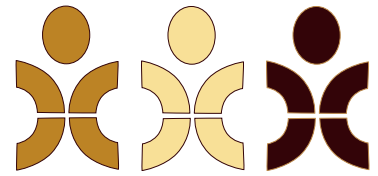




Im-PACT-ing News



!!! ATTENTION STUDENTS !!!

JANUARY 1ST IS THE FIRST DAY TO SUBMIT YOUR '09-'10 FAFSA. THE DEADLINE IS MARCH 2ND, BUT IT IS STRONGLY ADVISED THAT YOU SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION ASAP.

Volume X, Issue 4 December 2008

One Student's Journey to College

Here at PACT, our advisors encounter students from a myriad of backgrounds, all wanting to reach the same goal, a college education. I recently had the great opportunity to listen to the challenges the road to college posed for 18 year old Javon Coleman.

Here is what Javon had to say about college and the road to getting there:

1. Who did you look up to as you were growing up?

As, I was growing up I looked up to my older brother. He was significant to me because he was a very positive role model. He influenced me a lot and kept me on the right path, he wanted me to have a future. I give him credit for me being where I am now.

2. Did you have to face any struggles or difficulties while growing up?

Yes. It started with how and where I grew up. I grew up in an abusive household. I lost both my grandmothers and grandfathers, my favorite auntie got murdered, my favorite cousin went to jail and is now serving 50 years, and my mother and father got divorced, plus, I lost a lot of my peers that I grew up with over the years. Considering the community I grew up in, it could have been very easy to go the negative route, which would have been carrying guns, selling drugs, stealing cars, etc. Instead of heading to the streets, I concentrated on my books and going to church. I had a lot of support from my family, church and counselors. I'm blessed to still be here and to be where I'm at right now.

Cont'd on page 2

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Source: <http://www.tuskegeereunion.com>

Originally from San Francisco's Bayview Hunters Point, Javon is a Burton High School graduate. Through all of the challenges he's faced, the fact that he was able to play sports and maintain a 3.0+ GPA in high school is proof he is a hard working young man and sets his mind to perform his best at any task.

Currently attending Tuskegee University in Alabama, Javon is a Business Administration student and makes time to be active in his community. Among his past volunteer efforts are: serving Thanksgiving dinner to the homeless at his church and working for the San Francisco Conservation Corps.

3. When did you begin thinking about attending college?

I was always asked if I was going to go to college and I always said yes, until I got to high school. I was very close to graduating and I asked myself "do I want to go to college?" During my senior year I was still undecided. This was the year I met Ms. Dennett and she really wanted me to go to college, even though I always told her I wasn't. At the end of that year, Ms. Dennett helped me fill out college applications. I was hoping I would get accepted to a college, and I didn't. Then, I started thinking "I'm never going to get accepted to a college," until March 2008. I went on a college tour and got accepted to Tuskegee University on the spot, which brings me to where I am today.

4. Was there ever a time when you thought college would be a difficult goal to reach?

Yes, all my life I always thought college would be difficult to reach, because as I got older, the school work got harder, and I always told myself I would never be able to do college work. So, I always told myself, I'm not going to college. Until this day, I still can't believe that I'm here, and made it.

5. As a former PACT student, describe how PACT provided assistance for you?

I've known of and been with PACT for 7 years. PACT assisted me since the 6th grade, when I was introduced to PACT, and ever since then, I've been affiliated with PACT.

6. What was your favorite part about being a PACT student?

My favorite part was the easy access to help, all the time, at any hour and during school time, anytime that I needed it. Also, the support and loving people that work for PACT.

7. Why did you choose to attend Tuskegee?

It all started with not being accepted to a college during my senior year. I was invited to go on a college tour and I was accepted on the spot. Being the only college I got into, my goal was to avoid a city college, even though nothing is wrong with that, I just did not want that for myself, I wanted to have a choice.

8. What aspects of college life were difficult to acclimate to?

As a student, honestly before I came down here, I was scared. Never having lived down south, the weather and the heat were hard to get used to. I also had to get used to the time difference, my class schedule, teachers, and school work. But, I adjusted pretty fast, and now love it.

9. How would you say college life has changed you?

It made me REALLY learn the value of a dollar! As a person, it's helped me grow to be responsible, learn to watch over myself and how to manage my money. It's helping me find myself and become the man that I was raised to become.



9. (cont'd) It is helping me with my people skills as well as a student. College has changed me for the better and I am happy to have the experience, but more importantly, college has changed me overall as a person. It has helped me look at life in a different perspective.

10. What are your favorite aspects of attending Tuskegee?

My favorite aspects of Tuskegee are that it is a GREAT school, it has a lot of history behind it and it has a lot to offer.

11. Why do you feel attending college is important?

There are many different answers to this question, but I feel attending college is important because it helps you as a person overall, it helps you find out who you really are. It can determine your future and helps you get to where you want to be at in life.

Javon proves to us all that hard work and perseverance pay off in the end. Javon is an intelligent young man who is on track when it comes to planning for his future. In closing, here are a few words from Javon for our current PACT students: "If you want something out of life, to become something and want to accomplish all of your dreams and goals, further your education, because education is the key to success."



IMPORTANT DATES & DEADLINES

2009 SAT TEST DATES

	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Jan. 24	Dec. 26	Jan. 6
Mar. 14	Feb. 10	Feb. 24
May 2	Mar. 31	Apr. 9
June 6	May 5	May 15

*SAT test fee is \$45

*Late fee is \$23

2009 ACT TEST DATES

	Deadline	Late Deadline*
Feb. 7	Jan. 6	Jan. 16
Apr. 4	Feb. 27	March 13
June 13	May 8	May 22

*ACT test fee is \$31

*Late fee is \$20

**FAFSA &
CAL GRANT
DEADLINE IS:
MARCH 2ND**

NACAC College Fair
Saturday April 4th 2009
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Concourse Exhibition Center
San Francisco, CA
<http://www.nacacnet.org>

Scholarships
Deadline: February 13, 2009
The Meritus College Fund provides 4-year
scholarships in the total amount of \$12,000.
For application and more information visit:
http://www.meritusfund.org/html/scholar_app.asp

STUDENT RESOURCES

Sample SAT Questions

1. What is the average (arithmetic mean) of $4x + 5$, $7x - 6$, and $-8x + 2$?

- a. $x + 1$
- b. $x + 1/3$
- c. $3x + 1$
- d. $3x + 1$
- e. $3x + 1/3$
- f. $3x + 3 1/3$

2. Find the error in the following sentence, if any:

Storing bread in the refrigerator delays drying and
the growth of mold but increase the rate at which
the bread loses flavor. No error

A
B
C
D
E

Sample Essay Question:

Think carefully about the issue presented in the following excerpt and the assignment below:

Many persons believe that to move up the ladder of success and achievement, they must forget the past, repress it, and relinquish it. But others have just the opposite view. They see old memories as a chance to reckon with the past and integrate past and present. (Adapted from Sara Lawrence-Lightfoot, *I've Known Rivers: Lives of Loss and Liberation*)

Assignment: Do memories hinder or help people in their effort to learn from the past and succeed in the present? Plan and write an essay in which you develop your point of view on this issue. Support your position with reasoning and examples taken from your reading, studies, experience, or observations.

ANSWERS ARE LOCATED ON PAGE 6. FOR MORE SAT TEST PREP QUESTIONS, VISIT: WWW.COLLEGEBOARD.COM.

LAST NIGHT

In the whirlwind of the last few months' election events, it is easy to overlook how our students feel and what they think about our nation's current events. Diedre Carter, PACT Assistant Tutorial Coordinator at Solano Middle School, gave her after school homework club students the opportunity to express themselves over how they felt on the night of the election. Here are their reflections:

Jasmine Weatherby, 7th grader:

"Last night, Senator Obama made history. He was the first black president to be elected. It's amazing that he won, but also incredible that he won by so many votes. It is great that he is representing the African American culture. I am happy he is our president."

Amani Foster, 7th grader:

"Last night, my mom and I drove to the polling place so she could vote. As soon as we got home, we started to watch television. At around 8:30pm, we turned to the news and we saw

Obama making a speech. He said a lot of things about change. He proved that you can do anything."

Mikayla Peoples, 7th grader said:

"Last night, Barack Obama made history. Not only did he become the president of the U.S., but he proved to people that it doesn't matter what race you are to achieve your goals. It just takes hard work and perseverance to get what you want. He also showed the public not to judge others by the color of their skin, but by what they have to offer."



Source: <http://thesteve123.wordpress.com>

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

For the month of December, our Tutorial Program Coordinator, Raynard Cayetano, has chosen to highlight D'Angelo Iraheta for his persistent motivation. He is a 6th grader at James Lick Middle School and he always attends the after school program. D'Angelo always arrives with a willing attitude to complete his homework. According to Mr. Cayetano, he also has a great personality and wants to be a guitar player when he grows up. Here is some more information about D'Angelo:

- Name your favorite activity?
I like football because it is interactive.
- Name a person (or people) you look up to.
Barack Obama.
- What are your favorite subjects in school?
Least favorite?
My favorite subject is science and my least favorite is math.
- What college or university do you plan to attend?
Stanford or UC Berkeley.
- What is your favorite aspect of being part of PACT?
Getting my homework done.



Source: <http://flickr.com>

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

A big thank you goes out to the following companies for their kind donations in support of our October raffle:

SPEAKEASY THEATERS

TARGET

PANDA EXPRESS

PRESIDIO BOWLING CENTER

MARIE CALLENDAR'S

MACY'S

OAKLAND A'S

Also, thank you to our community who supported our raffle efforts. Here are our winners:

PRIZE	WINNER(S)
\$100 Macy's Gift Card	Michele Kelly, Castro Valley
2 Oakland A's Tickets	Justine Wong, San Francisco
Pizza + Movie for 4 to Speakeasy Theaters	Elizabeth Hernandez, San Francisco
Panda Express Pak	Mr. & Mrs. Boone, San Francisco
\$25 Target Gift Card	Vivan Mata, Vallejo
6 Tickets to Presidio Bowling	Zakiya Mawusi, Rodeo Rita Grant, San Mateo Preston Turner, Oakland
\$20 Marie Callender's Gift Card	Mona Earland, Salinas



FALL '08 COLLEGE TOUR !



On Friday, November 14th, our PACT advisors took a group of over 20 students on tours of local campuses. Those colleges were Holy Names University of Oakland Hills and Mills College in Oakland. Students were provided tours of each campus and had the chance to sit down with admissions officials, who explained the application process and answered student questions. University student guides were on hand to provide tours of the dormitories and answer questions regarding campus life.

This college tour was a wonderful opportunity for PACT students to take a peek into life on a college campus, as well as to get an overview of application requirements. While wrapping up the tour, students were asked the following: why did you choose to attend this field trip; which colleges have you visited; what college/university do you plan to attend; what were your favorite aspects of this trip; and, name two things you learned from this experience? Here is what some had to say:

Sandy Zhou

“This will be beneficial for me in picking a college. This tour gave me an idea of college life and I learned colleges offer a lot of different programs; it also depends on what you want to do and what environment you want to be in.”

Belinda R. Mora

“I came on this tour to be aware of more colleges. I have visited SJSU and UC Berkeley and would like to attend SJSU or Sonoma State University. On this tour I learned that grade point average matters and that there are scholarships available.”

Karla Perez

“I enjoyed everything about this trip and meeting new people. I learned scholarship money is available and is not that hard to get.”

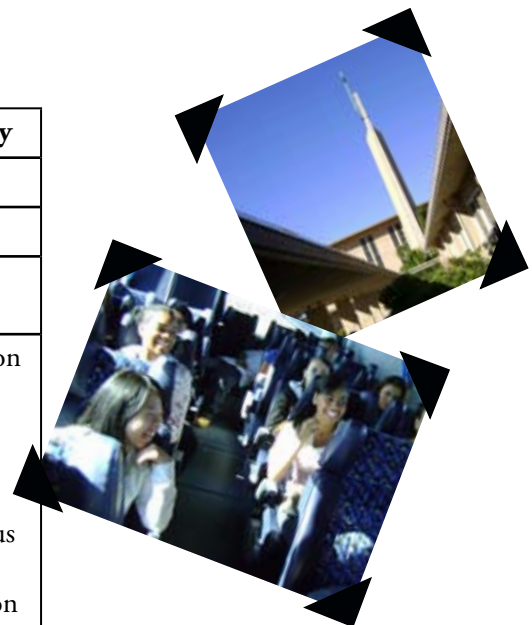
Jocelyn G. Marin

“I attended this trip because I want to see what the college life is like and to see the differences in the schools. I learned that some women go to an all women’s college for different reasons.”

For more information on either campus, visit <http://www.mills.edu/index.php> and <http://www.hnu.edu/>. Interested in attending our next college tour? All PACT, Inc. students are welcome to join us for FREE. Feel free to give us a call for more information or contact a PACT advisor near you!

QUICK FACTS

	Mills College	Holy Names University
Average Class Size	15	16
Total Enrollment	1,481	1,100
Fall 2009 Admissions Deadline	March 1 (Regular)	March 2nd (Priority)
Top 5 Majors	1. English 2. Psychology 3. Political, Legal, and Economic Analysis 4. Anthropology and Sociology 5. Biology	1. Business Administration & Management 2. Education (General) 3. Nursing/Registered Nurse 4. Philosophy & Religious Studies 5. Nursing Administration



PACT FACTS:

Outcomes & Statistics

- 100% of PACT college ready students are attending college.
- 95% of our 12th graders have graduated from high school or have received a high school equivalency certificate.
- 80% of our “college-ready” students have enrolled in college or university.
- 90% of our non-12th grade students have been promoted to the next grade level.
- 95% of our “college-ready” students have applied for college/university admissions.
- 85% of our “college-ready” students have applied for financial aid.



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.

Sample SAT Question Answers:
1. B, 2. B



Source: 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.



PACT, Inc. (Plan of Action for Challenging Times)
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Promoting community empowerment by increasing access to higher education since 1965.