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Eagle Edition

Across the Atlantic

Due to the rising popularity in British universities, College Guidance enhances relationships with UK schools, p. 3.

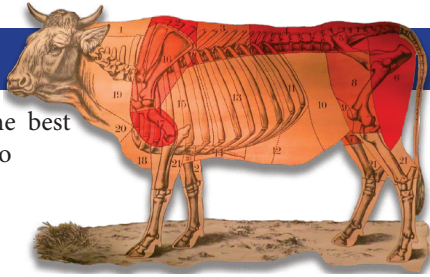
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Behind the screen

Hackers and cyber predators victimize those whose profiles are not secure, pp. 12-13.

Cattle call

Head on down to the best BBQ joints in Dallas to corral hunger, p. 23.



Fair game | College preview draws over 200 institutions, a thousand prospects from five local private schools



Fairest of them all
The preview took place in the Competition and Hart Gyms last Saturday. “There were schools from California and England, state schools, tiny liberal arts schools and everything in between,” said College Guidance Counselor Chris Gonzales. **MICHAEL PATTERSON** | staff photographer



“It’s a good opportunity to meet a variety of students from a variety of schools.”

-Brandi Smith, Emory University representative



“It helps [parents] understand what a variety of schools there are. I’m not going to push Carter in any direction, but I can give him ideas.”

-Charles Daulton, parent

By | Annabel Clark

Junior Caroline Durante weaves through the college stands in the Competition Gym, conversing with college representatives of places she never considered before. Prior to the College Fair, the only schools Durante showed interest in were The University of Southern California, Vanderbilt and Dartmouth. By attending the event with an open mind, she was able to gain new insights and identify more potential colleges.

“The college preview was a useful tool in helping me figure out what colleges I would possibly be interested in and giving me a better idea of what I should focus on,” Durante said. “Currently, I want to go pre-med, so it was interesting comparing different university programs.”

Over 200 colleges and universities from around the country gathered in the Hart and Competition Gyms for the annual private school college fair. ESD, St. Mark’s, Hockaday, Greenhill and Parish rotate hosting it each year and Saturday was ESD’s turn.

College representatives set up display tables in the gyms to advertise their schools with brochures, pamphlets and business cards. 1,000 high school students and parents flocked to the fair to personally meet the representatives, learning more about schools of interest.

Katherine Montgomery [‘10], who now works in the college guidance office, said face-to-face interactions with college representatives are sometimes more beneficial than communication via email or phone.

“When students haven’t been able to visit colleges, [the college fair] gives them a chance to learn more information and get to know the reps one-on-one,” Montgomery said. “Sometimes it’s more comfortable to get questions asked in person.”

Cal Etcheverry [‘17] took advantage of his time at the fair by having conversations with the reps and telling them about himself.

“I [introduced] myself, [asked] a lot of questions, [ex-

pressed] my interests in the schools and [was] kind and courteous,” Etcheverry said. “Of course I [wrote] my name down, but it [was] pretty simple.”

Although attending a college fair can be beneficial, it is also overwhelming. Between 2 and 4 pm, the gyms were packed, and some of the more popular schools, such as Texas and other southern schools, were crowded with interested students. University of Southern California, University of Texas, Wake Forest and Vanderbilt were a few of the most targeted.

As head of College Guidance, Chris Gonzales recommends preparing a list of college representatives to have a conversation with before attending a college fair. Do not expect to meet all the reps, because they have other students and parents to talk to as well. Visit college websites and research renowned programs and majors. Find programs that apply to your interests and prepare questions to ask a representative.

To efficiently navigate a college fair, register online before going. Before ESD’s fair, college guidance sent an email to all students and parents with directions how to print a barcode containing the student’s name, address, school and email. At most fairs, representatives can scan the code and file the information on their contact list. By creating an account on gotocollegefairs.com, both students and parents have access to a personalized barcode and FAQs on college previews.

Students often have trouble determining an appropriate time to attend a college preview.

“I think it really becomes important in 10th and 11th grade, because that’s when most people are making lists, knowing where they want to visit and planning college trips,” Gonzales said. “Some of the representatives here will hand out tips on when to visit and pictures of what the campus looks like. Ninth grade is fine for some people, but I think for others it would be too early and overwhelming. Of course, we encourage seniors to come, but many of them already have their minds made up.”



“I already know most of the schools I’m applying to, but I came to the college fair to make sure I didn’t miss anything I might be interested in.”

-Jackson Fitzgerald [‘16]



“I [gained] more knowledge of different colleges I wasn’t expecting to look at.”

-Caroline Durante [‘17]