

Senior Newsletter

March 2013

CONGRATULATIONS SENIORS!!!

- * Lindsay Barth—Lenoir-Rhyne University, NC State University, UNC-Chapel Hill
- * Mary Escaravage—East Tennessee State University
- * Olivia Goodwin—Clemson University, NC State University
- * Bridgett Milroy—Queens University, Wingate University, Lenoir-Rhyne University, University of Tennessee
- * Wesley Mull—UNC Asheville, WCU
- * Lauren Pilat—East Tennessee State University
- * Autumn Spence—Western Carolina University
- * Nikki West—Loyola University, East Carolina University
- * Benjamin Womack—Gardner Webb University



IS Your FAFSA Completed?

If you have not already done so, parents please complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible to qualify for federal and state grants and loans.

The Financial Aid at HCC is willing to help if needed at 627-4506.

You will have FAFSA each year so make sure you keep your email order to login This will save you time when filling out basic information!!!



to renew the year so make the pin # and address in next year. you time

March To Do List

- You are encouraged to complete and file income tax returns as soon as possible. Colleges may request copies of your tax returns to finalize aid offers.
- As you receive letters of acceptance, check with financial aid offices to see if additional documentation must be submitted. Some colleges may request copies of your family's income tax forms, W-2 forms, CSS profiles, and other materials.
- Check in the Counseling Center and on the website www.ths.haywood.k12.nc.us for *New Scholarship Information!*

Don't forget these important websites for college planning and scholarship information:



Scholarships

Please let us know about any scholarships you have received whether or not you plan to go to the school or accept them. We want to recognize you at Awards Night and at graduation for all the awards you have been offered.



- www.cfnc.org
- www.collegeboard.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.smartmoney.com/personal-finance/college-planning/
- www.offtocollege.com

Senior Superlatives: Our apologies that this superlative was left off of the February Newsletter! Most Musical—Helena Hunt & Levi Cullen



THINGS TO THINK ABOUT



By the time April rolls around, you will have received a few important emails from the colleges you've applied to. In the next few weeks, you'll be making one of the most important decisions of your life: Where should you spend the next four years?

Here are some tips to help you make the right choice before the May 1 deadline.

Read the fine print—Skip the glossy brochures and focus instead on the details of each college. Ask yourself questions in the following areas:

- **Academics:** Do they have the courses of study you want? If you change your mind, are there other majors or academic departments that interest you? Browse course information online. Also, go directly to the site of the department you are interested in for detailed information about research opportunities, course offerings and unique academic programs.
- **Social/extracurricular activities:** Does the college offer the social life you want? How far do you want to be from home? Read the campus paper, ask recent alumni about their experiences or talk to students on campus to get a feel for the social scene.
- **Finances:** Can your family afford the investment? Make an appointment with a financial aid officer to ask questions about your unique situation.

Visit your top three campuses

You probably can't visit all the campuses to which you've been accepted. But do try to attend the spring open house for accepted students. If you can, bring an adult you trust to campus. This person can help you pay attention to aspects of campus life you might otherwise overlook. When you are on campus, ask yourself these questions:

- What is the academic culture like?
- Where will I study?
- Can I handle the work?
- Do students like their teachers?
- Will I enjoy campus life?
- What student groups will I join?
- Where will I live?
- If I need advice, who will help me?

Talk to other seniors

You will meet seniors who are in love with their colleges. You will also meet students who aren't. Listen to their reasons and hear why they made their decisions.

Get feedback from people you trust

One day you may prefer one school. The next day, you may change your mind and prefer another. This is quite common, so get an outside point of view. Ask your confidants why they think a certain college is the best choice for you. Listen to their advice, but remember you are the one in the driver's seat.

Pay attention to your gut feeling. Trust yourself. There is no such thing as the wrong choice. Like any experience, college is what you make of it. Take advantage of opportunities, become involved in your interests and your decision will be the right one.

ApplyWise (applywise.com) is an online college counseling program that helps students create a winning college application. It is based on the methodology of Dr. Kat Cohen, one of the country's leading admissions counselors.

