

# Student's forum

## This Week's Question:

*What is your hobby? Tell us about it.*

## Answers to Last Week's Question:

### *How many people do you count as friends?*

Like most people I have many friends, but the "true" friends I can think of two.

H.M.

I live in a very remote Alaskan Village of 150 people and out of those folks I believe that roughly 145 are friends with another 50 or so in and out of the state.

J.A.

I have many friends, but the ones I count as "true friends" are few.

M.E.

I have only one best friend. All my other friends have talked behind my back or have hurt me. My best friend and I have argued, but she would never turn her back on me and she would never talk badly about me behind my back.

Y.U.

I have a lot of friends, people I have fun with, I hang around with and that I have known from school but not very many true friends that I can trust. I have one true friend that I have known since we were both little girls, I consider her my confidante, my sister, my true friend. Even though we do not live in the same city anymore I know I can count on her for anything and at anytime. We do not always agree and have different points of view on many things but we can discuss and argue and then we meet half way, although many times I am usually the one that gives in.

B.C.



Send all submissions to  
[students@heraldpublications.com](mailto:students@heraldpublications.com)

## Building the Perfect College List

By Michelle Lanphere Green

Building a college wish list is no easy task. If you are like the typical college-bound senior, you will likely submit 6-8 (or more) applications to colleges. You may have heard the words "Safety", "Match" or "Reach" to describe colleges.

On each college's website, it is possible to see the academic profile of a "typical" freshman student. Students may have higher or lower grades and test scores, but this can be a good indication how a student might "fit" if they attend that college.

A "Safety" most likely will always accept you based on grades and test scores. Local community colleges are always a student's "safety" school.

With honors programs offered by these colleges and guaranteed transfer options to the UC's and CSU's, they can provide a great college option for students, and are also affordable, to boot. Other safeties can be the less populated Cal State colleges that aren't as impacted as the programs at schools like CSULB, San Diego State and Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo. If applying to the Cal States, those applications should be turned in, as soon as possible.

A "Match" school is one where you will most likely be accepted based on your GPA and standardized testing profile. Researching the SAT or ACT score range listed on the college admissions website can give you this information. Your chances improve, as your scores go above the 50 percent mark. If you got a 580 Critical Reading, and 620 Math, and a 600 Writing on the SAT, with a score range is somewhere between 540-

640, your chances are much more likely that you will be admitted. If the typical GPA of a freshman admit is 3.80, and your GPA is closer to 3.00, it may lessen your chances of admission.

A "Reach" school is one that is a reach for you, and possibly, even for any applicant. The typical admit may have the highest academic qualifications, test scores and numerous leadership, sports, or extracurricular activities. A reach college usually has a low admit rate – somewhere between 10 and 30 percent of the applicants are accepted.

You may wonder how many colleges should be safeties, matches and reaches? The best answer is that there is no absolute number that works for every college applicant. Generally, if you apply to 6-8 schools, it is wise to have 3 or 4 Matches, 1 or 2 Reaches, and 1 or 2 Safeties on your list.

Keep in mind you may change your major, or add a minor. Some academic departments require that you apply with a specific major before admission, like Nursing and Engineering. Ask yourself if the school meet all of your needs, academic and extracurricular, before adding a college to your list.

Do your research. Check out those virtual visits online, and visit in-person, when possible. The most important part of building your list is to feel confident that you would be happy and successful at any of the schools on your college list.

*My College Admissions Coach* offers personalized help for students and their parents as they navigate the college search and admissions process. Follow my new blog at: <http://collegeoptions.blogspot.com/>

## El Segundo PTA's Reflections Program

Provided by Mary Kay Wagonblast

The National PTA Reflections Program is an arts recognition and achievement program for students. The program provides opportunities for students to creatively express themselves and to receive positive recognition for original works of art inspired by a pre-selected theme. Another goal of the Reflections program is to increase community awareness on the importance of the arts in education. This year's theme for 2009 – 2010 is "Beauty is..." Students submit their work of art due to their respective school sites by November 6 (each entry must have parent signature). The Reflections Chairperson for each school site will collect, sort and send the participating entries to the Council Chairperson for judging. Once returned from the judges, the entries, which receive first place awards proceed to

District PTA level for further judging. Any first place award entries at the District PTA level then go forward to the state and possibly National PTA level.

The Reflections Program has and will be an exciting program in El Segundo. We are in need of volunteers to help with entries and the community reception in the spring. We also need judges for each category. Please contact Mary Kay Wagonblast (Reflections Council Chair) at [wagonfamily@aol.com](mailto:wagonfamily@aol.com) to volunteer. Contact the specific Reflections Chair at each school site for more information regarding the program. El Segundo High School-Cindy Svezia: 310-493-3362, El Segundo Middle School-Gloria Roy: [rryoy8389@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rryoy8389@sbcglobal.net), and Center Street Elementary School-Liz Odabashian: 310-227-8100. •

## El Segundo School Board Approves Three New Inductees

Provided by Linda Johnson

El Segundo High School welcomed three new inductees into the Hall of Fame. Annette Kanode Corcoran, Matt Diederich and Dr. William Franklin were inducted on October 15. The induction ceremony was held for the students, faculty and invited guests, followed by a luncheon hosted by the El Segundo Educational Foundation and the El Segundo High School Alumni Association for the inductees, families and guests.

El Segundo High School, first dedicated in 1927, established a Hall of Fame in recognition of uncommon achievement and perseverance by its graduates. The Hall of Fame has selected several inductees each year to represent all of the students who have graduated from El Segundo High School exemplifying its motto "Enter to Learn, Go Forth for Service."

Annette Kanode Corcoran, class of 1948, is a world-renowned artist and an expert in ceramic art. Ms. Corcoran gained notoriety creating teapots in the shape of birds. Her work has evolved from glazed black and white teapots to whimsical forms that take the shape of different bird species. Corcoran's sculptures are displayed in over 10 museums and 35 private collections.

Matt Diederich, class of 1950, retired after 30 years from the Litton Industries legal department as vice president, corporate office. Mr. Diederich was responsible for implementing two nation-wide policies to prohibit all smoking in the workplace and prohibit zero tolerance of sexual harassment in the workplace. Litton was one of the first companies to adopt these two important policies. He also successfully argued a case

before the U.S. Supreme Court. Matt is married to Dorothy (Tyler) Diederich who is also a graduate of El Segundo High School, class of 1949.

Dr. William Franklin, class of 1959, is a professor of Iowa State University and a Mammalian Wildlife Ecologist responsible for conducting pioneering field research on endangered wildlife in the mountains of Peru, Patagonia and the Falkland Islands. Dr. Franklin is the Director of the Patagonia Research Expeditions and the Patagonia Research Station and consulted on several National Geographic specials.

**About the El Segundo Educational Foundation**

Established in 1983, the El Segundo Educational Foundation has granted more than \$2.75 million since 2001 to the El Segundo Unified School District. The Foundation represents a partnership of businesses, individuals and families organized to *Foster Excellence in Education*. The El Segundo Educational Foundation (Tax ID# 95-3885992) is a California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation and is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c(3) public charity. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible to the full extent of the law. For more information visit the foundations website at [www.ElSegundoEdFoundation.org](http://www.ElSegundoEdFoundation.org)

**About the El Segundo Alumni Association**

The El Segundo Alumni Association website [www.elsegundoalumni.com](http://www.elsegundoalumni.com) was formed to link graduates of El Segundo High School by graduating class.

The website provides newsletters, reunion news and information about El Segundo High School. •