

No Money, No Problem: Reducing College Costs

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News Editor

\$22,261. This number represents a record average sticker price to attend an in-state public college for the 2012-2013 academic year, a 3.8 percent increase from the previous year, according to a December 2012 College Board report. With tuition hikes, stagnant growth in federal aid and increases in other expenses, the cost of a college education at both public and private colleges has grown increasingly expensive. Here are some ways to cut back on costs while in college:

Textbooks

- Look around for used books. Most college campuses carry them in bookstores, and the books are usually heavily discounted and in good condition.
- Rent textbooks from sites such as eCampus, Chegg and CollegeBook Renter.
- Look online for books. Join Amazon Student for one year and get unlimited free two-day shipping on textbooks and other items. It is free to sign up for students.
- Borrow or buy books from people who have taken the courses.

Transportation

- Use public transportation. Taking the bus

is cheaper than paying for car insurance and gas, and some colleges may subsidize part of your bus costs or even give out bus passes.

- Invest in a bike. Biking is good for both the environment and your health.
- If you drive to school, carpool whenever possible. You get to improve your social skills, as well as save money on gas.

Food and Drink

- Make the most of your meal plan or on-campus credit that goes towards food and beverages in the cafeteria and various stores and coffee bars. Use it all up before buying food elsewhere, especially if you can buy the same items there as anywhere else.
- Coupons, coupons, coupons.
- Go to school or community events whenever possible to meet new people and possibly receive free food.
- Kick the bottled water habit and buy a filter for the free local tap water.
- Make your own coffee. A four dollar Starbucks Frappuccino every day totals \$120 in a month, or \$1,460 a year. If all adds up.

Entertainment

- Participate in local festivals and school events. You can hang out with friends, meet new people, exercise by walking around and possibly score some free food.

- Look for free movies on campus; chances are, you will find classics, student films, independents, noir and experimental films.
- Volunteer in a soup kitchen. Community service is a meaningful activity that will leave you with a real appreciation for those who have no money.
- Pick up a local newspaper and check upcoming events (concerts, arts and crafts fairs, theater, festivals, art galleries and museums) for free goodies.
- Use CitySearch to look for cheap food and activities in your local area.

Other Basic Living Expenses

- Shop for items you really need during the tax-free week available in many regions of the country.
- Get a few friends together to pitch in for an annual membership at Costco or Sam's Club. The money saved while buying in bulk will be worth the cost of membership.
- Shop at discount stores or yard sales when decorating your dorm room.
- Avoid shopping while hungry. You will spend more than you originally planned getting something to eat. Carry a snack around.
- Go thrifting. There are often great finds at thrift stores, including name brand, gently-used clothes and accessories.
- When buying clothing, check to make sure

your garments are machine-washable versus dry clean only.

- Shop for personal items at a discount retailer. Buying the store brand is a cost-saving alternative as well.
- Share the cost for personal toiletries if you share a room, apartment or suite with others and can agree on products that everybody will use (soap, shampoo, blow dryer, curling iron, conditioner, lotions, toothpaste, etc.).
- Do not buy on impulse. Write down the items that you want to buy on a Post-It and stick it to the wall. Look at the Post-It every day for a week. If you still think you need the items at the end of the week, then consider buying them.
- Use your student ID to get discounts on items that can range from movie tickets to computers. Many local stores and businesses will give discounts to students with IDs. If you do not see a sign, just ask, since many college and student discounts are not posted.
- Remember the main reason you are in college — to get an education. Study groups help to keep you focused and involved, so you have less time to frivolously spend money on unnecessary activities.

Happy saving in college!

MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

Dance Teams' Season Culminates with Annual Stage Show

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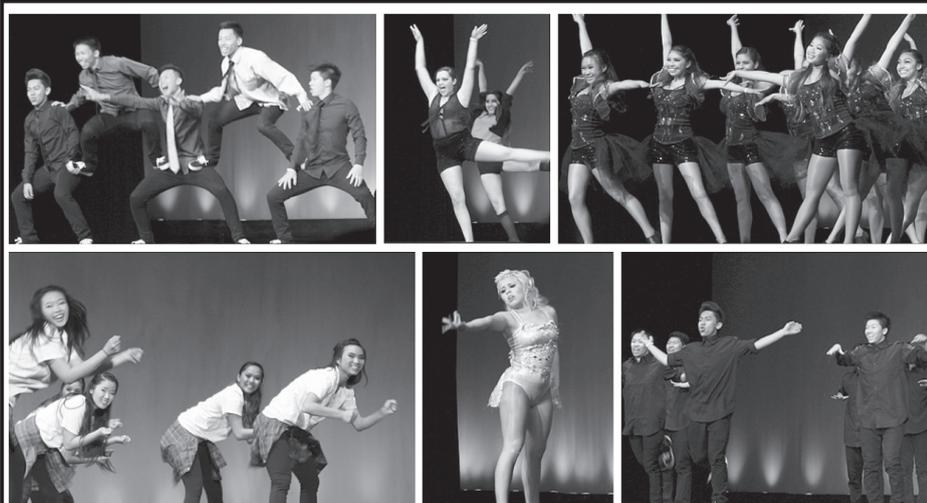
DENISE TIEU
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After an entire school year's worth of intense practice and competition, AHS' dance teams showcased their skills and award-winning performances in this year's Stage Show, "The Show Must Go On," on April 26 in the school auditorium.

"Alhambra Dance has been working hard these past few weeks," All-Male Leader Raymond Tran said. "We've been adding new routines in just for this show and [cleaning up] a lot of our old routines."

One major difference distinguishing this year's Stage Show from last year's performance was the new show coordinator, Cheer Coach and Dance Teacher Sarah Fong, who stepped in as the dance teams' new adviser.

"Getting to know [the dancers] this year made me realize how important Stage Show is to them," Fong said. "I know these students have been working hard throughout their season, and to not have a closing show



THE SHOW MUST GO ON After a transitional year, All-Male, Orchestral and Drill Team performed at their annual Stage Show on April 26 to a full house at the Alhambra High School auditorium.

MOOR photos by JOYCE TSUI

would be heartbreaking."

However, the change of advisers has also left the dance teams with both more experience and self-reliance.

"Going from Mrs. Crawford, [the previous dance adviser], to a new adviser was a hard transition, but I think the main reason

[...] is because our practice was way different than what we were used to," senior Drill Team member Summer Burlingham said. "Both Mrs. Crawford and our new adviser were great and I'm glad to have worked with [...] them."

This year's show focused more on featur-

ing the dancers by their respective classes in class routines. Solos, duets and one coed performance all took place that night. Between performances, MCs Bryan Phan and Kevin Luong kept the crowd entertained with jokes and commentary.

Furthermore, this year's Stage Show lasted only one day. In previous years, two days were allotted for the performances; one day was designated for a student audience and a second day for family members. By shortening Stage Show to one day, the dance teams hoped to create a more successful show and generate a larger audience.

"We were told there were more than 600 tickets sold, and the crowd was amazing that night," Orchestral Captain Shelley Wang said. "This year has brought the dance family closer than ever! We struggled a lot with the system but kept pushing and never gave up. I'm glad to say that I've been a part of this team for four years but it's time to let go and hopefully the future generations can keep it as strong as we did."



AHS Student Banker Transfers to SGHS

CAROLINE REN
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After working at AHS for six years, three of which she spent as a student banker, Marilynn Chun recently transferred to San Gabriel High School (SGHS) under a new district policy which rotates student bankers.

"We definitely miss Mrs. Chun; it's the end of the school year and there's a lot going on right now," Assistant Principal of Business and Activities Phuong Nguyen said.

The current student banker, Elizabeth Cloud, is an interim banker, meaning that she is here at AHS until the end of the school year. At the beginning of the 2013-2014 school year, administrators will open up the position to applicants to find a more permanent banker.

"I feel like it was truly Alhambra's loss since [Mrs. Chun] always helped clubs and ASB with [many things], such as ordering t-shirts, contacting DJs and much more," senior Kimberly Phan said.

Others remain unsatisfied with given explanations for the transfer.

"Through ASB and council, I was able to get to know Mrs. Chun really well, and all of us were pretty much heartbroken and outraged," junior Emily To said. "[ASB] was just told that SGHS needed [a student banker], but all of us were still wondering, why not just keep Mrs. Chun here and send someone [else] to SGHS? When we questioned [it], the district had nothing to say about it."

Nevertheless, AHS will have to adjust to next year's new student banker for a richer school experience.

MOOR photo by JOYCE TSUI



Exploring Future Options with Gap Year

DEBORAH CHEN
Copy Editor

With graduation coming up soon, what comes next? For most seniors, college is the next chapter of their lives. However, there is also the alternative of taking a gap year.

A gap year is a period of time when a student takes a hiatus from school in order to engage in non-academic activities, such as interning or traveling.

"I'm taking a gap year because I want to know what I want to do, find myself [and] change myself to be a better person," senior Karen Tsuchihara said.

Those who take a gap year can take that time to mature and gain experience that would otherwise be inaccessible to them in a college classroom. In addition, their gap year can either confirm their goals or lead them onto a new path. However, taking a gap year could also lead to a diminished work ethic or the discontinuation of school.

While there are no exact statistics of students who take gap years, a recent survey of 300,000 freshmen at four-year colleges and universities found that 1.2 percent of students waited a year to enter college, according to the Higher Education Research Institute at the University of California, Los Angeles.

"My church offers a one-year program [...] where you go out to different states and countries to do volunteering services and missionary work. From this experience, I hope to learn how it is like [to live] outside the United States," senior Takayo Hiraki said.

S T A R T

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2013!

2009 FRESHMAN YEAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Entered AHS on Sept. 9, 2009. • AHS combined two lunch periods into one, eliminating the separate 4A and 4B lunch periods. 	2010 SOPHOMORE YEAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Construction of new science building completed and opened for school use. • Spring elections stirred up controversy regarding racial diversity within ASB. 	2011 JUNIOR YEAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WASC accredited AHS for six more years after reviewing the school. • Sweeping Santa Ana winds resulted in blackouts and two days of no school. 	2012 SENIOR YEAR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new AHS constitution was ratified after a school-wide vote. • Graduation on May 30, 2013. 	
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MOOR graphic by SHARON XU

High Schoolers Answer the 'Major' Question with Popular Major Choices

JENNIFER THAI
Staff Writer

College offers many academic freedoms relevant to specific interests or studies that can start career pathways.

The college experience emphasizes pursuing new interests and opportunities. Deciding which path to take is one of the most difficult choices for seniors to decide on, as it may potentially make or break their college experience.

According to the Princeton Review, Business Administration and Management/Commerce is the most popular college major. People with good marketing and decision-making

skills are compatible with this major because it accentuates their leadership. This pathway is both applicable to mathematics and communication and aptitude. Although Business Administration is a popular major, it is also very competitive. The world of business revolves around being successful by making the most of limited resources.

"Business is a broad major that can put you on many different career paths. According to [research], a degree in Business Administration seems to [be] safe, growing and flexible. You meet, network and work with new people all the time," senior Brian To said.

Psychology is the second most

popular college major listed by the Princeton Review. Within this broad major, there are subcategories that focus on different aspects, such as learning, personality, intelligence, perception and motivation. Pros-

“ Take your time; don't rush. It's okay to finish your general class requirements before you begin your specific major. ”

-Jeremy Infranca

pects of this major are those who are interested in analyzing human behavior.

Another route, medicine, remains a prominent aspect of the world to-

day. This is why Nursing has been labeled as the third most popular college major, according to the Princeton Review. Treating health problems with ever-changing and improving technology motivates

people to certify themselves as nurses in order to help improve the world. "Since I was a little kid, hearing [my family members] talk about their work would draw my attention

and I [took] an interest in anatomy and physiology. [A] lot of other people are also drawn to a career in nursing because they too want to help people and save lives," senior Krista Weng said.

Biology/Biological Sciences, Education, English Language and Literature, Economics, Communications Studies/Speech Communication and Rhetoric, Political Science and Government and Computer and Information Sciences are the next seven most popularly ranked majors by the Princeton Review, respectively.

Regardless of the individual's chosen path, it is not advised to select what is believed to be the easiest

major or a major that a friend has selected because both of these options do not foster the aptitudes and interests of the individual.

"My advice to seniors who have not yet decided on a major would be, 'Take your time; don't rush. It's okay to finish your general class requirements before you begin your specific major,'" Assistant Principal of Guidance Jeremy Infranca said.

The opportunities taken or missed all affect an individual's college and life experience. Like a fork in a road, there are different options to consider when travelling the road called life, all of which comes down to the individual. Sometimes, it all depends on the journey itself.