



HOLLAND HALL

# College Counseling Newsletter

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## MEET MRS. COOPER



By now all of her advisees and a lot of other students have met Mrs. Ronda Cooper. We feel very lucky to have her on board as Holland Hall's most recent member of the College Counseling team.

For those of you who have not met her, please take a moment to come by the College Counseling Office and introduce yourselves. Mrs. Cooper's years of experience and love of working with young people make her a natural for this office.

Little known facts about Mrs. Cooper include the fact that her son-in-law graduated from Holland Hall, her son played football for The United States Military Academy at West Point and that she has a Yorkie named General Patton.

# Colleges That Change Lives

For the first time ever the Colleges That Change Lives Fair came to Tulsa. For those of you who have not heard by now, these forty colleges travel together to many larger cities throughout the United States. The schools organized as a result of the Loren Pope book, "Colleges That Change Lives, 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges." Mr. Pope's long career as education editor of *The New York Times* and as a college administrator led him to research colleges in an attempt to remedy what he saw as a lack of information necessary to make an informed college selection. His book includes schools that he feels live up to the ideals of liberal arts education; schools that take students "where they are" and educate the whole person. In an era when rankings are based on questionable statistics and criteria, it is refreshing to find colleges and universities chronicled because students give testimonials to their effective teaching practices, their nurturing environments and their

*Below: A Holland Hall Senior talks with the Goucher College representative during the CTCL Fair.*



profound effects on students' later lives, hence the name Colleges That Change Lives

The CTCL Fair was a giant success, in large part, due to the support of Holland Hall students and their parents. An estimated crowd of 550 people showed up for the information session preceding the fair and then visited with the representatives of the 36 schools who were in attendance. Because we in the College Counseling office have lobbied CTCL to come to Tulsa we were particularly gratified at the turnout. We are also delighted to hear that CTCL plans to return next year!

## NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL AFFILIATION

If you are the proud owner of a CDIB card, please bring it to Mrs. Vance so that she can include a copy in each of your college and scholarship applications. What's a CDIB card, you ask? It is your official roll card verifying membership in a Native American tribe. Any Senior with a Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood needs to remember to take care of this important step in the application process. If you believe you might qualify for a CDIB card but do not currently hold one; you might wish to check with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for an application. If you have already applied for a card but have not as yet received it, you may include a copy of the completed application.

## SENIORS: APPLICATION DEADLINES

Application Due Dates:	Must be in the College Counseling Office by:
October 15, 2007	September 24, 2007
November 1, 2007	October 11, 2007
November 10, 2007	October 19, 2007
November 15, 2007	October 25, 2007
November 20, 2007	October 30, 2007
December 1, 2007	November 9, 2007
December 5, 2007	November 12, 2007
December 10, 2007	November 16, 2007
December 15, 2007	November 19, 2007
December 28 or 31, 2007	November 30, 2007
January 1, 2, or 3, 2008	December 3, 2007
January 7, 8, or 10, 2008	December 10, 2007
January 15 or 20, 2008	January 7, 2008
January 31 or February 1, 2008	January 10, 2008
February 15, 2008	January 25, 2008
March 1, 2008	February 7, 2008

*\*If deadlines are missed, we will process applications in the order in which they are received. It is recommended that all Seniors have at least one application in by December 1. Please note these dates are subject to change.*

# Traveling Tales -

by Kathy Housh

The idea of visiting sixteen universities within a two-week period is not for the faint-hearted. The British Council's Counselor Tour, however, is a college counselor's dream. As one of eleven lucky American college counselors hailing from the east and west coasts and in between, I hit the road in a minibus as the guest of the British Council.



It was a very rewarding and informative visit starting in Belfast and ending in London. The schools visited ranged from Hogwarts look-alikes to a seventies style, inner-city campus in Liverpool. We took a class in Arabic from an animated professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London. We listened to a boisterous rendition of "The Stars and Stripes Forever" played by a brass quintet at the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. We were treated to magnificent displays of costumes designed by students at The Arts Institute at Bournemouth. We toured engineering facilities, law classrooms, and everything in between. Before pointing out some of the wonderful opportunities available in the U.K., it is probably a good idea to ex-

plain some of the major differences in British and American view of college education.

One major difference lies in the time it takes to get a degree. Most undergraduate degrees can be obtained in three years rather than the four—or more—it takes here. Because of this more immediate entry into major-specific coursework, students in the U.K. need to have a good idea of their major when they enter college as it is much more difficult to change degree programs without completely starting over. You must apply to a specific course of study; it is not generally acceptable to be "undecided."

A second difference lies in the amount of "contact time" with professors. It is much less than at U.S. schools and requires that students be very independent and self-directed. Americans attending university within the U.K. are also surprised to find that a grade of "70" is a good one, and that most dorms are "self-catering," meaning that students share a kitchen and cook their own meals. Fortunately, the universities we visited all appear to have wonderful staff assigned to help international students overcome the



# Traversing the United Kingdom



culture shock inherent in living in another country. They often meet arriving students at the airport, help them with bank accounts, registering for the National

Health system, learning about “societies” (clubs), and even plan outings for students. We were impressed with how welcoming and supportive these schools were.

At **Queen’s University** in Belfast an American graduate student asked us to “imagine studying conflict resolution in Belfast!” At the **University of Wales, Bangor** we learned about the NIECI program where a linguistics graduate was now working on computer game design in a program in new media – computer enhanced communication. This beautiful school of 10,000 students ranked very well in psychology and ocean and biological sciences. It would be a wonderful fit for an outdoor sports enthusiast.

The **University of Glamorgan** is offering 1,500 pound (\$3,000) scholarships for American students and will guarantee that fees will stay the same for a student’s entire length of study. It is a university with twelve Quality Teaching awards and an exchange program in criminology with the University of Central Missouri. (Many of the schools we visited had established or were in the process of establishing joint programs with universities in the U.S.) This university was also quite proud of its sports psychology program.

The **University of Cardiff** gave us a

brief look at their wonderful brain research facility. They are a part of the Russell Group of universities – the “equivalent of the Ivy League.” This is a large campus with great opportunities in engineering, law and much, much more. Cardiff was lauded by The Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama, one of eight conservatories in the U.K., as the least expensive and safest city in the U.K. All courses here are performance driven with many of the professors coming from professional performance backgrounds. The competition is steep and the talent was quite evident. We were entertained by vocal and instrumental music majors and by drama students. At the **University of Wales, Newport**, we toured Roman ruins with Ray Howell, an anthropology professor whose enthusiasm was truly contagious. This is a school with a clothing technology program that is designing “smart clothes” such as clothing with solar panels.

Our tour ended in London and **Royal Holloway, University of London** and **The School of Oriental and African Studies** were two of my favorites. Royal Holloway, a spectacular campus, only 20 minutes from central London, has a strong creative writing program. The setting alone would be inspirational! Its seven science divisions rated a 5 or 5 plus. (The highest ranking) The School of Oriental and African Studies accepts only one in twelve who apply to its specialized programs. One American stu-

dent we met was majoring in “Migration and Diaspora Studies.” Students here share an interest in world issues and often take more interdisciplinary studies such as law and language or management and Chinese, for example. It is the largest program focused on Oriental and African studies. This school has partnerships with Harvard, Yale, Brown, Tufts and Penn. Students graduating from SOAS will definitely have an impact!

It would take several more pages to describe, in even the briefest manner, each university visited. Each school has been kind enough to mail information to Holland Hall and I invite students and parents to come in to take a closer look at opportunities available for study in the U.K.. Holland Hall students who have a good idea of what they wish to study, who are independent learners and who are adventurous enough to welcome the challenges of a different culture would be well advised to look into the myriad opportunities available at universities in the U.K. Come in and find out how the online Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) application system works. Great educational opportunities await in the United Kingdom.



## Book Review

# "PANICKED Parents' Guide to College Admissions"

A few helpful Web sites as listed in "Panicked Parents' Guide to College Admissions." In no particular order:

**www.commonapp.org** : Download Common Application or apply online. Includes list of member schools, application fees, deadlines, etc.

**www.petersons.com** : Direct links to many applications.

**www.ncaa.org** : National Collegiate Athletic Association site includes information about sports programs, eligibility, recruiting rules, etc.

**www.college-visits.com** : College Visits offers varied group-tour itineraries. Holland Hall's continued choice for great campus tours!

**www.collegenews.com** : Links to many college and university newspapers.

**www.collegeboard.com** : Includes SAT standardized test and financial aid information.

**www.nacac.com** : National Association for College Admission Counseling site. Includes college fair information and links to online fairs.

**www.fafsa.ed.gov** : Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid on this site.

**www.fastweb.com** : a database of 800,000 private scholarships.

**www.collegeparents.org** : Information for parents.

**www.ope.ed.gov/security/** : Information on college campus security.

**www.act.org** : The ACT test site.

*by Brent Casey*

The title, "Panicked Parents' Guide to College Admissions" and the book's slick, almost frenzied graphics caught my eye as I was searching for a book to read and review for this newsletter. Curiosity got the best of me. After all, I consider it part of my job to calm the minds of the "panicked student." If I can help the parent as well, it's all for the better, right? I made my purchase and headed home to begin reading.

This publication by Petersons is hardly a nail-biting, page-turner. It does, however, give practical "words of wisdom" on the increasingly competitive college admission process. Harvard, for instance, receives more applications from valedictorians alone than there are places in the freshman class! Today, our high school student evaluates and studies his or her college choice more closely and more carefully than did their parent's generation. The colleges themselves have become high-tech businesses with student recruitment as a top priority. This factor alone can add anxiety to the application process and a heaping helping of stress on otherwise calm dinner conversations at home. The bottom line in this business is, "a lot depends on circumstance and serendipity, on legwork and on luck."

There are approximately 3,500 colleges in the United States. Our goal is to help your son or daughter identify several college choices in which he or she can enroll and be happy and productive. We start by identifying some of those schools during

the Junior year with the famous "college recommendation list." This list of schools gives you and your son or daughter an idea of the types of schools you might want to consider. In this book, it seconds this notion by suggesting your child should apply to five or six colleges that include one or two competitive "reach" schools, two or three schools with a 50 percent chance of acceptance and one "sure thing" or safety school. I'm a firm believer the safety school is not a throwaway school, but rather a college or university in which your son or daughter can attend and be completely satisfied and happy with the choice. *Hint: The College Counseling office urges students to have this school secured by Winter Break of the Senior year.*

I like the format of this book. There are interesting Q&A sections; questions asked by parents, with answers submitted by top college admission personnel. It goes on to give "The Good News" and "The Bad News," within each chapter. For instance, the good news might be: Even kids who have barricaded you from their bedrooms since Seventh Grade are likely to welcome – or at least expect – your input at college admission time. The bad news is: Somebody in the family needs to be the organized one and stay on top of the piles of paperwork and deadlines. Ideally, this should be the student. In reality, it is usually the parent. Panicked yet? Chapters cover topics such as "Choosing the Right College" to "Pushing Papers: The Application Itself" to "How Admission Decisions are Made." I worked nearly nine

years in the college admission's office and I would still like to know how some decisions were made. *Hint: Your child's college choice is ultimately his or her decision. Offer guidance, support, love and encouragement, but then step aside and let them make the decision.*

"Panicked Parents" also deals with many of the various topics we cover and discuss in Junior Seminar – a college preparation course we teach in the spring of the Junior year. In "panicked Parents," campus visits and tips for the admissions interview are covered, along with a testing issues chapter. Financial planning is discussed and there is even a good chapter dealing with situations that might occur after your son or daughter has been admitted, or denied. There is a "Mom and Pop Quiz," much like the Junior Parent Questionnaire we ask you to complete during your child's Junior year. There is a "Kidz Quiz," much like our Junior Questionnaire we ask your child to complete. The book is also chock-full of Web site references. I've included some of the Web sites on page 4. I found the last chapter to be the most practical. It offers "friendly advice" from parents – many of whom work in education as admission professionals, guidance counselors and financial aid officers. On finding the right college match, one parent advises, "Helping your son or daughter select the right school is like buying a new coat. The more you try on the easier it is to know which one is just right for you." *Hint: Whenever you can, visit!*

If you are just beginning the process of college admission or if you've been through the process before, it can be stressful. The good news? It doesn't have to make you break out into a cold sweat or cause a family meltdown. You can conquer these days by staying organized and by taking advantage of all the opportunities the College Counseling department offers. Many of these opportunities are listed in this newsletter. Above all, we are here to help you through this "panicked" process. And one final hint: Relax! You'll make it.

## College Representative Visit Opportunities - Fall 2007

Austin College	Princeton University
Baker University	Regis University
Bard College	Rice University
Baylor University	Rockhurst University
Beloit College	Rogers State University
Birmingham Southern College	Sewanee: University of the South
Boston University	Southwestern College
Bowdoin College	St. Louis University
Centenary College	Texas Christian University
Christian Brothers University	Trinity University
Colorado State University	Tufts University
Cornell University	Tulane University
Creighton University	University of Arkansas
DePauw University	University of Kansas
Drury University	University of Missouri @ Columbia
Duke University	University of Missouri @ Rolla
Fort Lewis College	University of Oklahoma
George Washington University	University of Pennsylvania
Hamilton College	University of Southern California
Harvard	University of Tulsa
Hendrix College	Vanderbilt University
Knox College	Vassar College
Loyola University, New Orleans	Wabash College
M.I.T. (event in OKC)	Washburn University
Missouri State University	Washing & Lee University
Northwestern State University	Washington University in St. Louis
Oklahoma State University	Westminster College
Oral Roberts University	William Jewell College
Pitzer College	William Woods College

For the most current list, with times and dates, visit [www.hollandhall.org](http://www.hollandhall.org)

## Class of 2007 Matriculation Report

American University	Stella Adler Conservatory of Acting
Boston College	Swarthmore College
Boston University	Texas Christian University
Colorado College	Trinity University
DePauw University	Tulane University
Drury University	Union College
George Washington University	United State Military Academy @ West Point
Hendrix College	University of Arkansas
James Madison University	University of Colorado at Boulder
John Brown University	University of the Cumberland
Johns Hopkins University	University of Illinois @ Urbana Champaign
Lewis & Clark College	University of Kansas
Massachusetts Institute of Technology	University of Mississippi
Northeastern State University	University of Notre Dame
Oklahoma City University	University of Oklahoma
Oklahoma State University	University of Pennsylvania
Orlando Ballet	University of Richmond
Pepperdine University	University of Texas at Austin
Pitzer College	University of Tulsa
Princeton University	Vanderbilt University
Providence College	Wesleyan University
Rice University	
Skidmore College	
Southern Methodist University	

# College Counseling Calendar of Events

## PSAT Exam

Wednesday, October 17th 8:00 a.m.

All Holland Hall Juniors and Sophomores will participate in the PSAT exam this fall. For Juniors, this exam serves as the National Merit qualifying test. For all others, the PSAT serves as practice for the longer SAT. Holland Hall handles registration for our students and the test is administered on campus.

Location: US Commons

## Financial Aid Night

Monday, November 12th 7:00 p.m.

This event is designed to inform parents on all matters relating to the financial aid and scholarship process. Topics include sources of aid, application procedures, FAFSA and Profile forms, and timelines. All Upper School parents, Ninth through Twelfth Grades, are welcome at this event.

Location: SMT Commons

## Junior Parent Night

Monday, January 28th 7:00 p.m.

Parents of Juniors are invited to attend an evening event full of important information regarding the college search and application process. Break-out sessions covering search criteria, admissions testing, college visits, the recruited athlete and other important topics will be available.

Location: US Commons

## Deans' Night

Monday, February 18th 7:00 p.m.

Each year, Holland Hall hosts four distinguished Deans of Admission from colleges throughout the country. Our guests discuss important topics and trends related to college admissions. All parents, Seventh through Twelfth grade, are invited.

Location: Holliman Gallery

## Spring Break College Tour

March 17-21

Visit nine North Carolina and South Carolina colleges and universities. Open to all Juniors. Sophomores may be able to attend depending on availability of spaces. \$250 deposit due by December 1.

Cost: \$1,823. For information call 918.481.1111 ext. 718.

## Freshman & Sophomore Parent College Chat

Sunday, April 13th 4:00 p.m.

Parents of Freshmen and Sophomores are invited to a casual conversation with the college counseling team regarding the college search and application process.

Location: SMT Commons

## College Affaire

Saturday, March 29, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The annual spring college fair with over ninety colleges and universities represented. Area sophomores and juniors are invited.

Location: Cascia Hall

## Baccalaureate

Wednesday, May 28, 5:00 p.m.

Location: St. John's Episcopal Church

## Commencement

Thursday, May 29, 7:00 p.m.

Location: Branch Theatre, Walter Arts Center

## ARE YOU READY FOR THE 2007-2008 ACT AND SAT?

SAT REASONING TEST  
AND SAT SUBJECT TESTS:

### REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
November 3, 2007	October 2, 2007	October 11, 2007
December 1, 2007	October 30, 2007	November 8, 2007
January 26, 2008	December 26, 2007	January 4, 2008
March 1, 2008 - SAT Only, No Subjects	January 29, 2008	February 7, 2008
May 3, 2008	April 1, 2008	April 10, 2008
June 7, 2008	May 6, 2008	May 15, 2008

### ACT: REGISTRATION DEADLINES AND TEST DATES

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
October 27, 2007	September 21, 2007	September 22 - Oct. 5, 2007
December 8, 2007	November 2, 2007	November 3-15, 2007
February 9, 2008	January 4, 2008	January 5-18, 2008
April 12, 2008	March 7, 2008	March 8-21, 2008
June 14, 2008	May 9, 2008	May 10-23, 2008

Students may register online for the SAT by visiting: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) and for the ACT by visiting: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org).

Test Dates are also available on the College Counseling Web site.