

HONORSTUDENT™

December 2011

Recognizing Passion and Accomplishment on the Road to Higher Education

APPLYING FOR
COLLEGE **VIA**
VIDEO

**Protect Your
Online Reputation**

spotlight on:
**GRAMBLING STATE
UNIVERSITY**

from the editor

The Waiting Game.....

Seniors who have submitted their applications are now engaged in what I like to refer to as the “waiting game”. This is the uncomfortable time period between submitting application materials and the anxiously awaited decision from their target schools.

Seniors are relieved to have the tedious application process behind them but are understandably uneasy about the wait time. I always encourage my seniors to continue their academic pursuits in the classroom. Many seniors will receive an email or letter indicating that the college requires some additional information, either a copy of their first marking period grades or a semester update. In most cases, this should be seen as positive communication from the student's perspective. It means that the school has typically seen an upward trend in the student's academic profile and they are interested to see that this trend is continuing through the senior year.

For any juniors that might be reading this message, this should serve as a reminder that even if your early high school grades weren't stellar, there is still hope for remediation all the way through your senior year, so keep improving! This time period also allows students to take advantage of the free time they have acquired having completed their applications to redirect their focus to scholarship opportunities. Many high schools in the area have local scholarship opportunities that seniors can take advantage of this time of year. In addition, for those motivated students, an online search for scholarships will produce numerous options if one is willing to invest the time and effort.

I always look forward to this time of year because it means that the chaos season for college applications is over. Additionally, many students start to hear back from their colleges and it is always exciting to hear where students are being accepted. The juniors are also hearing this information from their friends and this spurs them onto starting the college search process. Remember to consult with your school counselor; they are a wealth of information. If that isn't an option for you, hiring a reputable college consultant can alleviate the stress that often surrounds the college application process.



Tim Rothrock
Editor-in-Chief



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HONOR STUDENTS



Student Gabrielle Franciso
Grade Senior
School Holy Names Academy
Location Seattle, WA

What sets me apart from the rest: I'm passionate about being a role model for my siblings and minorities, developing a foundation for my future, and giving back to my community. I have many responsibilities being the eldest of four. I'm proud of the way my academic achievements and extracurricular activities have shaped my character today. I'm a part of the National Honor Society and I'm active in the Multicultural Student Union at my school. Outside of school, I enjoy coaching basketball and volleyball. I've also experienced volunteering at the University of Washington Medical Center and look forward to pursuing a career in business or medical field.

My top three accomplishments:

- Getting a 101% on my first AP Psychology Test
- Becoming a Multicultural Student Union Leader at my school
- Accepted into the Young Executives of Color high school program at the University of Washington for a 3rd year

Advice: "Always try your best in school! There are many opportunities and resources available to help you excel into a confident and successful leader among your peers. Get involved in new things because you never know what fun adventures they may lead to. Those adventures can help you discover your passions!"

What sets me apart from the rest: I have had many rewarding and fulfilling high school experiences. This past year, I ran a jeans drive through DoSomething.org in response to youth homelessness. I was able to collect 212 jeans and I discovered my love of helping others and the challenges that leadership present. I was also 1 of 11 students selected for the inaugural San Francisco CivicWeek Public Health program. I spent one week learning about public health and this information has given me the tools to help change the world for the better. Currently, I am creating my own foundation dedicated to helping the marginalized.

My top three accomplishments:

- Becoming President of the Black Student Union
- Achieving Class Honors Sophomore year
- Collecting 212 jeans for the Teens 4 Jeans Drive

Advice: "As an honor student there is always pressure to do more than just what is expected. It can be hard to find time to balance everything, but stay calm and stick with it, it gets easier. However, don't overwork yourself, everyone has their limits and you know what yours are."



Student Naem Turner-Bandele
Grade Junior
School Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School
Location Indianapolis, IN

Kudos to the following students, who have been chosen from among the best of the best nationwide to be profiled by Honor Student Magazine. Beyond attaining a GPA of 3.5 or above, these students have a passion and drive that sets them apart from the rest. Honor Student Magazine congratulates these exceptional students on their hard work and dedication.



What sets me apart from the rest: Working with the special needs students has been the most amazing experience of my life. They receive everyone with such joy, and have truly taught me about the kind of person that I want to be. My IB academic courses have taught me the fundamentals of math and writing an analytical essay. Participating with the special needs students has taught me new games, new ways of interaction, and the meaning of acceptance without judgment. Involvement in these programs has kept me grounded, helped shape me into the person I am, and guided me toward the path I want to take for my life.

My top three accomplishments:

- I am proud of how far I have made it through the IB program
- My involvement with the Best buddies program
- Academic and community service letters I have received

Student	Sara Cook
Grade	Senior
School	Cajon High School
Location	San Bernardino, CA

Advice: “High school is beyond worth it if you try your best and keep your goals in mind. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you need it because there are so many people that will help you succeed. Don't forget to stay involved and do what you love.”

What sets me apart from the rest: I believe what sets me apart from my peers is the way I define success. Unlike the popular definition of today, I do not see success as the money in my pocket, a claim to fame or how high I am on the corporate ladder. My definition stems from the fulfillment of my faith, my relationship with my family and the impact I make on those around me. I have been given much and, in turn, choose to give back to people in need, my community and the country I love.

My top three accomplishments:

- Received the Presidential Award for community service last year as a high school freshman, completing 117 hours of service, while maintaining my grade point average
- Maintaining a "straight A" average throughout my education, receiving only one "B" and one "B+" since Kindergarten
- Participating in numerous acting/theatrical performances, including a lead role in one of my favorite plays

Advice: “No matter how cliché this sounds, the one piece of advice I would offer other high school students is: Always be true to yourself. Success, no matter how you define it, will never be yours unless you achieve it by honoring your ideals, your faith and what makes you unique.”



Student	Jordan Phillips
Grade	Sophomore
School	Calvary Christian Academy
Location	Murrieta, CA

...profiles continue on page 8

YOUR WEBCAM CAN HELP YOUR APPLICATION STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD

By Jill Thacker, Marketing Analyst at CollegeNET



College admissions offices now receive as many as 20,000 or more undergraduate applications a year. Often faced with many more qualified applicants than spaces available at their institutions, admissions officers are finding it increasingly difficult to differentiate among all the highly qualified students hoping to attend their schools. It's no surprise that supplemental admission materials – tangible examples of what makes you exceptional beyond your academic achievements – have become the norm in this accelerated race to make your application stand out from the crowd. Nor should it be surprising to learn that colleges and universities have been looking for more reliable and efficient ways to identify applicants who not only meet or exceed their academic requirements but also exhibit character traits the school considers to be a “best fit” for their student body.

Recent advancements in video technology are making the application process more manageable for admissions offices and more advantageous for many students. More and more applicants now send supplemental video files with their online applications,

which can be invaluable in highlighting talents, character traits and experiences not adequately represented on the application, itself. These supplemental materials are widely accepted and encouraged by colleges and universities, and a number of independent video services have rushed in to fill this niche.

Recently, a number of institutions have taken the partnership of online applications and video technology another step farther by embedding video capability directly into the application. When you apply online to one of these schools, you'll find certain questions or information prompts in the application form are set up to record your video responses. In most cases you can choose whether to provide a video or standard text response to these prompts.


Exercising the first option, of course, requires that you use a webcam-equipped computer to complete your application. If you're comfortable speaking in front of a video camera, you'll probably quickly discover that

this option offers you several advantages for making an impression via your application. You can leverage your video response to demonstrate personal strengths such as poise, self-confidence and sincerity. And by giving evaluators a visual image of the person behind the application, you make yourself more memorable. When you're one among thousands of qualified applicants, a tool that puts a face and voice to your application can be invaluable.

Think of the video option as the next best thing to an admission interview, which, due to vastly increased numbers of applicants, is becoming yet another icon of a past generation. Evaluators simply don't have time to interview every applicant these days. And for a lot of applicants, the cost of travel makes in-person interviews a luxury they can't afford.

But, what if you're not all that comfortable in front of a video camera? You'll be glad to know that most video-equipped application forms allow you to re-record your responses before you submit them. In this way, video-optional applications are even better than interviews because there's no risk of being stuck with your first response – the one you might have stated differently if you had had the chance. And, of course, when you're answering questions from the comfort of your own home, you can take all the time you need.

Still need reassurance? The best way to strengthen your speaking skills and build your confidence in preparation for video interviews is to practice. Online forums such



You can leverage your video response to demonstrate personal strengths...

as CollegeNET.com – the student site that lets students initiate forums and post text or video responses to others — are excellent opportunities to hone your video interview skills. These online experiences not only help you become more comfortable with the medium, but also gain information and consider divergent perspectives on issues – all this while polishing your speaking skills. Students who engage in forums on CollegeNET.com also have the opportunity to compete for weekly scholarships that are awarded by a peer voting system based on participation.

Although we probably shouldn't expect college admission applications to convert completely to video anytime soon, it's safe to assume that the technology will continue to have a growing influence in the way we communicate. We're Skyping, You Tubing and Facebooking; we're sending videos with our phones. Talking to your admissions officer through your webcam is just a natural progression.

HONOR STUDENTS



What sets me apart from the rest: I have been running my own business called City Servers for about three years. City Servers provides set up, food service, and clean up for events ranging from dinner parties to wedding receptions. I have worked at hundreds of events and have personally trained twenty high school and college students as food servers. Recently, I won the 2011 Guardian Insurance Girls Going Places Entrepreneurial Award, a national award for girls ages 12-18 who run their own businesses. My business is also going to be featured on the PBS television show Biz Kid\$.

My top three accomplishments:

- Being a manager/proprietor of City Servers
- Winning a national entrepreneurship competition
- Being a member of a teen modern dance company in San Francisco called the ODC/Dance Jam (by audition)

Advice: “If you have an idea for a good or service that is in demand, just go for it. Mistakes are a part of the learning experience. Just be sure to find a mentor who can help you learn the basics so that your business can be a success.”

Student	Meredith Charlson
Grade	Senior
School	Aragon High School
Location	San Mateo, CA

What sets me apart from the rest: From the very beginning, my life has been a bit different than average. I have grown up speaking both German and English with my mother and father, as well as communicating with and visiting relatives in Germany. This has given me a unique perspective on life; being able to converse in two languages has showed me the importance of communication. No matter where you are in the world, it is important to focus on what you want out of life, and try to achieve those goals with the help of those around you.

My top three accomplishments:

- Varsity Letter in Track and Field
- Getting a 4 on AP Euro and 5 on AP German
- Being accepted into Student Government

Advice: “Junior year is a time when teachers cannot stop reminding students of the year’s importance. And while it is vital to do your best, it is also a time to enjoy. Two years are not as long as they seem, so put things in perspective, and enjoy your life.”



Student	Karen Gallagher-Teske
Grade	Junior
School	Central Bucks High School East
Location	Doylestown, PA

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Student	Tracy O'Hern
Grade	Senior
School	Canastota High School
Location	Canastota, NY

What sets me apart from the rest: Last year, I went to RYLA and was encouraged to do start my own large-scale community service project. So, I met with my school principals, and we discussed possible projects. We decided that we wanted to invite a group of students from my school to go on a medical mission to Nicaragua. Then, with the help of Canastota Rotary, we started Interact Club. For the next ten months, we will be fundraising so that members of Interact will be able to go to Nicaragua in April 2012.

My top three accomplishments:

- Becoming a WSI certified lifeguard
- Starting an Interact Club in my school
- Receiving the "Most Outstanding" award for Girls' Varsity Tennis

Advice: "Get involved in after school activities that you will enjoy. And, don't be afraid to help another person; the positive feeling each person will experience is unlike any other."

What sets me apart from the rest: As the youngest of my family I am quite the phenomenon. One would always assume the oldest would be the most responsible, but I'm the exception. I have two older brothers both of which found motivation in places other than school. I, on the other hand, have been a mystery to my parents. I have an unexplainable drive to succeed with out pressure from parents or a successful older sibling to live up to. What sets me apart from the rest is my drive. With my motivation I am apart of almost 10 different clubs. I am a musician and continually participate in my community.

My top three accomplishments:

- Participating in the international baccalaureate program and ranked 19th in a class of 600
- Playing the flute and am now a section leader
- Accepted into the Rotary life scholarship program, which promotes leadership, communication skills, and community service

Advice: "To all high school honor students my only advice is that you must never value your talents in comparison to others. In other words, do not allow yourself to be discouraged because another person has one more A than you or participates in one more Club. Each person is unique and should not be compared."



Student	Breanna Haigler
Grade	Senior
School	Cajon High School
Location	San Bernardino, CA

Your grades are good, but how are your

by Matt Ivester, technology entrepreneur, Student Body Director of Digital Citizenship at Stanford and author of *lol...OMG!: What Every Student Needs to Know About Online Reputation Management*

Imagine if you didn't get into your dream college because of an embarrassing picture on Facebook, or careless comment on Twitter. It's happening to students across the country, and if you aren't actively managing your online reputation, it could happen to you.

The college admissions decision is no longer just about your application. A recent survey by Kaplan Test Prep revealed that 24% of college admissions officers admit to using Facebook, or other social networking profiles, to find out additional information about applicants. In fact, the Dean of Admissions at Wake Forest told *US News & World Reports* that "anything in the public domain is fair game for admissions counselors to look at."

Today's top students are asking themselves two fundamental questions about their online behavior. First, they are asking "how am I portraying myself online?" Many students, when they consider this question, decide that it's time to make some changes. Second, they are asking, "how am I treating others online?" This question is especially important when you consider the real and lasting consequences of cyberbullying. Below are ten tips to help you answer both of these crucial questions. For more detailed information about these topics, be sure to read *lol...OMG!: What Every Student Needs to Know About Online Reputation Management, Digital Citizenship and Cyberbullying*.

THE 10 TESTS OF GOOD DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP

1. **The Golden Rule:** Are you treating others the way that you would want to be treated?
2. **The Golden Rule 2.0:** Are you treating others the way that they would want to be treated?
3. **The Laws and Policies Test:** Does what you are doing violate a law or fundamental standard set by your educational institution or workplace?
4. **The Everybody Test:** What if everybody were doing the same thing that you are? Would you still feel good about it?
5. **The Offline Test:** What is the real world equivalent of what you are doing? Would you be willing to do that activity in the real world or make the same comment to the person's face?
6. **The Real Name Test:** Would you change your behavior if you knew that your real name would be associated with it?
7. **The Emotion Test:** Are you doing something to someone because you are angry, jealous, or otherwise emotionally charged?
8. **The Whole World Test:** Would you be comfortable with the whole world knowing what you are doing?
9. **The "Get It?" Test:** Is what you are trying to say hard to convey online? If it were misinterpreted, might it be hurtful?
10. **YOUR TEST:** This is the test that matters most. Consider how what you are doing reflects on you as a person. What does it say about you? Do you like what it says about you? Does it reinforce the notion of the person that you want to be?



10 TIPS FOR MANAGING YOUR ONLINE REPUTATION

- 1. Set up an alert:** Google provides a free tool that allows you to automatically receive an email any time that your name (or other keyword of your choosing) appears in new online content. Visit www.google.com/alerts
- 2. Draw your lines:** Think carefully about what you are comfortable sharing online, and how controversial you are willing to be. Be sure to consider the way that others may view that content and the potential consequences of that content being online. Take time up front to decide what is right for you before you continue creating online content.
- 3. Take your online inventory:** You have to know what's out there about you before you can start fixing it. Google yourself. Then use Yahoo! and Bing to search for yourself too (Google isn't the only search engine people use).
- 4. Ask a friend to take your online inventory:** We all have blind spots. Find someone different than you, or if you can someone who doesn't even know you, and ask them to do a search of your name. Then ask them what their impressions are. Since they have a different context, they may view certain pieces of content more or less positively than you.
- 5. Clean up the content you control.** Go through all the content on your Facebook account, your blog, your Twitter stream, and wherever else you have a presence that you control and remove content that you no longer feel is appropriate to share.
- 6. Ask others to clean up content they control.** If others have posted things about you that you would prefer weren't online, ask them to remove that content. If you aren't sure who owns the site or how to contact them, who.godaddy.com is a good place to start.
- 7. Claim your name:** Be sure that you own your name as a .com, and that you have registered your name as a screen name on all of the most popular sites, especially Twitter.
- 8. Update your privacy settings:** Know what is public and private on the various sites you use. On Facebook, unfriend people you don't know, and organize everyone else into lists so that you can choose to share certain content with only certain groups.
- 9. Create new, positive content:** Create public profiles on sites that let you (LinkedIn, Google+ and others). Create a webpage about yourself. Also ask friends to post positive content about you on their websites. The more positive content there is about you online the better.
- 10. Crosslink positive content:** You can increase the likelihood of that positive content showing up high in search results for your name simply by crosslinking. For example, if you have a blog, be sure to include a link to your Twitter account and LinkedIn profile.

GRAMBLING STATE UNIVERSITY

Where Everybody Is Somebody



The friendly Grambling State University Tiger greets all campus visitors on College Avenue.

In November, Grambling State University became 110 years strong. Founded in 1901 as a small agricultural and industrial school designed to meet the educational needs of African-American students in north central Louisiana, Grambling State has evolved into a premier institution that attracts a racially diverse student population from around the world. Currently, half of the freshman class is from out of state; nearly 10% of Grambling's student body is from other countries.

The University is internationally known for its academic excellence, powerhouse sports program and our award-winning Tiger marching band. Super Bowl XXII Most Valuable Player and Grambling State alum Doug Williams is head coach of our famed football team.

AWAY FROM THE HUSTLE AND BUSTLE

The University is situated on 433 acres in rural Grambling, Louisiana—ideal for students who want the economic value of a public education, but a friendly campus atmosphere, small class sizes and accessible professors who give personal attention. Grambling State's 5,207 students study and play on a campus comprised of 101 buildings, an attractive mix of modern and historic architectural design. Among the students' favorites: 11 modern apartment-style dormitories. Five of them house freshmen exclusively—accommodations generally reserved for upperclassmen on most college campuses.

CITED AS "A STANDOUT"

Grambling State University is fully accredited by the commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. In 2010, the American Council of Trustees and Alumni named the University "a standout in ensuring its students graduate with a core foundation of knowledge." Very few universities in the country have received this distinction.

Among the reasons cited for the honor is that Grambling is the only university in the State of Louisiana that requires completion of an economics course for graduation. During these difficult times in our country, economics education is even more critical, as is personal financial management.

Even though Grambling is one of the most affordable universities in the country, 88% of our students require financial aid. To support them in making the most prudent decisions about financing their education, the University has developed a comprehensive loan

counseling program that has caught the attention of *U.S. News and World Report*.

FROM GRAMBLING TO HARVARD

For our academically gifted students, the University established the Earl Lester Cole Honors College. Since 1990, the Honors College has provided additional intellectual and unique educational experiences, for students who want to significantly enrich their learning experiences.

Two of our honor students, a mathematics major in 2008 and a biological science major in 2010, earned perfect scores on the mathematics portion of the Graduate Record Examination and were accepted into graduate programs at Harvard University.

A CAMPUS OF EXCELLENT PROGRAMS

As a public university, Grambling's goal is to provide opportunities, programs and curricula for the maximum academic growth and development of all students, regardless of their intellectual and culturally diverse backgrounds. The University has 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs, 97% of our degree programs have been recognized by specialty accrediting agencies.

The University prepares its graduates to compete and succeed in careers. This year the College of Business at Grambling State University retained its accreditation by the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business. Fewer than 5% of business schools worldwide have earned this distinguished hallmark of excellence in management education.

Our forensic chemistry students are in demand by police departments across the country. Students have served internships with the Tarrant County Texas Crime Lab, Santa Ana California Police Department's Crime Scene Investigation Unit, Irvine California Police Department, Baltimore County Police Department, Caddo Parish Coroner's Office, and Shreveport Fire Department's Arson Unit.

Grambling is also gaining prominence in the critically important STEM disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. It's due, in part, to our Center for Mathematical Achievement in Science and Technology. The Center conducts summer programs for a select group of pre-freshmen and sophomores—with scholarships, research, and mentoring. The

Center also conducts summer programs for science teachers from local middle and high schools that focus on laboratory experiments.

(NCA-NDA) Collegiate Cheer and Dance Championship in 2010.

OUTSTANDING STUDENT AND FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

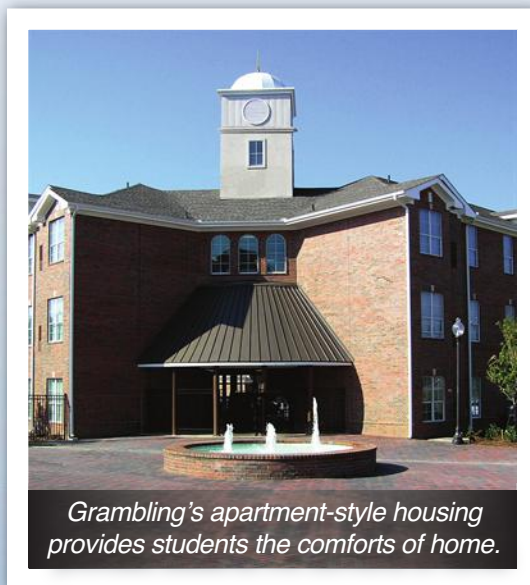
A voice professor in the music department trained in the San Francisco Opera's Merola Opera Program and performed with the legendary opera singer Ms. Leontyne Price.

A university concert choir member was selected to perform with the 2010 "105 Voices of History Concert Choir" at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Two students, a management major and a hotel restaurant management major, were selected to participate in Coca Cola's "2010 Open Happiness Tour" to South Africa.

A mass communication professor was selected in 2010 as a Faculty Fellow with the National Association of television Programs Executives (NAPTE) Educational Foundation.

Grambling State cheerleaders placed 1st in the Championship Cup, 5th in Division I, and 5th in the NCA finals at the National Cheerleaders Association



Grambling's apartment-style housing provides students the comforts of home.

SERVING EXCELLENTLY

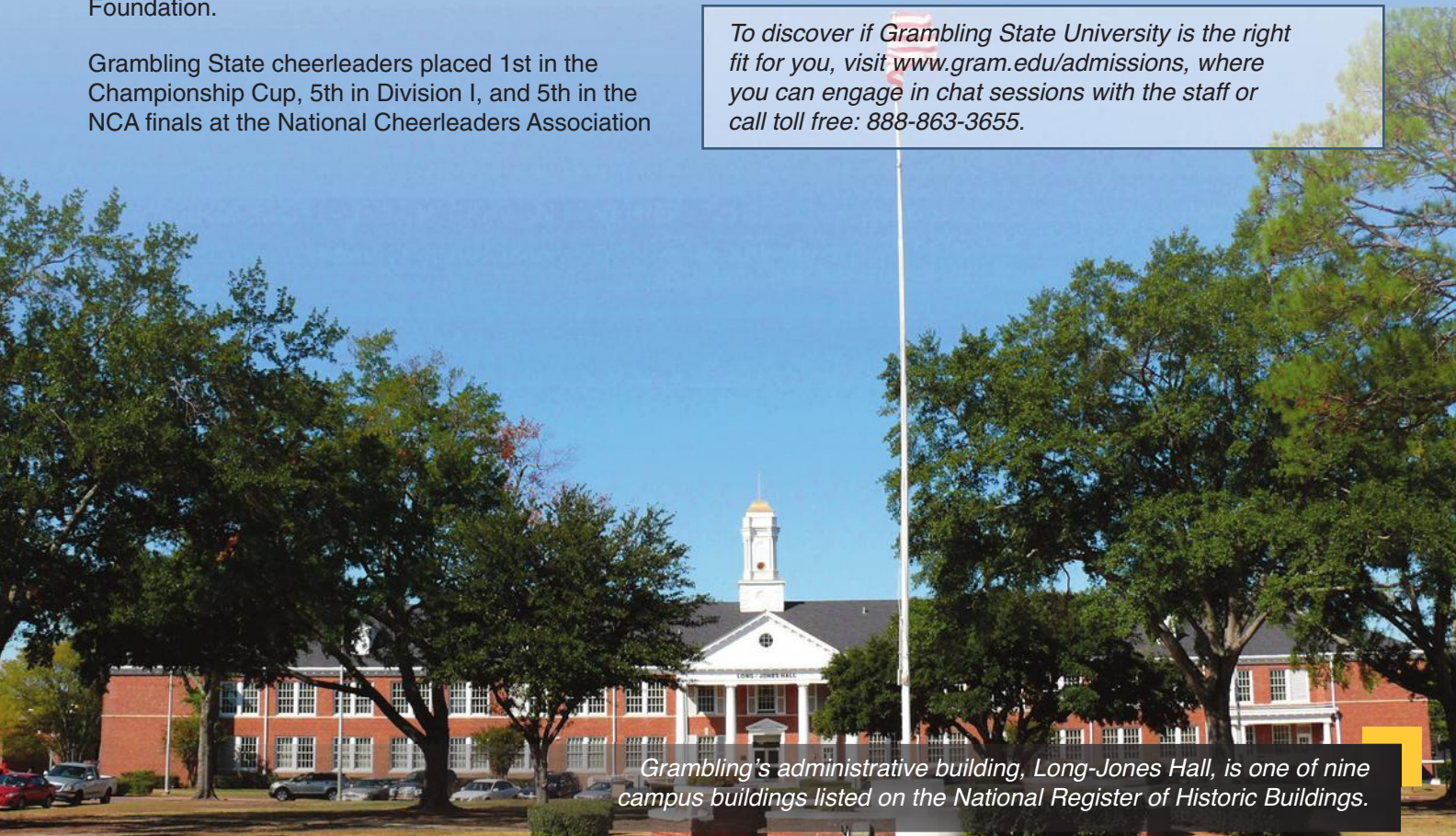
Grambling fosters a commitment to service in its students; even the White House has noticed: In 2009, the Grambling State University Service Learning Program received President Obama's "Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll with Distinction" recognition.

TIGER PRIDE

The Grambling motto is: "Where Everybody Is Somebody." If you speak with Grambling State alum, you'll hear the passion in their voice and see the light

in their eyes, a reflection of their rich experience on this campus. Throughout the country, grads have formed strong alumni associations that serve their local communities and provide scholarships for Grambling-bound students.

To discover if Grambling State University is the right fit for you, visit www.gram.edu/admissions, where you can engage in chat sessions with the staff or call toll free: 888-863-3655.



Grambling's administrative building, Long-Jones Hall, is one of nine campus buildings listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

Meghan Huynh, currently a freshman at Pace University, offers advice on how you can stand out in the admissions process and SUCCEED in getting into the college of your choice.

Meghan Huynh

» **Current School: Pace University** » **Grade: Freshman** » **Major: Marketing**

What extracurricular high school activities do you feel made you a stand out on your college application?

I was very involved in high school but I don't think one particular activity made me stand out. I believe that it was the combination of everything I was involved in that made me stand out. I was in the student government, Orchestra, Marching band, and the varsity cheerleading team: all of which I held leadership positions for. Managing all these things was very difficult and I think the colleges knew that. I wrote my college essay about my accomplishments on the cheerleading team because it was the most important thing in my life. I learned a lot from everything I was involved in and I loved it!

How many schools did you apply to? Did you get accepted to your first choice?

I applied to six schools and was fortunate enough to be accepted to all of them. I was accepted to my first choice school but did not go because I couldn't manage the cost. It was absolutely worth it though because I love it here at Pace.

Do you feel that you were adequately prepared for the academic rigor of college?

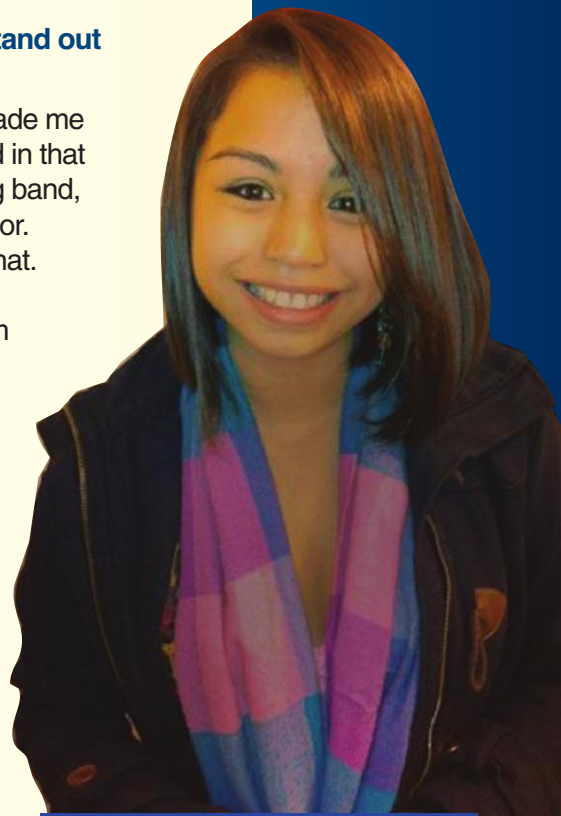
When I came to college, it was nerve-wracking because I honestly did not know how prepared I was. I completely underestimated myself though. The college class structure is not for everyone but for me, it is very manageable and makes it easier to learn. At Pace University, there are smaller classrooms and a less stressful learning environment so it made my transition into college a lot easier. I hand in all my assignments on time now!.

As a current college student, is there one thing (or a series of things) that would you do differently if you could do it all again?

One thing I would do differently is apply to more schools. The more you apply to, the more choices you have. Every school gives different amounts of financial aid and you do not want to be stuck with a list of schools where you have to spend a fortune.

Any added advice for our reader?

- Take the SATs at least twice before November 1st, which is the deadline for most early action applications. If you can, take an SAT preparation class.
- Plan ahead! Apply for early action to ALL of your schools. Do not wait until last minute.
- Apply to the school YOU want to go to regardless of their credentials. You will never know, your essay may surprise them and you will get accepted!



Right Fit College Counseling



“Right Fit was exceptionally helpful to us in the college admissions process and was invaluable in helping our son gain admission to the school of his choice.”

– Mrs. Rose Horn

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And to guide your students who don't think college is an option.

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