here for all Juniors and Seniors during periods 11 and 12 in the Senior Café'.

**May 2 and 3-** National College Fair @ The NJ Convention and Exposition Center in Edison NJ, goto [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org) for info!

**NOW- FAFSA should be done!!! It still may not be too late depending on the state where you will be attending college, however this needs to be done ASAP! Goto [www.hesaa.org](http://www.hesaa.org) or [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) for more info!**

**NOW- Seniors should be submitting college responses— admits or denials plus any financial award or scholarship award letters!**

**NOW-** Seniors should be scouring [www.absegami.net](http://www.absegami.net) for local scholarship info! Go to the Guidance Link then click on scholarships! Hard copy listing and all applications are available in the guidance office! You should be registered at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) for national scholarship opportunities!

**Juniors-** Remember that you need to plan to take the SAT's two times in your this year! Go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) deadlines and sign up for a free SAT Q of the Day to be e-mailed to you daily! **For FREE effective test prep go to <http://number2.com>**

- Are you a positive school leader who is starting out at ACCC?Goto

### PROGRAMS/OPPORTUNITIES

[www.atlantic.edu/finaid/marjorieWard/index.htm](http://www.atlantic.edu/finaid/marjorieWard/index.htm) for the Marjorie Ward full tuition scholarship application— Deadline is April 15! ACCC also has ACCESS Scholarships available! See your counselor for an app or call Anita Polanco at 343-5098.

- Are you a good student and a talented Art student as well as a junior? Ask your counselor about The Sage College of Albany Annual SageArts Award.
- Are you a junior with college aspirations? Are you concerned about your family financial situation? [www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org) might have the answer— college preparatory conferences and admissions counseling is free for those who qualify!
- Fairleigh Dickinson University has Summer Scholars Programs goto <http://ucoll.fdu.edu/summer> for more information!
- The Independent Order of Odd Fellows Youth Scholarship Program applications are available in Guidance— deadline is March 31!
- Looking for a Summer Experience like no other? Check out the St Thomas More School's Summer Academic Camp in Oakdale CT- e-mail [stmadmit@stthomasmoreschool.com](mailto:stmadmit@stthomasmoreschool.com) for more info!
- Looking for a Leadership Program? Check out the American Management Association's JumpStart your Career Summer Seminar— apply online @ [www.amanet.org/oe](http://www.amanet.org/oe) today! Also try [www.leadamerica.org](http://www.leadamerica.org) today!
- Lebanon Valley College has a Youth Scholars Institute! Goto [www.lvc.edu/youth-scholars](http://www.lvc.edu/youth-scholars) today!!!
- TCNJ has a Summer Engineering Camp [www.tcnj.edu](http://www.tcnj.edu)
- Are you into animals? Join the Philadelphia Zoo's Junior Zoo Ap-

prenticeship Program! See your counselor for details or goto [www.philadelphiazoo.org](http://www.philadelphiazoo.org) today.

- The 21st Annual Essay Contest on Ayn Rand's novel The Fountainhead is due on April 25! Submit your essay at [www.aynrand.org/contests](http://www.aynrand.org/contests)
- Business major? Check out FDU's Rothman Institute Discover Business Teen Camp! Call 973-443-8842 for info!
- Delaware State University offers a "Girls Exploration in Math and Science— GEMS" summer program goto <http://gems.desu.edu> for an application and more info!
- U of The Arts in Phila has great preCollege opportunities! Go to [www.uarts.edu/precollege](http://www.uarts.edu/precollege) for Sat. School info!
- More summer art programs can be found in Ocean City [www.oceancityartscenter.org](http://www.oceancityartscenter.org) in EHT [www.cygnusarts.org](http://www.cygnusarts.org) also check out Moore College of Art in Philadelphia, NYU PreCollege, and MICA— The Maryland Institute College of Art!
- Interested in a Military Academy? Check out the Summer Leaders Seminar— go to <http://admissions.usma.edu> for an application today! Deadline is April 1.
- Check out the Summer Session at Northeastern University in Boston! Goto [www.spcs.neu.edu/summerschool](http://www.spcs.neu.edu/summerschool)
- Considering a career in CONSTRUCTION? Go to [www.cicdnj.org](http://www.cicdnj.org) for info! April 20 is Construction Industry Career Day!
- A career in travel? Go to [www.thetravelacademy.com](http://www.thetravelacademy.com)

## Personal Care???

Are you or a friend struggling with substance use? It's not too late to get out... Identifying a weakness and dealing with it in a positive way is a sign of strength! You can do this, you need to do this, and deep down you know that you want to be better— you can get out of the ugly cycle that is addiction! Here is one place for confidential and free help... Atlantic County's **TRYIT— Treating Recovering Youth In Transition**. Call Jake Sttaughn or Greg Mayer at 645-7700 ext 4331 or ext 4334. Start feeling like yourself again Call TODAY!

## ACADEMIC Help is AVAILABLE...

- **TUTORS Available in the Guidance Office...** Submit a National Honor Society Tutor Request Form TODAY!
- **WEEKLY Progress Reports are available in the Guidance Office and offer great teacher feedback.**
- **Late Study TH at 'Gami 4:30 to 7:30pm in the senior café! Mon through Fri at Rittenberg in EHC— See your counselor for more details and an application packet!**
- Make sure your parents are on ParentConnect! Go to [www.absegami.net](http://www.absegami.net) for registration details!