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IMPORTANT NOVEMBER RECRUITING DATES

- 2 – ACT registration postmark date for December 8th test.
- 3 – SAT Test
- 8 – SAT late registration postmark date for December 1st test.
- 14 – Basketball (early) initial signing date for NLI
- 14 – All other sports (early) initial signing date for NLI
- 15 - ACT late registration postmark date for December 8th test.
- 21 – Basketball (early) final signing date for NLI
- 21 - All other sports (early) final signing date for NLI

RECENT ADDITIONS TO CPOA Pennsylvania

Ryan Zipf – Football – Seneca Valley HS
Tony Lamosek – Football – Greater Latrobe HS
Sammy LaCava – Football – Plum HS
T.J. Dovie – Football – Greater Latrobe HS
Sarah Heimlich – Golf – Serra Catholic

NCAA News

Public School Tuition Growing Fastest

The average price tag for a college education continued to rise faster than the inflation rate this year, particularly at public four-year institutions, according to data released by the College Board.

To make matters worse, the same report show federal Pell Grants covered less than a third of tuition, fees, room, and board at the average four-year public

college and students are increasingly borrowing from private lenders, paying interest rates that are often triple those of federal student loans (see related article)

The increase in tuition and fees this year at the nation's public four-year institutions was in keeping with a trend that has persisted for three decades. From 1977-78 to 2007-08, the rate of growth of the price at such public schools has been faster than at private four-year institutions, and the dollar gap between the cost of tuition at the two types of institutions widens every year even after adjusting for inflation, the survey found.

In-state tuition and fees at public four-year institutions during the 2007-8 academic year increased 6.6 percent from 2006-07, the survey found, while the price for out-of-state students rose 5.5 percent.

In dollar amounts, those increases meant that the average cost of tuition and fees for in-state students was \$6,185, or \$381 more than last year, the survey found. For out-of-state students, it was \$16,640, or \$862 more than the 2006-07 figure.

At private four-year institutions, tuition and fees increased 6.3 percent from last year, with the average cost of tuition and fees reaching \$23,712, or \$1,404 more than last year. Public two-year institutions posted a 4.2-percent increase from last year's amount, averaging \$2,361, or \$95 more than last year.

Colleges say they must raise prices significantly because they receive much less money from their state government these days. Ohio is a prime example.

Colleges and universities in the Buckeye State are among the most expensive in the nation, ranking in the top five in costs in several surveys. Schools here have raised prices about 9 percent per year since the turn of the century. There are changes in the offing however as the Ohio legislature has imposed a two-year tuition freeze on all state schools and Ohio's lawmakers and governor have pledged to substantially increase aid to the state's colleges and universities.

In the 2006-07 academic year, about three-quarters of full-time undergraduates received some form of aid to help them pay for college, the financial-aid survey found. And with federal student aid decreasing, more students turned to state and private lenders to finance their college education's.

During that year, \$131-billion in aid including grants, work-study, federal loans, and federal tax credits and deductions was given to undergraduate and graduate students, an increase of 82 percent from 1996-97. Of that total, \$97-billion was given to undergraduates, 46 percent in the form of grants and 49 percent in loans. Sixteen percent of that \$97-billion, or \$16-billion, came from state and private sources, the survey found.

In the decade from 1996-97 to 2006-07, federally subsidized Stafford Loans fell from 54 percent of the average undergraduate's total aid to 32 percent. Private lending, by contrast, grew from 6 percent of student aid to 24 percent in the same time period.

Pell Grants were the only federal student-aid program to award a significant share of its dollars to students at public two-year institutions, who constitute 32 percent of all full-time undergraduates. While students at community colleges received 34 percent of all Pell Grant dollars in the 2005-06 academic year, they

received 9 percent of all campus-based aid, 7 percent of subsidized Stafford loans, 6 percent of unsubsidized Stafford loans, and 1 percent of all PLUS loans (for parents), the survey found.

For graduate students, 33 percent of their aid consisted of grants, while 64 percent was loans.

Another example that loans are replacing grants as the primary source of financial aid: Pell Grants fell to their lowest level in six years last year, with the average award consisting of \$2,494 in 2006-07. Two decades ago, the survey found, Pell Grants covered 52 percent of the average tuition, fees, room, and board at a public four-year institution and 21 percent of those costs at the average private four-year institution. By last year, the grants had declined to cover only 32 percent of such costs at four-year public universities and 13 percent at private universities, the survey found.

Lost Art Re-Emerging in College Admissions Game

Text messaging, e-mail and other instant forms of communication have made the old-fashioned thank-you note go the way of the dinosaur. But it may be making a comeback in the world of college admissions.

Creative students are scrawling hand-written notes and sending other nifty reminders to admissions officers in hopes that it makes a favorable impact as their application is reviewed.

A recent article in *The Chronicle Of Higher Education* pointed out the extent some students are going:

“Take the one that came with M & Ms to match Lehigh University’s school colors of brown and white, and with the applicant’s name inscribed on the candy. She thanked officials for her interview, adding, “Keep me on the tip of your tongue when reviewing applications.

Some students buy college stationery for their notes as if to signal they already belong on campus. The flying pigs that adorned a thank-you to Guilford College in North Carolina were certainly eye-catching, as was the smiley face at the end of the note. There are even thank-you notes that are less than thankful, like the one from a young man who announced he had visited Lehigh under parental duress and begged to be rejected. Others look for sample notes on web sites so as to not commit a social *faux pas* in sending one.”

Judith Martin, who writes a syndicated etiquette column under the name Miss Manners that runs in more than 200 newspapers, says she, for one, does not think thanks are mandatory for a campus visit but could be appropriate if a school representative makes a meaningful connection with a student.

Many schools keep the notes in the student’s file, others – like New York University, Johns Hopkins and M.I.T. – claim they throw them in the round file.

The notes are directed not just to admissions officers, but also to college tour guides and alumni who are often the ones most likely to be conducting college interviews these days. Whether the student writes a thank-you note or not, his or her experience visiting campus will be an important factor in the final decision.

What makes a good campus visit more than just a guided tour? Parents, students and counselors share these suggestions:

Tips for Visiting Colleges:

Ø Visit when classes are in session if possible. Going to campus during semester break or summer vacation when the place is deserted will leave you with an empty and impersonal feeling.

Ø There is no substitute for meeting with actual students, not just the tour guide. You are likely to get a more honest read about campus life from someone who is not being paid to show you around.

Ø Leave younger siblings at home unless they are of an age where they are also shopping for a school. If they are too young, they will be bored and a distraction.

Ø Stay in a local bed-and-breakfast or in a dorm if possible, not in the recommended housing for tourists. You will meet people with the real skinny on the campus this way.

Ø See the town and neighborhoods nearby. Walk around and soak up the atmosphere. Campus is not a prison, and you should be familiar with the local scene of which the school is a part.

Ø It's okay to research schools online, but don't trust "virtual tours" alone. There is no substitute for visiting in person and you will never experience a true taste for the school without putting boots on the ground.

Ø Students: Don't obsess about finding the "perfect school". There isn't one. Each school has plusses and minuses. The key is comparing enough of them to find the one that has the most plusses for you.

Ø Parents: Don't pressure your progeny to choose the school that you want. Your input is important and advice should be exchanged freely, but at the end of the day, your son or daughter must make the final decision.

Families Turn to Private Lenders As College Costs Rise

A 35-year old periodontist in North Carolina and a 30-year legal-aid worker in Michigan may appear to have little commonality on the surface.

But one thing they, and millions of others, share is college loan debt that they say will impact the financial decisions they will make well into middle age.

As college costs have nearly doubled over the past decade, comparable student aid has not kept up. Nor has federally-guaranteed student loans, which has a cap of \$23,000 over four undergraduate years.

In the wake of these realities, students find themselves turning to private lenders such as the enormous Sallie Mae and banks like Chase, CitiGroup and Bank of America.

Unfortunately for students, interest rates for loans from these private lenders are often triple the rate for federally-backed loans. What some call the "perfect storm" in financing higher education has led to loan paybacks that rival many families' monthly home mortgage payments.

Loans are a reality for most college students. Below are some important questions to ask before borrowing from a private lender.

Questions to Ask Before You Borrow

Ø What is the lowest interest rate and fee combination and how can I get it?

- Ø Is this rate for a limited period or is it for the life of the loan?
- Ø Is there a limit on how high the variable rate can go?
- Ø How often is the rate adjusted and how is it determined?
- Ø What interest rate can I get on a fixed-rate loan?
- Ø How long will I be repaying the loan? Is there a penalty for paying it off early?
- Ø When do I have to start making payments?
- Ø How long can I defer payments while I am in school?
- Ø If I go to graduate school and defer payments, how much will I owe when I start making payments?
- Ø Will I lose my discount for paying on time if I have even one late payment or ask for a change in the payment schedule?
- Ø Are your discounts guaranteed or are they subject to change?
- Ø What percentage of borrowers receive the discounts you offer?
- Ø Would you allow me to defer or reduce payments temporarily because of economic hardship? Under what circumstances and for how long?
- Ø How much can I borrow without reducing my eligibility for other types of financial aid?

November Signing Dates

Remember, the Early Signing Period for student-athletes in all sports EXCEPT football, field hockey, soccer and men's water polo begins November 14th and extends through November 21st.

No doubt many of our clients will commit to a school during the early signing period. Please remember to notify us when a client has made a decision so we can deactivate him or her from our available student database.

The Late Signing Period runs April 9th through the 16th. Students who play the four sports noted above that do not have an early signing period may sign National Letters of Intent beginning February 6, 2008.

CORE COURSE CHANGES

If you are entering college on or after August 1st 2008, the Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse will now require 16 core courses in high school if you are interested in competing at the NCAA D1 level. There are no rules changes for Division 2. The 16 core course requirement does not apply to NCAA Division 3.

Division I student-athletes continue to perform well in the classroom, and more of them are graduating from college, according to the latest NCAA Graduation Success Rate report.

From 1995-2000, the GSR increased in many sports, including men's basketball, football and baseball, and women's basketball, softball and volleyball. In men's basketball in fact, the GSR jumped nearly 8 percent.

NCAA President Myles Brand regarded the data as good news, adding that the increased GSRs have led to 850 more student-athletes from the entering class of 2000 earning their degrees than did in the 1995 cohort.

Brand attributed some of the success to the NCAA academic-reform movement, which began in 2003 with increased initial-eligibility and progress-toward-degree standards. A few of the graduating classes at the end of the latest GSR cohort were subject to those new benchmarks.

“So in many ways,” Brand said, “these numbers give us a good base, but even so, we’ve seen in this period some effect of our academic reform, and it has been positive.”

The NCAA developed the GSR three years ago to more accurately assess long-term student-athlete academic success. The GSR differs from the federally mandated graduation-rate methodology in that it counts transfers into and out of an institution. Data show the GSR includes 36 percent more student-athletes than the federal graduation rate. The NCAA continues to provide the federal rate, though, since there is no comparable rate to the GSR for the general student body.

The latest GSR figures show that 77 percent of student-athletes who began college from 1997-2000 graduated within six years. That four-class average is unchanged from last year’s data and up from 76 percent two years ago.

But a closer examination of year-by-year data shows that the GSR rose from 67.6 percent for male student-athletes who began college in 1995 to 71.5 percent for those who started their studies in 2000. The GSR for women rose from 84.9 percent to 87.3 percent from 1995 to 2000.

The GSR for men’s basketball rose from 55.8 percent in 1995 to 63.6 percent in 2000, a 7.8 percent increase.

“That is laudable increase,” Brand said. “Nonetheless, men’s basketball still is the lowest of our sports in terms of graduation rate.”

Football increased from 63.1 percent to 66.6 percent for teams competing in the Bowl Subdivision and from 62 percent to 64.7 percent for teams competing in the Championship Subdivision. Baseball increased from 65.3 percent to 67.3 percent.

The GSR for women’s basketball rose from 79.8 percent in 1995 to 80.7 percent in 2000; women’s volleyball rose from 83.2 percent to 88 percent in the same period; and women’s soccer rose from 86.1 percent to 89.6 percent over six years.

Brand, who last year said he wanted Division I to achieve an 80 percent GSR in the future, remains confident that the mark is attainable.

“It is reachable, especially when considering how our academic reforms will affect future cohorts,” Brand said. “Our Academic Progress Rate has caused

institutions to redouble their efforts to ensure that student-athletes succeed in the classroom and ultimately earn their college degree.”

NEWS ON INDIVIDUAL COLLEGES

Boys will be boys, but! **Millersville University** canceled the fall season of its women’s lacrosse program after a team hazing incident.

The University of Detroit Mercy will add three varsity teams beginning in 2008-09. Detroit will field teams in men’s and women’s lacrosse and men’s tennis, raising its total number of sports to 19. The last sport the school added was golf in 2004. Once the teams are added, Detroit will be the only Division I institution in Michigan to sponsor varsity lacrosse teams.

Saint Vincent College is fielding a football team this season for the first time in 45 years after kicking off the season September 1 against Gallaudet University.

RPI will break ground on a new outdoor stadium, indoor stadium, and an indoor sports facility slated to be completed in 2009.

Indiana University East is now a member of the NAIA

Old Dominion University (Norfolk, VA) will be adding football in 2009 along with a new 20,000 seat stadium. They also broke ground on a new 1,500 seat lacrosse and field hockey stadium in August.

University of Nebraska at Omaha Athletic Director David Miller announced today that the UNO Athletic Department will be adding men's tennis beginning in the 2008-09 academic year. Current UNO women's tennis head coach Bill Nichols will also serve as the head men's tennis coach. The official season for men's tennis season will begin in January 2009.

Portland State broke ground on a 70 million dollar Academic and Student Recreation center.

Mount Saint Mary’s University recently christened the Waldron Family Stadium, a 1,000 seat facility for lacrosse and soccer.

CONTACT SHEETS

Remember to keep track of all questionnaires, calls, etc from college coaches with the contact sheets found in your STUDENT PACKET. Email me at martin.rock@cpoapa.com if you need additional copies!

NCAA ELIGIBILITY CLEARINGHOUSE

Every CPOA PA Student-Athlete has received a NCAA Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete as part of the STUDENT PACKET you received when you joined the program. In this guide, you find instructions on how to apply for your NCAA Eligibility Clearinghouse Number. Eligibility is based on what core courses have been completed, SAT scores and overall GPA in core courses. NCAA approved core courses, by high school, can be found at <http://actrs7.act.org/ahs>. STUDENTS APPLY FOR THEIR NCAA ECN AT THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS A GOOD IDEA TO REVIEW ELIGIBILITY AS EARLY AS THE SOPHOMORE YEAR TO ENSURE THE CORRECT COURSES HAVE BEEN COMPLETED! For more information about the process, email martin.rock@cpoapa.com for a NCAA Guide or call 888-ASK-CPOA (CPOA Program Members Only).

INTERNET UPDATES

If you have update information for your Internet profile, please forward to martin.rock@cpoapa.com. Remember that you automatically receive (2) two free updates per year. If you've upgraded your program to receive unlimited updates you can send updates every day/week if you'd like. Updates take approximately 72 hours to be made online.

REFERRAL PROGRAM

Do you know of a high school student athlete with the ability to perform at the collegiate level? A teammate from high school? Club team? From the newspaper? If so, contact your CPOA representative at martin.rock@cpoapa.com and if that athlete signs with CPOA PA, **you receive a \$50 referral fee!**

Season End Updates

Attention all sport athletes, your season end update forms which were mailed to you are **now overdue**. There are hundreds of coaches out there awaiting an update on your stats, awards and accomplishments from the past season. Please complete these and return to your CPOA representative immediately.

RECRUITING SEMINARS

CPOA Pennsylvania is planning to conduct several recruiting training sessions over the next few months. These sessions will include the basics of the recruiting process, how to choose the right college, review of NCAA rules and regulations, and how to best navigate this important process of college selection. Please let us know if you have interest in hosting one of these sessions for your teammates (students/parents) or teams/booster clubs (coaches).