

Dear Parents and Members of the Class of 2010:

Though the fall seems far away, the whirlwind of events that is the senior year will be upon us before we know it. For students, there will be class meetings, college essays and application deadlines, and myriad events leading up to graduation. For parents there will be a host of accompanying questions: "Will my child be sure to meet all those deadlines? Will I survive the emotional stress that goes along with sending a child off to college?"

With those issues in mind, we are delighted to bring you the second installment of College Countdown, which offers a variety of college search tips and information on upcoming deadlines. Look for another issue of College Countdown in August, when we will remind you of deadlines and procedures for the application season.

Finally, we also wish to underscore our support and availability throughout the college search and application process. We urge all of you to set up appointments with us as often as necessary; or, should any further questions arise, we are as close as your telephone. Please know that we will make every effort to help your son or daughter find an appropriate college match.

The Bolles College Counseling Staff



There are several options for students as they prepare to apply to colleges. They include Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision, and Rolling admission. Traditionally Early Decision and Early Action applications are due between mid-October and late November. Regular Decision applications have deadlines between mid-December to late January. Rolling admission applications are usually reviewed and a decision is returned within 4-6 weeks of the receipt of the application. Please be aware that a few schools, such as the University of Alabama and Ole Miss, accept and review applications as early as the summer before a student's senior year. If you intend to apply to any of these colleges we recommend that you apply in August or as soon thereafter as possible. Please talk with your college counselor about the appropriate time for you to apply.

ATTENTION ATHLETES !!!

YOU SHOULD REGISTER ON-LINE WITH THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE BEFORE AUGUST 1 IF YOU PLAN TO PLAY A SPORT IN COLLEGE. ONCE YOU HAVE REGISTERED YOU MUST PRINT OUT THE NCAA RELEASE FORMS, SIGN THEM, AND BRING THEM IN TO YOUR COLLEGE COUNSELOR. THE FORMS MUST BE SENT TO THE NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE WITH YOUR OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT.

June 2009

A newsletter produced by
the College Counseling Office of The Bolles School



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REMINDERS

- ✓ If you have not already done so, please return student and parent questionnaires to your college counselor as soon as possible. The student questionnaire was due March 17. The responses you provide help us as we work together to find a great list of college matches for you.
- ✓ Please be sure to fill out a yellow College Research Form for each school that you want to include on your college list. These completed forms will be a wonderful resource for the "Why do you want to attend our college?" questions on applications.



**The College Counseling Office Is Open
During the Summer Months**

**Please call us at (904) 256-5235 to schedule an
appointment with your college counselor**

For news and up-to-date information, visit www.Bolles.org

How Time Flies...



The college search process is filled with uncertainty, but one thing we can guarantee is that time flies during your senior year. It is extremely important that you keep up with deadlines and important dates that pertain to your college search. We already have a few meetings and deadlines scheduled so mark your calendars now.

Thursday, August 27	Mandatory Senior Meeting
Thursday, September 17	Bolles deadline for UF applications
Thursday, October 1	Bolles deadline for FSU applications
Thursday, October 15	Bolles deadline for UCF applications
Thursday, November 5	Bolles deadline for UNF applications

Good Essays Tell Good Stories

August is a great time to work on your college essays—any summer activities you might write about will have been well underway, and you still have time to produce an essay prior to the hustle and bustle of September.

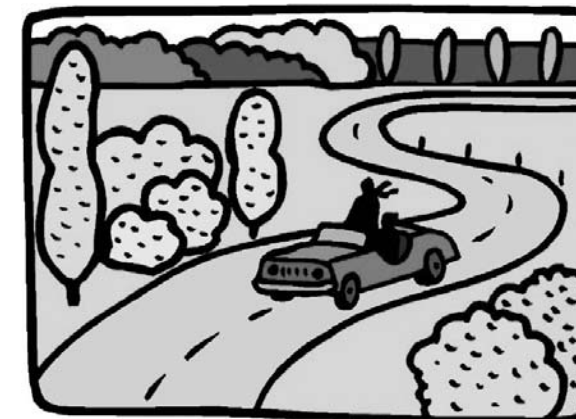
We recommend that you begin by visiting the websites for colleges you intend to apply to so that you can familiarize yourself with the application essay prompts. Then you should arrange a meeting with your College Counselor to help brainstorm ideas—remember we're available to meet with you during the summer. After you arrive at a topic that will both convey something about yourself and (hopefully) appeal to admissions officers, you can begin drafting the essay. Naturally we'll help you edit your drafts throughout the process.

Which colleges require essays? Generally speaking, selective and highly selective private colleges—along with some out-of-state public universities (e.g., UNC, UVA)—will require at least one lengthy essay. Students applying to UF, FSU, or UCF will have to write at least one essay as well. As we go to press next year's essay prompts have not yet been released, but again we encourage you to check the websites during late July and early August to see what they ask for.

Oh, the Places We Go

As counselors we work hard to maintain relationships with college admissions personnel throughout the country. We are committed to showcasing the unique Bolles curriculum and programs to colleges and universities. We are able to do this during professional conferences and by visiting individual college campuses. Some of the schools our staff has visited in the past year include:

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|---------------------------|--|
| Auburn University | North Carolina State University |
| Belmont University | Rhodes College |
| Brown University | University of Alabama |
| Colgate University | University of Florida |
| College of the Holy Cross | University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill |
| Davidson College | University of Southern California |
| Duke University | University of Texas-Austin |
| Emory University | Vanderbilt University |
| Florida State University | Wake Forest University |
| Lynn University | |



Plan Ahead for Summer College Visits

Many juniors and their families schedule college visits for Spring Break; however, some families may find it more convenient to visit campuses during the summer months. If your vacation plans include a week in North Carolina, for instance, you might consider looking at college campuses such as Furman, UGA, USC, the College of Charleston, Presbyterian, Davidson, or Appalachian State along the way. In a few cases a simple "drive by" will suffice, but for a college in which you have a keen interest, you should take a closer look.

Begin by notifying the college's admission office of your plans to visit so that you can meet with admissions counselors and attend information sessions. In addition to the essential camera, take along some College Research Forms (available in the College Counseling Office) and a notebook in which to jot down your impressions. Once you're back at home, you will find it difficult to recall specific details about and differences among campuses, so any notes you make will be helpful. Plan to eat a meal in the cafeteria, look at a dormitory room, and view the computer lab and library. When you talk to students, ask them to comment on what they like and dislike about their college community. Grab an issue of the campus newspaper. Ask about security, transportation, and social organizations. Check bulletin boards to see what types of cultural events are taking place on campus and in the neighboring community. In your itinerary try to include various types of campuses: urban and rural, small liberal arts colleges and large universities. Remember that you're window-shopping, not buying just yet. Keep an open mind and enjoy the adventure.

Update Your Résumé



One of the most important documents used by your College Counselor is the résumé. All rising seniors should provide an updated résumé to their College Counselor if they have not already done so. The résumé is an essential part of each student's advisor file. College Counselors visit every Life Management class to instruct students on résumé preparation, and students submit completed résumés to their respective advisors.

All Bolles students should update their résumés at the end of each school year, adding activities such as summer employment, community service, travel, and academic/athletic honors. By the senior year, a student's résumé should be an accurate, thorough summary of his or her academic and extracurricular accomplishments. An updated résumé is a great resource to have when responding to application questions about extracurricular activities.

Any student who needs help writing a résumé should schedule an appointment with his or her College Counselor who will offer suggestions as well as provide the suggested format or "sample résumé."



Want Even More Info?



If you are looking for a good beach read this summer, we have some suggestions for you. The college planning sections in Barnes & Noble and Borders are growing every year. We review current publications throughout the year, and we have some "summer reading" suggestions for you.

- § *The Price of Privilege: How Parental Pressure and Material Advantage Are Creating a Generation of Disconnected and Unhappy Kids* by Madeline Levine, Ph.D.
- § *The College Admissions Mystique* by Bill Mayher
- § *Colleges That Change Lives* by Loren Pope
- § *The Overachievers: The Secret Lives of Driven Kids* by Alexandra Robbins



ON YOUR OWN?

IF YOUR PARENTS ARE NOT ABLE TO TRAVEL WITH YOU TO VISIT COLLEGES, THERE ARE TOUR GROUPS THAT OFFER COLLEGE TOURS TO VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. COLLEGE VISITS IS A CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA, TOUR GROUP WHICH HAS SPONSORED COLLEGE TOURS FOR STUDENTS, PARENTS, AND COUNSELORS SINCE 1991. TOURS ARE LED AND SUPERVISED BY COLLEGE VISITS STAFF AND HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELORS. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION E-MAIL COLLEGEVISITS@AOL.COM. THE WEB ADDRESS IS [HTTP://WWW.COLLEGE-VISITS.COM](http://www.college-visits.com).