

A sweet and savory summer snack

By Susie Iventosch



Bacon-wrapped blue cheese-stuffed figs

Photo Susie Iventosch

Susie can be reached at suziventosch@gmail.com. This recipe can be found on our website: www.lamorindaweekly.com. If you would like to share your favorite recipe with Susie please contact her by email or call our office at (925) 377-0977.



I have been wanting to publish this fig recipe for a few years now, but because we spend our summers in Idaho, we keep missing the fig season in the Bay Area and so I seem to forget about them. But, in a turn of luck last week we made a quick trip to the Bay Area for a family event and while shopping for a dinner party, I spied beautiful Mission figs in the market. I did not hesitate to pick up a basket of them for appetizers. The produce man said that we are still in the first of two summer figs seasons and so there's plenty of time to make this dish before they disappear again.

The California fig season opens in June and goes through July, with a second wave arriving in August through October. This may be changing. More than 90 percent of America's fig crops are grown in California and farmers are trying to find ways to extend the season throughout the year. But for now, we still mainly see

figs in the markets during these two short back-to-back seasons.

This recipe is a bit time-consuming due to wrapping the bacon around each stuffed fig, but it is definitely worth it! We use turkey bacon, because it's

precooked and also less fatty, but you can certainly use pork bacon that has been cooked until done, but not crispy. You will want to get it crispy after you've wrapped the fig and secured it with a toothpick.

Bacon-wrapped blue cheese-stuffed figs

INGREDIENTS

- 1 pint basket black Mission figs (12 or so)
- 1/3 cup crumbled blue or Gorgonzola cheese
- 6-10 strips turkey bacon, cut in half lengthwise (depending upon how many figs you have)
- Toothpicks

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 400 F and spray a baking sheet with cooking spray.
- Remove the stem tip from the figs, and slice each fig in half lengthwise. Place figs flesh side up on a baking sheet. With your thumb or index finger, make a small indentation into the pulp of the fig. Push about a 1/2 teaspoon of blue cheese or Gorgonzola crumbles into the cavity. Next, wrap each fig with a half strip of bacon, wrapping around the middle of the fig and secure with a toothpick.
- Bake for approximately 10 minutes, or until cheese begins to brown and bacon begins to get crispy.
- Serve hot.

Steps to Success for the College Transfer Student

By Elizabeth LaScala, PhD

A student recently wrote to me: "My family can't afford to send me straight to a four-year college. My dream is to attend a community college and transfer to UC San Diego. What are my chances of filling all the requirements, and holding down a part-time job and transferring in two years? I know getting the right advice at the right time is very important."

Unfortunately, this student's predicament is not unique. A slice of historical context helps. The Master Plan for Higher Education, ratified in 1960, created the California Community College system, consisting of 112 statewide accredited two-year colleges and its accompanying transfer option to a four-year state university. As designed in 1960 the system rested heavily on a healthy transfer path between the CCCs—and California's public four-year institutions. The role of the CCCs remains critical to a transfer option to California's public four-year institutions, namely our nine University of California campuses and 23 California State Universities. However, the demographics and fiscal realities of the state have changed dramatically. Students who plan to attend a community college today and transfer successfully (<http://www.doingcollege.com/college/transfer-student-counseling/>) must bravely confront a new world.

The following eight recommendations can help our high

school students plan how to use the transfer path as effectively as possible.

1. **Don't make community college an afterthought.** The community college option should not be a late addition to your college admissions plan. You should create a written game plan for the (hopefully) two-year transfer path. Although the plan will likely change based on the availability of classes, schedule conflicts or a change in a student's academic goals, having a plan ensures you get and stay on track.

2. **Go beyond your high school's requirements for graduation.** Earning strong grades in each UC/CSU required course in high school increases your chances of passing the assessment exams that place you in college level English and math coursework in a community college environment. That could mean skipping over remedial classes, which have no transfer credits. Advanced Placement classes and AP exams where you earned a passing grade of 3 or higher can be used for some required courses as well.

3. **Participate in California's Early Assessment Program (<https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/g/hs/eapindex.asp>).** The EAP testing is offered to juniors at their high schools. Through the assessment, California juniors have the opportunity to measure their English and math skills toward the end of

11th grade. Juniors can evaluate their college 'readiness' and plan their final year in high school to take coursework to strengthen their ability to be successful in the CCC system.

4. **Identify your transfer path in high school.** At the end of your junior year or early in your senior year begin to research both the CCCs as well as the four-year public or private universities you are interested in attending to complete your degree. Visit the campuses and well in advance of the visit be sure to make appointments with the transfer counseling departments to assess your status and your transfer plan (the one you put together prior to the visit). Then you will be prepared to really zero in on the schools that make it to your final list.

5. **Discover articulation agreements.** Most CCCs have what are called "articulation agreements" with the public UCs and CSUs and often with some private colleges as well. These agreements specify the required general education courses and prerequisites for your intended major. Select classes with your articulation plan clearly in mind. Since universities, especially state schools, can and do change their transfer requirements, staying current on the changes is your responsibility. The state's budgetary challenges can make the transfer path a moving target. Your best bet is to check your articulation agree-

ment criteria at <http://www.assist.org/web-assist/welcome.html> and take charge of it. You can identify a counselor to work with at the CCC, but be aware that some are very informed while others not so much, and there is quite a bit of turnover. If you find a knowledgeable counselor, stay in touch by meeting early and often. If you do not have luck at first, try, try again.

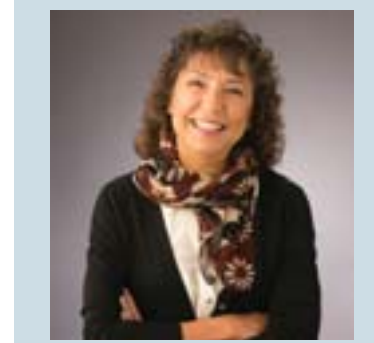
6. **Be prepared to enroll in classes at more than one CCC.** Despite the inconvenience, you may have to take required, transferable coursework at more than one CCC in order to get the classes you need to move forward along the transfer path.

7. **Your Grade Point Average (GPA) is the best predictor of success.** Just as in high school, your GPA in a community college (in classes that have transferrable credits) is probably the single most important factor in the transfer admissions decision. Study hard and get tutoring help early. Don't wait to fail or drop a class; that only delays your transfer plans.

8. **Don't let life get in the way.** Students who can attend CCC full-time are more likely to earn a degree. Try to build the rest of your life around your academic priorities. Living at home for the first year or two helps to ensure that earning money will not get in the way of earning your degree.

The eight tips above are indispensable tools as you navigate

the transfer process. Use them for transfer success!



Elizabeth LaScala, PhD personally guides each student through each step of selecting and applying to well-matched schools for undergraduate, graduate and professional school admissions. For over two decades, Elizabeth has placed hundreds of students in some of the most prestigious colleges and universities in the U.S. By attending professional conferences, visiting college campuses and making personal contacts with admissions networks, Elizabeth stays current on the latest trends and the evolving nature of admissions and passes that know-how on to her clients. Both college and graduate school advising is available and the number of clients taken is limited to ensure each applicant has personalized attention. Contact Elizabeth early in the process to make a difference in your outcomes. Write elizabeth@doingcollege.com; visit www.doingcollege.com or call (925) 385-0562.

'Everybody' – a must see for everyone at Cal Shakes

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We have the privilege of having this beautiful setting in our Lamorinda community, this play there is a summer must-see. There is some use of offensive words in the play, but no blasphemy, and someone undresses, to swim suit level. Parents will decide whether or not the play is appropriate for

young children.

Featured in The New York Times as "one of this country's most original and illuminating writers," Jacobs-Jenkins' play "Everybody" was a Pulitzer Prize finalist in the drama category in 2017. His other plays include "War," "Gloria"

(Pulitzer Prize-finalist), "Appropriate," "An Octoroon" and "Neighbors."

California Shakespeare Theater's production of "Everybody" runs at the Bruns Amphitheater in Orinda until Aug. 5. For tickets, visit www.calshakes.org.

www.Lamorindaweekly.com

Most Frequently Viewed Stories From Our Last Issue:

The screenshot shows the website interface with a navigation bar at the top. Below the navigation bar, there are several article thumbnails with headlines and small images. The headlines include: 'Tatzin not running for re-election', 'Modern Tones - unique recording facility opens in Lafayette', 'ADA complaints and lawsuits on the rise in Lafayette', and 'Neighborhood fun on the Fourth'. The website also features a 'Next, frequently viewed stories at' section at the bottom left.

- ADA complaints and lawsuits on the rise in Lafayette
- Lamorinda Safety Fair, Classic Car Show and Police Motorcycle Competition July 21
- Modern Tones - unique recording facility opens in Lafayette
- Tatzin not running for re election
- Challenging summer commute in Moraga
- Special Olympian Ryan Heptig gets gold
- Council prepares for legal battle over hillside and ridgeline development
- Neighborhood fun on the Fourth
- Lafayette prepares for 50th anniversary celebration
- 10th anniversary of Opera in the Park

If you wish to view any of the stories above go to www.lamorindaweekly.com and click the link below the story.