



# EWSIS COLLEGE COUNSELOR NEWSLETTER

APRIL & MAY 2018

## The Junior Overnight College Trip!!!

*Written by Alexis Tendilla- Class of 2019*

On April 12<sup>th</sup> through April 13<sup>th</sup> 50 of our EWSIS juniors had the opportunity to attend an overnight college trip and get a first-hand experience of what college life is truly like. The colleges visited were SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oneonta, and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Our rising senior **Alexis Tendilla** shares his point of view:

This past trip to SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Oneonta, and RPI has led me to confirm the notion that time



management is absolutely necessary in order to have both a successful and enjoyable college experience (like that of Mr. Carter's experience). The tour guide for SUNY Binghamton mentioned that freshman students typically have quite a

bit of time on their hands, depending on the schedule. As opposed to high school, where students are constantly assigned homework assignments from about 5 or 6 different classes, in college, homework is not as abundant. Instead professors might hand out a syllabus that lists the expected work and assignments for the semester. Unlike high school teachers, college professors tend to give few assignments that carry a larger weight on a student's grade. This in turn makes studying crucial in order to pass what few assignments are given. Even then, a typical freshman still has spare time in their hands. That's where time management comes into play.

As some of the tour guides mentioned, college students must take the initiative in studying. The homework

given in high school is meant to review the information learned in class, but in college, a lack of homework,



forces students (if they choose to) to study on their own time. When in the cafeteria of SUNY Binghamton, I noticed there were a lot of students who had meals next to their laptop or books, in other words, they were doing work while eating. I found it somewhat surprising, but then realized that working when eating



was an efficient way to manage one's time. When in Oneonta, I also found it strange to see students working out in the gym at noon on a school day. However, the fact is that these students were simply managing their free time as individuals. Rather than simply studying or wasting time, these students most likely had a schedule

to follow—their own schedule. Perhaps, the students planned to work out, go back to their dorm, eat, and then study or prepare for another class. Moreover, the interesting part about out of city colleges, like Binghamton, Oneonta and RPI, is that it allows students to experience a unique sense of “freedom”. My entire life I have always lived in the city with my parents, and while I do fear leaving my comfort abode, I also feel the individuality call out to me when visiting out of city schools. Overall, I feel this trip helped to confirm my thoughts about the typical college life and my inclination towards out of city colleges.

**Here are some photos from the College Trip:**





## 10<sup>th</sup> Grade College Trip to UB!

**“Beyond my Imagination”**

*Written by Kateline Nicolas- Class of 2020*



Overall, my experience at the University of Bridgeport was great! The campus itself is huge and offers many different academic programs to choose from. UB offers numerous opportunities,

including programs to study abroad, several clubs one may join, and organizations that one can be part of. The school of management which peaked my interest provides many resources to students who are applying for internships or jobs. And so, UB is a great school with countless opportunities and programs for various students.

From my personal experience, I truly enjoyed this trip and would love to go on more college trips to expand my knowledge about various colleges and academic programs. At first I was reluctant on attending this college trip- I didn't know what college life was going to be like (programs and academics) and I didn't believe in myself enough to know that college is attainable. When we arrived at the campus, we were greeted by current student ambassadors, attended an information session and student panel, and went on a college tour! This made it very easy for me to understand what college life is really about. The students were very honest and straight forward and gave us hope as far as preparing us for college. My favorite part of the trip was eating in the dining halls with current students. We got a chance to see how students engage and interact with each other and was able to ask questions about going away to college and challenges they faced as high school students.

As a young African American female growing up in Queens, NY in a household of three male siblings and my parents, I always felt like the odds were against me. To be more specific, I am a potential first generation college student and unfortunately I do not have an example in my household to model after and at times I felt unlikely to succeed. Although I now know that college is attainable for me, I didn't really visualize it much until I attended this college trip.

This trip has definitely enlightened me and helped me think about college a lot more. I want to thank our College Counselor Mr. Carter for taking the time to organize this trip and taking and speak with us on how important college is. I can't wait for next year's trip!

**Here are some pictures from the UB College Trip:**



## Introducing EWSIS Carter's College Summit Team!!!

~Promoting Peer Leadership~

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*



I am excited to share with you all our new college team! *Carter's College Summit* aims to train, deploy, and coach a team of high school rising seniors who are known as "Peer Leaders" – who are charged with boosting college preparation and enrollment across EWSIS, while mobilizing their friends and classmates to realize their true college and career potential. *Carter's College Summit* will host general body meetings open to all students and staff once a week afterschool to discuss varied topics/ current affairs as it pertains to college awareness and readiness. This team will help me create a college-going culture; identify barriers to students' postsecondary aspirations; gain faculty, administrator and parent support for increasing college access for all students; and increase students' college going self-efficacy.

The College Summit consists of eight students who serve as executive board Members. These students are also a part of the *CollegeBound Summer Institute (CBSI) 2018*. College Bound Summer Institute (CBSI) serves as a 3-day intensive college preparation overnight opportunity in July for rising seniors at Gettysburg College in Pennsylvania. Through this experience, participants are able to stay in Gettysburg's residence halls, participate in interactive workshops, and network with fellow CBI students from across our 30 schools. While on campus, students are provided with workshops on college awareness, essay writing, financial aid, and social/personal awareness. Rising

seniors who attend CBSI will then become "Senior Leaders." These students will work closely with me throughout senior their year to help classmates with the college application process.

### MEET THE TEAM:

**Sasha Youngblood:** *President*

**Marielle Joseph:** *First Vice President and PR*

**Zerin Jamal:** *Second Vice President*

**Heidi Tuyen:** *Financial Vice President*

**Dionis Afric:** *Educational Coordinator*

**Bijan Zavieh:** *Public Relations*

**Massiah Williams:** *Historian*

**Rita Lin:** *Historian*

## A Full House at Junior Parent Night

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*



CBI hosted its annual *Junior Parent Night: Getting Ready for Senior Year and The College Application Process* on **Thursday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Over 70 guests filled the art room for dinner and to hear from myself and the Guidance Counselor Ms. Parks discuss pertinent information regarding the rising senior's senior year and the college application process. I was joined by my fellow CBI College Counselor Alyssia Green to discuss the senior year timeline, financial aid, opportunity programs, and help answer questions from both parents and students. I also incorporated a student panel of graduating seniors to help answer questions from rising seniors and parents about their experiences working with me and challenges they have faced. The panel was facilitated by me and the student panelist were: (1) Ritu Dey attending *Cornell University* this fall, (2) Kevin Chen attending *Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University (APU)* this fall, and (3) Shahram Rahman attending *Baruch College* this fall.

# Make the Dream of College Reality

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*



The Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN) held its annual celebration on May 15<sup>th</sup> at Jazz at Lincoln Center. Young Women's Leadership Network (YWLN) supports two life-changing programs that empower low-income youth to break the cycle of poverty through education: The Young Women's Leadership Schools (TYWLS), a high performing network of all-girls public secondary schools, and CollegeBound Initiative (CBI), a comprehensive college access program for young women and men. Currently YWLN serves 18,000 students in over 30 high schools. Since 2001, YWLN has helped more than 14,000 students to enroll in college and has generated more than \$450 million in financial aid to enable them to persist there. According to an independent study, YWLN students enroll in college at twice the rate of their peers and graduate at four times the rate!

At this event we celebrated the thousands of students who've benefited from our partnership. The evening was a great night to celebrate our students, our schools and all of their future endeavors. Students play a major role in the program as emcee's and interviewers to our incredible honorees. Upwards of 60 students from across all 34 partner high schools have been invited to be ambassadors and engage with our guest. As always, they make us all so proud. Three of our seniors; Ramanee Bramwell, Ritu Dey, and Joaina Moran joined me at this event to share their stories of the many benefits of being a CBI student. For more information about the event please click [here](#).

Here are some photos from the CBI Celebration:





## Congratulations to our Graduating Senior Joiana Moran for being selected to participate in APPLE Corps program!



I am pleased to announce that our graduating senior Joiana Moran has been selected to participate in the APPLE Corps program in partnership with John Jay College of Criminal Justice. The selection process to the program was competitive, and she

was among a group of students carefully chosen. APPLE Corps offers students valuable academic and professional experiences through an early academic start, community service, research, and internship opportunities.

Joiana will have a team of dedicated advisors, counselors and faculty to support her academic journey. In addition, she will receive financial support in excess of \$20,000, provided she maintains satisfactory academic progress and meet APPLE Corps program requirements.

-----

## CBI's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Collaborative College Fair: Find the College That's Right for You!

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*



Each year, CBI hosts an annual college fair open to CBI students at Manhattan College. On May 4<sup>th</sup>, our rising seniors attended this fair. Over 50 colleges were present to engage with our students and help them learn more about their academic offerings and student life. Attending a college fair is an important step in the college search process for many reasons: making connections with college representatives, discovering a new institution, not expensive, long-distance travel. There are other, less obvious, benefits as well: college fairs provide a wonderful opportunity to seek advice about not only a particular institution, but also to learn about actions that can be taken now to better prepare for college. Our students met with several admissions representatives and collected a lot of useful information to help them find the right "college fit" for them and prepare them for applying to college this fall.



## Is it Better to Stick Close to Home or go to College Away?

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*



On April 30<sup>th</sup>, I invited a SUNY Admissions Advisor to discuss the 64 college campus system, academic offerings, the Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), and Financial Aid options with our rising seniors during an assembly. SUNY is the largest comprehensive systems of universities, colleges, and community colleges in the United States, with a total enrollment of 606,232 students, spanning 64 campuses across the state. For students within the five boroughs considering applying to SUNY colleges, they will have to most likely live on campus.

For many EWSIS students – sticking close to home or going away to college is a sensitive and tricky topic. A student should ultimately be comfortable with the decision he/she makes, but it can be a good idea to reach out of one's "comfort zone". This goes for parents, too, who sometimes need to learn to let go. A student may be better able to expand his/her horizons when attending college not so close to home. There are a lot of factors that would have to be considered, such as; finances, travel issues, college/university opportunities close to home, family needs, etc.

My personal take on this depends upon what the student is trying to get out of their college experience. I would always recommend going out of one's comfort zone as the extra responsibilities of being detached from family/friends support will enable resilience and maturity for the student. If the student is in the position where finances are tight then it's best to stay close to home so that they can save on accommodation costs as well as benefit from local tuition benefits which will cut down that post-student debt which many struggle with. One of the great things about college is that it's often the first time that we first encounter that



responsibilities of adult life therefore the more one can embrace these responsibilities the more equipped they will be for their future (e.g. paying bills, cooking for ourselves, making important decisions unilaterally). As well as taking on important responsibilities, the ability to "network" for future career possibilities will be fully expressed if one moves to school far away, especially to another country or a college with a diverse student base. I know for myself, the ability to network with different types of people gave me many career opportunities after graduating. I have several key networking tips for those looking for post student opportunities.

Ultimately, when counseling students I inform them that it all depends on whether the college has the right curriculum, desirability, meets all your specific criteria and is affordable.

---

## EWSIS Physics, Astronomy, and Engineering faculty Mr. Michael Leone Motivates our Students to Pursue College

*Written by Jeremi Chimbo- Class of 2018*



When I found out that I was accepted to SUNY Oswego's Educational Opportunity Program I was very excited. The Educational Opportunity Program provides access to higher education for students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds who possess the potential to succeed in college but whose academic

preparation in high school may otherwise prevent them from receiving admission. EOP provides an array of educational support services and opportunities, including additional funding to alleviate non-tuition costs (such as books and supplies), academic planning counselors and campus-wide tutoring.

Oswego offers an exceptionally diverse curriculum with 110 academic programs in four distinct schools: Business; Education; Liberal Arts & Sciences; and Communication, Media & the Arts. SUNY Oswego offers several options for service learning, internships and co-ops, study abroad, extensive athletic opportunities and over 180 clubs and organizations to choose from.

Someone who played an integral part in me applying to SUNY Oswego and why I am choosing to enroll there this fall was my *Senior Institute* Instructor Mr. Michael Leone. He graduated from SUNY Oswego majoring in physics with a minor in astrology. He sparked my interest about the college when he spoke about his experiences living on campus and how much fun he had as a student. He would speak to the class about SUNY Oswego's academic programs, student life, residential life, food, and of course the support he received from faculty and his peers. As a first generation college student it is important for me to get the best experience possible, as I will be a role model for my siblings and younger family members looking to go to college one day. The mere fact that Mr. Leone spoke vividly about how living on campus and being away from home has helped him mature and become independent was something that I wanted out of this experience. I am ready to embark on my journey to college and looking forward to becoming successful. It is great that we have support from our college counselor, but to have support from our teachers here at EWSIS that are able to enlighten us about the many benefits of going away to college really compliments the work that our College Counselor Mr. Carter does. When having a discussion with Mr. Leone, he gave me some great advice. He told me to enjoy my experience, be willing to try new things, and to make sure I know how to manage my time and allocate enough time devote to my studies. I will be sure to take his advice!

---

# think COLLEGE!

## Early College Awareness

*Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor*

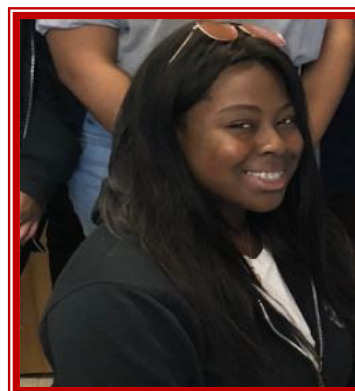
It's never too early to prepare our students to design the college life they want! Many students believe that college preparation begins in their junior and senior years of high school. While it is understandable how students come to think this, with ACT and SAT testing taking place and applications being submitted in these two years, it is becoming more and more apparent that college focus needs to begin much earlier, especially in light of the steadily increasing college admissions requirements. This year I decided to organize three college visits for EWSIS middle school. The 6<sup>th</sup> grade had the opportunity to visit CUNY Queens College, the 7<sup>th</sup> grade visited CUNY Lehman College, and the 8<sup>th</sup> grade visited Columbia University. Students had the opportunity to tour campus with tour guides, ask current students questions, and eat on campus. The 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Columbia University was a scavenger hunt trip, and the team that won received gift bags and had tacos during their lunch period the following day. I am happy to see our middle school students have such a strong interest in higher education.

### Here are some pictures from the Middle School College Day Trips:



## A Trip to Bucknell University

*Written by Marielle Joseph - Class of 2019*



In April I had the opportunity to visit Bucknell University with my classmate Zerine Jamal. This trip was made available and sponsored through a CBI partnership. We attended this college day trip with over 40 other CBI high schools. Being that I

am considering going away to college, I felt that this trip was necessary because it would allow me to see what campus life is like first-hand. I truly enjoyed the Bucknell trip because in many ways it reminded me of my experience at EWSIS. To better explain, it was small compared to other colleges I have visited. Most of the classroom sizes at Bucknell University had a 9 to 1 ratio of student to faculty, and the school had a strong sense of community. What I liked most is that if you had questions about the course material you would be able to ask without feeling like you are disturbing the class. The admissions representative also mentioned that if one faculty member was not available you could rely on other faculty to help who teach in the same subject matter. A normal class size is approximately 25 students which is similar to EWSIS, so if you are someone who doesn't really like big schools this would be a perfect fit for you. The college felt like a community because everyone knew each other and was eager to help one another. Overall I enjoyed the trip and looking forward to attending more CBI college trips.



## A Dream Come True!

Written by Mr. Carter- College Counselor



Congratulations to our graduating seniors **Casey Macedo** and **Evlampia Theodoropoulou** on their acceptance to the world renowned [Fashion Institute of Technology](#). The Fashion Institute of Technology is a public college in Manhattan, New York. It is part of the State University of New York and it is the premier institution, for design, fashion, art, communications, and business. FIT is an internationally known school with notable alumni such as Calvin Klein, Michael Kors, Melissa McCarthy, Anne Bissonnette, and William Frake just to name a few. With the likes of such notable alumni I know without a doubt that these two ladies will be a household name one day.



Casey Macedo



Evlampia Theodoropoulou

Casey and Evlampia have expressed to me their strong interest in applying to FIT last year and that it was their “dream school”. Because this college is highly selective, and just having a strong academic performance will not guarantee admissions-I knew I had to ensure that we submitted a strong application that places them above average and would certainly

give them an offer of admission. Both of these ladies are extraordinarily talented and have been recognized and received accolades for their art illustrations. They wrote exceptional personal statements, received great letters of recommendations, and have demonstrated a strong interest to admission representatives. Both ladies are very excited to start at FIT this fall!

## Senior Signing Day! 5/30/18

To find out where the rest of our seniors will be going this fall, please come out and join us for EWSIS first annual Senior Signing Day on Wednesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM in the auditorium. Seniors will be revealing to an assembly their college and post-secondary plans. Public Relations Chair of *Carter’s College Summit* Bijan Zavieh will be our student emcee and DJ for the event, and we will have a surprise performance. This is an evening you don’t want to miss.



## EWSIS COLLEGE OFFICE

Alvin Carter, Ed.M.  
Director of College Counseling  
46-21 Colden Street Room 423