



JANUARY 2024

VOLUME I

# THE COLLEGIATE PATH NEWSLETTER



## FOUNDERS' LETTER

Dear Friends of The Collegiate Path,

Happy New Year and welcome to our inaugural TCP Newsletter! We have lots of news to share....

2023 was a momentous year for us, as we expanded our little team to better meet the needs of our students and families—welcoming Puja, Thejaswini, and Mrudula to our fold!

Over the past year, we introduced several new initiatives, including our:

**Writing and Study Skills Center:** Many of you have met Puja, who runs our Center, supporting students to achieve their best academically, including transforming them into better writers. Several of her mentees have had remarkable turnarounds in their academic performance.

**Master Classes:** We tested group sessions targeting specific steps of the application process, writing skills, and other information to be shared widely across our mentees. The positive feedback has pushed us to expand the Master Class schedule for the coming year. Look out for your 2024 Master Class schedule headed soon to your inbox!

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**Applicant Cohort:** After fielding several requests to connect our mentees with one another, we created our Essay Boot Camp to get them working together. We plan to build on this through our Master Classes and Workshops this year.

Looking back to earlier in the year, our 2023 applicant class was offered more than \$2.4 million in scholarships and financial aid, and have recently completed their first terms at the following colleges and graduate schools:

Arizona State University  
Boston University  
California Polytechnic SLO  
Cornell University x 2  
Dickinson College  
ESSEC  
Grinnell College  
IESE  
Juniata College  
Northeastern University  
Northwestern University

Purdue University x 2  
Savannah College of Art and Design  
University of California, Irvine  
University of Cambridge  
University of Chicago  
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign x 2  
University of Massachusetts, Amherst  
University of Oxford  
University of Southern California x 2  
University of Texas, Austin

Our current applicant class is still in the process of submitting applications, but **have already received total scholarship offers of \$766,000** and have received acceptances from many amazing colleges and universities, including:

Arizona State University x 2  
California State University (7 campuses & counting!)  
Case Western Reserve University x 3  
Clark University x 2  
Coventry University  
Drexel University  
Emory University (Goizueta)  
Fordham University  
King's College, London  
London South Bank University  
Loyola Marymount University  
Pennsylvania State University x 3

Santa Clara University  
School of the Art Institute of Chicago  
SOAS, University of London  
Stanford University (GSB)  
Trinity University  
Tulane University  
University of Massachusetts  
University of Notre Dame  
University of Rochester (Simon)  
University of Pittsburgh  
University of Sussex  
University of Texas, Dallas  
Washington University in St. Louis

While we await the results of the remaining Early Round and upcoming Regular Round decisions, we look forward to an exciting 2024 and helping our students achieve their best possible outcomes—in school and in life!

Wishing you a happy and healthy 2024!

Amanda and Meghna

## ALUMNI CORNER

**Ash, Molecular & Cell Biology  
Major at UC San Diego**



**Shikhar, UChicago '23, 2+2 MBA  
admit at Stanford University**



### International education

"Adjusting to the American educational system was quite challenging at first. I didn't fully realize that every little thing counts towards your grades. Additionally, being an international student comes with its own set of realities. It's neither good nor bad, yet it does make you different from your American peers. When it comes to the best part of studying abroad, I think it's the fact that you get to meet a lot of people. I found my own community here by dabbling in every opportunity my college had to offer."

"I think the best part and the hardest part of my study abroad experience are probably related. Studying at UChicago genuinely brought me out of my comfort zone, but it was a major transition. The hardest part, I think, is the more individualistic approach here compared to the community-based environment in India. Having said that, once I settled in, I did have a lot of fun. And, I think this experience has made me a more confident person."

### Working with Amanda & Meghna

"Honestly, despite my own research, I found myself overwhelmed by the amount of information on U.S. college applications. Meghna did an excellent job in methodically explaining it all to me. So, I think I went from a 2 or 2.5 to a full 5 on a 5-point scale in terms of my readiness or preparedness for college. Not just that, Meghna also guided me through what to expect living in the United States, went over certain nuances like the tipping culture and things to be mindful of, and helped me understand how to make responsible and informed decisions."

"Working with Meghna and Amanda really helped me reflect on my sense of purpose. They don't just help with applications; they also encourage you to learn more about yourself. I believe they are the perfect combination of individuals who are amazing at what they do and are also amazingly kind. I have nothing but good things to say about them."

### Parting Advice for this year's Applicants

"I think the main focus should be on immersing yourself in your college environment; there's so much that it has to offer, and I highly recommend joining different clubs and participating in activities. Doing so can help in managing any initial negative feelings or homesickness. In my experience, I am extremely grateful for having done this, as it helped me find a community of my own."

"I think it'd be good to reflect on why you do things. And, yeah, things can get competitive, but it's important to stay focused. And if you need someone to talk to, you can reach out to me through Amanda or Meghna."



# ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

## Ignite Your Writing: An Overview of our Writing and Study Skills Center



As students embark on their high school journeys and aspire to reach their dream higher education destinations, we see an escalating need for foundational writing skills. Effective writing empowers students to articulate thoughts clearly and persuasively, fostering communication proficiency crucial for academic, professional, and personal success. Proficient writing not only conveys information, but also enhances critical thinking, organizational abilities, and the capacity to express ideas with precision and impact. Aligned with our vision to prepare and upskill our mentees for academic success, we established our Writing and Study Skills Center, conducting a series of Master Classes and, where requested, assisting students one-on-one.

**“Let’s Eat Kids!”**

### Four Key Elements of Good Writing

In the pursuit of honing essential writing skills, our Master Classes explored four foundational aspects:

1. Clarity
2. Coherence
3. Correct grammar and punctuation
4. Style

**“One morning I shot an elephant in my pajamas.”**

### The Writing Process

Through our Writing and Study Skills Center, we hand-hold our developing writers to transform ideas into effective communication through the following four essential steps:

1. Planning
2. Organizing
3. Writing
4. Editing and Revising

**“I like cooking my family and my pets.”**

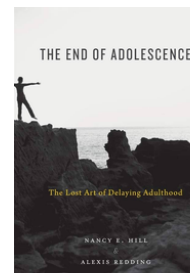
### Looking Forward

Our Writing and Study Skills Center is gearing up for an exciting journey ahead this new year! We are thrilled to announce the upcoming Study Skills Master Classes, to equip students with the essential tools and strategies needed to excel academically, achieve the highest grades, and thrive not only in high school, but also in their future collegiate endeavors and beyond. We look forward to inspiring and guiding students toward their brightest academic future in the coming year.

## BETWEEN THE LINES: OUR PICKS

Discover what's on our shelves! Dive into “Between the Lines: Our Picks” for our latest and favorite reads!

**Meghna:** *The End of Adolescence: The Lost Art of Delaying Adulthood* by Nancy E. Hill & Alexis Redding argues that the role of college as a bridge to adulthood remains very much needed today. The typical “w-curve”—from the high of the initial honeymoon to the dip of culture shock, then back up with initial adjustment and down again due to homesickness, to the final upswing toward connectedness—remains the same now as it was for college students in the 1970s.



**Amanda:** *The Moonstone* by Wilkie Collins is an approachable 19th century novel. Considered the first detective novel ever, it inspired the Sherlock Holmes series. It is an epistolary tale, told in a series of accounts by the different suspects, and in a perspective sympathetic to India.



**Puja:** *Before I Fall* by Lauren Oliver is a Y/A novel that explores self-reflection, empathy, the consequences of actions, and the power of second chances. The recurring experiences of the main character, Samantha, provide a thought-provoking exploration of adolescent life, highlighting how the smallest decisions can have extensive consequences.



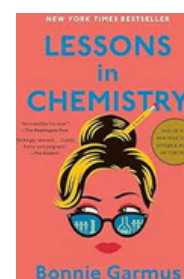
## MENTEES' BOOK BUZZ

Embark on a literary journey with “Mentees' Book Buzz” where we shine a spotlight on the captivating reads that have enriched our members' year.

*Shoe Dog* by Phil Knight is a memoir that chronicles the journey of Nike's co-founder, detailing the company's early days as a start-up and its evolution into one of the world's most iconic and innovative athletic footwear and apparel brands.



*Lessons in Chemistry* by Bonnie Garmus tells the story of Elizabeth Zott, who becomes a beloved cooking show host in 1960s Southern California after being fired as a chemist a decade earlier.



## A HELLO FROM OUR TEAM!

In this edition of our newsletter, we're excited to introduce you to the incredible individuals who make everything we do possible!

### Puja

**Writing & Study Skills Lead:** A Social Entrepreneur-turned-Subject Matter Expert, Puja plays a crucial role in providing direct support to our cohort members through skill development and mentorship.



### Thejaswini

**Operations Lead:** Known as the "Operations Savant" within our team, Thejaswini is your go-to person to effortlessly and efficiently streamline complex processes.



### Mrudula

**Research Associate:** The newest addition to our team, Mrudula handles research requests, manages our social media presence, and provides support across TCP.



Once again,

Thank you for being valuable friends of The Collegiate Path. We are thrilled about the new initiatives we will be introducing in 2024 and can't wait to share them with you. Until then, sending you our best wishes for 2024!

The Collegiate Path



[P.S. CLICK HERE FOR A SURPRISE!](#)