

Lamorinda Schools

Is Early Acceptance Right for You?

By Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D.

October is an especially busy month for seniors who choose to apply early to one of the hundreds of colleges and universities that welcome early applicants. These schools set application deadlines typically between Nov. 1 and Nov. 15 and offer a quick response, usually by mid-December. How do you know if an early option is right for you? This article describes the differences between the two major early admission plans to help you decide.

Early decision is a binding agreement between the college and applicant. You may only use early decision for one school. If accepted, you are obligated to attend, if the school offers you a satisfactory financial aid package. The college can also deny your application or defer it to the regular admissions cycle. If denial or deferment occurs, you can apply to other colleges to meet their regular admission deadlines.

Early decision programs have become more popular over the past decade. There are some clear advantages to both the college and the student. The college gets a head start assembling a fall freshman class. Students admitted under early decision are certain to enroll. In college admissions talk, the "yield" from the early decision pool is 100%. This permits schools to more efficiently manage enrollment and, from a competitive standpoint, gives the college the opportunity to admit desirable students who might have attended rival institutions.

The advantages to students include ending the uncertainty of

the college admissions process so they can relax and enjoy their senior year. Also, it is generally believed that applying early decision can increase chances of admission. Historically, the acceptance rate for early decision applicants is higher than the rate for regular admissions. This is particularly true for legacy applicants and recruited athletes. The downside is that students who are accepted early are limited in their financial aid options. Early decision removes the opportunity to compare financial aid offers from several schools, or negotiate for a better package between schools. This makes early decision a good business decision for the college, but not necessarily for the student. The family may feel pressured to accept an offer that is not as affordable as that from another school which could provide the student a similarly good education.

Early decision is one of the most hotly debated topics in college admissions. Critics point out that early decision is increasingly being used as an admissions strategy. They note that early decision favors students who do not need financial assistance and who have access to strong parental and counselor support systems that permit identification of a first choice school and facilitate an efficient assembly of all materials necessary to meet early application deadlines. Students with limited financial means, and those who attend poorly funded and overcrowded public schools, do not enjoy these advantages. Due to these concerns as well as because the sheer number of early appli-

cants has increased dramatically, some schools are reducing the number of students admitted through the early cycle. Others, like Princeton and Harvard, have ended these programs altogether.

Early action gives the student an early response without a binding commitment. Students accepted through early action enjoy the benefit of knowing that they have been accepted by one or more of the schools on their list, but they can wait until the spring to decide what school to attend. The student is also free to apply to other schools using the regular admission cycle and make a decision once all admission offers and financial aid awards are on the table. A few early action schools do place restrictions. The most restrictive is "single choice early action." Under this program a student may not apply early decision or early action to any other school. At the present time Yale and Stanford use this policy. Schools can and do change their policies unexpectedly, so be sure to obtain the most current policy information.

Here are a few guidelines to help you decide if an early acceptance option is right for you:

- Start early. Juniors and even sophomores can begin to research and visit colleges during school breaks and learn about early options and deadlines. Hasty decisions made in your senior year may lead to disappointment.
- You must be totally confident that your first choice school is right for you.

- Assess your academic and extracurricular profile; bear in mind that early acceptance is a good choice for students who would be competitive applicants for regular admissions.
- Be certain that you do not need your fall semester grades to boost chances for admission.
- Talk with your parents about the importance of maintaining the ability to compare financial aid offers.
- Make certain you have the support from your parents and high school counselor to submit a strong, cohesive application by the early deadline.



Elizabeth LaScala, Ph.D. is an independent college admissions advisor located in Lafayette, California. Her goal is to help students and their families understand the college admissions process, research college and career options, create a college list and prepare a strong, organized and cohesive application. Dr. LaScala is a member of NACAC, WACAC, and HECA and earned a certification in College Admissions and Career Planning from University of California at Berkeley. Contact her at (925) 891-4491 or elizabeth@doingcollege.com.

Big Birthdays!

Mary Gladys (Snider) Postell turns 102

Submitted by Nancy Gilmore (Mary Postell's niece)



Mary Gladys (Snider) Postell on her 102nd birthday. Photo provided by Nancy Gilmore

Mary Gladys (Snider) Postell celebrated her 102nd birthday last month at the Lafayette Care Center. She was born in Lenoir City, Tennessee, on September 19th, 1907.

Postell moved to Cleveland, Ohio with her family, when she was 11, and then to Orlando, Florida. She settled in California in during the Depression, living in southern California for 70 years.

As a teenager, one of her greatest pleasures was gymnastics. Later, in Florida, she was involved in dance and the-

ater. After moving to California, she worked as a switchboard operator and supervisor at the telephone company in Van Nuys. She was on duty the day Pearl Harbor was attacked and often told the story about the switchboard suddenly lighting up and everyone knowing that something important must have happened.

She married Archie Postell during the war in 1943, and they started their own business designing and manufacturing office supplies. They built their home, in Granada Hills, CA, themselves.

They moved to Ventura, CA, after retirement. Postell enjoyed craftwork, and volunteered at the Senior Craft Shop in Ventura, where she sold many of the items she had made. Archie died in 1985; they were married for 41 years. They didn't have any children, but Postell has many nieces and nephews.

Postell moved to the Bay Area in 2003; she lived independently at Orinda Senior Village until shortly before her 100th birthday, when she moved to Lafayette Care Center.

If you or a friend /family member is having a Big Birthday in Lamorinda, please send us a picture and tell us the story: storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com.

SeaScouts Take to the Sky

Submitted by Carol Taylor



Acalanes sophomore and Sea Witch Boatswain Taylor Lindenhayn (left) takes a break with fellow crew members Cheyenne Clarke and Sierra Lameira in front of an experimental ultralight seaplane at the Clear Lake Splash-In on September 26th. Photo submitted

After volunteering at the annual Clear Lake Seaplane Splash-in Sept. 25 to 27 in Lakeport, Acalanes High School sophomores Taylor Lindenhayn (15) and Hiroshi Redic (14), freshmen Brooke Metro (14) and Braedon Cuming-Timms (15), and other crewmembers of the Sea Scout ship S.S.S. Sea Witch were given free rides in various seaplanes.

The Splash-In offered seminars for pilots such as "Seaplanes and Invasive Species" and "International Flight Planning for Seaplanes," as well as flying events including Spot Landing contests, Water Bombing contests and a Grand Flying Parade of Seaplanes as the finale. The Sea Witch crew was one of three Sea Scout crews volunteering including two Lakeport-based crews, the S.S.S. Conocti Phoenix and the S.S.S. Whisper.

"They guided the seaplanes down to the lake ramp for takeoff with orange batons and kept curious onlookers a safe distance away from the spinning propellers and moving wheels. After the planes returned and landed on the water, the Sea Scouts guided the planes back up the ramp onto the field and then physically had to push many of them into the proper parking spot all while keeping

an eye on children and plane buffs eager to get a closer look," said Communications Officer Rolf Lindenhayn. "A number of planes were vintage 1940's in beautiful condition like the Grumman G-44 Widgeons and

there were several unusual Republic RC-3 Seabees and a Searay."

Sea Witch Boatswain, Taylor Lindenhayn, rode in a special composite material plane called a Glastar, while crew members

Braedon Cuming-Timms and Alex Phillips braved the open air in single passenger ultra-light seaplanes. Seawitch Bosun's Mate, Brooke Metro, rode in a single engine flying boat.

Hiroshi Redic was impressed with the variety of seaplanes at the event. "One plane that caught my interest was called The Mermaid. It had a slick futuristic-looking design and left me speechless. I thought most sea planes would have the same design and but, wow, I was completely wrong," Redic said.

Sea Scouts is a non-profit national co-ed boating program for teens and young adults. Started in 1912, there are about 20 ships and crews in the Bay Area. Crew members learn how to operate large ships and small boats, and gain seamanship skills such as navigation, weather, first aid, water safety, and knot tying. The S.S.S. Sea Witch crew meets Tuesdays 6 to 8:30 p.m. at 225 N. Court St. Martinez and Saturdays 9-4pm on the ship at the dock in Martinez. For more information call (925) 917-0573 or go to www.seascout.org.



Acalanes sophomore and Sea Witch Boatswain Taylor Lindenhayn (left) and freshmen Braedon Cuming-Timms (center) and Brooke Metro (right) train with a fellow Sea Scout before volunteering at the Clear Lake Splash-In on September 26th. Photo submitted

Milestones

Harry and Betty Adamson Celebrate 65th Anniversary

With a little help from the Mayor

Submitted by Joanne Robbins



Mayor Don Tatzin, Betty and Harry Adamson

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Harry Adamson was born in Seattle and later moved to Hayward and Oakland; and
WHEREAS, Betty Adamson was born in Minnesota and later moved to San Francisco and Berkeley; and
WHEREAS, Harry and Betty Adamson met and were subsequently married on October 8, 1944 in Berkeley; and
WHEREAS, Harry and Betty Adamson moved to their home in Lafayette in 1951 while Betty commuted to her job in Berkeley at the University of California at Berkeley and Harry commuted to his studio in their home; and
WHEREAS, Harry and Betty Adamson studied wildlife, especially birds, and Harry became a world-famous wildlife artist whose works are enjoyed by all who see them and hang in museums, galleries, homes, and offices; and
WHEREAS, Harry and Betty Adamson are always gracious, kind and willing to share with others their tips about creating great art and enjoying life; and
WHEREAS, Harry and Betty Adamson's enjoyment of wildlife has taken them on trips around the world as well as to the nature reserve in their Lafayette backyard; and
WHEREAS, Harry Adamson was recently honored as a lifelong member of the Mt. Diablo Audubon Society; and
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Don Tatzin, Mayor of the City of Lafayette, recognize Harry and Betty Adamson on the occasion of their 65th wedding anniversary and send congratulations on this special day of celebration.

**HARRY AND BETTY ADAMSON
 ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR 65TH ANNIVERSARY
 IN WITNESS WHEREOF,**

I have hereunto set my name and affixed the seal of the City of Lafayette this 8th day of October 2009.

Send YOUR milestone to storydesk@lamorindaweekly.com