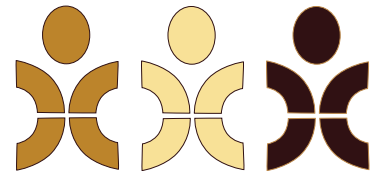




# Im-PACT-ing News



Volume X, Issue 3 August 2008

## All That Jaz!

Africa, South America, China; these are just a handful of the places native San Franciscan, Jaz Sawyer, has traveled to and performed his music. A former PACT, Inc. student, Jaz is today a recording artist, producer, composer and CEO of his recording label Pursuance Records. Having set himself the goal to record and travel all over the world recording music at the young age of 17, not only has he reached his goal, but he continues to expand his knowledge of the music world. At 30 years of age, Jaz holds a Bachelor of Fine Art from The New School University, a Master of Public Administration degree from the Metropolitan College of New York and has performed with a myriad of artists. Among these are: the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra and Wynton Marsalis-prominent jazz musician and nine time Grammy winner-just to name a few. Having performed his first concert by the age of two at San Francisco's Glide Memorial Church, Jaz Sawyer credits the Bay Area's rich music culture, jazz musician Eddie Marshall, and four-time Grammy nominee, John Santos, as some of his major influences and mentors.



I recently had the opportunity to interview Mr. Sawyer and here is what he had to share with us here at PACT, Inc. :

### *Did you really play drums at Glide Memorial at the age of two?*

“Yes! I was no child prodigy; I just always loved playing drums. It wasn't until I was about ten or eleven that I wanted to start taking lessons and getting serious.”

### *What are some projects you are currently working on?*

“I am producing other artists as well as recording, performing and conducting drum workshops and events. I try to stay busy while I still have my youth. By applying the skills I have developed and learned in school, I have created my own employment as well as created options for myself to design or run programs in other companies and organizations. It is not as easy as it sounds, so you must work hard in whatever you do to achieve and accomplish your goals.”

Source: Jaz Sawyer

### *Were there any obstacles you had to overcome to get to where you are today?*

“When you're a teenager or young adult, it is hard to pass up hanging out with friends to go study after school. For me, I

(Cont'd on page 2)

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## A Word from Our Project Director



As we approach the end of the 2007-2008 academic year, I look back at the accomplishments of our students, their hard work and dedication to bettering themselves and taking full advantage of educational opportunities. Our students are the driving force for all of us here at PACT. PACT staff members understand that students always

come first and that we have a responsibility to ensure that each and every student receives the best possible college and financial aid assistance that is available.

Due to the lack of highly needed resources that are available to the schools here in San Francisco and the East Bay, many students are not provided with essential college information. This educational inequity is partly ameliorated by programs such as ours and fills the informational gap in the educational system. Educational equity work can be quite challenging and is sometimes a “thankless” profession. However, I believe

that the work we do has positive, long term, lasting effects on our community and the people we serve. We may not be able to see the fruits of our labor right now, but the seeds have been planted and they will sprout strong in the future. I am proud to say that I am a member of this organization and very proud of the PACT staff who work tirelessly in order to better the lives of youth in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Our work at PACT would not be possible without the assistance that we have received from community based organizations, our school sites’ administration and staff, colleges and universities throughout the Bay Area, professional and philanthropic institutions, and the many businesses that have lended their support over the years.

Each academic school year brings new challenges that we are ready to face. I am looking forward to entering the 2008-2009 school year and knowing that once again, and for the last 43 years, PACT Educational Talent Search will help make the dreams and aspirations of nearly 3,000 come true. After all, education is a right for all, and not simply for the privileged few.

-Christina Castañeda ✨

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*(Cont’d from page 1)*

had to look at the bigger picture which was to finish high school and have good grades to have options for college. Students should have fun, but they shouldn’t let peer pressure take away from their studies.”

### ***What role did PACT play in your education and career choices?***

“PACT provided an environment for me to identify what I needed to work on or improve. For me, it was my grades and how to use time management. Knowing where you stand with your education helps you make better decisions on which career direction you want to go in and how to set goals in order to achieve them. PACT helped me realize that my education and career choices were what I needed to consider. PACT was able to help, challenge, mentor and encourage me to set my goals high and aim to do my best.”

### ***“What would you say to inspire our current PACT students to continue their education beyond high school?”***

“Continue to read and study. You may want to travel someday, to another city, another state or another country. Stay motivated and go for those scholarships. Sometimes you win or lose, but you gain so much knowledge and learn to make great life choices. It will be hard to turn down hanging out

with friends or going to parties, but there is always time to do that, I know I made time. If you sense trouble turn the corner, as you do not have time to get caught up in silly activities. You are working on a successful path to enhance yourself, so be sure to always enjoy learning, have fun and concentrate on your interests.”

Jaz Sawyer is a great example of hard work, dedication and maintaining focus on one’s goals. He will surely continue to be a wonderful asset to his community.\*

\*If you would like to listen to some of Jaz Sawyer’s music, you can visit [www.myspace.com/pursuancerecords](http://www.myspace.com/pursuancerecords).



Source: Jaz Sawyer

# Show Me The Money!!!

The following are a peek into thousands of available scholarships. Visit the web links to see if you qualify and get started on the application process. Also, please be sure to visit: <http://www.fastweb.com/>. This is a **FREE** scholarship search engine. Once you create a profile with Fastweb, you may browse listings pertaining to your background and academic accomplishments. Now let's go fill out those applications!

## Upcoming Deadlines

September 1, 2008 (\$25,000)  
True Patriot Essay Contest  
<http://www.truepat.org/essay.php>

September 2, 2008 (up to \$5,000)  
Speak New Words Music Video Contest  
<http://www.americanstudentsfund.org/snw2008/>

December 31, 2008 (\$1,000)  
All-Ink.com College Scholarship Program  
<http://www.all-ink.com/scholarship.aspx>

## Ongoing Opportunities

Art School Scholarship  
\$500 Awarded very three months.  
<http://www.straightforwardmedia.com/scholarship/art/form.php>

Admission Facts Scholarship  
\$1,000 awarded each month. Check website for new deadlines.  
<http://www.admissionfacts.com/index-7.html>

The College Prowler Monthly Scholarship  
\$1,000 awarded every month.  
[http://campuslife.collegeproowler.com/sch\\_rules.asp](http://campuslife.collegeproowler.com/sch_rules.asp)

## FALL DATES & DEADLINES



**When: Tuesday, October 14 from 5pm to 7:30pm**

What: San Francisco Northern Peninsula College Fair  
Location: Serramonte Shopping Center, Daly City, CA

If you live locally, come take advantage of this opportunity. This is a great chance for high school students, and their parents, to speak with representatives from UC schools, CSU's, community colleges, as well as private universities.

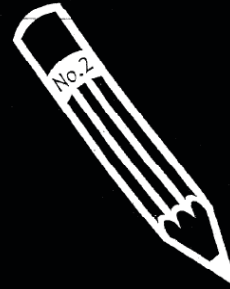
### Fall 2008 SAT Test Dates

	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Oct. 4	Sep. 9	Sep. 16
Nov. 1	Sep. 26	Oct. 10
Dec. 6	Nov. 5	Nov. 18

\*Late fee applies

**November 30th, 2008** is the application deadline for UC & CSU school systems. Mark your calendars and get started on those applications and personal statements!

In the past, all you needed was a Number 2 pencil...



Today, all you need is Number2.com.

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# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT: VALERIE MARMAN

*“Valerie appears to be a balanced and well-rounded student who takes pleasure immersing herself in various cultural enriching opportunities abroad. Not only is she a scholarly learner, she serves as an educator who gives back to the community by sharing her local and worldly life experiences and adventures.”*

This is what our Programs Manager, Annette Dennett, had to say about Valerie Marman, Fisk University student and San Francisco native, who recently shared some of her experiences with our PACT staff. Valerie, currently a senior at Fisk and majoring in Nursing and Spanish, impressed us with her perspective on traveling and living on campus, as well as her outlook on the importance of continuing an education beyond high school.

At 21 years of age, she has traveled to Spain, Brazil, Jamaica, The Bahamas, over five major cities in the United States and one day plans to add Africa to her repertoire.

How has she found time to visit these places? “I was able to travel through college tours and studying abroad programs. I inspired myself to travel. I knew I wanted to see something different and if I wanted that to be possible for me, I had to go after it.”



Source: [www.commons.wikimedia.org](http://www.commons.wikimedia.org)

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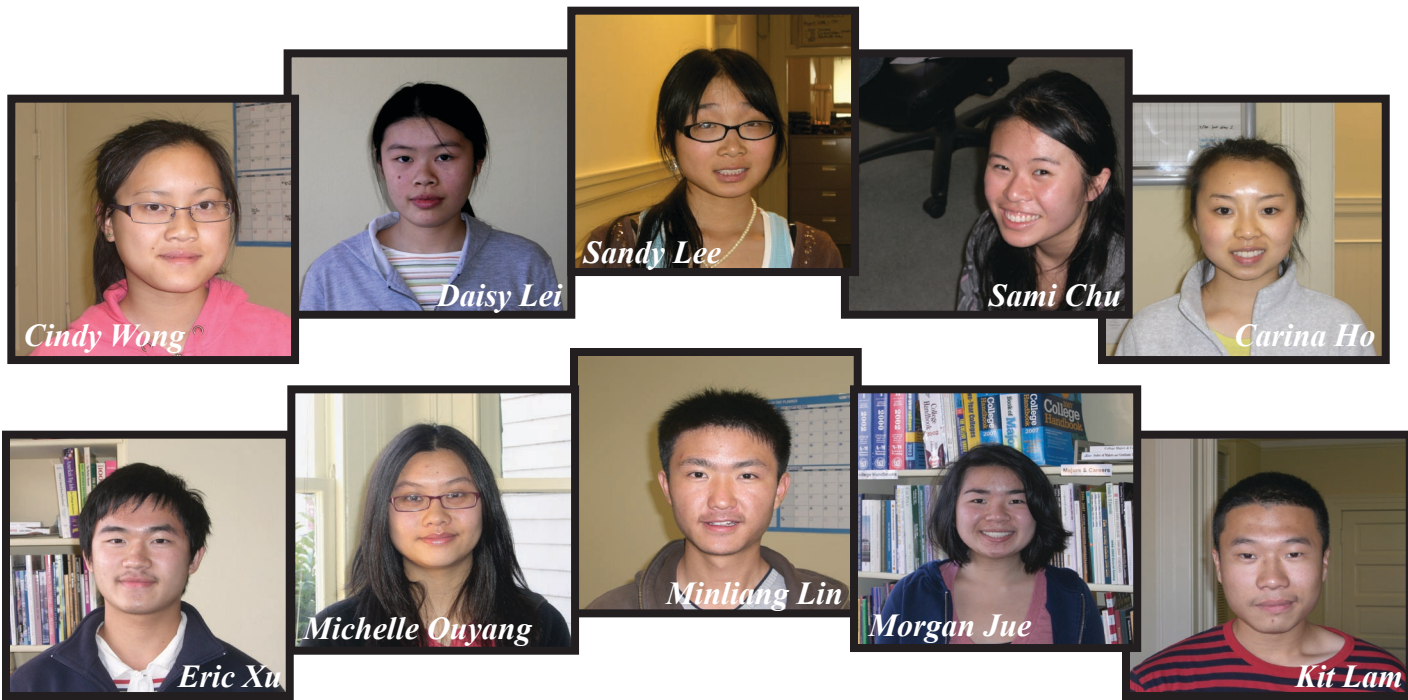
## *Farewell & Thank You*



Two of our staff members will be taking on new challenges this month. Mikka Kelly, a former PACT student, has been with our company since 2002. Her work began here as a tutor and subsequently as Tutorial Coordinator. Mikka will surely be missed by her students at Willie L. Brown College Preparatory, James Lick M.S. and Balboa H.S. Our second farewell goes out to Gaby Brown, our Educational Advisor at Thurgood Marshall H.S. and Washington H.S. Gaby's work at PACT was first as a tutor in 2002. Both ladies have done a tremendous amount of work for this company and we appreciate their hard work and efforts. Before their departures, we have asked them the following: 1. What new adventures will you embark on after working at PACT, Inc.; 2. What will you miss most about being a Tutorial Coordinator/Educational Advisor?; and 3. What do you hope your students have gained from your assistance? Read on for their responses!

***Gaby Brown:*** 1. I will be attending the University of Southern Mississippi, studying nursing and working on a masters in public health. 2. I enjoyed working with my students. They are my motivation to continue with my education. 3. The importance of obtaining a post secondary education, uplifting those around them and striving for the very best!

***Mikka Kelly:*** 1. I plan to attain a teaching credential and teach middle school students. I will take both my academic and athletic expertise and teach history and physical education. 2. What I will miss most about my position is the PACT family, staff and students, and the constant opportunity to promote higher education. 3. My hope has always been to empower my community through helping our youth attain higher education. Through my assistance, I hope my students have: improved in their academic studies, become more conscious of college and the opportunities it brings, and, that they retain an academic confidence which will lead them to be successful wherever they choose to study.



## *SUMMER VOLUNTEERING*

Being a provider of free services, we greatly rely on any support we can get from the public. This summer, we have had the opportunity to have student volunteers in our San Francisco office. They have all been a wonderful asset to our staff and daily operations. During their stay with us, we asked them the following questions: 1. What have you enjoyed about working with our organization and 2. What will you be working on this fall? Here are their responses:

**Cindy Wong:** 1. I enjoyed working with the staff. They're very friendly. It's been a pleasure to gain some experience from this organization. The environment is "homey" too. 2. I will start looking and applying for scholarships.

**Daisy Lei:** 1. I enjoyed making new friends while volunteering. 2. I will be trying to find something that will really interest me, something that I will want to major in at college.

**Sandy Lee:** 1. Meeting new people, being able to give back to the community while receiving the benefit of in-depth college information and resources. Friendly staff! 2. Doing well in my classes, researching college information, developing my skills as a youth outreach worker and peer educator at Lincoln High School, searching for jobs and volunteer opportunities.

**Sami Chu:** 1. I enjoy working with the people here. I like the atmosphere and everybody is like one big family. 2. I'll be going to school. (High School)

**Morgan Jue:** 1. I have met some of the nicest and most considerate people here who have great intentions for the students they help. 2. I am going back to school in New York, finding a job and will explore the city as much as I can!

**Yang Ning Xu (Eric):** 1. First, I enjoyed working and sharing our experiences with each other. Secondly, I have been glad to listen to the important information about going to colleges and planning our futures. 2. Hopefully, I will be working on reading a couple of my favorite storybooks.

**Michelle Ouyang:** 1. This summer has been great, being here and learning many things (mainly office work) that I haven't encountered before. It's been fun volunteering at PACT, especially being surrounded by many great staff members. 2. I will be a senior this fall. I think a great portion of my free time will be used searching for college information.

**Minliang Lin:** 1. I have enjoyed working with your organization because I can have learned some things that will prepare me for the university. 2. I will be studying at Balboa High School.

**Carina Ho:** 1. I have enjoyed the workshops very much. I learned things that weren't taught in school and they were a big help to me. 2. This fall, I will be a junior at Abraham Lincoln High School.

**Kit Lam:** 1. I have enjoyed working with my friends and learning how to be a volunteer. 2. I'm not sure.

All of us here at PACT have enjoyed working with all of these bright young students and are grateful for their hard work. We send them a sincere thank you and wish them the best for the upcoming school year.



*(Cont'd from page 4)*

When asked to describe how being at Fisk has had an impact on her, she responds, "Taking care of financial business, buying books, being prepared academically. I have had a great experience at Fisk. Growing socially and mentally, being able to be around strong young people who aspire to be successful, this has all helped me grow as a person."

Valerie shows traits of hard work and determination and is an inspiration to all. Here are some closing words for our students: "Education is available; people just have to want it. Attending a university is important because they instill you with the knowledge to go out into the working world and, it also gives you a well-rounded education. I would say, whenever you have the chance, seize every opportunity, be optimistic and the sky is the limit. You have the power to choose your future. Be open to trying new things, the most that can happen is that you may not like it."

If you would like to help support PACT, Inc.'s student services, please make a check payable to PACT, Inc. of San Francisco and mail to:

**PACT, Inc.**  
**635 Divisadero St.**  
**San Francisco, CA 94117**

Or, feel free to visit our website at: <http://www.pactinc.org/> and click on the "**Donate Now**" button located at the bottom of the home page.



Source: [www.trondheimanglicans.net](http://www.trondheimanglicans.net)

**Want to lend a helping hand? PACT is asking for senior citizens to volunteer to help our tutors in the schools. We would like to ask for mentors. For more information, please call our San Francisco PACT office.**



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**Promoting community empowerment by increasing access to higher education since 1965.**