



# THE GREEN PAGES

News from Christ School's College Guidance Office

Fall 2015

## Transition to College: Parents' Perspectives



*Joe and Patty Mouer with sons Jim '13 and Wade '17*

### **From Patty and Joe Mouer whose son, Jim, is a Junior at Furman:**

We were nervous about the process, and surprised at how hard it was to decide which schools to visit, where to apply, and ultimately, where to attend. We were looking for what would be a good fit for our son, and the college guidance office kept that goal in view throughout, helping our son narrow down his choices and divide the application process into manageable tasks.

Christ School helped prepare him for the transition to college by challenging him appropriately so that the academic demands were not a shock to him. Our advice: don't worry. You and your son will get through this process and find the right school for him.



*Chambers '13 and Kiffen '16 with father Ralph Loomis*

### **From Doris and Ralph Loomis whose son, Chambers, is a junior at Harvard:**

Chambers's academic preparation and his boarding experience provided the base he needed to begin Harvard with much confidence.

He did not participate in pre-orientation (the first week of school was orientation). He did spend the summer (and his senior year) learning all he could about Harvard and what it had to offer. That appears to be an important task since organizations admit members quickly, so it is important for a student to identify his or her interests before arriving at school.



*Robby '13 with father Pete Mangone*

### **From Leanne and Pete Mangone whose son, Robby, is a junior at Davidson:**

Robbie was well prepared by Christ School. One thing that worked well for him was being realistic about scheduling his classes. Despite my protestations, he signed up for classes that occurred later in the day. He was right—since he prefers to stay up later, scheduling classes which met at realistic times for his sleep schedule made a lot of sense. He didn't miss a single class, which I think is important. He also exercised nearly every day, which he (and I) think is essential.

As for the parent point of view, the separation was difficult for me. It's also hard not to be in constant communication. I heeded the advice to let him be the one to reach out to us, and have tried not to hover or check in. Like many boys, that means that we didn't communicate with him very much over the course of

the semester, but I think his experience—and our relationship—are the better for letting him call those shots.

I want to emphasize that CS prepared Robbie very well—socially, academically, athletically, and from a time management perspective—and we're grateful for that.



## **THINGS THAT PARENTS SHOULD REMEMBER ABOUT THE COLLEGE SEARCH PROCESS**

1. Remember that this process is not about you.
2. Support and encouragement are more appropriate than pressure and unsolicited advice.
3. Do not use the words “we” or “our” when referring to your son’s application process.
4. Help them prepare, but let them perform.
5. Encourage your son to make his own college appointments, phone calls, and emails.
6. Allow your son to ask the questions.
7. Prepare your son for disappointment.
8. Never complete any portion of the college application.
9. Do not let stereotypes or outdated information steer your son away from schools in which he would otherwise have an interest. Times have changed and so have colleges.
10. Never, ever, during a college visit buy a sweatshirt or T-shirt from the bookstore in your size — it’s a dead giveaway!

*Adapted from Middlebury College:*

[http://www.middlebury.edu/system/files/media/top\\_ten\\_parents\\_should\\_know\\_09.pdf](http://www.middlebury.edu/system/files/media/top_ten_parents_should_know_09.pdf)

# Alumni Profile – Mark Glaeser, Class of 2014

## Mark Glaeser Shares Some Advice After his First Year at the U.S. Naval Academy



### Why did you choose USNA?

I chose the Naval Academy because I knew I wanted to serve my country and get a solid college degree in the process. I chose USNA because it offers the widest range of service selections (undersea, surface, ground, and air). Also Navy is located in downtown Annapolis, MD, which is a gorgeous city with great night life. Lastly, when I visited USNA, everyone here seemed much more happy and friendly than students at the other two Academies.

### What has been your most memorable moment so far?

My most memorable moment has definitely been the Army/Navy game. It may not be Alabama vs. Auburn in terms of talent, but the atmosphere is unlike any other. The week before is filled with pranks (which is literally all out war between companies), “spirit missions,” and “spirit rallies.” The whole game you are sitting among your classmates going crazy and screaming your heart out, trying to out-cheer the meager Kaydets of Army. The game is almost always close and the stadium is usually sold out.

### If there was a time when you questioned your decision, how did you persevere?

Every student goes through what is called “plebe summer” when they first arrive at USNA. It is a crash course of military conduct and academy life. The physical demands are not bad if you can run and do push ups, but the mental battles seem endless. As many of my teachers will confirm, I tended to ask way too many questions. This attribute got me chewed out by upperclassmen constantly, and often made me wish I was somewhere else. To persevere, all you have to do is look left and right and trust that your classmates are going through the same struggles and will help you get through it all. Literally everything you do at the academy will demand leaning on your classmates for help.

### In what ways did your Christ School educational experience help you?

Christ School helped in that you were required to combine tough academics with a required extra-curricular. The Academies are the only schools that require every student to participate in some kind of ECA. Nothing can really prepare you for the academic rigor, but taking plenty of AP's definitely put me ahead of the curve and allowed me to enjoy my friends more this first year.

### What is a day in the life of a Naval Academy student really like?

Your day will be packed, period. As a freshman your day starts at 0530 with morning workouts. Morning formation is at 0700 and classes start at 0755. You have four 45 minute academic periods before a 1.5 hour lunch, which includes formation outdoors. Afterwards there are two more academic periods that end at 1530. Sports period usually starts at 1600 for non-varsity athletes and will go as late as 1730. Dinner and evening formation is at 1830 most weekdays. Study period is from 2000-2300, and you will most likely use every second of that time for homework and studying. Along with all of those obligations, there are many sporadic military trainings throughout the day. The key is learning to manage your time very well.

### What advice would you offer CS students as they prepare for the college search process?

Visit any school you are seriously interested in and try to attend a class/shadow someone. I changed my mind after visiting Air Force

because I did not like the atmosphere of the school. Take challenging classes to help with the transition into college and learn to start loving exams (you have 6 week, 12 week, 18 week, and final exams in most classes). Research what you want to do as an officer and talk to people in those service assignments, because no matter what you major in, you will be commissioning and serving 5 years as either a Naval or Marine Corps officer. Be humble and know that everything is for a reason, so please do not question it or else you will definitely be remediated...trust me.

### What do you wish you had known as a senior in high school that would have helped with your transition to the USNA?

Again just be humble and know why you chose the Academy. Simply knowing your end goal can help you through the toughest times.

### What are your plans for the future?

I am majoring in Mechanical Engineering. I hope to be competitive for SEAL and Marine Corps selection. I will let my first deployment and modern conflicts decide whether I make the military a career or go onto business management.

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

Yes, of course. Email me at [m182142@usna.edu](mailto:m182142@usna.edu) or call/text 801-608-4624.



Mark Glaeser (left) dines out with his company mates in Annapolis.

# Good Books !



**There are so many books that focus on the college search, so we decided to highlight a few that might offer you some extra insight into the college process.**

## ***Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges* by Loren Pope**

Organized by geographic region, every college profile includes a wealth of vital information, including admissions standards, distinguishing facts about the curriculum, extracurricular activities, and what faculty say about their jobs.

## ***The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College* by Jacques Steinberg**

Using real names, applications and interviews, Steinberg follows six applicants of varying backgrounds from their first encounter with Ralph Figueroa, an admissions officer at Wesleyan University, to their final acceptance or rejection. Although not a how-to book per se, Steinberg's work does include helpful advice.

## ***Crazy U: One Dad's Crash Course in Getting His Kid into College* by Andrew Ferguson**

In Crazy U, Ferguson spends time with the most sought-after private counselor, provides a pocket history of higher education in America, looks at the growth of the college marketing industry, and asks: Why the heck does college cost so much, and how can my kid get in?

## ***Winning the College Admission Game: Strategies for Parents & Students* by Peter van Buskirk**

This is a great resource from a former Franklin & Marshall dean of admission that's a "flip book" with student strategies for nearly two-thirds, then "flip" the book for parent strategies for the remaining one-third.

## ***I'm Going to College---Not You!: Surviving the College Search with Your Child* by Jennifer Delahunty**

As a parent and dean of admissions at Kenyon College, Delahunty has witnessed the stress of the college search and admissions process from the inside and the outside. She offers a collection of essays from both perspectives. Parents will enjoy the humor, drama, and poignancy of this collection.

## Upcoming Events

Nov 2-Dec. 13  
College 101 for Juniors

November 10  
PLAN Test for Sophomores

January 5  
Financial Aid/Scholarship  
Workshop for Parents  
(Pingree Theater)

January 8-10  
Christ School SAT Prep

January 14-16  
Christ School ACT Prep

May 9  
Alumni Roundtable with Seniors

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