

September 2004

Glenda Atkinson
Kern Hairston
Melanie Lachance

As Raleigh Charter High School begins its sixth year, the college counseling program continues to grow. The list of colleges coming to visit our school grows daily. We are very excited about the colleges and universities that have contacted us wanting to learn more about Raleigh Charter and to meet our students. We hope that you will take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about these schools and to welcome our visitors. They are usually very impressed with both the school and the students. Please check the College Counseling display wall for upcoming visits and events as well as the College Counseling page of the website and the school announcements.

We encourage you to check the website often for updates and useful information. We will post the newsletter and scholarship notices there. Also available on the website is the list of upcoming events.

COLLEGE TIDBITS

NEWS FROM UNC--ASHEVILLE: Based upon the growth in applications over the past two years, UNC-Asheville is no longer using a rolling admission process. The specific deadlines are listed below:

1. December 3, 2004, is the **non-binding** early decision Fall 2005 deadline. Applicants will receive notification of their decision the week of January 3, 2005.
2. December 3, 2004 is also the deadline for the Fall Laurels Scholarship program as well as the Western North Carolina Leadership Scholarship program. In addition to all application materials Laurels candidates must submit a completed Laurels application, answer the two essay questions and list their co-curricular activities.
3. March 1, 2005 is the final deadline for applications.

Featured University: The University of Chicago

The University of Chicago is a private university chartered in 1890 and is located on a 204 acre campus seven miles from the main business district of Chicago. A fine example of neo-Gothic architecture, the campus is also a botanic garden. The university is located in the neighborhood of Hyde Park, a residential community of 43,000 situated on the banks of Lake Michigan and home to more than 60 percent of the faculty.

The University of Chicago offers rigorous intellectual engagement, small classes, and stimulating conversation and is known for the strength of its liberal arts and sciences curriculum. The curriculum consists of a major field of study, a common core, and electives. The university offers 40 study abroad programs, 41 club and 30 intramural sports and 19 Division III varsity teams. Students are involved in more than 300 student organizations.

Statistics: 4,373 undergraduates from 50 states and 59 countries
2,162 men 2,211 women

Class of 2008:

By Region

Midwest 37%	Mid-Atlantic 20%	New England 9%
South 9%	Southwest 5%	West 12%
International 8%		

By Class Rank

Top 5%	58%
Top 10%	78%
Unranked	32%

By Testing

Mid-50% ACT	28-32
Mid- 50% SAT 1	1360-1490

By Gender

Women	51%
Men	49%

Admission Results

Number Applied	8,757
Number Accepted	3,507
Number Enrolled	1,220

The university has a need-blind admissions policy, meets 100% of demonstrated need and offers merit scholarships. Additional information about the University of Chicago is available in college counseling or the website at www.collegeadmissions.uchicago.edu.

TESTING ADVICE

A Proven Way to Boost Your Score!

There's no way to get around it-the best ways to prepare for the SAT and/or ACT are to study hard and read as much as you can.

The testing companies themselves agree. "The best preparation is to take challenging courses in high school," says Kristin Crouse from ACT. "That prepares students best for college, and that's what the ACT measures."

Reading is another great way to prepare. No, you don't have to plow through *Moby Dick* (though that wouldn't hurt!). Choose books, magazines, and newspapers that you enjoy-everything from *Harry Potter* to the *New York Times* can strengthen your reading comprehension and vocabulary.

Unfortunately, there is no quick way to make up for taking easy classes and avoiding the library. But you can make the commitment now to read for at least 15 minutes a day. By the time the next testing date comes up you'll feel more prepared.

Test Taking Strategies

Test-taking skills can be learned through practice. Try a few of these strategies to improve your performance on standardized tests.

- Take the practice test in the materials you receive from the SAT or ACT.
- Find practice tests online or in books (check the college counseling resource room or library).
- After taking a practice test, look carefully at the questions you get wrong. Read the explanations of the right answers.
- If you find that certain types of questions or certain topics stump you, get some help from a teacher in those areas.
- Learn from every test you take. Take the opportunity to see the answers for the questions you got wrong, if the testing service offers this service. Don't just study the answers themselves – look at the reasoning behind each answer. Then, if you decide to take the test again, you'll be better prepared.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Coca-Cola Scholars Program – Seniors who are US citizens, planning to pursue a degree at an accredited U.S. post secondary institution and who have a minimum 3.00 GPA may be eligible to compete for the Coca Cola Scholarship. Applicants are evaluated on the following: demonstrated leadership, commitment to community, academic achievement, and employment. All requirements as well as the application are located at www.coca-colascholars.org. If you have questions about completing the application (which must be done online), please see Mrs. Atkinson. The deadline for application is October 31.

E. B. Kennedy Scholarship Program of Erskine College – If you would like to be nominated for this scholarship program, please see Mrs. Atkinson in College Counseling. The value of the scholarship currently exceeds \$90,000 over four years. The criteria for selection are: Christian commitment, leadership potential, scholastic achievement, and vigorous outlook. Deadline to contact Mrs. Atkinson is **October 1**.

Emory University Emory Scholars – The Emory Scholars program is for students who have demonstrated qualities of forceful and unselfish character, intellectual and personal vigor, outstanding academic achievement, impressive communication skills, leadership and creativity in school or community, and clear potential for enriching the lives of their contemporaries at Emory University. If you are planning to apply to Emory and would like to be considered for nomination for this prestigious scholarship, please see Mrs. Atkinson by **October 1**.

North Carolina State University Park Scholarship - For information see www.ncsu.edu/park_scholarships/. There will be two students nominated from RCHS but you can self nominate.

North Carolina Teaching Fellows - Teaching Fellows award recipients receive a state grant of \$6,500 per year for four years paid to the college. Teaching Fellows winners who accept the award must agree to teach in North Carolina for four years. For more information see www.teachingfellows.org. Let Mrs. Atkinson know if you wish to be considered for this scholarship by September 30.

University of North Carolina Morehead Scholarship - Information available at www.themorehead.org. There will be two students nominated from RCHS. However, you may self nominate.

2004 United States Senate Youth Program – Two students from each state will be chosen to participate in the United States Senate Youth Program. This program was established by a Senate resolution in 1962 and provides the chosen students a week’s internship on government and the United States Senate, plus a \$5,000 scholarship. Selection will be based on the outstanding ability and demonstrated qualities of leadership as elected or selected high school student officers of the 2004-05 school year. Any high school junior or senior student is eligible for the program provided he or she has not previously been a delegate to the program and is currently serving in an elected or selected capacity in any one of the following student government, civic or educational organizations: student body president, vice president, secretary or treasurer; class president, vice president, secretary or treasurer; student council representative; student representative elected or selected to district, regional or state level civic or educational organization. Each eligible student must complete an application form, type an essay and take an exam. If you are interested in applying for this program, you must see Mrs. Atkinson by **September 15**.

Washington University in St. Louis Danforth Scholars Program-

Winners may receive full or partial tuition. The award is renewable each year provided the student maintains academic progress and upholds the high standards of character required. Students must be nominated and the nomination letter must include information about the candidate’s exceptional commitment to community service, high moral character and similar qualities. If you are interested in Washington University and wish to be considered for this nomination, please see Mrs. Atkinson by **September 20, 2004**.

OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGES

Autumn Visits to Colleges

Randolph Macon Woman’s College	September Saturday Riding Center Open House Autumn Overnight Program Autumn Visit Day	September 25 October 10 October 10-11 November 6
Converse College	September 18	

Open Houses

September 18 & October 17	Davidson College (Discover Davidson) RSVP required Furman University – register online at http://www.engagefurman.com/visit/fallforfurmanreg.htm North Carolina State University - 9:30 am – 1:00 pm
October 2 & October 30	
October 16	

Information Sessions

Medicine – Can It Be Your Future? Wake Med Presents High School Health Careers Expo
Wednesday, November 3, 2004 – 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Admission Receptions

September 13	Davidson College, Marriott Hotel – Crabtree Valley
September 22	Vanderbilt University, Cary Academy – Fine Arts Building Lecture Hall
September 26	New York University, Sheraton Durham – 4700 Emperor Blvd., Durham RSVP: Online at admissions.nyu.edu/receptions Columbia University – Durham Visit http://studentaffairs.columbia.edu/admissions/events/ for more information.
October 27	Washington & Lee University, Marriott Hotel – Crabtree Valley

College Visits to RCHS

September 7	Salem College
September 8	Brandeis
September 9	Furman
September 13	Haverford
	Goucher
	Rhodes
September 14	Davidson
September 15	George Washington University
	Wittenberg
	Sarah Lawrence
September 24	Mt. Holyoke
	St. Johns
	Claremont-McKenna
September 27	Appalachian State University
	Pomona
September 29	New York University
October 4	Georgia Institute of Technology
October 5	Boston College
October 6	Sweet Briar
	Emory
October 7	Northeastern
October 8	Vassar
October 11	University of Pennsylvania
October 13	PSAT
October 28	Washington & Lee
	Beloit
November 3	Xavier
November 10	Smith

College Fairs

September 12	College Fair at McKimmon Center, NCSU 12:00-5:00 PM
September 13	Colleges That Change Lives – Cary Academy 7:00-9:00 PM
Various Dates	NACAC's 2004 Performing & Visual Arts College Fair (Poster giving dates and locations is posted on the college counseling poster wall.)