

DID YOU KNOW?

A Look at Current Events in Higher Education

Rowan University Institutional Research and Planning

Congress acts to boost student lending

The Associated Press

The House on Thursday backed a measure aimed at ensuring students get college loans amid the turmoil in the credit markets. Passage of the bill on a 383-27 vote comes as worries mount that the tightening credit markets, stemming from the subprime mortgage crisis, could limit financial aid for students.

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Paying for College Without the Home Equity Option

By M. P. DUNLEAVEY, *The New York Times*

The colleges have given their answers. They have sent acceptance letters to high school seniors and their parents along with notifications of how much, if any, financial aid they are offering. Now, those parents and students have until May 1 to address what may be the toughest questions: Should they choose the most affordable school? Or should they pick the one with more prestige, even if it's a financial stretch, even if it means going deep into debt?

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Now It's Colleges' Turn to Say 'Pick Me!'

By Valerie Strauss, *The Washington Post*

The University of Maryland at College Park is making sure that nearly every single student admitted this fall -- more than 10,000 of them -- gets a personal telephone call from a current student extolling the virtues of becoming a Terrapin. The student government president at Marymount University in Arlington County is sending a T-shirt to every admitted student. At Binghamton University in New York, current international students are writing letters to every admitted international student -- in their native language -- to make sure they know where to get food that suits their diets or how to solve other problems they may encounter.

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UVM boosts low-income aid

Burlington Free Press

Tuition and fees for lower-income Vermonters at the University of Vermont will be totally covered by grant aid beginning this fall under a new policy announced by UVM on Tuesday. The policy steps up efforts to make UVM accessible to low-income Vermonters and to reduce the "sticker shock" of attendance cost, said Chris Lucier, UVM's vice president for enrollment management. The new commitment means that tuition and fees at UVM -- expected to exceed \$12,800 this fall -- will be underwritten by grants that don't have to be repaid. Eligibility is restricted to dependent children of Vermont families in financial need. The new commitment means that tuition and fees at UVM -- expected to exceed \$12,800 this fall -- will be underwritten by grants that don't have to be repaid. Eligibility is restricted to dependent children of Vermont families in financial need.

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University of California makes room for record 60,000 freshmen

By LISA LEFF, *The Associated Press*

The University of California has accepted a record 60,008 California residents as freshmen for the coming fall despite worries that cuts in state funding could lead to overcrowded campuses and tuition increases, officials said Monday. With more high school seniors vying and qualifying for spot at a UC school, the university admitted a little more than three-quarters of all in-state students who applied, similar to last year's in-state admissions rate of 77 percent, university officials said. The admission offers to in-state freshmen beat last year's total of 57,318, also a record, by about 4.7 percent and represent a 43 percent increase over the fall 2000 term. Officials said upholding UC's long-held tradition of finding a space for all eligible California residents outweighed concern over the uncertain budget situation.

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Sallie Mae to stop offering consolidation loans to college graduates

The Associated Press

Sallie Mae, the nation's largest student loan provider, said Friday that it would stop offering lower-cost consolidation loans to college graduates because the federally backed business had become unprofitable. In a letter sent to colleges, Sallie Mae, formally known as SLM Corp., said it would concentrate instead on making new loans to students entering college. The suspension of the company's participation in the federal consolidation loan program took effect Friday. The consolidation loans accounted for nearly 70% of Sallie Mae's portfolio of government-backed student loans last year.

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Georgia State University hit with copyright lawsuit

Atlanta Business Chronicle

Three publishers have sued Georgia State University in federal court, alleging the Atlanta school violated copyright law. Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press and SAGE Publications filed the suit late April 15. They claim GSU officials are "systematically enabling professors to provide students with digital copies of copyrighted course readings published by the plaintiffs and numerous other publishers without those publishers' authorization." GSU Assistant Vice President for University Relations DeAnna Hines said GSU has not yet received the suit and pending litigation could not comment.

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