



# THE GREEN PAGES

News from Christ School's College Guidance Office

Fall 2012

## College Focus 2012

On September 14<sup>th</sup>, a panel of five college admission representatives offered valuable advice during this year's College Focus Program. Freshmen, sophomores and new juniors gathered in Pingree Auditorium to learn what they can do now to prepare for the college search and application process. After brief overviews of their institutions and the ways they evaluate applications, our guests — and a group of brave student volunteers — participated in an informative "GPA Game." When asked for the most valuable advice they could offer our students as they move through high school, this is what our panelists said:

### Natalie McCook, North Carolina State University

*Start taking responsibility for your college process now; don't let others dictate where you look or what you look for in a college.*

### Michael Dostie, Furman University

*Research a variety of schools: big and small, urban and rural, liberal arts colleges and research institutions. Keep your eyes and options open.*

*With financial aid and scholarships available at many schools, you may end up paying less than the published price for tuition, room and board. Be realistic but don't let cost keep you from applying to any school.*

### Deborah Hogg, Davidson College

*Use this as your mantra as you research, tour and apply to colleges: "If it is to be, it is up to me." You are the master of your future in every endeavor, including your college process.*

*Read for pleasure. In addition to helping with test readiness and academic success, reading will enrich your life.*

### Sarah Darden, Emory University

*It's never too early to visit schools, so get out there and see what wonderful opportunities are waiting for you. When you do, your goals will become clear and you'll be inspired to reach them.*



Above: The GPA Game generated fruitful discussions.



Left: The program was moderated by Emily Pulsifer, College Counselor for 9th and 10th grades.

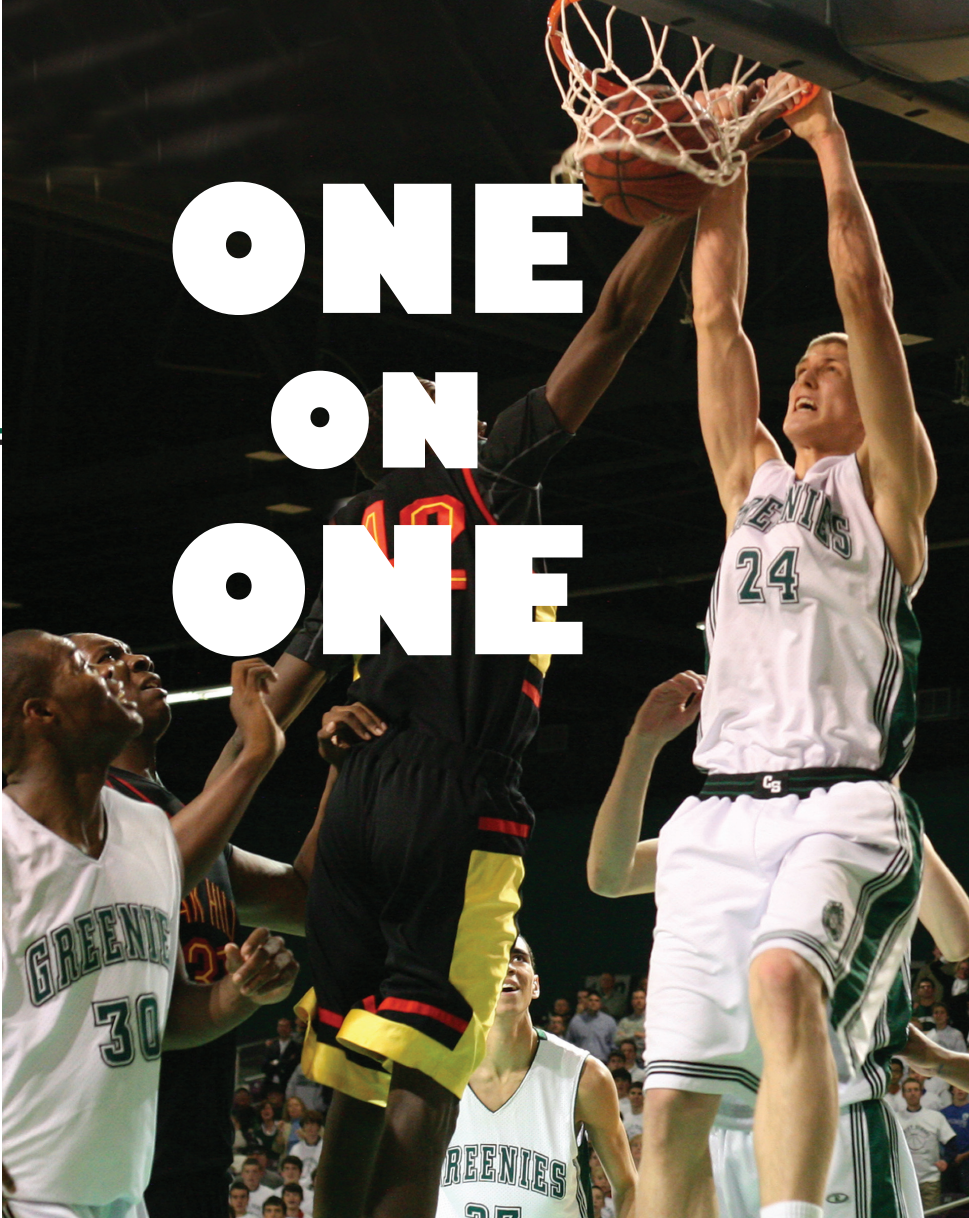


*Nurture positive relationships with your guidance counselor and teachers because they will be writing important recommendations for you in the future.*

### Michael Cabe, University of Georgia

*Live the life you want to read about; if you follow your passions, you'll have compelling, unique stories to tell in your college essays.*

*As you visit schools, take notes and keep track of pro's and con's; you'll want to remember what inspired you at one school and disappointed you at another.*



# ONE ON ONE

## With Mason Plumlee

In between his travels and basketball workouts, this summer, Mason Plumlee '08 took time out to catch up with Director of College Guidance Kirk Blackard about his Christ School and Duke University experiences.

### 1. Why did you choose Duke?

Duke was academically and athletically the place I felt could replicate the experience I had at Christ School. I enjoyed Asheville and North Carolina so much that I wanted to stay there for college and then when I met the coaching staff and players I fell in love with the place.

### 2. What have been your most memorable experiences to date in college?

I don't have one memorable moment; we have won a lot of big games and a few big tournaments. The everyday journey has been what I will remember. Hanging out with some of my teammates, going on road trips, spending time with my brothers are all things that I will remember just as much as any class I have taken or game we have won. We've been to the White House, China, Dubai, Hawaii, Portland; there have been some unbelievable experiences.

### 3. Was the transition from Christ School to college easy or difficult? What obstacles did you face?

The transition was much easier for me than the average collegiate athlete. I had lived in a dorm for three years, been

away from the comfort of home, and had an idea of how to fend for myself. Academically, Duke is a prestigious school and they accept the best and the brightest, but I felt that I was well prepared academically and that definitely would not have been the case if I stayed at my public school in Indiana.

### 4. What is a day in the life of a student athlete really like? What kinds of commitments do you have to the basketball program during the year?

Basketball is the reason they let you go to school for free. That is the priority. You have to perform on the court, but you cannot do that unless you take care of class first. It is up to you to make sure you are academically eligible, and they provide every resource imaginable. There are tutors, study halls, and teachers who are willing to work with you outside of the regular class times. You have to spend more time studying than the average student because you miss class for games and practices; if you want to receive good marks, that's just part of it.

### 5. What advice or words of wisdom would you offer underclassmen about their first year in college? What advice might you offer student-athletes interested in playing sports at the collegiate level?





future leadership roles such as the one I will have this year as co-captain of Duke's basketball team.

**Extra-Curricular Involvement/Athletics:** In addition to leadership positions I held at Christ School, I value the school's requirement that students participate in an after school activity all three seasons. I think it makes it that much easier to handle a heavy course load in college when one devotes two to three hours a day to something outside of the classroom. It's a great exercise in time management and one that has served me well during my time at Duke.

**Daily Schedule:** I certainly benefitted from the daily schedule. It teaches you how to be productive and how to maximize your time. Half of getting good grades in college has to do with how you use your free time. I still do my homework in the time frame 8-10:00 pm.

**Extra Help:** Christ School's Extra Help program was instrumental in helping me get to know teachers outside the classroom whether or not I needed help. The exercise of attending extra help sessions in high school taught me how to build relationships with my Duke professors. I was spoiled at Christ School because faculty lived in the dormitory with us and I could see them most any time. I still enjoy staying in touch with several Christ School teachers by phone or text and have enjoyed returning to campus to catch up with them in person.

*The experience at Christ School instilled in me an early desire to give back in ways where one's labor is sometimes valued as much as the philanthropic efforts of someone else of greater financial means.*

My mom told me you have three options. You can be two of the three, but you can't be all three. You can be a student, an athlete, or a social butterfly. You can be an athlete and in on the social scene, but your grades will take a hit. You can be at all the parties and study, but you won't perform on the court etc.... You get the idea. That's not to say you should never go out, but you have to prioritize.

#### 6. What advice might you offer them about the college search process?

It's a gut decision made for you, by you. Don't go somewhere because someone else wants you to go there, whether its friends, family or whoever. They aren't the ones who have to wake up and go to class there for four years. Make sure you take ownership of the decision and don't look back!

#### 7. In what ways has your Christ School educational experience helped you with regard to the following:

**Leadership Positions:** My role as a Senior Prefect was the first formal leadership position I recall having in my life. At Christ School, the position is more than a title. The added responsibility I had in the dorm and as a member of the Judiciary Council provided me with the confidence to handle

**Senior Talks:** The tradition of seniors offering a chapel talk was a great exercise for me as it provided me with an opportunity to speak to my classmates and teachers without being judged. It was good practice for many of the things I do today in the community, whether I am speaking to groups of students or answering questions from the media.

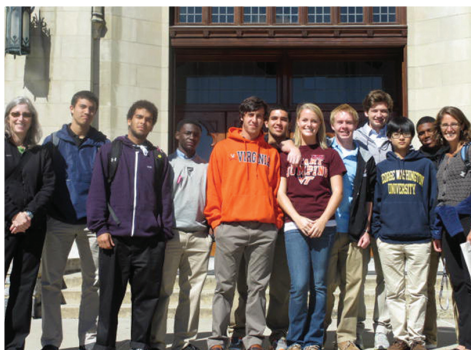
#### 8. Are there any other Christ School programs outside the classroom and sports arena that have stuck with you since graduating?

Absolutely. I recall planting trees one year and painting a house another year while at Christ School. Here, in Durham, we do similar things such as reading to elementary age kids at a local school. The experience at Christ School instilled in me an early desire to give back in ways where one's labor is sometimes valued as much as the philanthropic efforts of someone else of greater financial means.

#### 9. What are your plans for the future?

My plan is to graduate, leave my mark at Duke on the court, and play in the NBA.

## Fall Break College Tour 2012 *Washington DC and Western Virginia*



## TOURING BY THE NUMBERS

Number of students: **9**

Number of countries represented: **6**

Number of schools visited: **8**

*(George Washington, Georgetown, University of Virginia, James Madison, Washington and Lee, VMI, Roanoke College and Virginia Tech)*

Number of miles traveled in a Christ School van: **1047**

Number of miles walked in one day: **8.13**

Number of glazed doughnuts eaten and college t-shirts bought:

**Too many to count!**



## Upcoming Events

### Wednesday, October 17

PSAT for ALL Freshmen, Sophomores and Juniors

Essay and Application Blitz for Seniors

### Friday, October 26 & Saturday, October 27

Naviance Workshops for ALL Parents (Friday 3-4; Saturday 9-11)

Conferences with College Guidance Counselors (Available for all students and parents)

### Saturday, October 27

ACT Test Date

### Saturday, November 3

SAT Test Date

### Tuesday, November 6

PLAN – Practice ACT for ALL Sophomores

### Wednesday, November 14

Enrichment – College Visits for ALL Juniors

## College Guidance Contact Information

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