



NVTutoring Quarterly

Going beyond tutoring to help our clients.

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Fact or Fiction? Community College Myths

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In-Home Service
Since 1995*

Elementary - College

On the back:

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Myth 1: Students attend community college because they are unable to get into a four-year university.

Fact: Although it is true that students who attend community colleges generally have lower ACT and SAT scores, many students attend community colleges for financial reasons, convenience, family concerns, and job considerations.

Myth 2: A university degree is superior to a degree from a community college.

Fact: Community colleges are a major source of training for many professions, including health-care, law enforcement officers, and firefighters. In fact, community colleges educate 62% of health care and 80% of law enforcement officers and fire fighters, according to the AACC. Depending on one's career plans, community colleges can be the best option for many students.

Myth 3: Community colleges are inexpensive, so the quality of education is inferior.

Fact: Class size at most community colleges is smaller than at large universities. This results in much more student-faculty interaction. The sole mission of the community college is to teach. The age-old dilemma of "publish or perish" inherent in large universities is non-existent in community colleges. Community colleges offer honors programs for students who want the challenge of increased academic rigor. The cost savings is hardly an indication of inferior education.

Myth 4: Community college credits do not transfer to four-year universities.

Fact: Recent policy changes at several Virginia state universities virtually guarantee transfer of credits and, in some cases, admission if a student's GPA is at a certain level.

- Dr. Ralph G. Perrino (Partial Source: McLean High PTSA Newsletter, Feb. 2007)

NVTS News:

• NVTS is pleased to announce the hiring of Ms. Deborah Haynes as our newest administrative assistant. Deb will work closely with Dr. Perrino on all matters relating to office management, client relations, marketing and tutor liaison. Deb holds a Bachelor's Degree from Ursinus College and a Master's Degree in Information Science from the University of North Carolina. She is a powerful addition to our staff and brings many skills that will enable the office to function more efficiently and effectively. Please call the office to say hello to Deb!

• Dr. Perrino published an essay titled "Understanding the Differences: SAT vs. ACT" in the June 2007 issue of **Family Magazine**. He also co-authored an essay with Dr. Fred Siegmund titled "Early Admission: Elitist or Not" in their September 2007 issue. The January 2008 issue of Family Magazine will feature another article by Dr. Perrino titled "Community College: An Option Not to be Ignored in College Planning." (See excerpt above). These articles, along with several others, are posted on our website, www.nvtutoring.com.

• Dr. Perrino has begun a series of public presentations on the topic of college preparation, admission, and funding with two local firms: Admissions Consultants of Vienna, Virginia, and Hughes Financial Solutions of McLean, Virginia. This presentation, titled "College: Preparing, Applying, and Funding" is being marketed throughout Northern Virginia and the Maryland suburbs. He will also be teaming with Annette Spector, Director of Diagnostic and Educational Resources, Inc. of Falls Church to present a series of workshops on effective homework strategies.

Upcoming Test Dates

SAT and Subject Tests:

- January 26, 2008
- March 1, 2008 (SAT only)
- May 3, 2008
- June 7, 2008

ACT:

- February 9, 2008
- April 12, 2008
- June 14, 2008



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"We're All Here for
the Kids!"

nvtutoring.com

Free College Workshop: Preparing, Applying & Funding

Parents - If your child is heading to college in the next year or two or three, you do not want to miss this invaluable workshop where we will cover everything about college you should be concerned about and more - FOR FREE!

This is your chance to learn from leading local professionals in college prep, admissions and financing.

We'll explore the key issues you and your child(ren) will face in the near future. Then we'll open the floor to your questions and concerns.

Here are just some of the topics we'll cover:

- Should you consider tutoring in high school?
- Should your child take an SAT/ACT prep course?
- How can you make your child more appealing academically?
- What is the best way to write an admission essay?
- How can you maximize your eligibility for Financial Aid?
- How can you save on your out-of-pocket expenses for college?

Check www.nvtutoring.com for more information!

Tutor Profile: Ari Blenkhorn

"I like to emphasize some of the cool things I've done with math and computers in my career, to encourage my students to pursue the subject. I also like to emphasize that that's not all I've done -- as a female math teacher I think it's crucial to point out that being a girl who's good at math doesn't rule out having a varied and interesting life." - Ari Blenkhorn

I earned my undergraduate degree in math from Johns Hopkins, a master's degree in computer science from the University of Virginia, and another master's degree in computer science from Carnegie Mellon, on a different research topic. I also spent a year at the University of Virginia studying gifted education, with a focus on the use of computers to improve math and science education for girls.

Throughout college and graduate school I taught math and computer science, both as a teaching assistant at the schools I was attending, and as an instructor at summer programs for gifted junior high and high school students (including Johns Hopkins CTY).

When I finished graduate school I moved to California and worked for eight years writing software for Industrial Light & Magic, George Lucas's special effects company. I worked on all three of the recent Star Wars films, the first four Harry Potter films, and the first two Pirates of the Caribbean films, among many others. My software controlled the way computer-generated cloth moves according to the laws of physics. For

examples, think of Jedi robes, wizard cloaks, and ship sails.

I also taught at the University of San Francisco as an adjunct professor in the Computer Science department, where I developed a new course on human-computer interaction.

Before you start thinking that I've spent my whole life in classrooms or in front of a computer, take a look at www.JumpForTheCause.com. In 2002 and 2005, I helped set the world record for the largest all-women's skydiving formation, and raised thousands of dollars for breast cancer research and awareness.

I moved back to the east coast in 2006 shortly before my daughter was born. I'm now a full-time mom, a math tutor, and also manager of two small companies that my husband and I own. I enjoy all of these challenging occupations, and I look forward to helping you meet the challenges of your math studies.

Note to tutors: *Sharing a one-page bio like this with your new students and their parents on the "first date" helps them get to know you. By giving this information in written form, you don't take up tutoring time discussing it and parents or siblings who weren't home at the time can read it later. Include your contact information and a short biography: where you went to school, where you've worked, your teaching background, and some personal touches.*