



University of Northern Iowa  
Classic Upward Bound TRIO Program  
Quarterly Newsletter: October 2007



## Director's Letter

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."*

*~ Margaret Mead*

Why is education important? Every person would probably answer that question a little bit differently. People would mention earning potential and knowledge – and some people would probably say that it is not important to them. What if we widened the scope of the question beyond the individual and asked, “Why is education important to society?” People would mention an educated work force and the economy – and some people would probably say that it is not important to society.

A non-partisan group called Strong American Schools is trying to get people to think about questions such as this through a public awareness and action campaign called “ED in 08.” The group is a project of Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors and is funded by The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the The Eli and Edythe Broad Foundation, two of the largest philanthropic organizations in the world.

The campaign’s goal as stated on their website, <http://www.edin08.com>, is to “ensure that the nation engages in a rigorous debate and to make education a top priority in the 2008 presidential election. We hope that candidates will offer genuine leadership rather than empty rhetoric and tell voters how they intend to strengthen America’s schools so all students receive the education they deserve.”

Whatever your answer to the above questions, get involved and make sure that your voice is heard.

## Words of Wisdom



*Be honorable yourself if you wish to associate with honorable people.*

~ Welsh Proverb

*Ignorance is the night of the mind, but a night without moon and star.*

~ Confucius

*No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted.*

~ Aesop



# Happy Birthday!

### October

4 Felicia Scott  
21 Tawny Walker  
26 Zachery Clark  
29 Ebony Walker

### November

2 Ashley Bergmann  
3 Tiaira Wright  
4 Elizabeth O'Connell  
9 Jaime Ayard  
10 Azline Nelson  
16 Shelby Danielson  
21 Jennifer Hung

### December

4 Marissa Thornton  
5 Josue Vallejo  
6 Taneaia Galloway



## College/University Profile

Our newsletter will now be featuring a variety of colleges and universities in each issue to assist you in learning about more institutions. In the last edition, we profiled three community colleges in Iowa – Kirkwood Community College, North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC), and Des Moines Area Community College (DMACC). In this edition, we will profile the three top national universities according to *U.S. News and World Report's 2008 America's Best Colleges Report*: Princeton, Harvard, and Yale. National universities offer a full range of undergraduate majors as well as master's and doctoral degrees. In many cases, they place strong emphasis on research and receive federal money to support their research endeavors.

### Princeton University

- Private 4-year university
- Residential campus in large town of Princeton, New Jersey
- 4,710 degree-seeking undergraduates: 9% African American, 13% Asian American, 7% Hispanic American, 1% Native American, 9% International
- 11% of applicants admitted
- SAT or ACT with writing, SAT Subject Tests, and application essay required.
- Class size: 74% < 20, 13% 20-39, 2% 40-49, 8% 50-59, 3% > 100
- Freshman Class Profile: 16,529 applied, 1,826 admitted, 1,230 enrolled; Mid 50% Test Scores – SAT verbal: 680-770, SAT math: 690-790; Rank in Top Quarter – 99%; Rank in Top Tenth – 94%; Return as a Sophomore – 98%
- 2006-2007 Annual Costs: Tuition/Fees - \$33,000; Room/Board - \$9,200
- Most Popular Majors: Biology, Engineering/Engineering Technology, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Security/Protective Services
- Contact Information: [uaoffice@Princeton.edu](mailto:uaoffice@Princeton.edu), (609) 258-3060

### Harvard University

- Private 4-year university
- Residential campus in small city of Cambridge, Massachusetts
- 6,613 degree-seeking undergraduates: 49% Women
- 9% of applicants admitted
- SAT or ACT with writing, SAT Subject Tests, interview, and application essay required.
- 98% graduate within six years.
- Freshman Class Profile: 22,796 applied, 2,102 admitted, 1,640 enrolled; Mid 50% Test Scores – SAT verbal: 700-790, SAT math: 700-790, ACT: 30-34; Rank in Top Quarter – 100%; Rank in Top Tenth – 95%; Return as a Sophomore – 98%
- 2006-2007 Annual Costs: Tuition/Fees - \$33,709; Room/Board - \$9,946
- Most Popular Majors: Biology, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, History
- Contact Information: [college@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:college@fas.harvard.edu), (617) 495-1551

## Yale University

- Private 4-year university
- Residential campus in small city of New Haven, Connecticut
- 5,349 degree-seeking undergraduates: 49% Women, 8% African American, 14% Asian American, 7% Hispanic American, 1% Native American, 8% International
- 10% of applicants admitted
- SAT and SAT Subject Tests or ACT (ACT writing optional) and application essay required.
- 96% graduate within six years, 13% enter graduate study.
- Freshman Class Profile: 19,451 applied, 1,880 admitted, 1,321 enrolled; Mid 50% Test Scores – SAT verbal: 700-790, SAT math: 700-790, ACT: 31-34; Rank in Top Quarter – 99%; Rank in Top Tenth – 95%; Return as a Sophomore – 98%
- 2006-2007 Annual Costs: Tuition/Fees - \$33,030; Room/Board - \$10,020
- Most Popular Majors: Area/Ethnic Studies, Biology, English, Psychology, Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary Studies, Visual/Performing Arts.
- Contact Information: [undergraduate.admissions@yale.edu](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@yale.edu), (203) 432-9300

For more information on any of the above universities, speak to an UNI Upward Bound staff member. Find out more about the U.S. News and World Report's 2008 America's Best Colleges Report in an article later in the newsletter.

Sources: U.S. News and World Report's 2008 America's Best Colleges Report. [http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex\\_brief.php](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php). 2007 College Handbook. The College Board: New York, 2006.



## **U.S. News and World Report: 2008 America's Best Colleges**

In order to rank the universities, U.S. News and World Report gathers data from and about each school in 15 areas related to academic excellence. Each indicator is assigned a weight (expressed as a percentage) based on their judgments about which measures of quality matter most. Then, the colleges are ranked based on their composite weighted score. Students can use these rankings to create an initial list of schools to consider, to narrow down that list, and to compare overall academic quality. Students can also use the data underlying the rankings to identify schools with specific characteristics that they value.

However, the rankings are only one of many criteria students should consider in choosing a college. Simply because a school is top in its category does not mean it is the top choice for everyone. An article in the Monday September 10, 2007 "The Chronicle of Higher Education's Daily Report" stated: "Presidents of 19 highly ranked liberal-arts colleges released a joint statement saying they were concerned about the 'inevitable biases' in rankings formulas, and that rankings contribute to the 'admissions frenzy.' Because of those worries, the presidents said they had agreed to publish institutional data -- about class sizes, graduation rates, among other things -- on their colleges' Web sites, instead of submitting such information exclusively to *U.S. News* and other publications that compile college guides. The presidents also said they would not mention the *U.S. News* or other rankings in 'new' promotional materials because rankings 'mislead the public into thinking that the complexities of American higher education can be reduced to one number.'"

Instead of relying on one number, a prospective student's academic and professional ambitions, personal preferences, financial resources, and scholastic record, as well as a school's size, atmosphere, and location, should play major roles in determining a college choice. Moreover, it is crucial to remember that schools separated by only a few places in the rankings are extremely close in academic quality.

Source: U.S. News and World Report's 2008 America's Best Colleges Report. [http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex\\_brief.php](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/usnews/edu/college/rankings/rankindex_brief.php).



## The Importance of Writing Skills – Now and in Your Future, Part Five

*“The pen is mightier than the sword.”  
~ Edward Bulwer-Lytton*

In this series, we have been stressing the importance of writing skills. They are one of the most essential abilities for students, but are often also one of the most lacking. With that in mind, what follows is information on another common question in writing – **CAPITALIZATION**.

There are a lot of rules about capital letters. The following are some of the most commonly confused ones. If you are in doubt about whether or not to capitalize a word, a good dictionary can help. Two of the rules for semicolons are as follows:

- Capitalize the names of specific people, places, or things. These include holidays, geographic regions, nationalities and languages, family relationships used as names, religions, brand names, and monuments.
- Do not capitalize words that refer to people, places, or things without using their names. Examples include “the country”, “my mother”, “a northern state”, “the college”, and “that senator.”

Here are a few examples of these rules in practice:

**Common Mistake:** I want to be like my aunt Carla, a nurse and spanish speaker, who travels to the southwest as part of her job for the state’s department of health.

**Correction:** I want to be like my Aunt Carla, a nurse and Spanish speaker, who travels to the Southwest as part of her job for the state’s Department of Health.

**Common Mistake:** My Mom says I’ll become the President of a Company that has offices in many Western states. My Dad says I’ll go to a prestigious College and become a Congresswoman.

**Correction:** My mom says I’ll become the president of a company that has offices in many western states. My dad says I’ll go to a prestigious college and become a congresswoman.

Rewrite these sentences using the correct capitalization:

- 1) In the future, I want to own a camaro I can speak to in english and have it answer me in french.
- 2) I have made a new year’s resolution to bicycle across the Country, from the capitol building to the golden gate bridge.
- 3) One of my life goals is to travel the World and learn about people of different faiths: muslims, jews, christians, buddhists, hindus, and many more.
- 4) I am hoping to attend a small College in the Pacific northwest.

Here are the same sentences written correctly:

- 1) In the future, I want to own a Camaro I can speak to in English and have it answer me in French.
- 2) I have made a New Year’s resolution to bicycle across the Country, from the Capitol Building to the Golden Gate Bridge.
- 3) One of my life goals is to travel the world and learn about people of different faiths: Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, and many more.
- 4) I am hoping to attend a small college in the Pacific Northwest.