

Hello everyone! It's me again, Kelly, from Exploring College. Is there anything specific you want to see in our next edition of the newsletter? Are you interested in writing a column? Feel free to email me at exploringcollege@vassar.edu with any comments, suggestions or questions! In the meantime, enjoy our latest edition!

College Search Scavenger Hunt

In our first newsletter, we gave tips for how to start your college search and navigate college websites. Now we're going to put that knowledge to the test! Practice your skills and explore different college websites using this scavenger hunt.

To do this activity, you will need a device that can access the internet. Using a computer will probably be easiest, but you can also use a smart phone or a tablet!

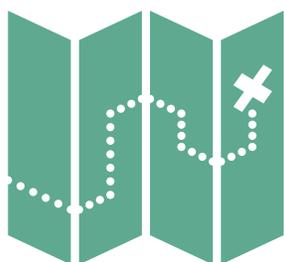
The first step is to pick out a college. You can pick one that was suggested to you from a search engine, one that you've always been interested in, or just simply one that you've heard of! If you really aren't sure, we included a mini-list below with a few different New York colleges EC students have applied to in the past. Pick one out!

List of Schools:

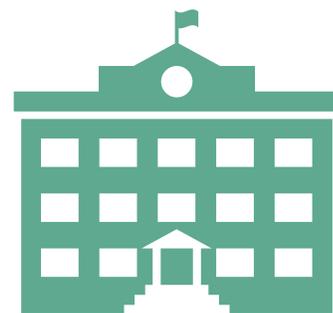
- SUNY New Paltz
- Bard College
- Dutchess Community College
- College of Saint Rose
- UAlbany
- Columbia University
- Marist College

Once you've picked out a college, flip to the end of this newsletter and find the activity sheet. Using the prompts on the sheet, see if you can find all the answers on your selected college's website. The idea is that even if you don't know what kind of school

you want to go to, or what kind of subject you want to study, you can still try out this activity! See if you can fill in all the blanks.



It seems like an easy task, but you might be surprised! Sometimes college websites are not intuitive and it takes some time and practice to figure out how to find exactly what you're looking for. Hopefully while you're looking for your answers, you will learn more about your selected college! If you see something that looks interesting, even if it isn't what you were originally looking for, check it out! Allow yourself to go off-track with this exercise—the idea is that it will help illuminate different aspects of college life that are interesting or important to you!



You can then repeat this exercise with another college of your choice. You'll see just how different college websites can be!

Follow us on Instagram!

find us @vcexploringcollege



Book Club

This week's book club choice is something a little different—a graphic novel! It came as a recommendation from our wonderful mentor, Ella. This graphic novel is called *On a Sunbeam* by Tillie Walden. The entire book is available online! Follow this link here to access the text:

<https://www.onasunbeam.com/>

If you are unable to access the internet but want to read this novel, send an email to exploringcollege@vassar.edu and we will send you the full pdf!

Below is a bit of information from the author describing her inspiration and intent with *On a Sunbeam*. Keep reading!

“The closest I’ve ever gotten to being into sci fi was having an ET doll. And that doesn’t even really count. My point being: I know nothing about either the genre of science

fiction or the actual mechanics of existing in space. I always got crummy grades in science, too.

And yet, I made a sci fi book. Anything is possible, kids.

I’ve seen a few snippets of all the big popular space movies, and they always bore me. Why are they so full of white hallways and white men?

The inception of *On a Sunbeam* came from my perpetual disappointment and boredom towards any story set in space. At the beginning, *Sunbeam* was just called ‘Space Book.’ I spent almost a year just thinking about it before I actually started drawing it. I went into it with no plan. My initial goal with *Sunbeam* was to create a version of outer space that I would want to live in. So of course that includes tons of queer people, no men (did you notice?), trees, old buildings, and endless constellations.

I can’t stress just how much I didn’t know about this story when I started it. I was literally designing the characters as I drew them in the first pages. But it was all able to come together with a lot of hard work and a lot of help.”

- Tillie Walden



Mentor Spotlight!

Featuring: Hannah

For this week's spotlight, we're featuring one of our mentors, Hannah! Hannah is a first-year at Vassar studying Neuroscience and Behavior. She hails from a tiny town in Upstate New York called Galway, which is about an hour north of Albany. During quarantine she has been playing lots of music! For her fun fact she says, “there are currently 3 snakes in my house! (and those are just the ones we know about)”.

Wellness Tips

Continuing on with our information from last week, here are some new ideas to keep yourself going!

Writing Project: 6 Word Stories

This suggestion kind of ties in with the writing prompts we usually include, but I wanted to elaborate on this one a bit more because it's actually an assignment I had in high school that I really enjoyed!

The idea is just like what it sounds like, to write a story in only 6 words. How can you possibly tell a whole story with so few words? It seems crazy, but here are a few examples to give you a taste:

“She merely smiled. His world stopped.”

“Painfully, he changed ‘is’ to ‘was.’”

“I sadly returned the unopened gift.”

I thought these were really captivating when I first read them in high school and I still do now! If you're looking for something to do, try your hand at writing some 6 word stories. It's fun because it's low commitment and doesn't require too much actual writing, but the story can still be very creative and interesting!

If one of your creations gets you thinking and you want to expand the story beyond 6 words, I have another challenge for you. Try to rewrite the exact same 6 word story, but in 100 words. Then, write it again in 500 words. Now you will have the same story three times, but each version reveals a little more information and detail. It's pretty cool!

On the Instagram page, I will post some more 6 word stories and then have an open poll for you to submit your own! Let's see what you can come up with—maybe I'll even share some of mine!

Crossword:

You'll find the answers to last week's crossword at the end of this article, and we included another one for this week!

Art Supplies:

If you want to make art but you don't have many supplies around your house—I have good news for you! Poughkeepsie local artist and gallery owner David Henningsen has been working to create free “Art Packs” with paints, brushes, pencils, pens and paper that are available to Poughkeepsie students! If you would like a pack, they will be available for safe pick-up at his gallery on 330 Main Street. To coordinate pick-up, you can contact David at david428@mac.com or call 845-590-8922. I am also happy to help you coordinate, just email me at exploringcollege@vassar.edu!

Suggestions!

Music:

Album: Kid Krow (Conan Gray)

Artist: Ella Mai

TV Shows/Movies:

Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist

(NBC.com or Hulu)

Writing prompts

1. Creative

Write a story in only six words! See the Wellness Tips column for examples and more information.

2. Personal:

Write the words you need to hear.

3. Opinion:

Do video games deserve the bad rap they often get?

College Search Scavenger Hunt

Directions: *Select a school from your college list (or one from the newsletter) and look for the following on the school's website!*

1. Where is the school located?

 2. Find the course catalogue or programs list (try clicking on a "students" tab or "academic" tab).
 - a) Does the school you are looking at have an international studies program?

 - b) Does it have courses in women's studies? Find a course title!

 3. a) What major do you think you might be interested in? If you aren't sure, that's ok! Just pick any subject that you might like.

 - b) Go back to the course catalogue! Does this school have courses in the major you chose above? There are a lot of programs that not every school offers, so before applying to a school you should make sure that you can study what you are interested in while you are there.
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4. Look into the types of degrees you can get at this school!
 - a) Can you get an associates degree there? -- an associates degree is a 2-year degree

 - b) Can you get a Bachelor of Arts (BA) degree there? -- a BA is a 4-year degree

 - c) Can you get a Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) degree there? -- a BFA is a 4-year degree in arts, theater, dance, etc.

 - e) Does the school offer any Masters degrees? -- a Masters is a type of graduate degree. Universities that have graduate programs may be a benefit because they allow you to continue your studies. However, it also means that some of your undergraduate courses may be taught by graduate students instead of professors.

5. Does this school accept the Common Application? (try checking under the “admissions” tab or a “how to apply” tab).

6. When are applications due for 2020/2021?

7. Does this school have a soccer team? (try looking under the “campus life” or “athletics tab”).

8. How many students does this school have?

9. Can you find the student to faculty ratio? What about average class size?

10. Look into the school’s study abroad options!
 - a) do most students study abroad?

 - b) Where is a place you might like to study abroad? Does this school offer programs there?

11. See if you can find a video on the college’s website about what it’s like to be a student there!

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COLLEGE KNOWLEDGE

by Frank Longo | © 2014, The New York Times



The Learning Network

Teaching & Learning With The New York Times

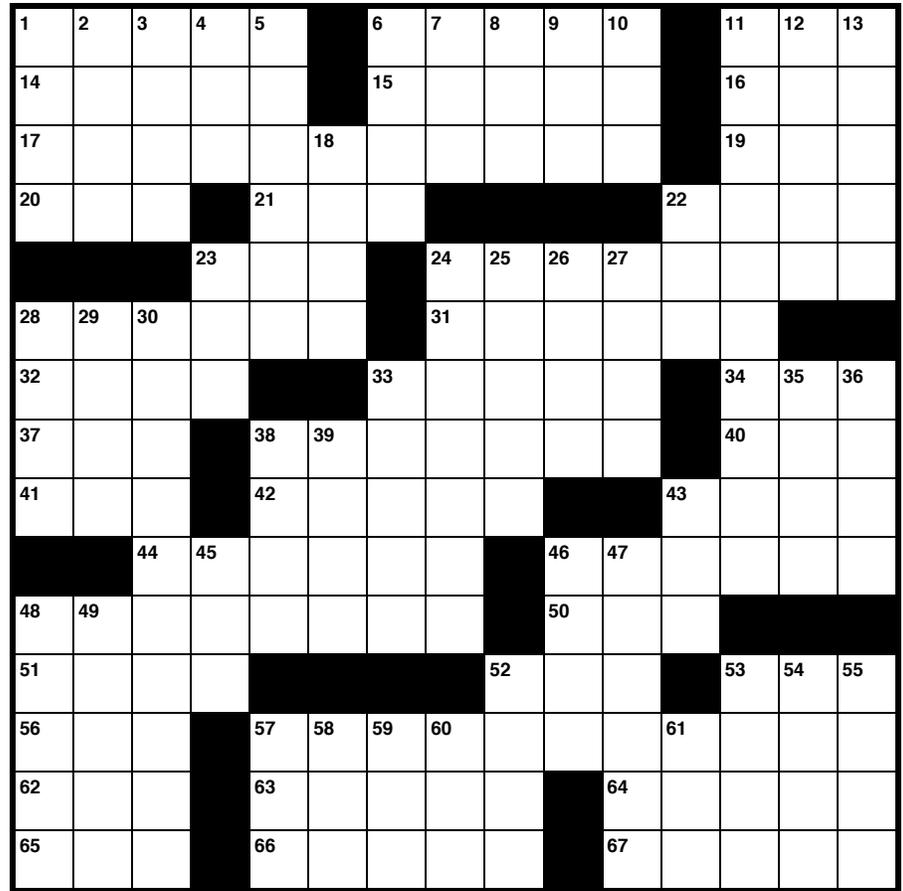
ACROSS

- 1 College student's focus of study
- 6 Buildings in which college students live
- 11 Where military jets are kept: Abbr.
- 14 "Gone With the Wind" heroine Scarlett
- 15 "Old MacDonald had a farm" follower
- 16 ___-Magnon man (early Homo sapiens)
- 17 Need-based federal option for 50-Across: 2 wds.
- 19 Corporate V.I.P.
- 20 The word "mommy" has three of these
- 21 Basic monetary unit of Albania
- 22 "Star ___ Into Darkness" (2013 film)
- 23 Supervisors of 6-Across, briefly
- 24 Faculty members appointed to students
- 28 Takes for no credit, as a college course
- 31 Irked
- 32 Very untidy person
- 33 Blinding light
- 34 Oahu, Maui or Kauai: Abbr.
- 37 "Monsters, ___" (2001 animated film)
- 38 ___ Day (occasion for students' folks to visit a college)
- 40 Burnt ___ crisp: 2 wds.

- 41 Important exam for college hopefuls
- 42 Words that end prayers
- 43 Plant used to flavor food
- 44 Due to wagering: 3 wds.
- 46 Students on honor rolls make good ones
- 48 Greek-letter college organization for women
- 50 Financial ___ (help in paying tuition)
- 51 ___ the crack of dawn: 2 wds.
- 52 1980s sitcom featuring an alien
- 53 Old Glory's land
- 56 Hairy cousin on "The Addams Family"
- 57 General-knowledge college courses: 2 wds.
- 62 Golf ball supporter
- 63 All by oneself
- 64 Component of many a college application
- 65 Magazine employees: Abbr.
- 66 Freshmen or sophomores, for example
- 67 Glide around an ice rink

DOWN

- 1 Be sunk in dejection
- 2 Attention-getting sound
- 3 Pickle containers
- 4 Mork's home planet on "Mork & Mindy"



- 5 Complain bitterly to: 2 wds.
- 6 Furniture that seats a student
- 7 Lubricate
- 8 ___ Speedwagon (1970s-'80s rock band)
- 9 Soccer star Hamm
- 10 Prince, to a king
- 11 Like colleges that meet all official requirements of academic excellence
- 12 More liberated
- 13 They're part of college students' expenses
- 18 Loch ___ Monster
- 22 Communist chairman Mao ___-tung
- 23 Chest-protecting bone
- 24 In abundance
- 25 College bigwigs
- 26 Opposite of horizontal: Abbr.
- 27 "As I was going to St. ___, I met a man with seven wives"
- 28 Garage sale warning: 2 wds.
- 29 Forearm bone
- 30 Highest graduate-school degrees
- 33 Say "hello" to
- 35 In need of a massage
- 36 Hands-on science classes, for short
- 38 Late-night talk show pioneer Jack
- 39 Prefix with -dextrous
- 43 Possessed
- 45 "___ too shabby!"
- 46 Festive party
- 47 Shoulder firearms
- 48 Group of connected rooms in some 6-Across
- 49 Chose
- 52 Greek war god
- 53 ___ Minor (bear constellation)
- 54 Height, weight or eye color
- 55 "... so long ___ both shall live?": 2 wds.
- 57 Fond du ___, Wisconsin
- 58 Sick
- 59 Constricting snake
- 60 Letters after 20-Across
- 61 Inquire