



THE WOODROW WILSON
National Fellowship Foundation

Early College High School Students
Journal about their Senior Year

The College Experience: Tales of a senior girl	Letters to my younger sister About the college experience
<p>October 3, 2007: Since I am a first generation American, I am also the first generation to go to college... I just recently found myself in a horrible state of confusion. At first I wanted to go out of state, and then decided staying in Connecticut would be more cost effective. Then I made the choice to live on campus, but the sight of my mother's face when I informed her of my plan made me think about commuting.</p> <p>October 10, 2007: I made an organized binder to hold all my college information; including interview tips, scholarships, SAT practice and tips, and a list of possible colleges to look at. I had to of spent a few hours on the computer yesterday researching general scholarships.</p> <p>November 1, 2007: I am also taking a computer programming class for [college] credit. Well, my teacher told me the other day that she thinks that computer engineering would be a good career for me. I have to admit, I definitely agree with her on that one... Every time I think about studying computer engineering, I have a liberal arts study in the back of my mind. I love to perform and I love to study art, so I'm torn. I'm going to need to sleep on it.</p> <p>November 5, 2007: This entire college process has had me on an up and down rollercoaster from day one. I've gone back and forth between trying to make my parents happy, trying to make myself happy, and trying to keep my teachers happy. It's been a real drain on my energy level... My mom has finally calmed down with the scholarship race, and has granted me freedom to pick whatever college makes me happy regardless of location. Out of state colleges is officially an option.</p> <p>I've recently been battling personal feelings of seclusion and intense visions of losing touch with those closest to me after high school. I know that it's obvious that majority of the people you're</p>	<p>November 4, 2007: My college search actually began around this time last year. After taking part in the High School Research Apprentice Program at the Uconn Health Center, I had learned about many interesting colleges, and interesting college information. I knew that I wanted to go into the medical field, but I did not know which college I wanted to go to. However, all of this changed one day at church. Mommy met a lady, and this lady told mommy about a place called Messiah College, in Grantham, Pennsylvania. What drew me into this school was the fact that a role model of mine, named Dr. Ben Carson, was involved with the school. Dr. Carson is a world renowned pediatric neurosurgeon. I was informed by this lady, that Dr. Carson played a big role in shaping the curriculum for the science programs at Messiah.</p> <p>...It was probably the greatest college visit I have had to date. There was something about Messiah College that just felt right. I remember that while touring the campus, the memory of every good thing that has ever happened to me came back. What was even better is that when I met one of the professors, he talked to me like I was one of his own students, and gave me some very valuable advice into Messiah's Pre-med Program. I left that day, knowing that this was a college I was definitely going to apply to.</p> <p>November 11, 2007: On Thursday, I actually picked up some mail sent by various colleges from my schools front office. I believe that I received about twenty-nine pieces of mail from schools trying to lure me into applying to their programs. I actually remember a time when I wondered if I would ever receive mail from any interested colleges. Well, it just comes to show that good things are in store for those who wait.</p> <p>November 18, 2007: I believe that my visit to Connecticut College was worthwhile, and there is</p>

friends with now, you won't speak with after graduation, but I know that with my 2 best friends, I don't want that fate.

December 6, 2007: I took the SAT's on December 1st, and am sending my scores to Eastern, and Uconn. I finished applications to Uhart, Eastern, and am sending in Uconn's tomorrow. My fourth choice, and at a tie for 1st choice school with Eastern is University of Bridgeport.

January 7, 2008: my class is graduating on Friday the 13th! I can see it now...."The first graduating class at University High School of Science and Engineering, is graduating on the most unlucky day of the year!" That's what the Pamphlets at the ceremony should say!

My mom is really pushing for me to go to the University of Hartford, but the more she pushes for it the more I don't want to go. I want to go to a college I like, not my mom. A college that is close enough to home that I can come home as I please, but far enough away that I can live on campus. Eastern is a good choice for this because it's an hours drive, but Eastern is a liberal arts school and I'm not sure what field I want to go into yet, it may not be liberal arts. [My best friend] is going to Central Connecticut State Univ. and is staying on campus. I didn't like Central at first, but now that I think about it, it's a half hour from my house, my mom is more likely to say yes to letting me stay on campus if she is sure it's with [my best friend], and it's not specialized to liberal arts.

January 22, 2008: 2008 means so much to me. It means graduation; it means college; it means parties; it means growing up; it means finding new love; it means career choices, major decisions, and challenging classes; 2008 means change.

January 27, 2008: I have to admit, however, I though I would be done with all the painful transcript and recommendation requests. I didn't realize how much a scholarship application really entails. It's like I'm applying to college all over again.

I've been thinking a lot lately about career choices, and I think I have officially settled on one, teaching. I'm going to be a math teacher for high

no doubt that they are a school I am going to apply to. In fact, just this week, I began to complete the Common Application and Connecticut Colleges Supplement for the Common Application online. I should be finished within the next week. In addition to applying to Connecticut College online, I am also applying to my state university, the University of Connecticut, by using an electronic application. All that I have to do this week is give my guidance counselor my transcript request form.

December 3, 2007: I had spent all week preparing for a project [on centrifugal force] that I had to complete in physics. My partner and I decided to design a portable device that could play CDs, DVDs, MP3s, and had a built in radio, that could fit right into your pocket. We ... presented our idea and calculations to the class on November 30th. Once I arrived home, I did not even want to think about school work.

December 9, 2007: The [physics] test covered the topic of centrifugal force. I was having some problems with the equations, but after I went to an after school study session, I was no longer confused. I changed the way I studied for this test. Instead of just memorizing concepts, I decided to try and practice problems that the teacher gave to us on our study guide. I thank God that I studied this way, because the problems that we did in the review session, as well as the problems on the study guide, were exactly like the questions on the test.

December 16, 2007: I have been accepted to my *first* college. Not only is this the first college to send me an acceptance letter, but it was also my first choice school, Messiah College.

I was very excited once I received a large envelope from the school. I had originally called them on Tuesday, and learned that they had sent me a decision through the mail. I waited all week, and it finally arrived yesterday. I was filled with joy, as I saw those famous words, stated by the admissions office, "You have been accepted." I jumped up and down, and was very excited. I was even more excited once I found out that I was granted a scholarship.

January 13, 2008: Right after I learned about my acceptance to Messiah, I was struck by bronchitis,

school. I'm going to come back to University High School of Science and Engineering to teach math, and, since my love for wrestling is such a huge part of me, help with wrestling season. I'm going to get my BA in communications and a minor in Education so that I can be certified to teach but still get a second job for summers. I love to help others learn math, and I'm really good at it. We had an assignment in math to teach the class synthetic division, and when I went up to the board, I got the best comments and felt very comfortable explaining myself. My feedback was very positive and my teacher agrees with my decision of pursuing education.

February 20, 2008: I can't believe it happened so fast, wrestling season is officially over!!! This season has been absolutely phenomenal, and I wouldn't trade the last 3 months for anything in the world, it meant so much to me and I grew so much from it. Not only did I make major decisions regarding my future, but I strengthened my mind and my body. My Coach has been a true inspiration to me, and no one will ever take from me the memories I shared with him as my Coach and with the team in general. Because of Coach and other teachers, I've decided to do a double major in college, and the paths I have chosen are Education (Secondary) and Accounting. Yes, I want to be a High School math teacher and inspire young teenagers just like Coach inspired me.

March 7, 2008: So much has happened to me! Let's just say depression has stopped me from being my true self... I have had so much counseling from the staff here at school and I feel so blessed to have so many people that love me and care about me. The staff here at school will do anything for me and help me in any ways imaginable and that to me has helped me overcome my personal issues.

March 23, 2008: LIFE! Between ignorant classmates, scholarship deadlines, yearbook committee deadlines, prom committee, and now TRACK, I'm swamped... Anyways. I have applied for so many scholarships, yet received NONE! I don't know if this is a good sign or a bad one, if I am going to get any money for college.

April 4, 2008: How many scholarships do I have to enter before I win one??? I understand that

and remained bed-ridden for almost a week. It was a terrible experience.

Over the last couple of weeks, there have been times when I find myself wanting high school to be over right now. Some of the people that you have met, or even some of the situations you find yourself in can make you want to forget about high school altogether. These feelings can make a young person anxious to want to "grow up" very quickly.

In other news to report, I am very happy to say that I have been accepted to my second choice school, the University of Connecticut. It is an amazing school, and one of the first colleges I ever knew about. It is both very humbling, and exciting to have been accepted there. However, I am still unsure if I will attend UConn. My uncertainty comes from the schools very large size.

January 15, 2008: This is where time management comes into play. While taking a test, it is better to finish easier problems where you can get the points, rather than spend your time working on a challenging problem that you could get incorrect. I did keep this in mind when I was taking the test, and I am hoping for the best.

January 27, 2008: The last two weeks have been very busy ones for me. Between studying for my midterms and completing scholarships, I don't know which one has taken up more of my time.

February 15, 2008: Today, while I completed some scholarship searching, in addition to some homework, strange feelings over came me. In terms of my doubt, most of it comes from the scholarships that I complete. I do my best to let these individuals know what type of a person I am, and the things I have done in my life, and high school career. It almost seems like as soon as I send off a scholarship to a big corporation, I have a feeling that I will be rejected, because I am not what they were looking for.

February 27, 2008: I came to this school to get a better education than that being offered in a regular high school. In addition, this school was set up as an early college model. I wanted to get preparation for college while still in high school, so that when I did go to college, the experience

they are very competitive but I try so hard and I have a lot going for me, but I never seem to get selected. I never knew it would be this hard. I had such a determined attitude and a drive to win, but after rejection letters came, that feeling deteriorated very rapidly. I hope I can win one soon, and I pray that I do go to Central not having to pay tuition by myself.

On a happier note, I have a really cute date to prom.

would not be completely foreign to me. I believe that I have had a taste of the college experience, due to some of the classes I have taken, in addition to having to travel from building to building on our campus. However, this one question plagued me when I was writing, "Will I miss this high school experience?"

I believe that Messiah College will offer that same close knit feeling of a community. In fact, Messiah brought back every positive feeling I felt in all the schools that I have been to.

March 9, 2008: Just this past Friday, I was able to go and visit the Emmanuel Nursing Home in Hartford. There was one gentleman in particular that I had a wonderful time talking to. His name was Darrell, and he grew up in New York. He encouraged me to go on and receive a higher education, and to never get caught up with issues like violence or drugs. I appreciated his advice, and told him to keep inspiring us.