

IB/AP NEWS

The festive holiday season began in Mid-November and so did our IB examination season! IB registration for the May 2008 examination session closed on November 15th. In May, a total of 164 students will write 338 IB External Assessments. While this number is impressive, it does not take into account all of our grade 11 students who are enrolled in two year Higher level and Standard level courses that will not write their examinations until May of 2009! In addition, many courses are finalizing their Internal Assessment submissions. TOK final papers came in before Winter break and English A1 orals took place Dec. 13-18th at the Riverside Methodist Church. Students interested in revision guides or review may consider looking at the Oxford Study Courses 2008 schedule found at www.osc-ib.com. There you will find IB Review courses online as well as details concerning all of the IB Revision Guides that are available for purchase.

In the New Year, all AP students will receive a letter and student bulletin advising them of the registration process to take AP examinations. Although students in AP courses are not currently required to take AP examinations upon completion of their course of study, they are strongly advised to do so. While it is true that not all colleges and universities give credit and/or placement for particular AP exams, most colleges in the United States and Canada do. AP examinations provide students with a standardized measure of what they have accomplished in the AP classroom as compared to other students from around the nation. In addition, taking an AP exam provides the student the opportunity to synthesize all that they have learned during the entire year and experience a college-level exam. The best preparation for university includes taking the AP test at the conclusion of an AP course. All students enrolled in AP courses will benefit from the complete experience – with or without college credit.

IB NEWS

University Recognition & Legislation – Giving Credit Where Credit is Due

The University of Nebraska-Lincoln has just announced an out-of-state student scholarship worth \$40,000 for any student who earns an IB

Diploma. In addition, on average, each IB Diploma holder earns between 24-28 university credits at UNL based on their Diploma point count. UNL joins an increasing number of colleges and universities that are not only offering credit, but also IB Scholarships to Diploma recipients. Here are a few others. Winthrop University in South Carolina offers a \$5000 annual renewable scholarship for Diploma holders. Southern Methodist University in Dallas offers, as part of their SMU Scholar program, merit scholarships of up to \$12,000 annually based on an individual's IB Diploma point count. Albertson College in Idaho offers merit based scholarships ranging from \$7500-\$10,000 per year and sophomore standing with 30 units of credit for a Diploma score of 28 or better. The University of Tulsa offers up to 36 hours of college credit to IB graduates allowing students to take advanced classes from their first day on campus. Our Ohio schools recognize and value IB as well. Wittenberg University, Otterbein, Oberlin, and Defiance College all have IB scholarship and recognition policies. At the Ohio State University, all of our Diploma recipients from the class of 2007 received sophomore status. In addition, several states have enacted legislation guaranteeing college credit and admission for IB students. More information about these policies will be addressed in future newsletters.

Just watch IB recognition and scholarship opportunities grow for all of our UAIB graduates!

Where oh Where have our IB Diploma Graduates Gone?

Each of our newsletters over the past two years has included greetings from UAHS IB Diploma holders from 2006 & 2007. Look for a compilation of all these to appear soon on our UAHS website at <http://school.uaschools.org/uaibhs>.

This month we feature Elena Tatarchenko, last year's recipient of the Bill & Michelle Schaefer International Baccalaureate scholarship. What follows is her letter to the Schaefer's concerning her first few months at MIT.

Dear Dr. Bill Schaefer,

I was the recipient of your International Baccalaureate scholarship last year and I just wanted to give you an update

on how my year is going. As you may or may not remember, I made the decision to go to MIT. The decision was based primarily on the school's reputation, atmosphere, and choice of majors. I am a scientifically inclined person and therefore the possibility of being in an environment that thrived on technology was particularly appealing and proved to be a great choice for me.

MIT is on semester schedule therefore I am just now finishing the first set of courses. I picked a variety of challenging courses that fit under the general requirements. My courses are: Introduction to Physics, Principles of Chemical Science, Multivariable Calculus, and Writing on Contemporary Issues. When people say that MIT is a challenging place, they are not joking. I am regularly putting in anywhere from 4 to 10 hours on a problem set a week for each class, but I enjoy it nonetheless. There are sleepless nights and tough mornings, but I feel like I am learning a great deal.

Aside from academics, I am on the Varsity Fencing Team, which is a highly prestigious and interesting endeavor. Fencing requires two hour practices each day and usually competitions every other week. I am a starter for the team and in one of the most recent competitions came in 10th out of 56, the best out of the other members on my team. Fencing provides a nice balance and distraction from the academics. It is a huge time commitment, but it also gives me more structure and forces me to use my time in an efficient manner. After all the activities I was involved with for the IB program it also seems natural to stay active in college.

College was a drastic change in not only the workload but also way of life. I am of course a lot more independent and self-reliant now. The transition, however, was a relatively smooth one for me. Upper Arlington did a wonderful job preparing me for MIT. A lot of the study skills I learned during high school are even more useful today. There are a lot of students here that went to mediocre high schools and I have seen them really struggle in the first few months. They would procrastinate on their problem sets until the last possible day and not study for tests. It is a good thing that MIT is on pass/no -record system the first semester because otherwise they would have ruined their records before even taking the tough courses.

I am confident I will do well at MIT. It is a challenging place, but it is – at least most of the time - manageable. I am still not sure what exactly I want to with my life, but there are many opportunities here for me to figure that out.

Next year I plan to take advantage of the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program that MIT has set up. It will essentially allow me to put myself inside a field of study and probe into the unknown. I am very excited about my next 3.5 years here.

**Thank you so much for your support,
Elena Tatarchenko**

Project Ignition

The following is a report from Katie Cole (Diploma Candidate 2008) who served on the Project Ignition Planning Committee.

Just Say KNOW: Know the Risks, Know the Consequences, Know the Law. One does not usually hear this slogan when parents talk to their children about drinking and driving, but they should. Usually, the catch phrase is “Just say no”; however, Project Ignition members feel that students need to receive the message that it is more than just saying no, it has a lasting affect when students empower themselves with knowledge concerning drunk driving.

Project Ignition, the State Farm Insurance backed initiative, is a program set up to encourage safe driving. Schools across the nation applied for a grant of \$2,000 to execute their campaign concerning safe, teen driving. As chosen as one of 25 high schools in the nation to participate, we created the campaign slogan mentioned above. With a committee of seven dedicated students and faculty, we were able to implement a number of activities during Homecoming Week including a mock crash outside the senior lot, announcements over the PA, distribution of brochures, bracelets, and key chains, and a public service announcement regarding our focus. Not only did we target the students but we also sent home post cards and recorded phone messages with statistics about the messages students receive from their parents. We have hoped to made an impact on the parents and increase awareness about their son or daughter’s perception of drinking and driving.

As many know, Upper Arlington High School has had history in which students have been caught or suspected to have been drinking and driving. Although UAHS is not the only school to have a drinking issue, our problem at Prom especially seemed to be a ‘hard hit’ for many of us at Upper Arlington. Students within our community need to understand that when you drink, you always lose. In addition, it may not be you that loses—it could be someone else that you don’t even know or worse yet, someone you do know. So parents, students, community members, on behalf of everyone involved in Project Ignition, just say KNOW.

Did You Know...

that IB continues to grow in Ohio? All three Dublin High Schools had authorization visits this past November, as did Fairmont-Kettering High School.

that UAHS hosted visitors from two school districts hoping to implement IB? Representatives from Oberlin City Schools (who hope to adopt all three programs - Primary Years, Middle Years, and Diploma - making them the first district in the state of Ohio to do so) as well a team from Central Catholic High School in Toledo visited in early November. Central Catholic hopes to be the first Catholic school in Ohio to implement the Diploma Programme.

that our Global Language department was featured in the November issue of *The Language Editor* in an article entitled “Not Just ‘Seat Time’ Anymore” by Ellen Murray? Earning credit through Proficiency will allow us to expand our IB language offerings to students based on their ability.

that IB Information meetings are scheduled for January 15th and February 5th? More information about these evenings will be forthcoming...