

Are summer pay to play programs worth it?

By Elizabeth LaScala

As a high school student, it's likely that you've been extended an invitation, urging you to consider applying for a pre-college program taking place on a college campus over the summer. Most of these programs are for profit (although some award scholarships and some are even tuition free). But, in general, many summer programs cost several thousand dollars for a week or two on a college campus. The label "pay to play" is commonly used because these programs give students the opportunity to play at being college students. That said, the best programs treat students like scholars and teach college level material as

well as give concrete opportunities to develop and practice important hands-on skills.

As much as I guard against allowing my students to attend truly Pay to Play programs, immersion in the best of these programs can strengthen the students' insights into their future major. Also, I like how it can give them the language to express their interests clearly within their college applications and interviews. For example, students with business majors in mind often falter here; they have problems being specific and going beyond the predictable. Engineering majors have similar issues—often starting their essays with

how they loved playing Legos as a child and love fixing their bicycles. These kinds of essays are very overdone. Programs with a hands-on project give future engineers the chance to build skills and describe how they worked and what they worked on (teamwork, problem-solving, outcome/results). Future doctors, dentists, and pharmacists who attend a summer immersion program will move them away from the typical "I want to help people" and into some specifics about the different specialties, patient-provider interactions, and hot topics in healthcare today.

For those programs that have an application process, we know they

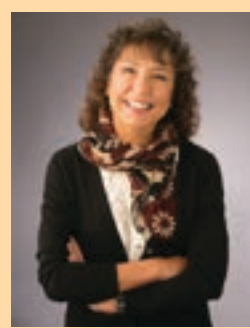
are at least somewhat competitive. Also, preparing the application can help the student understand the college application process. You have to fill out an application, ask a teacher for a recommendation, and write one or more essays. These tasks are similar to the real deal next fall. If the summer program is rolling, they will learn that applying early in the cycle can give them a better shot at getting in, similar to many colleges with rolling applications.

So, is the investment worth it? If you have a student with strong business, engineering, or other experiences and an already strong resume that will include

activities, a job, internship, or research during the summer following junior year, then it's unnecessary to add on a summer program. I do not think program par-

ticipation in itself boosts admission probability, but I do think the boost is to their insights, interviews, and college essays.

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Elizabeth LaScala, PhD, brings decades of admissions expertise to personally guide each student through applying to well-matched colleges, making each step more manageable and less stressful. She has placed hundreds of students in the most prestigious colleges and universities in the US. Elizabeth attends conferences, visits campuses and makes personal contacts with admissions networks to stay current on the evolving nature of college admissions. She and her professional team offer resume development, test preparation, academic tutoring, value analysis, merit and need-based scholarship search and more.



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In Memory

Dale Miller Walwark

April 21, 1936 – Jan. 17, 2024



Dale Miller Walwark, 87, of Moraga, CA, died peacefully on Jan. 17, 2024, in Walnut Creek, California.

He was born on April 21, 1936 in Belleville, Illinois to James Hamilton Walwark and Gladys Miller Walwark. He graduated from Belleville High School in 1954. Dale graduated from the University of Illinois in 1958.

He met the love of his life Penny in 1964. They were married on Nov. 28, 1965 and enjoyed 60 years together, living in San Francisco, Sausalito, Ross, Honolulu, and Moraga.

He joined Hoefler, Dietrich, and Brown in San Francisco

in 1964. He continued his advertising and public relations career with Transamerica, Amfac, and Wells Fargo Bank. He joined Penny in her family hotel business in the 1980s.

Dale served on the board of the Moraga Parks and Recreation Foundation, the Moraga City Council, and the Kiwanis Club of Moraga Valley.

Dale is survived by his wife Penny, daughter Jennifer Walwark, son James Walwark (Susan), grandchildren Lauryn Smeester, Gordon Dailey and Aroline Dailey, and brother Jim Walwark.

No service is scheduled. Donations can be made in Dale's honor to one of Dale's favorite causes: Contra Costa Food Bank, Monument Crisis Center, or Moraga Education Foundation

Juan Toscano-Anderson presents his JTA Foundation to Moraga Rotary

Submitted by Gary Irwin



Photo provided

Juan Toscano-Anderson, former player for the Golden State Warriors, along with Moraga Rotary President Jennifer Brophy with daughter Julia.

Juan Toscano-Anderson, former NBA player for the Golden State Warriors, presented details about his Journey To

Achieve (JTA) Foundation, which is committed to the idea that small acts of kindness can change a child's life trajectory. He grew up in Oakland, so its mission is primarily in that community and will extend its reach to families in need in nearby areas. The three pillars of the Foundation are in Education, Support, and Community, and it arranges community engagement events, workshops, and clubs. It has also founded a scholarship fund.

Toscano-Anderson now plays in the Sacramento Kings organization. He said "I established the JTA Foundation with the aim of giving back to the community that has always believed in me."

Moraga Rotary is a 56-year-old service club within Rotary International, and meets most Tuesdays at noon at La Finestra restaurant. To inquire about membership, or for further information, check out the website: moragarotary.org or call 925-330-9260.

In Memory

Edward Milton Farrior Jr.

March 23, 1940 – Jan. 17, 2024



Edward Milton Farrior Jr., affectionately known by his family and many friends as Pete, passed away on Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024, in Healdsburg, California. With his passing he has left behind a remarkable legacy of kindness, authenticity, and a life well-lived in which he touched the lives of many with his warm heart and genuine spirit.

Pete was born to Edward Milton Farrior Sr. and Texie Eli Farrior (nee Barnette) on March 23, 1940, in Wilmington, North Carolina. Pete grew up in Burgaw, North Carolina where he met life-long friends who still speak of his thoughtfulness and his history of excelling in sports. At Burgaw High School, he was the first student to letter in three sports for all four years. After

graduation from high school Pete attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he graduated with a bachelor's degree in economics. His alma mater allowed him to focus on academics while continuing to showcase his athletic skill as a first baseman for the UNC Baseball team. Later in life he enjoyed various sports, including tennis, golf, softball, and windsurfing. His athletic endeavors were a testament to his passion for staying active and embracing life's adventures.

After achieving his college degree Pete joined the Marine Corps, where he served his country and forged more lasting relationships. These military friends took part in a road trip across the US that concluded with them in San Francisco, California. It was at the culmination of this cross-country trip where he would begin his favorite journey when he met the love of his life, Carol Ann Nicolaisen at the Pierce Street Annex. The couple were married July 27, 1968.

Pete's enjoyed a successful 35-year professional career as a real estate appraiser and real estate investor. Carol and Pete opened Shelby's Restaurant in Orinda in the 1990's which they owned together for over 10 years.

Pete was an avid sports enthusiast and particularly loved the Giants, Warriors and UNC Basketball. He and Carol loved to travel together and spent many memorable trips to Mexico with friends and family. And he loved DOGS! His generosity, coupled with his kind and compassionate nature, left an indelible mark on those he encountered. Pete's legacy extends beyond his professional accomplishments and athletic achievements in ways that are not measurable with data, but rather by how he made those around him feel. It is universally acknowledged by all who knew him that he was a sweet, caring, and kind human who prioritized the well-being of others. He had an authentic and generous soul with a dash of Southern Charm that would always shine through in his conversation and actions.

He is survived by his wife, Carol; his two children, Drew Farrior (Michelle Ana) and Shelby Kolpin (Renaud); as well as his grandchildren, Kobe Ana-Farrior and Taiten Kolpin.

As we bid farewell to Edward Milton "Pete" Farrior Jr., let us reflect on the joy, authenticity, and generosity he brought into the lives of those around him. His memory will forever live on in the hearts of those who had the privilege of knowing this remarkable man. In lieu of flowers memorial contributions can be made to Alzheimers Association www.alz.org

Share Your Celebrations and Remembrances

If you would like to share an announcement about a special event or achievement, such as a wedding, engagement, scholarship or graduation of a local resident, or about a special person from Lamorinda who has passed, send a photo along with your text (up to 200 words) to story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com, and include "Celebrations or Remembrances" in the subject line.

Nick Walker of Moraga achieves Eagle Scout rank

Submitted by Terry Walker

Nick Walker, a senior at Campolindo High School in Moraga, recently attained the prestigious Eagle Scout rank with the Boy Scouts of America. With a seven-year tenure as a Boy Scout, Nick is a dedicated member of Troop 234 in Moraga. To achieve the Eagle rank, participants must undertake a community service project, and Nick chose to restore the Senior Deck at Campolindo during the summer.

Photo provided
Nick Walker



Community Service: We are pleased to make space available whenever possible for some of Lamorinda's dedicated community service organizations to submit news and information about their activities. Submissions may be sent to story-desk@lamorindaweekly.com with the subject header In Service to the Community.

Letters to the editor

Library Sunday hours

The fact that Lamorinda public libraries aren't allowed to open on Sundays because Contra Costa County thinks it isn't "fair" that other cities in the county can't afford to open theirs shows just how demented and ridiculous the so-called "equity" movement has become. This twisted mentality that taking something away from those who happen to live in wealthier neighborhoods in any way benefits those who live in less-affluent areas is utterly absurd. In fact, if Lamorinda libraries were allowed to open on Sundays, those living in other cities who wished to go to the library on a Sunday could easily come and enjoy our libraries. But instead, literally no one can go to the library on Sunday—what kind of insanity is this?

Last fall, the county library received a \$10 million grant from the state for a new state-of-the-art library in Bay Point, but can't find the dollars to staff other libraries on Sundays so Lamorinda libraries can spend their own money to be open on Sundays? This absurd notion that denying something of value to some (who can/are willing to pay for it themselves) in anyway helps those who can't/aren't is the most egregious, petty, zero-sum type of divisive thinking one can imagine.

If Lamorinda libraries have the fund-

ing/ability to serve residents on Sundays, the county has absolutely no business being able to tell them they can't. One would think petty tyrants squashing freedom in the name of "fairness" would only happen in totalitarian countries, not the (supposedly free) United States.

Steve McLin
Moraga

Torch Sensors article

I just read about a genius outdoor smoke detector by Vasya Tremsin that can combat against Wildfires [published Aug. 30, 2023]. I am attending Campolindo High School right now and I am inspired by this project. With my dad being a firefighter, I am in support for anything that can help and protect our community. Moraga with its dry hills could fall victim to a wildfire and anything that reduces those chances are welcome and encouraged. Torch Sensors covering 10 acres, shooting alerts through an app, and being tough against weather can be a major asset to protecting our towns.

Declan Anderson
Moraga

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