



## College Newsletter Spring 2009



**Congratulations Seniors! You have finished one stage of life and are headed into the next. By this time of year, you have received college admission decisions. Now it is your turn to decide. What makes a college a good fit for you individually? How can you best make a final decision?**

### *What makes a college a good fit for a student?*

It is critical to look beyond the rankings when considering college options. The relative difficulty of admission does not determine the quality of education. One question a prospective student should ask is, "What does this college do for students once they arrive?"

There are two statistics that I always review with students when we compose their "long list" of college options. The first is the college's retention rate from freshmen to sophomore year. The second is the college's graduation rate. The retention rate can be very revealing. A high retention rate suggests that the college has done an excellent job in selecting students who will thrive on campus. Students who have succeeded academically and are satisfied with their first-year experience will return for another year. A high graduation rate implies that the college has the academic and personal support in place to assure that students graduate in a timely manner.

An important department on most college campuses is the Career Center. Although sometimes overlooked, this department can be key in facilitating a transition after graduation. A prospective student should learn if the Career Center provides access to internships and/or cooperative learning experiences. Also, a student should know if the center provides resume support, alumni mentor programs and on-campus recruiting.

College applicants should also inquire about the school's focus on teaching vs. research. Colleges that value and reward teaching attract professors who enjoy working with undergraduates. A college may publicize its prestigious faculty, but that doesn't always mean they are accessible to undergraduates.

Lastly, prospective students should look into the college's advising system. Students who regularly meet with an advisor for feedback on class selection are more likely to maintain focus, setting them up for academic and career success.

### *They Went Where?*

*Where did that famous person attend college?*

Barbara Walters	Sarah Lawrence
Bill Cosby	Temple University
Billy Graham	Wheaton College
Brad Pitt	University of Missouri
Colin Powell	City College, NY
Condoleezza Rice	University of Denver
David Letterman	Ball State, Indiana
Gloria Estefan	University of Miami
Harrison Ford	Ripon College
Henry Winkler	Emerson College
James Earl Jones	University of Michigan
John Glenn	Muskingum College
John Grisham	Mississippi State
Julia Roberts	Georgia State Univ.
Paul Newman	Kenyon College
Ross Perot	Texarkana Junior Coll.
Sarah Bullock	East Carolina Univ.
Steve Jobs	Reed College
Walt Disney	Metropolitan Jr. Coll.

### *Check it out ✓*

[www.kathrynmarc.com](http://www.kathrynmarc.com) recommends the following website: [www.ipl.org/div/teen/aplus](http://www.ipl.org/div/teen/aplus) for writing and research support for students.

**Kathryn March** is an educational and career consultant as well as an international speaker. To start your one-on-one educational counseling, please contact [ktm@kathrynmarc.com](mailto:ktm@kathrynmarc.com).