



EWSIS COLLEGE COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2018

Congratulations to EWSIS Class of 2018

Written by Mr. Carter

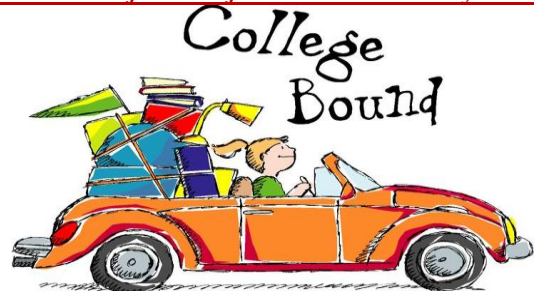


This has been an exciting year for me! I have had the pleasure of being the College Counselor for EWSIS this academic year and enjoyed every part of it: the one-on-one counseling, lecturing Senior Institute classes, attending college trips, staying after school to ensure time sensitive documents were in before deadlines, sleepless nights editing essays and writing recommendation letters, going over my budget to order food to convince students to complete college application items on time, conversations about life and current affairs, and, most importantly, the connections I made with them. I can honestly say I have never worked so hard at any job before. I knew that I wanted to end this academic year strong and make it memorable for our graduates.

This year I was able to implement some new initiatives to help guide our students through the college application process, choosing a major and career path, choosing a college that is the perfect fit, and enlightening them on the college student life. While at EWSIS I was able to conduct over **40** College Workshops, bring over **25** College Representatives to speak with our students, Plan **7** College Trips for seniors, create a Career Exploration Week to highlight many different career pathways to a profession, and plan EWSIS first Annual Senior College Signing Day. I can see that CBI has made an impact for our graduates and I am optimistic about making next year

even more memorable and a year full of *Honor, Excellence, Curiosity, and Celebration.*

Graduates of Class of 2018 Postsecondary Plans:



- Alvi Abtahi ~ Hunter College*
Eric Adams ~ Queens College
Monica Aguilar ~ LaGuardia Community College
Denajon Allen ~ Borough of Manhattan Community College
Anthony Alvarez ~ New York City College of Technology
Sulai Beaumont ~ College of Staten Island
Ramane Bramwell ~ St. Francis College
Yuseong Byeon ~ Hunter College
Dennise Casurra ~ Borough of Manhattan Community College
Melissa Chandrajit ~ LaGuardia Community College
Chuan Chen ~ University at Buffalo
Kevin K. Chen ~ Asia Pacific University Ritsumeikan
Kevin Chen ~ Stony Brook University
Kristine Chen ~ University at Buffalo
Jeremi Chimbo ~ Oswego College
Lythia Cho ~ Queens College
Nishat Chowdhury ~ University at Albany
Derrick Cordova ~ New York City College of Technology
Ritu Dey ~ Cornell University
Nathaly Diaz ~ Queensborough Community College
Tenzin Dolkar ~ University at Albany
Naomi Dong ~ Stony Brook University
Sheng Hao Dong ~ University at Albany
Camila Encarnacion ~ LaGuardia Community College
Gabriela Franco ~ University at Albany
Shuyi Gao ~ Queens College

Michael Giron~ Queensborough Community College
Janelle Grant~ Alfred State College
Uganda Gray~ Onondaga Community College
Serdo Gyatso~ University at Buffalo
Jia He~ Binghamton University
Taimin Hong ~ York College
Zenan Hu~ Academy Arts University – California
Darren Huang~ Queensborough Community College
Kenny Huang~ Queensborough Community College
Kevin Hyppolite~ New York City College of
 Technology
Jessica Jaggernaut~ SUNY Orange Community
 College
Szu Hsien Lee~ New York City College of Technology
William Lee~ Cornell University
Yueting Liao~ Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Christian Lin~ Queensborough Community College
Danny Lin~ College of Staten Island
Susan Lin~ Binghamton University
Xiang Lin~ Old Westbury College
Zhou Lin~ York College
Hao Liu~ York College
Yuchen Luo~ Borough of Manhattan Community
 College
Casey Macedo~ Fashion Institute of Technology
Faolan Mejias~ Maritime College
Rem Mendoza~ U.S. NAVY
Sarah Miah~ New York City College of Technology
Yaslyn Molina~ LaGuardia Community College
Joiana Moran~ John Jay College
Isai Ortiz~ Queensborough Community College
Tenzin Palkey~ University at Buffalo
Jelani Pusey~ Binghamton University
Jenny Qu~ Queensborough Community College
Shahram Rahman~ Baruch College
Cathryn Ramdass~ John Jay College
Nadia Ramshanie~ Hunter College
Andrew Ren~ Old Westbury College
Patrick Salinas~ Queensborough Community College
Steve Seo~ U.S. ARMY
Hali Siew~ University at Buffalo
Tayvon Simmons~ Queensborough Community
 College
Shane Smith~ Medgar Evers College
Giana Soto~ U.S. NAVY
Shefa Tarzi~ Nassau Community College
Analese Taveras~ New York City College of
 Technology
Evlampia Theodoropoulou~ Fashion Institute of
 Technology
Steve Vazquez~ LaGuardia Community College
Marlon Velasquez~ Hunter College
Anthony Velez~ Oneonta College
Ericka Watson~ Taking a year off to Pursue Modeling
Donny Wong~ Queens College
Philippe Wooley~ Pace University
Stanley Xu~ Binghamton University

Zishuo Xu~ Hunter College
Conrad Yeung~ University at Buffalo
Austin Zhang~ Ithaca College
Wendy Zhang~ Queensborough Community College
Kenneth Zheng~ University at Buffalo

NY Logos Presbyterian Church Scholarship Winners!!!

Written by Mr. Carter

Congratulations to two of our graduates **Jelani Pusey** and **Marlon Velasquez** for receiving the *NY Logos Presbyterian Church Scholarship* in the amount of **\$1000.00**. Jelani will be attending Binghamton University and Marlon Velasquez will be attending Hunter College this fall. This scholarship was awarded to students who demonstrated financial need.

A special thanks to EWSIS Guidance Counselor, Mrs. Parks for identifying these students and being able to help them pay for college. This scholarship opportunity would not be made possible without her affiliation with the church, her recommendations, and being an advocate for our students who need financial assistance to help alleviate the cost of attendance for college. The award was presented to them by **Reverend Jae Chul Shim**.



Sending Two of our Graduates to an Ivy League College- *Cornell University*

Written by Mr. Carter



Two of our graduates will be attending an Ivy League institution this fall. Ritu Dey and William Lee will be enrolling at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY. They have worked tremendously hard to get into their dream school. It is quite unheard of for two students from the same graduating class to attend such a prestigious institution (considering the size of our graduating class). Both students have earned numerous commendations and academic awards during their time here at EWSIS. They were class leaders with great rapport with students and staff alike, and had a special affinity for building positive relationships. I am certain they will be very successful during their college years. Ritu and William have the intellectual capacity, fortitude, and skillsets to make their mark at Cornell University. With a strong commitment to academic excellence and a social responsibility toward improving themselves and surroundings- I am sure they will do well!



Cornell currently ranks #14 amongst Best Colleges in the U.S. according to U.S. News & World Report. Admission to the university is highly competitive. For fall 2018, Cornell received over 51,000 freshmen applications; 5,288 were admitted, a 10.3% acceptance rate. Cornell enrolls students from all 50 U.S. states and more than 120 countries. As of fall 2014, 25.7% of undergraduate students identified themselves as

members of ethnic minority groups. Legacy applicants receive a slight advantage in the admission process.

Team Work

Makes The Dream Work!!

Written by Mr. Carter

*Interview Conducted by Massiah Williams
Class of 2019*



Mrs. Schnall the Parent Coordinator here at EWSIS has played an instrumental role in many of our students going off to college! She helped build strong relationships with our graduates since they were in Middle School here at EWSIS.

As NYC schools across all five boroughs work to ensure that all students, regardless of where they live, are aware of and ready for college after high school, **parent coordinators** play a huge role in this effort. In addition to their other responsibilities, parent coordinators are an essential part of the college going culture, as they work to help middle school and high school families understand the importance of college attendance. In addition to creating a welcoming environment for EWSIS parents, Mrs. Schnall made an even more hospitable environment for our students wanting to learn more about college. When it came to words of wisdom, great advice, and helping choosing a college, Mrs. Schnall served as an excellent resource. Mrs. Schnall draws from personal experiences and is able to help direct our students to a path of success.

There have been times when I could not get our students to understand certain aspects about the college experience, and Mrs. Schnall was able to step in and advise our students in a way that is unparalleled to any other staff member here at EWSIS. From witnessing her gentle approach with students to seeing the students

trust her advice, she has assured me that working in tandem with her is essential and needed if we want our students to accomplish goals leading them to success.

During Alumni Day in January, we had over 30 alumni come to EWSIS to visit and speak with our students about their college experience (alumni ranging from class of 2011 to class of 2017). Alumni were excited to share their perspective on going to college and provide our students with great advice to ensure a seamless transition from high school to college. I observed how important Mrs. Schnall was to these students and their transition, and how emotional the students were to see her, and catch up on college and life. These students had a special affinity to her and thanked her for her support.

Aside from her day-to-day operations, Mrs. Schnall truly enhances our students' lives and empowers them within an inclusive and supportive environment that places our students first. She does an excellent job championing the recruitment, enrollment, transition, retention, and graduation of a student body rich in talent, diversity, and individuality. She assists with students having a strong sense of self and a foundation for success in college and beyond.

When I asked our current students who they would like to interview for the College Newsletter, several students asked that it be Mrs. Schnall. Our *Historian* from the *Carters' College Summit* team, **Massiah Williams** had the opportunity to interview Mrs. Schnall. Please see below:

Massiah Williams: *What do you enjoy doing when you are not working?*

Mrs. Schnall: *"I love to socialize and hang out with family and friends. I am also very active in sports.... GO YANKEES@!!!"*

Massiah Williams: *What advice would you give us rising seniors as we approach the college application process?*

Mrs. Schnall: *"Try and go away for college and see what's out there in this world. Having a global perspective on life and introducing yourself to new things is important for your maturity and sense of independence. I also want to add that you should join a lot of student programs and take advantage of opportunities that can potentially lead you to success"*

Massiah Williams: *Interesting. What activities have you done in college?*

Mrs. Schnall: *"Dance Team! I love to dance and because it is my passion it was something I decided to continue to do while in college and even thereafter. I was also very active in social, cultural, and pre-professional organizations and clubs"*

Massiah Williams: *Was it easy to make friends? And, if so, are you still in touch with friends from college?*

Mrs. Schnall: *"I was able to make a lot of close friends and created strong bonds with several people while I was in college. I have attended several of my college friend's weddings, baby showers, and other social gatherings after college. It feels good to build long lasting friendships with people who you have went to school with."*

Middle School College Trip Feedback - Ms. Mandel's 7th Grade Advisory Class!!!

Written by Mr. Carter



This past April, I planned and help chaperone a college day trip for our 7th graders to visit CUNY Lehman College in Bronx, NY. When I began planning this trip I knew I had to make this experience impactful and allow for our students to see first-hand what the college experience may look like for them. Normally, the admissions office for colleges prefer meeting with high school students, but I was able to speak with the Director of Admissions with helping plan a middle school visit. The students were able to speak with the admissions team about majors, activities to do on campus, and of course food! Students got a chance to learn fun facts about Lehman College, tour the campus, and even had the chance to visit the college gymnasium and pool.

The trip was intense for me, as I had to monitor over 50 students tour the campus and keep an eye on

everyone as we walked through a large campus with a student population of over 11,000. I enjoyed watching our students get excited and ask questions about the campus and the college experience.

Upon my return to school the following week, Mrs. Mandel our Dean, 6th Grade DEAR Teacher, and 7th Grade Advisory Instructor shared with me some of the student's feedback from the college trip. When I began reading the student's commentary, my heart glowed! I was excited to see that the students enjoyed and appreciated the college trip. Below are just a few comments from our rising 8th grade students:

Mr. Carter

I liked the school you picked for us to go. Unlike going to Queens College again, we had a chance to go to Lehman College. I think the school is very well designed and the courses there are interesting.

From Marieli Salano
To: Mr. Carter

I liked how you had like a friend convo with me. And I liked the way you thought my country was beautiful. I really appreciate + not.

I like the school that you chose for the trip. This is because you really thought about the school you took us to and not just to some random school 2 feet away.

Dear Mr. Carter,

Thank you for having the trip to Lehman College. Even though the 7th graders was loud, you tried your very best to calm us down. You also thought of very fun activities that we could do. My favorite part of the trip was the tour in general and the lunchroom. Thank you for hosting the trip.

Mr. Carter

I like the school you plan us to go to, because the school is really big, and the building ~~was~~ was full of fashion ~~the~~ design. One building was called "honey cone" because the building had holes on the outside shape like bee's home.

To: Mr. Carter.

Thank you for inviting us to the college trip. From this trip I have learn many thing that I don't know in college. I now know that ~~that~~ there is many other building on the subject you pick.

Flora Kim Hong

Preparing the Rising Seniors for the College Application Process!!!

Written by Mr. Carter



CBI students often begin working with their counselors on the college admissions process in the spring of 11th grade. Although college may seem far away, it's much closer than students think! If your child is a rising senior, over the next few months you should conduct extensive research and develop concrete ideas about where they want to go to college, visit colleges, and make sure that their course load, test scores, and extracurricular activities will help their application stand out. As a seasoned higher education professional I have come up with the following tips to help students kick off the college admissions process now and sail smoothly their senior year.

✚ Make a Balanced Preliminary College List

Creating a balanced college list of reach, target, and safety schools is one of the most important aspects of the college application process. Students need to start their search by familiarizing themselves with many different colleges and universities. To help students get started, I have provided the juniors with a folder which included their *Final Transcript*, *SAT Score Report*, and *Admission Summary Sheets* which illustrate the academic admissions criteria for CUNY and SUNY colleges. Students are responsible for creating a preliminary college list. In addition to looking at the admission criteria, students had the opportunity to work in small groups and narrow their options by location, size, academic program offerings, campus life, and other factors that are meaningful to them. At the height of it all, I continuously stressed the importance of classroom size, campus life, and sense of community when identifying the perfect college fit.

✚ Get to Know your College Counselor

I highly encourage students to meet with me several times so they cannot only build a rapport with me, but it allows me to get to know the students much more.

In addition to students making appointments with me throughout the year, I will be scheduling one on one appointments with rising seniors to ensure they will have everything complete and will be able to adhere to important deadlines. The College office is an excellent, useful resource for college information. It is important for students to cultivate a relationship with me as early as possible in their high school experience. The more I know about their needs and goals, the better guidance I can give them in this process. Plus, it's likely that I will be writing a recommendation letter for your child college applications, so it's important to build a solid relationship with me. Further, by evaluating their test scores, grades, personal interests, and other admissions factors, I can help come up with a preliminary college list and help them narrow their college search.



✚ Outline and Draft your Personal Statement

With over 450 colleges currently using the [Common Application](#), students will be using the Common Application to apply to many of the schools on their final college list. Along with the Common Application- SUNY Colleges require a personal statement of 250-500 words, as well as a short essay discussing any challenges your child has faced that may have hindered their academic performance. I highly recommend students start brainstorming and outlining these essays now, and even complete a first draft by mid-September of their senior year I will be conducting several college essay workshops with seniors during their senior year. No college essays will be submitted without my review to ensure that each essay is well

written, has continuity, and answers the essay questions.

Plan the Perfect Senior Year

Many students believe that only their first semester of 12th grade will be important, but they must avoid “senioritis” at all costs – the rigor of their senior year courses and the grades they receive in those courses count! In addition to maintaining strong grades, it is also important that they push themselves by taking challenging courses their final year of high school; hard work and dedication will pay off in the long run. In addition to maintain a strong academic record, it is just as important to have them enjoy their senior year. I will be planning several college trips and college readiness programming for students.

Getting to Know our College Counselor Mr. Carter

A Brief Bio about Mr. Carter



Mr. Carter currently serves as the Director of College Counseling at East West School of International Affairs. In this capacity he is responsible for providing students with a prodigious transformational experience and

resources necessary to prepare them for college and other postsecondary plans.

Prior to his appointment at the College Bound Initiative, Mr. Carter was the Assistant Dean of

Integrated Student Services at Georgia State University. He also served as the Assistant Director of Admissions and Financial Aid at Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, the Assistant Director of Admissions for the Gerald J. and Dorothy R. Friedman School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University. He also formerly served as a Senior Recruitment Advisor for the State University of New York Center for Student Recruitment.

With a Master’s degree from Columbia University, in Higher and Postsecondary Education, and three Bachelor of Arts degrees in Political Science, Sociology, and Africana Studies from Binghamton University, Mr. Carter recognizes the importance of education and leadership and is actively involved with a variety of organizations and professional associations in regards to Access to Higher Education. As a creative, learner-centered higher education practitioner and researcher with progressive professional experience, Mr. Carter brings a unique perspective to our students here at EWSIS.

In the community, Mr. Carter volunteers with the Urban League where he serves as the Board of Managers. His passion with helping secondary students attain college started in 2004 when he founded a student run organization at Binghamton University called Setting the Road to Improvement Via Education (S.T.R.I.V.E) which is an outreach program for H.S. students to gain access to college. He is also a proud member of *Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Incorporated*. In his spare time, Mr. Carter enjoys mentoring our youth, working out, traveling, playing the piano, writing music, and hanging out with family and friends.



EWSIS COLLEGE OFFICE

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