



# THE GREEN PAGES

News from Christ School's College Guidance Office

Winter 2016



## Thoughts on the College Search Process

by Headmaster Paul Krieger

*The following excerpts appeared in Christ School's alumni magazine, The Galax, and are parent/Headmaster reflections from Paul Krieger.*

Having worn both hats, as Headmaster and parent, I have been through the college process three times and understand how the experience can cause so much angst. Therefore, I am happy to share some unsolicited advice on “the college search” in hopes of bringing some clarity and balance to anxious parents and nervous students.

- The transition to college is a beginning, not an end. Too often, parents and students confuse college placement with a kind of Calvinistic predestination—that life's trajectory somehow hinges on this. Do not let society's warped obsession of where a child attends college cloud the vision of your child's future.
- Adolescents bloom at different stages of life, and different individuals flourish in different climates. Find the right fit, then all things are possible.
- College acceptance should not be a game of collecting pelts. Rejection can be disappointing but can also be liberating. Rejection lets you know where you “stack up,” and that is wonderful. It lets you know where the channel markers and limits are. The lesson that needs to be extracted from a college rejection is that it is merely somebody else's opinion of where they think you are at that point in your life.
- Don't let the college acceptance “define who you are.” Whether you attend an elite university, a community college, take a gap year, go into the military, or go directly to work—let that define who you are and not the bumper sticker on your Jeep Cherokee.

Our job at Christ School is to ensure the readiness of each and every boy for the rigors of higher education academically, socially, and emotionally. And our job is to help each boy find the right college where that can happen. So while there are “many ways to skin a cat,” let us all remember that college is merely one of them. Rather than feed our cultural obsession with getting into the most selective institutions—an attitude that distorts reality, hurts kids, and perverts education—let us instead celebrate the best fit for each boy.

***“Find the right fit and everything else will follow.”***



# Go WEST!

James Antley '14 Pursues his Love of Adventure and the Rocky Mountains at Western State Colorado University

## 1. How did you decide to venture west for college?

I decided to venture west because I've always had a love for the Rocky Mountains. Ever since I was a child my father would take me to Snowmass, Colorado. We would ski during the day, and he would go to his radiology conferences in the afternoon.

## 2. What surprised you, initially about college?

The small class sizes surprised me tremendously. I'm in a Spanish class of three people: a 40-year-old mother, a 30-year-old from Crested Butte (CB), and myself. I've learned more than I could ever imagine. What also surprised me is how closely the school is knitted. All of my teachers and faculty know my name, and I bump into them regularly in town or even at Crested Butte.

## 3. What would your favorite day look like from start to finish? Have you had a day where you attended classes in the morning and skied in the afternoon? If so, what was that day like?

Last year, I went to class and then went snowboarding. This semester, I only have time to ski on the weekends. This year I fell in love with fly fishing. On Tuesdays I would wake up, go to breakfast, sit with my residents or my Resident Advisor coworkers, go to Geoscience Writing, have a one-on one-meeting with the head of Residential Life for a student government report, go to lunch, and then I would fly fish The Gunnison, Taylor, or Spring Creek with one of my best friends from Iowa.

Last Saturday, I went snowboarding for the first time this season. I planned a ski/snowboard



James caught this brown trout on the Taylor River, which is 20 minutes from campus.

James hiked to the summit of Mt. Princeton (el. 14,196 ft.) and snowboarded down.



program for my residents. We woke up and ate breakfast at the Rare Aire Cafe (school cafeteria), caught the free RTA bus to Crested Butte Ski Resort at the bus stop beside my school at 11:20 a.m. and arrived at CB around 12:00 p.m. We snowboarded all day. I ran into all of my friends, residents, and even the Vice President of Student Affairs. At 4:00, we took the RTA bus back to Gunnison where I enjoyed dinner with some friends before heading to the hockey rink to see our team crush Colorado College 10-4. It was a solid day, to say the least!

#### 4. What advice might you offer high school seniors about their future collegiate experience?

My advice for Christ School students would be to try to enjoy every second at Christ School. I advise any Greenie who likes small class sizes,

a great education, and a love for the outdoors to come to Western State Colorado University. Western State Colorado University ensures a profound education, a low student debt when students graduate, and an experience that is meaningful and regret free.

#### 5. How is college similar/different from Christ School?

Christ School is similar to Western with class sizes, meaningful friendships, a sense of family or brotherhood, and very experienced and helpful teachers.

#### 6. How is sophomore year different than your freshman year?

My sophomore year was a huge leap from my freshman year. My freshman year consisted of general education requirements and finding out what I wanted to do for my career. My sophomore year has consisted of more rigorous courses that required extensive hours of studying.

#### 7. In what way(s) did Christ School prepare you for your college experience in and or outside the classroom?

Christ School taught me how to take great notes, instilled in me a confidence to speak in any given situation, and helped me develop a healthy lifestyle outside of school.

Mrs. Tillet's AP History was the hardest class I took at Christ School, but I learned so much from her lecture style, and she pushed me to be a harder working student. My senior speech tore down my fears of public speaking. The required afternoon activity at Christ School ensured that I fit exercise into my schedule.

#### 8. May students contact you for additional advice on college?

Students are welcome to contact me. My phone number is 828-432-7663 and my email is james.antley@western.edu.

# SUMMER VENTURES



When contemplating what to do this summer, we encourage students to find a job, an internship and/or a volunteer program of interest to them. In addition to these personal pursuits, a few programs caught our attention and have a good track record for offering exciting and transformative experiences related to travel, service learning, leadership, and academic programs on college campuses. These programs include...

## ***Moondance***

This Asheville company is well known in the field of student travel and the outdoors. Additional information may be found at <http://www.moondanceadventures.com/>.

## ***Rustic Pathways***

This company specializes in adventure and community service trips/programs within the US and around the world. To learn more, go to <http://rusticpathways.com/>.

## ***Shelton Leadership Challenge***

Retired general and former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Hugh Shelton, has established a week-long camp for high school students at NC State, UNC Charlotte, North Carolina Wesleyan and Hampden-Sydney College. To learn more, go to <https://sheltonleadership.ncsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/2016-Shelton-Challenge-Brochure.pdf>.

## ***Wake Forest Summer Immersion Program***

In this five-day intensive residential program, students delve into one of six different fields of study—Sports Marketing, Law, Leadership, Technology, Business & Entrepreneurship, and Medicine. For more information, visit [go.wfu.edu/sip](http://go.wfu.edu/sip).

## ***Where There Be Dragons***

This company offers four and six-week summer programs around the world, allowing students to immerse themselves in a country through a variety of avenues including, but not limited to, home-stays and service learning projects. More information is available at [www.wheretherebedragons.com](http://www.wheretherebedragons.com).

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