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North Carolina College Visits

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North Carolina has become a popular destination for students due to its easy access and temperate weather. Diane and I were in North Carolina last week visiting colleges and attending the Independent Educational Consultant Association (IECA) fall conference. We got a small glimpse of the warm weather, but unfortunately we got caught in Hurricane Ida for most of the trip. In spite of the rain, We enjoyed our visits.

Davidson, Elon, and Wake Forest all listed NJ as the second or third highest represented state in their applicant pool. Below are some highlights of the schools we visited that draw students from outside of North Carolina. Click this link to see photos [Facebook Photo Album](#)

Elon

Elon has a pretty, traditional looking campus with brick buildings. Students appeared clean-cut from a variety of backgrounds. Elon focuses on people, programs, and faculty interaction. Its strongest programs are business, education, communication, and biology. They also have a state-of-the art communications and business school. Students apply to Elon University but do not need to choose a major until the second semester of sophomore year. The administration spoke about how Elon "transforms" students, however when I asked the panel of students how they had been transformed, their responses were fairly standard from "*I changed my major from biology to business*" or "*I became more independent.*"

Students seemed active, engaged, and involved with school with plenty of student clubs lining the lobby. There are a number of honors programs which they call "fellows" programs which a student can apply separately as a freshman by 1/10 and also as a sophomore with a 3.45 GPA. There were some shops right next to the school, but most students go to Greensboro or town of Burlington for more of a city life. Only 25% of

students are from NC, the rest are from the Northeast with New Jersey and Maryland as the top represented states.

Wake Forest

The mix of students surprised us at Wake Forest. While there were a number of preppy students in the mix, there was a wonderful mix of ethnicities, races, artsy, edgy, and "college radioesque" students. A new term that I learned which means flannel shirts and converse. Students found the workload intense, but enjoyed the challenge of the classes. The campus is beautiful and true to catalog, we saw students tossing a Frisbee in the main quad. The Wake Forest student is Open Minded and intellectually curious. Research opportunities and study abroad opportunities abound. Wake Forest has a lot of traditions such as "rolling" the lawn with toilet paper after a sports win. The Greek life is also very popular.

Davidson

Davidson is a classic, highly select Liberal Arts College. The campus is expansive and very beautiful. There is a quaint main street that caters to the college. Charlotte is about thirty minutes away. Three distinct qualities about Davidson are the honor code, interdisciplinary studies, and Division I sports. It is unusual to have a highly intellectual, small liberal arts college coupled with a highly competitive Division I sports team. The students have a true love of learning and are intellectually curious.

We spoke with a couple of science professors who were extremely enthusiastic and passionate about teaching. Davidson is a good school for an intellectually curious student who enjoys an unstructured learning environment, but also enjoys sports and intellectual debates. While 50% of the student body participates in Greek life, this number is misleading because students do not need to rush to become members. There are also eating houses for the women in lieu of sororities.

Davidson also has its own art museum on campus which allow fine arts majors to display an exhibit of their own work. Admissions look at each candidate in a holistic manner, and put less weight on test scores than the other pieces of the application. They even ask for a peer recommendation to learn about the applicant from a different view point.

UNC Charlotte

Large somewhat select state university depending on the major. The school itself is pretty and located right in Charlotte. One-third of the students live on campus, one-third commute, and one-third live within 2 miles of the campus. Its strongest and most select programs are architecture, nursing and business. Students must be admitted into architecture as a freshman. Business students can declare their major later and nursing education students must apply to upper level courses. 200 nursing students with 50 slots open per semester. Only accept 64 students into their architecture program out of 400 applications. Must interview and show a creative portfolio. North Carolina State is a more select university for architecture. Diverse student body.

Queens University

Originally formed as an all women's Presbyterian college as a sister school to Davidson. They have a core curriculum of four classes that all students must take to instill critical thinking skills. Students have a strong interaction with their professors. All students are required to study abroad for three-four week trips at the end of their junior year. Students are also required to do two internships.

It is a comprehensive university with both liberal arts and pre-professional programs including nursing. They have a major Students are engaged in the learning. Also give very nice merit scholarships and have a Presidential scholarship as well. 70:30 female to male ratio. Relatively small, contained campus, but have a major building plan under works to add 65 acres to their campus. Very regional in its appeal, but a nice school for a B/C student. 78% retention rate.

High Point

It was the high point of our tour. .pun intended.

Build it and they will come. That is what High Point President, Dr. Nido Quebin's philosophy is to higher education. He has built a college campus over the past three years that looks like a country club/conference center. He has spared no expense in his expansive vision of creating a luxurious college campus. Enrollment in the first year class has quadrupled from 300 to close to 1,200 for this year's freshman class. He has a paternalistic view of education and believes that students will rise to the expectations that are presented to them. Therefore students have state-of-the art everything. We toured the soon to be opened Steak House to help kids learn how to eat as they would in the "real world". They pipe classical music in the center walkway from 8 am to 8 pm and provide free waters and snacks to model generosity.

Academically, High Point is trying to improve the academics by introducing a core curriculum, but the jury is still out. While we saw students as we toured (half of the back row in a finance class was on Facebook during the lecture), we did not get to actually speak with them and hear their point of view. The graphic arts students seemed engaged in their class work. We also heard a sample lecture for one of the freshman seminars called *Guns, Greens, and Gays; Examining Extremism in America*. This was one of many topics offered.

High Point also offers The Learning Excellence Program which is a fee-based academic support program, open to all students not only students with documented learning differences. The president of the school does not believe in "weeding out" the students. Instead, his mission is to give each student the academic support necessary for success.

Finally, High Point is located in the furniture capital of the world and the university offers a major in Home Furnishings as well as Interior Design through the Knabash-Shoemaker International School of Home Furnishings and Design.

We are eager to hear about your visits, so if you haven't already, please let us know how they went.

Seniors: Let's finalize any outstanding applications by the end of the month.

Juniors: Please contact us to schedule a needs assessment to begin working on your preliminary lists after you receive your first marking period grades.

Sophomores: Let's meet after January to begin planning for the summer and junior year.

Warmly,

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