

Mind Body Spirit

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A new journey begins

Lindsey Romero, Dartmouth College, Christopher Rich, Duke University, Mollie Crosby, The University of Virginia

AP

by Sandy Thames, School Counselor

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The Advanced Placement (AP) program provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both, based on successful AP Exam grades. Advanced Placement courses and course credits are recognized by more than 3,600 colleges and universities worldwide, which includes more than 90% of four-year post secondary institutions in the United States. AP Exam grades are often considered when colleges award academic scholarships. Students who take college-level courses while in high school are amply prepared for the college classroom experience.

“AP Calculus helps you think logically,” said Vijay Reddy, Class of 2009 Teacher Inspiration Award winner, who will attend Emory University and plans to become a doctor. During his Upper School career, Vijay took AP Government, AP English, AP Chemistry, AP Calculus AB, AP Statistics, and AP Biology. “These courses help you open your mind to thinking visually and critically,” he added. “The AP exams teach you to think and to problem solve, which is kind of inherent in medicine.”

The Heritage School is certified to offer a total of 15 Advanced Placement courses. Scheduling of AP courses is based on student interest and curricular needs. Our students are performing exceedingly well on their AP Exams, with 75% of the exams administered in 2008 resulting in a score of 3 or higher, including 22 scores of five, the highest score possible. Exam scores are reported nationwide in late July for tests taken in the spring of that school year. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams typically experience greater academic success in college and higher college graduation rates than students who do not participate in the AP program.

Among our most recent juniors and seniors, 75% were enrolled in at least one AP course; 84% of the Class of 2009 took at least one AP Exam, with 56% taking more than one. All Heritage students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the respective AP Exams for those courses. AP courses meet 90 minutes every other day throughout the academic year.

“AP Chemistry helped me realize how much I really loved science,” said Christopher Rich, Class of 2009 Omni Award winner, who, during his Upper School career, took AP Calculus AB and BC, AP Chemistry, AP U.S. History, AP Psychology, AP English, AP Statistics, and AP Biology.

“AP helped me with study skills and time management,” he added. “I definitely feel prepared for what I plan to pursue in college,” said Rich, who further observes: “You really think about these topics outside of class.” Christopher Rich will attend Duke University, to which he was awarded an academic scholarship; he plans to study biomedical engineering.

The Heritage School offers the following Advanced Placement courses:

AP Calculus AB	AP U.S. History	AP Chemistry	AP French
AP Calculus BC	AP European History	AP Physics	AP Spanish
AP Statistics	AP Government	AP Biology	AP Art
AP English	AP Psychology	AP Environmental	



Finding the Right Fit

by Brooke Martin, College Counselor

Four years ago, members of the Class of 2009 began the journey toward admission to the college that best reflects, and will best prepare them for, their career path goals. The college counseling program began with parent breakfasts the freshman and sophomore years, during which parents were advised as to Upper School scheduling strategies, SAT and ACT test preparation, summer enrichment programs, and AP course offerings. While applying to college can sometimes seem to be a confusing, and maybe even a little overwhelming, process, our goal is to counsel both our students and their parents to make it as successful and rewarding as possible.

The process kicks into gear during the fall of the junior year with a visit to the college fair in early September at The Lovett School. Each year at the college fair, our students meet with representatives from over 300 colleges and universities. Some students arrive with lists of specific school exhibits to visit, while others stroll the aisles, exploring post-secondary educational options with admissions professionals from a variety of schools.

Later in the fall, juniors visit six to eight colleges throughout the Southeast during Interim week. The students investigate campuses, from small liberal arts colleges to large public universities. The Class of 2009 visited Clemson University as juniors, for example, representative of a large state institution; Davidson, a liberal arts college; and Elon University. The students all agreed that this trip was the highlight of their junior year because of the time they were able to spend together and the information they gathered from those visits. The goal of this trip was to challenge students to examine the type and size of school in which they might be interested, and more importantly, to get the conversation about college choices started at home.

In the spring of their junior year, the students and parents of the Class of 2009 were visited by admissions representatives from Young Harris College and the Georgia Institute of Technology. The workshop gave both parents and students an open forum in which to ask questions, learn about the admissions process, and discuss the importance of GPA, college placement testing, and extracurricular activities. After these sessions, I met with each family to begin a preliminary list of colleges and create a testing plan for each student. Many families went on to spend the summer before the senior year visiting additional colleges, both in and out of state, to narrow their college list further. Utilizing the full range of college counseling resources is invaluable to our students and sets into motion the application process that begins the Heritage students' senior year. At the end of the summer, just prior to the start of the senior year, I meet again with each senior and his or her parents to finalize the list of college choices and to kick off the application process.

One of the hallmark senior year college counseling experiences for the Class of 2009 was a visit in the fall from an Emory University admissions representative, who conducted a college essay-writing seminar. The students practiced a variety of exercises, helping them to identify interesting topics, elements of an effective essay, topics to avoid, and what admissions offices are looking for when reading application essays. Our seniors experienced marked success with these exercises, the result of which was an outstanding collection of college application essays.

Throughout the fall of the senior year, I continue to meet each Monday with seniors to discuss a variety of topics, including applying for scholarships, creating résumés, finding a summer program, and defining strategies for taking the SAT and ACT. Not long after the first wave of applications was postmarked in early September, our seniors began receiving their initial round of college acceptances. A list of each acceptance was maintained on the board in the College Counseling Office in the Arnall Mann Building. Students would come in early in the morning to add their name to the list. That board filled up so quickly, it had to be rewritten four times. Not only were the students receiving acceptances, they were accumulating a record \$2.56 million in college scholarships, among a group of 42 graduates.

Throughout the year, every college acceptance is acknowledged before the entire Upper School student body during Community Time, after which those recognized students are permitted to wear that college logo on casual Fridays. One hundred forty-five such announcements were made this year. Seeing those college logos proliferate our campus, many of which are among the most respected and sought after schools in the United States, inspires our underclassmen to strive toward their own college goals.

By May 1, the entire Class of 2009 had made a commitment to the college of their choice, an impressive range of colleges and universities. The Heritage School believes the College Counseling Program is instrumental and vital to this diverse selection process. There is a school for every student, and if you ask a graduate from the Class of 2009, they are likely to agree their journey has taken them to just the right place.



Christopher Rich
Duke University*
 University of Virginia
 Clemson University (Honors)*
 Emory University*
 University of Georgia (Honors)
 Georgia Institute of Technology

Chelsea Rierson
Emory University*
 Oxford College at Emory University
 Berry College*
 Kennesaw State University
 University of Georgia

Lindsey Romero
Dartmouth College*
 Vassar College*
 Emory University*
 Johns Hopkins University*
 University of Georgia

Matt Roy
University of Alabama
 Georgia Southern University

Alexia Skouteris
Valdosta State University
 University of West Georgia

Dottie Smith
Auburn University
 University of Alabama
 University of Mississippi
 Georgia Southern University
 Mercer University*

Rachel Spencer
Kennesaw State University
 Berry College
 Georgia College & State University
 Reinhardt College

Christine Thames
Columbus State University
 University of Tampa*
 University of Alabama,
 Birmingham
 Eckerd College*
 University of South Florida

Anna Williams
Agnes Scott College*
 Wesleyan College*
 LaGrange College*

Brent Veal
Shorter College*
 Northwood University*
 Virginia Union University

College Attending in Bold
 * Scholarships Offered

Kelsey Backus
University of Georgia
 Clemson University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Louisiana State University*

Casey Bean
Auburn University
 University of West Georgia
 Georgia Southern University

Jeffrey Bips
Georgia Southern University
 Auburn University
 Mercer University*
 Georgia Institute of Technology,
 Savannah

Jimmy Bost
Ringling College of Art & Design*

Matt Blackburn, Jr.
Auburn University
 Hampden-Sydney College*
 University of Mississippi
 Mississippi State University
 University of Alabama

Vanessa Caceres
Wellesley College*
 Smith College*
 Agnes Scott College*
 American University
 University of Georgia

Layna Carnicom
University of West Georgia*

Evan Clausen
Kennesaw State University
 Middle Georgia College

Mollie Crosby
University of Virginia
 Clemson University*
 University of Georgia (Honors)
 College of Charleston*

Dylan Crumbley
University of Alabama
 Mercer University
 Ave Maria University

Cameron Ann Dougherty
Mercer University*
 Auburn University
 University of Alabama
 Georgia Southern University
 College of Charleston

Kelsey Ellison
LaGrange College*
 Reinhardt College*
 Columbus State University
 Kennesaw State University
 Piedmont College*
 North Georgia College & State
 University

Elizabeth Ginn
Auburn University
 Georgia College & State
 University*

Davis Gray
Marion Military Institute*
 Mercer University*
 Louisiana State University
 Auburn University

Avery Green
Mercer University
 University of Alabama

Allie Gruber
Wake Forest University
 Emory University
 Washington & Lee University
 Auburn University*
 University of Georgia
 Presbyterian College*

Christina Harding
**Georgia College & State
 University**
 University of West Georgia
 Kennesaw State University

Pete Ivanecky
Emerson College*
 Savannah College of Art
 and Design*
 University of Miami

Matthew Jones
**Middle Tennessee State
 University***
 University of West Georgia
 Georgia State University

Trey Jones
University of Alabama

Tanner Knox
Hampden-Sydney College*
 University of Alabama
 University of South Carolina

Rachel Kwon
University of Georgia
 Georgia State University

Trevor Laird
Auburn University

Danielle Landreth
University of Chicago
 McGill University

Kate Lewkowicz
**Georgia College & State
 University**
 University of West Georgia
 Kennesaw State University
 Western Carolina University

Edward Loughlin, Jr.
Presbyterian College*
 Valdosta State University
 University of North Alabama
 Mars Hill College
 Catawba College

Mac Murphey
**Abraham-Baldwin Agricultural
 College**

Ashish Patel
Georgia Institute of Technology
 University of California -
 Berkeley
 University of Southern California
 University of Georgia

Will Pattiz
University of Georgia
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Auburn University
 Oglethorpe University*
 Valdosta State University

Hanson Powell, III
Middle Georgia College
 Abraham-Baldwin Agricultural
 College

Bradley Psathas
University of Alabama
 Gainesville State College

Vijay Reddy
Emory University
 Georgia Institute of Technology
 Vanderbilt University
 Washington University in St. Louis
 University of Georgia