



# THE GREEN PAGES

News from Christ School's College Guidance Office

Fall 2014

## College Focus Panel 2014



*Jackson Zemp '18 is rewarded with snack bar credit after listening carefully to the panelists.*

In September, representatives from five selective colleges and universities visited Christ School to share their wisdom with freshmen, sophomores and new juniors. Meg Conner moderated the discussion, drawing talking points from an informal "GPA" game. The group covered relevant topics such as admission procedures and policies, standardized tests, the role of extracurriculars and service in admission decisions, and college visits. When asked for their final nuggets of advice, this is what the panelists said:

### Davidson Hobson (Wofford College)

*On an application answer the questions, "Who am I? What do I value? What would I like you to know about me?" Be genuine.*

*Respect the admissions process for what it is. It is an incredibly personal decision and journey.*

### Natalie McCook (North Carolina State University)

*Really utilize your summers. Get involved.*

*When taking a campus tour, look at the bulletin boards. It gives you good insight into student life on campus.*

### Dawn Calhoun (Wake Forest University)

*Develop a love of reading. This will strengthen your awareness of the world around you.*

*When taking a campus tour, go off the beaten path. Go to the dining hall. Sit and listen. Notice interactions. Do you feel comfortable? Will you be challenged? Will you grow?*

### Danielle Larsen (Sewanee: University of the South)

*When you schedule college visits, avoid visiting schools during exam time.*

*Keep a list of experiences and things you're involved with to jog your memory when it comes time to fill out applications.*

### Lindsey Waters (Furman University)

*Avoid the Mother Teresa complex where you think you have to save the world before you apply to Furman.*

*Keep an open mind during the college search. Interests change, and your college thoughts can change from year to year.*

# Admission Officer Tips For Christ School Students



## Financial Aid and Scholarship Resources

- Consult scholarship search engines such as Zinch, Finaid.org and Scholarship.com.
- Visit college webpages for institution specific scholarships.
- Explore regional and local scholarship opportunities. Some colleges have alumni associations which offer scholarships to students who live in certain areas. Consider local businesses or parent workplaces in your hometown.
- Research state university sources. Some public universities offer tuition discounts to high achieving students in neighboring states.
- Avoid scholarship scams. If a service/website requires payment or offers free money without requesting any materials, be cautious. You do not need to pay for scholarship services.
- Follow U.S. News Education on Facebook, Twitter, and Google to stay current on the latest tips and advice as it relates to paying for college.

## College Essay Advice

- "Consider your reader. We have all the numbers on your application, and this is your chance to add the human element. We aren't looking for things that are amazing...just looking for a window into you."—Byron Lewis (Southern Methodist University).
- "Stop thinking about how to make your essay stand out. Instead, try to use your voice as much as possible. If I take your essay and mix it in with 100 different essays, your best friend should be able to pick it out."—Lauren Sefton (Rhodes College).
- "We aren't looking for the next *Hunger Games*. What are you passionate about? We want a picture in our head of who this student is."—Jennifer Setzler (Eckerd College).
- "The essay should make you smile when you start to read it. We need to be able to trust you. Convince us to take a chance on you. Articulate your triumphs. Show us that you can write."—Davidson Hobson (Wofford College).
- "We want to hear a story. Think of your life as a movie and give us a scene, a moment, or maybe even just a minute of your life that communicates YOU."—Lindsey Waters (Furman University)

## Campus Visit Dos and Don'ts

- Do plan your visit in advance. Register for a college tour/information session. If possible, sit in on a class.
- Do put your phone on "silent."
- Do peruse bulletin board for campus activities of interest.
- Do eat in the dining hall. It is always good to try the food and to people watch.
- Don't wear another school's "swag." First impressions matter.

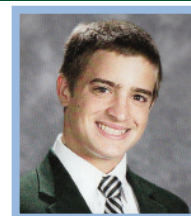




# Alumni Profile – Jean-Claude Dallies and Mike Martin, Class of 2013



## Jean-Claude Dallies and Mike Martin, Christ School Class of 2013 and College Roommates, Share Their Student Experience at The University of North Carolina Chapel Hill



**What advice might you offer a high school senior about the collegiate experience?**

LEARN TO MANAGE YOUR TIME WISELY. Any student has the freedom and opportunity to go and party if he/she likes to, but some students forget that school is still the top priority in their lives at the moment. Go have fun, but do manage your time so that you get your work done.

Time management is the most important skill to learn before you get to college. If you don't work to develop this skill in high school, you will find yourself lacking sleep; sleep will become your best friend in college.

Join a club or two of genuine interest to you. My involvement in the UNC's Club Tennis program has definitely made my life easier and less stressful.

**What lessons did you learn from your first year at college?**

DON'T PROCRASTINATE. Study early, set a schedule to manage your time (you can even set yourself a time to loaf around and do nothing) and join clubs. Always be open-minded in class—it could potentially lead to you deciding your major.

**How did you become comfortable with your school and the surrounding area?**

Coming to UNC Chapel Hill with a Christ School classmate as my roommate made life easier for sure. Doing everything together is fun, but you have to develop other friendships as well so that you can get used to the campus and college with other people aside from those you already know. Joining clubs can make you better acquainted with the university and future opportunities.

**What surprised you about your college experience?**

You would be surprised at how fast time flies and deadlines approach. There are so many options and distractions on campus!

**How do you manage your classwork around other activities?**

I respect my class schedule and stay aware of when I can goof around and when I need to buckle down and study. I found that once you obtain that perfect balance of studying and social time, college is much more manageable.

**With respect to your class schedule, how is your week arranged?**

There are some students who arrange for ONLY Tuesday and Thursday classes during the week. While this schedule sounds great, having a 4-day weekend every weekend, those two days of classes will most likely require you to be on campus in the classroom from 8:00 am until about 5:00 pm. I haven't done that (don't necessarily recommend that either) given the intensity of your time during those two days. I try to space

my classes out over all five days of the week so that I have the same amount as a Tuesday / Thursday schedule, just spread out more with less stress about each class. This way, I know that I have time to do my work rather than waiting till Sunday or Monday night to do all my homework.

**How different are your classes at the UNC Chapel Hill than what you experienced at Christ School?**

In college, your grade is basically made up of only midterms, finals, and projects. Rarely will there be a course that offers higher than 10% of your grade being homework. In other words, if you don't do practice problems or don't read, you

will not be in good shape for your upcoming exams. At Christ School everyone had homework which was a good portion of their grade, but in college it's not required, just recommended. If you don't take advantage of these practice problems, you will fall behind pretty quickly. In all honesty, it's not a lot of work; it's just a lot of reading.

**What aspects of Christ School prepared you well for your time in college?**

The block schedule definitely helped us get our time management skills in order. Going to Extra Help in the mornings is very similar to professor office hours here in college. For those students who go to extra help and are comfortable with that routine, they will definitely have a leg up when speaking to professors about questions or concerns about a class.

**May students contact you if they have question? If so, how?**

Yes, of course. They can contact us by email: [dallies@live.unc.edu](mailto:dallies@live.unc.edu); [martimg@live.unc.edu](mailto:martimg@live.unc.edu).

***"I found that once you obtain that perfect balance of studying and social time, college is much more manageable."***



*Mike Martin and Jean-Claude Dallies pose at the UNC Old Well.*

# Fall Break College Tour 2014 North and South Carolina Schools

**See?** College shopping with your friends is a great way to get a feel for a number of schools. This Fall Break College Tour visited: Duke University, UNC-Chapel Hill, Wake Forest, Elon, High Point, Clemson, and Wofford.



Students check out Duke's Cameron Stadium with Marshall Plumlee '11.



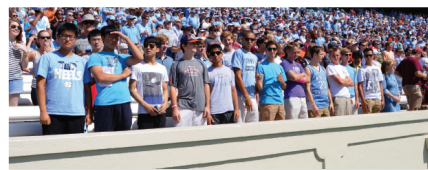
Hoping for straight A's after sipping from the Old Well at UNC.



Stopping to pose in front of Wait Chapel at Wake Forest.



Break time = Trampoline time.



UNC v. VA Tech – A Game to remember!



Watching the Chamber Singers at High Point University.

## Upcoming Events

### October 30 & November 1

Naviance Workshops for Parents

Conferences with College Guidance Counselors (Available for all students and parents; contact Jennifer Bird for more information.)

### Early December

PSAT scores released; review with College Counselor

### Tuesday, January 6

Financial Aid/Scholarship Workshop for Parents (Pingree Theater)

### January 10 & 11

Christ School SAT Prep for Juniors not enrolled in Chyten

### January 17 (ACT)

Chyten Test Prep for registered Juniors

### January 17 1& 18

Christ School ACT Prep for Juniors not enrolled in Chyten

### January 24th

SAT for Juniors

### February 7th

ACT for Juniors

## College Guidance Contact Information

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Coco Parham, Testing Coordinator and Administrative Assistant, ext. 167  
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(Mon-Thurs, 8:00am-3:00pm)

Jennifer Bird, Registrar, ext. 106  
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