



College Counseling Newsletter

HOLLAND HALL

Spring 2009

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RESOLUTIONS FOR THE NEXT YEAR

By Kathy Housh



Generally, it is New Year's Day when we look back and make resolutions about what we might do differently in the next year. In College Counseling, however, resolutions for the next year often come in May. Our seniors are safely accepted and have only to choose their best fit among the schools from which they have received the nod. We have completed an entire semester of Junior Seminar; so our juniors are well on their way to understanding how the process will work for them in the fall. It is a great time to start setting goals for the next year.

Because of their hard work, commitment and abilities the opportunities available to the class of 2009 are fantastic and one might ask, "Why change anything?" We have actually been asked by counselors from other independent schools to give them our "formula" for success!

It may well be this ability to change with an ever-changing admissions process, however, that is the one attribute most necessary for continued success.

Our most recent change is our new summer College Boot Camp. We have invited juniors to get a head start on the application process by coming to eight hours of instruction and counseling in July. Those

students who feel they might have a particularly busy first semester academically, athletically or otherwise were invited to enroll. The goal is to have their Common Application and essay done by the end of our summer session. The plan is devised to alleviate the stress that can sometimes accompany this process. We hope the relaxed summer atmosphere and opportunity to focus solely on college applications will give interested rising seniors a real advantage.

This year, for the first time, we gave the PLAN, a practice ACT, to sophomores. It was a purely voluntary and risk-free pilot program for students to get this practice. We hope to have even greater sophomore participation next year as we see an increased inclination for some universities that have required SAT Subject Tests to accept ACT subscores instead. This change will allow students to spend fewer hours testing.

Congratulations again to the class of 2009! What a great group. We can't wait for the reports of their successes next year in college. We know that they, too, will be a wonderful source for feedback on how College Counseling can change with the times.

Class of 2009 College Acceptances

American University

Arizona State University
Art Institute of New York City

Auburn University
Austin College

Babson College

Baker University

Bard College
Barnard College

Baylor University
Birmingham Southern College

Boston University

Bowdoin College
Brandeis University

Brown University

California Lutheran University

Carleton College

Carnegie Mellon University

Carthage College

Case Western Reserve University

City University of New York

College of Charleston

College of William and Mary

College of Wooster
Clemson University

Colorado College

Colorado State School of Mines

Colorado State University

Dartmouth College

Davidson College

Denison University

DePaul University

DePauw University

Drake University

Duke University

Eckerd College

Evergreen State College

Fordham University

Fort Lewis College

Furman University

Georgia Institute of Technology

George Washington University

Gettysburg College

Goucher College

Grinnell College

Hamilton College

Harvard University

Hawaii Pacific University
Hendrix College

Indiana University

Ithaca College

Kansas City Art Institute

Kenyon College

Knox College

Louisiana State University

Loyola University New Orleans

McDaniel College

Middlebury College

Missouri University of Science & Technology

Northeastern State University

Northwestern University

Occidental College

Ohio Wesleyan University

Oklahoma State University

Oxford College of Emory University

Pittsburg State University

Pomona College

Princeton University

Purdue University

Rhodes College

Rollins College

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Southern Adventist University

Southern Methodist University

Southern Nazarene University

Southwestern University

Stanford University

Texas A & M University

Texas Christian University

Texas Tech University

Trinity College

Trinity University

Tufts University

Tulane University

Vanderbilt University

Wake Forest University

Washington and

Lee University

Washington University in St. Louis

Westminster College

William Jewell College

University of Alabama

University of Arizona

University of Arkansas

University of California Davis

University of California Irvine

University of California Los Angeles

University of Central Arkansas

University of Central Oklahoma

University of Colorado at Boulder

University of Dallas

University of Denver

University of Illinois at Urbana Champaign

University of Kansas

University of Maryland

University of Memphis

University of Miami

University of Mississippi

University of Missouri at Columbia

University of Montana

University of North Carolina at Greensboro

University of North Texas

University of Oklahoma

University of the Pacific

University of Pennsylvania

University of Puget Sound

University of San Diego

University of the South

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

University of Texas at Austin

University of Tulsa

University of Washington Seattle

University of Wisconsin Green Bay

Bold designates matriculation.



Summer Reading

By Ronda Cooper

Reading this summer? I hope so. Recently while attending a tour of colleges in Colorado I met Ralph Figueroa. You may be asking who? Ralph is the college admission counselor featured in the book *The Gatekeepers* by Jacques Steinberg. If you want to better understand the admission process of a premier college, read *The Gatekeepers*. I thoroughly enjoyed the book and after Ralph confirmed that it is very factual, I recommend the read.

If you are not interested in "The Gatekeepers" consider a book or two from the following lists. After all, reading increases your vocabulary, helps you become a better writer and score better on your ACT or SAT tests. Reading allows you to gain knowledge or simply to escape into a place of fantasy. Keep your mind busy. Finally, MANY colleges like to ask you to talk about your favorite book or what you have recently read. I want you to be prepared. Have a great summer and keep a list of all the books you read.

101 Great Books recommended for College-Bound Readers: visit www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/boost-your-skills/23628.html

The Holland Hall Book Club's Summer List:

1. "Emma" by Jane Austen
2. "100 Years of Solitude" by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
3. "Adam Bede" by George Eliot
4. "Angels and Demons" by Dan Brown
5. "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck
6. "Honeymoon in Purda" by Alison Wearing
7. "Catch 22" by Joseph Heller
8. "Book Thief" by Markus Zu
9. "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince" by J.K. Rowling
10. "Water for Elephants" by Sara Gruen

NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBAL AFFILIATION

If you are the proud owner of a CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card, please bring it to Mrs. Vance in the College Counseling office so that she can include a copy in each of your college and scholarship applications. This is your official roll card verifying membership in a Native American tribe. If you believe you might qualify for a CDIB card but do not have one, you might wish to contact the Bureau of Indian Affairs or the tribal office for an application as soon as possible.

Deans' Night 2009

By Brent Casey

This past February, College Counseling was honored to welcome to the Holland Hall campus, three distinguished university Deans of Admission. We had the opportunity to host Christopher Gruber from Davidson College, Lisa Pinamonti Kress from the University of Kansas and Janet Lavin Rapelye from Princeton University.

Each year the Deans' event gives students and parents front row access to some of the most important administrators in college admissions from around the country. Not only is the event invaluable to the Holland Hall family, it is extremely beneficial in that we are able to showcase our school, our city and our state to our visitors that, often times, have not been to Oklahoma.

The deans had the opportunity to address students and parents during a Q&A session, meet with small groups of students, tour the Holland Hall Upper School campus and attend classes. One dean commented, "The Animal Behavior class (taught by Karen Harris) was excellent; one of the most fascinating and interesting high school classes I have attended!" All three deans praised Holland Hall for its focus on interdisciplinary studies.

If you missed this year's Deans' event, mark your calendar for March 1, 2010!



Congratulations Ami Dave!

Ami is the recipient of the 2009 Executive Women International \$3,000, 2nd place scholarship. Holland Hall received \$200. We are working with Ami to spend the money in a way that will honor both Ami and assist a program at Holland Hall.



Left to right: Christopher J. Gruber - Davidson College, Janet Lavin Rapelye - Princeton University, Lisa Pinamonti Kress - University of Kansas



9TH GRADE:

- Enjoy, relax and unwind!
- Do something fun with your family.
- READ! Keep a book list.
- Reflect on your year, do you need to make adjustments?
- Set goals for fall.
- Bored? Find a place to volunteer.
- Vacationing? Take a day to visit an area college, call the admission office for an appointment.

10TH GRADE:

- Enjoy, relax and unwind!
- Do something fun with your family.
- READ! Keep a book list.
- Consider a part-time job and keep total of the hours your work and your responsibilities.
- Reflect on your year, do you need to make adjustments?
- How's your GPA? A 3.0 GPA usually allows a "good student discount" for drivers.
- Bored? Find a place to volunteer and keep a record of your hours.
- Make a list of your activities, it will help you create a resume in Junior Seminar.
- Vacationing, take a day to visit an area college, call the admission office for an appointment.

11TH GRADE:

- Enjoy and relax so you will be ready for a fast paced senior year.
- College is just around the corner, talk about options/restrictions with the family.
- Reflect on the last three years, will the colleges on your list approve of your transcript?
- Prepare for college visits, remember Junior Seminar, make a list of questions to ask at each visit, take a notebook for comments, keep a list of the pros & cons.
- Visit the schools you are most interested in attending. Call admissions for an appointment.
- Think about The Common Application's essay topics, keep a few notes from summer activities.
- Ask yourself, what sets me apart from other students just like me? You still have time to adjust if you do not have an answer.
- READ
- Consider a part-time job or a summer program
- Write an analogy describing you. Ask your family and friends for input. Your college counselor will ask for this in the fall.

Class Corner-
things to do this summer

SAT vs. ACT

SAT

ACT

How often is it administered?	Seven times per year	Six times per year
What is the test structure?	Ten-section exam: Three Critical Reading, three Math, three Writing, and one Experimental The Experimental section is masked to look like a regular section.	Five-section exam: English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing (optional) An Experimental section is added to tests on certain dates only, and is clearly experimental.
What is the test content?	Math: up to geometry and algebra II Reading: sentence completions, short and long critical reading passages, reading comprehension Writing: grammar, usage, word choice, and a mandatory essay	Math: up to trigonometry Reading: four passages, one each of Prose Fiction, Social Science, Humanities, and Natural Science Writing: optional essay Science: charts, graphs, and data interpretation English: stresses grammar
Is there a penalty for wrong answers?	Yes , 1/4 of a point for each wrong answer on multiple-choice questions	No
How is the test scored?	200–800 per section, added together for a score of 600–2400 2–12 for the essay	1–36 for each subject, averaged for a composite score 2–12 for the Writing Test
Are there other uses for the exams?	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs	Scholarship purposes Certain statewide testing programs
Need more information?	Educational Testing Service (ETS): 609-771-7600, ETS.org The College Board: collegeboard.com	ACT, Inc.: 319-337-1270, ACTstudent.org

ACT vs. SAT Score Comparison

ACT Comp.	SAT CR & M	SAT w/ Wr.
36	1600	2400
35	1560-1590	2340
34	1510-1550	2260
33	1460-1500	2190
32	1410-1450	2130
31	1360-1400	2040
30	1320-1400	1980
29	1280-1310	1920
28	1240-1310	1860
27	1210-1230	1820
26	1170-1200	1760
25	1130-1160	1700
24	1090-1120	1650
23	1060-1080	1590
22	1020-1050	1530
21	980-1010	1500
20	940-970	1410
19	900-930	1350
18	860-890	1290
17	810-850	1210
16	760-800	1140
15	710-750	1060
14	660-700	1000

*Both SAT and ACT offer the ability to choose the score you send to the colleges.

Top 5 Signs you might prefer the SAT...

1. You're a quick thinker who loves the challenge of puzzles and logic games.
2. You can quickly define a **plethora** of **onerous** vocabulary words (and know what **plethora** and **onerous** mean).
3. You prefer to write about World War II and The Great Gatsby rather than school uniforms. It's ok to admit it.
4. You prefer to complete an exam in smaller, more "bite-sized" pieces.
5. You rocked the PSAT. Stick with what's working!

Top 5 Signs you might prefer the ACT...

1. You pay close attention in math class and understand basic trigonometry.
2. You love the challenge of working quickly and beating the clock.
3. You're good at reading graphs and tables — and identifying trends.
4. You're a strong reader — and would prefer to read a passage than solve a math problem.
5. You're a straight "A" student — but did poorly on the PSAT.