



Educational Resources

A Newsletter of
KAHN EDUCATIONAL GROUP, LLC; Consulting and Placement Services

• 6717 Vanderbilt, Houston, TX 77005 •

Summer 2010
Volume 6, Issue 2
Editor: September Frederick

College Admissions • Day/Boarding Schools • Special Needs • Summer Programs • Crisis Intervention



THE EARLY WORD ON YIELD

Inside Higher Ed: May 6, 2010

"Yield" - the percentage of accepted applicants who put down deposits - tends to be most crucial these days for private colleges that are not in the uppermost stratosphere of endowment and prestige. Many public colleges are bulging and not particularly worried about filling their seats. The Ivies are still the Ivies when it comes to attracting students -- and having generous aid packages to help them out. But for most private institutions, including many at which admission is highly competitive, this is the make-or-break time when they find out if their incoming class is likely to be consistent with their academic and budget plans for the year.

For some years now, many colleges have paid attention not just to the quality of applicants, but to how interested they really seem to be. No one, after all, wants to be treated like a safety school. And so many colleges pay attention to factors such as whether an applicant visits the campus to measure such interest. To increase their yield, one college called the first 1,000 students accepted and ranked them on their interest in the college -- and then focused further recruitment efforts and some extra financial aid on students who seemed truly interested. Applicants were put on a waiting list or asked for more information if there was some sense that they might not really be interested.

A few trends are emerging, both within the applicant pool and in the recruiting offices, among those colleges that are having successful years. What are some of the key issues influencing yield this year?

- More discussion (and strategies) based on the idea that many colleges don't have one yield, but in fact have several, for particular groups of students -- by where they live or the programs that are attracting them.
- More student interest (and tuition-paying parent interest) in career prospects.
- More of an emphasis on identifying, in the admissions process, students who really want to enroll -- and a willingness to reject some outstanding applicants rather than let them reject the college.
- More of an emphasis on attracting groups of students -- whether Latinos from the United States or Chinese students from overseas -- to the application and deposit pool.
- More of an emphasis on using techniques other than money to attract students to some campuses.

COLLEGE RESOURCES AT A GLANCE

Make plans to attend these upcoming college fairs:

August 14, 2010
Colleges that Change Lives
College Fair
Hyatt Regency
Houston, TX
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

September 29, 2010
Fall Performing and
Visual Arts College Fair
Rice University
Alice Pratt Brown Hall
Houston, TX
7:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Date TBA, Fall 2010
Catholic High Schools
College Fair
Strake Jesuit
Houston, TX
Time TBA

SENIORS

CONGRATULATIONS to All of You on
Your Successful Admissions!

JUNIORS

Prepare videotapes, audiotapes and art
portfolios as needed. Request info
from colleges. Begin writing
application essays. Continue to prep
for SAT/ACT. Make sure to visit
colleges of interest.

How to Survive Freshman Year



Starting college is a major life transition. Nobody is telling you what to do, but the trade off is that you're now responsible for yourself. It's up to you to handle problems with professors and roommates, and as you do, you'll gain confidence in your

ability to manage your life.

Give yourself a break the first semester, and sign up for at least one course that just sounds interesting and fun. If a class you really want is full, talk to the professor, and you may well find that a space opens up for you.

Take some time to adjust to college life. Your first task is to make friends, and you'll find many opportunities to do so. In freshman residence halls, the first few weeks are non-stop socializing. Also, everyone goes through a period of adjustment, but there are ways to minimize the stress. Small things, like keeping your room clean, can impact mood. Working out will get those endorphins going and relieve stress.

Creating a structure that provides time to study and sleep is another way of taking care of yourself. You'll probably have no more than 15 hours a week in class. That leaves plenty of time, and, if you treat college like a 9-5 job, you can get your studying done during the day and have evenings for fun.

It is important to actually go to class. Sit up front and you're less likely to doze off. After each class, read your notes and clarify anything you don't understand. Good notes are helpful at exam time. Compare notes with a friend.

If you're struggling in a class, ask for help. That's what professors and teaching assistants are there for, and many schools also have tutors and writing centers.

Studies show that students who are successful and happy in college participate in campus life. Whatever your interest, you'll find people who share your passion. Joining a club is a great way to create a feeling of community, which is especially important at a big university.

Everyone feels homesick at some point. You realize how much you miss your parents, friends, even your house or dog. Add the stress of midterms and sleep deprivation, and it's easy to feel overwhelmed. The counseling center is a great resource, and talking to someone can really help.

Getting into college took motivation, commitment, and self discipline. Give yourself some time, and you'll find that those qualities will also help you have a successful and rewarding college experience.



By: The College Advisor, Inc.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Net News, Travel	2
Summer Options, Volunteer	3
Cheating, Pharm Parties	4
SAT/ACT/Application info	5
Lindy's Bookshelf	6
Non-verbal Learning Disorders	7
Commencement Speeches	8

Resources on the Web

ON-LINE APPLICATIONS:

www.ezcollegeapps.com
Common Application:
www.commonapp.org
Texas Common App:
www.applytexas.org

SPECIAL INTEREST SITES:

Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life- www.hillel.org
Council for Christian Colleges and Universities: www.cccu.org
College Athletic Association (NCAA): www.ncaa.org
Occupational Outlook Handbook: www.bls.gov/oco
Athletic Coach Database: www.collegecoachesonline.com

COLLEGE FAIRS:

www.nacac.com/fairs.html

DIRECTORIES OF COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY WEBSITES

www.allaboutcollege.com
www.careersandcolleges.org
www.college-access.net
www.petersons.com
www.collegeview.com/collegesearch/
www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/
www.mycollegeguide.org

DIRECTORIES OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

www.clas.ufl.edu/CLAS/american-universities.html
BY STATE:
<http://collegiateway.org/colleges.html>
www.collegeview.com

TESTS AND TUTORING:

SAT Info: www.collegeboard.org
ACT Info: www.actstudent.org
Princeton Review: www.review.com
Kaplan Tutors: www.kaptest.com/tutoring

FINANCIAL AID / LOAN CALCULATORS:

www.fastweb.com
www.finaid.org/calculators
www.nasfaa.org
www.freescholarship.com
www.college-scholarships.org

GENERAL LD AND AD/HD:

Assoc Higher Education & Disability: www.ahead.org
ADD Assoc.: www.add.org
Learning Disabilities Online: www.ldonline.org
Learning Disabilities Assoc.: www.ldantl.org
National Center for LD: www.ncld.org
Council for Exceptional Children: www.cec.org
International Dyslexia Assoc.: www.interdys.org

ADVOCACY AND LEGAL:

Wrightsław: www.wrightslaw.com
Disability access information: www.janejarrow.com

TRAVEL NEWS

As you know, my travel schedule takes me all over the U.S. to visit colleges, boarding schools, therapeutic schools and programs, and special needs facilities. I recently visited Oklahoma, Connecticut, and Georgia. My upcoming trips this summer and fall will take me to Utah, Colorado, Hawaii, and Tennessee. I do check my voice mail daily and will try to return all phone messages within 24 hours. Thank you all for your patience.

Lindy



Looking for something to do over the Summer?

Consider Volunteering



Helping others can help you! Volunteering has a meaningful, positive impact on your community; but did you know that it can have many benefits for you, too?

You may have heard that volunteering helps you get into college, but keep in mind they're not just looking for a list of organizations and dates. Colleges want to see a complete picture of you, and real examples of your commitment, dedication, and interests. Also, volunteering has many other intangible benefits. It can help you give back to society, break down barriers of misunderstanding or fear, explore personal issues, and even have fun.

Reasons to Volunteer

- **Gain Valuable Life Experiences and Skill:** Whether you build houses for the homeless or mail flyers for a local politician, you'll experience the real world through hands-on work. You can use this experience to explore your major or career interests.
- **Meet Interesting People:** Both the recipients of your volunteer efforts and your co-workers can be rich sources of insight. For example, maybe you'll learn about the legal profession from a former lawyer you visit at a convalescent center.
- **Get Academic Credit:** Some schools offer academic credit for volunteer work through service-learning. It's available in high schools and colleges, as well as in earlier grades. To find out if your school offers service-learning, visit the [Learn and Serve America](http://www.learnandserveamerica.org) website.
- **Send a Signal to Colleges:** Colleges pay attention to your life inside and outside the classroom. Your extracurricular activities reveal a great deal about you, such as what your interests are, whether you can manage your priorities and maintain a long-term commitment, what diversity you'd bring to the student body, and how you've made a meaningful contribution to something.

How to Get Involved

- Look around your community and in the phone book to see what programs are there. Call and ask if they need help.
- Visit your city or town website. It may list volunteer opportunities in your community.
- Contact your local United Way, cultural arts association, student organization, or another association that can point you in the right direction.
- Ask libraries, religious organizations, and community colleges if they sponsor any volunteer groups.
- Check out the following websites to learn more about causes and to find volunteer opportunities near you.
 - www.serve.net.org
 - www.networkforgood.org
 - www.idealists.org
 - www.volunteermatch.org
 - www.dosomething.org

Wondering about summer programs for your child?



We can connect your family with day and boarding camps, summer learning programs, volunteer and service activities, and more. Whether you want a program that specializes in learning or behavioral issues, are looking to give your child an edge up academically, or just want your child to have fun, we can help.

Call our office for more information.

(713) 668-2609

VOLUNTEER: SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Volunteers are the lifeline of the Special Olympics program.

More than 1.5 million individuals worldwide, dedicate their time, to Special Olympics.

These volunteers serve as coaches, officials, committee members, competition assistants and more. For information on events, volunteering or participating in events visit

www.specialolympicstexas.org or contact Renee Klovenski at

713-290-0049 or
rklovenski@so.tx.org.

2010 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 12, 2010
(9:30am-4:00pm)

Coach's Training Expo - Fall Sports

Will certify coaches in aquatics, bocce, golf, and softball

Location: Metropolitan Multiservice Center
Address: 1475 W. Grey, Houston, TX 77019

September 25, 2010
(9:00am-5:00pm)

Regional Bocce Tournament

Location: TBA
Address: TBA
Houston, TX



The Cheating Crisis in Our Schools

70% of college students admit to some cheating

60% of high school students admit to cheating on an exam

80% admit to copying another students homework in the last year



Why is this happening? Our culture has become preoccupied with achievement, according to Malcolm Gould, President of Hyde Schools and co-author of parenting books with his wife Laura. Pressure for grades to win parents approval and gain admission to colleges leads many students to cheat. While many are pushed to succeed by parents and a grade based system that starts naming winners at an early age, students also feel pulled by a desire to get on a path to top colleges and high paying jobs.

But there are serious consequences to winning at any cost, according to Laura, including lack of character in students and also the lack of self esteem. "[Kids] will never misread our expectations of them. They know we have created an educational system that values their aptitude more than their attitude, their ability more than their effort, and their talent more than their character".

In addition to this pressure for external achievements is the debilitating grip of the prevalent mindset in our homes, schools, and culture that asserts that kids need to feel good about themselves all of the time. Applied to education, this mindset seems to say, if we make kids feel good about themselves, they will do great things, Malcolm Gould explains. But, in fact, it is the other way around. When kids do well, and do it honestly, they will feel good about themselves. Genuine self esteem is earned through the learning process, which includes mistakes and some hardship, and it can leave kids feeling empty.

"Character is inspired, not imparted" Malcolm Continues. We cannot pour it into our kids or our families. Real, authentic self esteem is essential, and once earned, cannot be taken away. Our children should graduate from schools with a healthy amount of it.

Woodbury Reports, Inc.: December 2008

PHARM PARTIES: A New Drug Danger for Kids

According to Drug Free Pennsylvania and the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), a division of the US Department of Health and Human Services, "pharm parties" are becoming increasingly popular among adolescents and teens.

HOW IT WORKS:

To attend one of these soirees, a teen must bring prescription drugs, usually obtained by raiding the family medicine cabinet and taking an assortment of pills from the bottles on the shelves. Most popular are pain medications, stimulants such as those used to treat ADHD, sedatives, and tranquilizers. At the party, attendees mix all the unlabeled pills that were brought in a bowl, and participants grab a handful of unidentified medications and take them.

The danger of this behavior is enormous because the partiers do not know what they are taking or how these medications will interact. If alcohol is added to the menu, the rush can be even stronger, and the possibility of a fatal reaction is even greater. Imagine the nightmare of having to rush your child to the hospital, unable to



WHAT TO DO:

- Communication is the best prevention – talk to your kids honestly and frequently about drug use and alcohol consumption and how dangerous they can be. Tell them you know about pharm parties and there will be consequences if they ever attend one
- Talk to other parents about this trend and agree to closely supervise any gatherings in your home
- Call the parents of any teen hosting a party to be sure they will be home
- Stay up until your kids come home and engage them in conversation to see if they appear intoxicated. If you suspect anything, confront them then and there.
- Keep prescriptions out of reach of children and teens and keep track of how many pills are in each bottle

IMPORTANT TEST DATES TO REMEMBER!!

www.collegeboard.com

www.actstudent.org

SAT TESTING			ACT TESTING		
SAT & Subject	Registration Deadlines		ACT	Registration Deadlines	
Tests Dates	Regular	Late (fee required)	Tests Dates	Regular	Late (fee required)
October 9, 2010	September 8, 2010	September 22, 2010	September 11, 2010	August 6, 2010	August 7-20, 2010
November 6, 2010	September 30, 2010	October 14, 2010	October 23, 2010	September 17, 2010	Sept 18- Oct. 1
December 4, 2010	October 29, 2010	November 11, 2010	December 11, 2010	November 5, 2010	Nov. 6-19, 2010
January 22, 2011	December 14, 2010	December 29, 2010	February 12, 2011	January 7, 2011	Jan. 8-21, 2011

Concordance between ACT Scores and SAT Scores

ACT Composite	SAT CR + Math	ACT English/Writing	SAT Writing
36	1600	36	800
34	1540-1590	34	770-790
32	1400-1430	32	710-720
30	1330-1360	30	660-680
28	1250-1280	28	620-630
26	1170-1200	26	590-600
24	1090-1120	24	550-560
22	1020-1040	22	510-520
20	940-970	20	470
18	860-890	18	430-440

Changes to the Common Application Effective 08/01/10

- Short answer going down from 1500 to 1000 characters
- Students will be able to self report best scores from individual sittings of SAT/ACT and self-report GPA, rank, and current courses
- In the future plans section some colleges will ask about the highest degree the student intends to earn
- Colleges have the option to suppress some information
- Questions about foreign language proficiency and religious preference

ON TAKING THE SAT/ACT



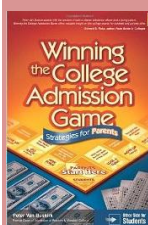
The ACT and the SAT are both designed to measure how ready students are to succeed in their first year of college. The primary difference between the two is the way they go about measuring college readiness. The ACT is an academic achievement test, while the SAT is a reasoning skills test. The SAT measures critical thinking skills, such as how students think, solve problems, and communicate. The ACT measures what students have learned in school and the specific skills and knowledge that are taught in core classes.

The ACT is made up of four core sections – English, Math, Reading, and Science – plus an optional essay writing exam. The SAT comprises three tests: Writing, Critical Reading, and Mathematics. Unlike the ACT, the SAT's writing exam is mandatory.

The scoring scales are different for the two exams also. Each of the three SAT tests is scored on a scale of 200-800 and no average is issued to students. Each of the four required ACT tests, in contrast, is scored on a scale of 1-36. Students also receive an ACT composite score, which is an average of the four scores. ACT writing scores are reported separately.

Nationally, the two exams are now taken by an almost equal number of students. In the US high school graduating class of 2009, 1.53 million took the SAT while 1.48 million took the ACT. It is not known how many took both tests. Six states (Colorado, Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan, North Dakota, and Wyoming) now administer the ACT to all 11th grade students as part of their statewide assessment systems.

LINDY'S BOOKSHELF



WINNING THE COLLEGE ADMISSION GAME: Strategies for parents and Students

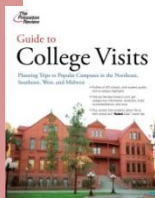
By: Peter Van Buskirk

This is an innovative book that helps parents and students of all backgrounds develop a winning strategy for getting into and succeeding at the college of their choice. In a unique "flip-book" approach, this book presents parallel content to parents and students to unveil the mystique surrounding selective college admission and to create a blueprint for parent/child collaboration. By taking this unique approach of working collaboratively toward the shared goal of finding a good college "fit," each parent will learn how best to help his or her child, while respecting that this important rite of passage belongs to the student.

GUIDE TO COLLEGE VISITS: Planning Trips to Popular Campuses in the Northeast, Southeast, West, and Midwest

By: Princeton Review

Deciding which colleges to apply to is a major decision, and the best way to really learn about a school is to visit! This book gives high school students and their parents everything they need to plan successful trips to campuses across the country. Information is provided on visiting more than 350 campuses, including: Maps and precise directions to each campus; Nearby hotels, motels, B&Bs, and resorts for every budget; The best and worst times to visit each school; Dates and times when campus tours are available; Information on meeting professors, admissions officers, and coaches



****ALUMNI- Please share your news with us about the events in your life. Tell me about moves, weddings, promotions, etc. Email me at lkahn@educationalconsulting.com.**



RAISING NLD SUPERSTARS: By: Marcia Brown Rubenstein

Instead of suggesting the one-size-fits-all model of intervention, *Raising NLD Superstars* looks at the individual nature of NLD children and offers practical, easily-adaptable advice on helping them find their place in the family, at school and other social groups. Marcia Brown Rubenstein is an educational consultant and the parent of a child with nonverbal learning disabilities. She looks at the practicalities of day-to-day life as well as planning for a child's future independence with humor and practical, supportive insight. This book will help parents and caregivers alike to support NLD children in reaching their potential

THE SOCIAL SKILLS PICTURE BOOK FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND BEYOND: By: Jed Baker



The Social Skills Picture Book for High School and Beyond offers parents and educators of teens (and young adults) photos of actual students engaging in a variety of social situations. This visual learning format shows, rather than tells, students the right (and wrong) ways to interact in different circumstances. The photos illustrate the positive and the negative consequences of social interactions in a wide variety of real-life situations that are important to teens.

MAKING SENSE OF CHILDREN'S THINKING AND BEHAVIOR:

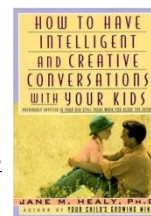
A Step-by-Step Tool for Understanding Children with NLD, Asperger's, HFA, PDD-NOS, and other Neurological Differences

Making Sense of Children's Thinking and Behavior offers parents and professionals a tool for understanding children with neurological differences. These children have an atypical view of the world, unique to their particular disability, which can make their behavior confusing and at times challenging. Each child therefore requires individualized accommodations in understanding and responding to them. The Systematic Tool for Analyzing Thinking (STAT) offers such a system. It provides a step-by-step method for forming a hypothesis about a child's behavior, by laying bare the thinking behind it. It then suggests appropriate ways of responding, in order to try and both explain and eventually remedy the difficult behavior.



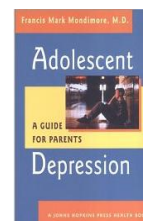
HOW TO HAVE INTELLIGENT AND CREATIVE CONVERSATIONS WITH YOUR KIDS:

By: Jane M. Healy



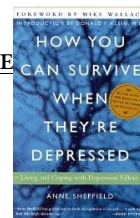
Healy's combination of hard scientific evidence about the effect of creative conversation on a child's developing brain and her lighthearted exercises to encourage it have made this an instant classic, an invaluable resource for both parents and educators. Here, she provides step-by-step concrete suggestions for engaging children in open-ended discussions about questions that do not have right answers. Such conversations can help children become better thinkers, better communicators, and better problem solvers.

ADOLESCENT DEPRESSION: A Guide for Parents By: Francis Mark Mondimore, MD



"In this book, Dr. Mondimore provides parents with a sophisticated summary of everything that is currently known about adolescent mood disorders. This is an outstanding work that surpasses anything else I have read for parents on clinical depression and bipolar disorder in teenagers." -- Anthony J. Drobnick, M.D., Director of the Adolescent Affective Disorders Consultation Clinic, Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions

HOW YOU CAN SURVIVE WHEN THEY'RE DEPRESSED: Living and Coping with Depression Fallout By: Anne Sheffield



"Depression fallout" is the emotional upheaval suffered by the friends and family members of someone who's depressed. Because at any given time, 17 million Americans are suffering from depression, there's a huge number of people suffering from this. Here, the author gives a thorough analysis of the many causes of depression, illustrates the five stages of depression fallout, and considers the benefits and downfalls of psychotherapy and how a fallout victim may be affected by it. She offers reassuring advice on how fallout victims can defuse stress and rebuild their self-esteem and social lives, abundant resources and references for support groups and informational organizations, and an extensive list of medications commonly used for the treatment of mental disorders.

Non-Verbal Learning Disorders

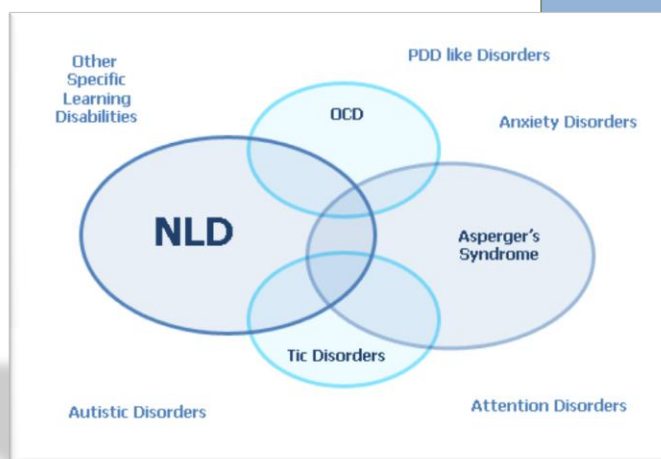
Woodbury Reports, Inc.: June 2007

Using novels and books that appeal to struggling NLD teens as a way to advance treatment goals

Teens with NLD (nonverbal learning disorders) have an unusual style; they are primarily highly visual learners when taking in information yet excel at showing what they know verbally, or sometimes via speech, arts, drama, or music. Decoding and surface Retention for print comes easily to most students with With NLD, but higher level comprehension is more challenging. As a result, many prefer non-fiction – even textbooks or manuals – to novels, let alone teen fiction. Struggling teens also diagnosed with NLD can be particularly challenging in adolescent treatment. Very literal and often lacking in socially appropriate expressions of empathy or reciprocity, they can find group work awkward and uncomfortable. They tend to avoid reading that discusses sensitive issues such as those they must discuss. Understanding the many shades of grey within the shifting teen social san can seem an almost herculean task for these teens, so books they will actually read and re-read that can improve their awareness can be an important part of their successful integration into treatment programs.

Here are key factors to look for when identifying literature for struggling teens with NLD:

- Books with very visual or graphic layouts – lots of white space, courier type font
- Books where the non-cool crowd triumphs over the cool crowd
- A first person or narrator style makes syntax and grammar simpler and easy to follow
- Teens with NLD will find more detailed, almost pedantic, how-to-be-cool teen passages genuinely eye-opening
- Plot lines describing how to survive high school hi-jinks and hysteria and how to keep your cool will be effective and read with high-interest for teens with NLD
- Real-time, realistic references to future technology, video gaming, the entertainment industry, politics, etc will keep their interest



Summer Activities for Children with Learning Disabilities

When selecting summer activities, make sure that the leaders or teachers of the activity have some understanding of your child's special needs. If your child has trouble with following directions, for example, provide information about effective ways for the instructor to give directions. Summer activities should have a positive effect on the child. Not everyone is knowledgeable about learning disabilities, so be prepared to share your knowledge to enable your child to have a successful experience.

Elementary Level:

- Explore a summer reading program at the library
- Use a children's cookbook to read and follow directions and make a favorite food
- Improve vocabulary by learning three new words a week
- Have the children write postcards to family and friends. Make child size postcards with 4x6 cards and pictures from magazines.
- Use computer games to learn math facts and improve reading

Some parents find that summer is a time to enhance skills in reading, math, writing, or study skills. Tutoring is often available from private tutors, Community education programs, or parks and rec departments, but learning can also be done at home.



Secondary School Level:

- Go to www.math.com for a variety of math review activities
- Go to www.bibliomania.com for free online books, poems, and stories
- Use computer programs or ACT/SAT prep books to prepare for testing in the fall
- Obtain the required reading list for fall and have the student get a head start
- Encourage vocabulary improvement with Readers Digest

2010 College Commencement speakers

While we do not advise choosing a school based on the caliber of their commencement speaker, it is fun to see who will end up speaking at which school each year.

Here are some of the notable commencement speakers of 2010.

CLASS OF 2010

❖ Alec Baldwin

Television and Film Actor; Spoke at New York University

❖ Lisa Kudrow

Television and Film Actress; Vassar class of 1985; Spoke at Vassar College

❖ Anderson Cooper

CNN News Broadcaster; Spoke at Tulane University

❖ Wyclef Jean

Recording artist; Spoke at Western Connecticut State



Barack Obama

President of the United States of America
Spoke at the University of Michigan

❖ Rachel Maddow

MSNBC News Broadcaster; Spoke at Smith College

❖ David Souter

Former justice on the U.S. Supreme Court; Spoke at Harvard University

❖ Meryl Streep

Award-winning Film Actress; Spoke at Barnard College

❖ Curt Schilling

Professional baseball player, Spoke at Worcester Polytechnic Institute

❖ Drew Brees

New Orleans Saints Quarterback; Spoke at Loyola University New Orleans



KAHN EDUCATIONAL GROUP, LLC

Certified Educational Planners

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Houston, TX 77005