



THE COLLEGIATE PATH NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME VII

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FOUNDERS' LETTER

Hello, and Welcome, TCP Mentees, Families, and Friends!

Team TCP wishes you a **Happy New Year 2026**—here's to a healthy, safe, and productive year ahead!

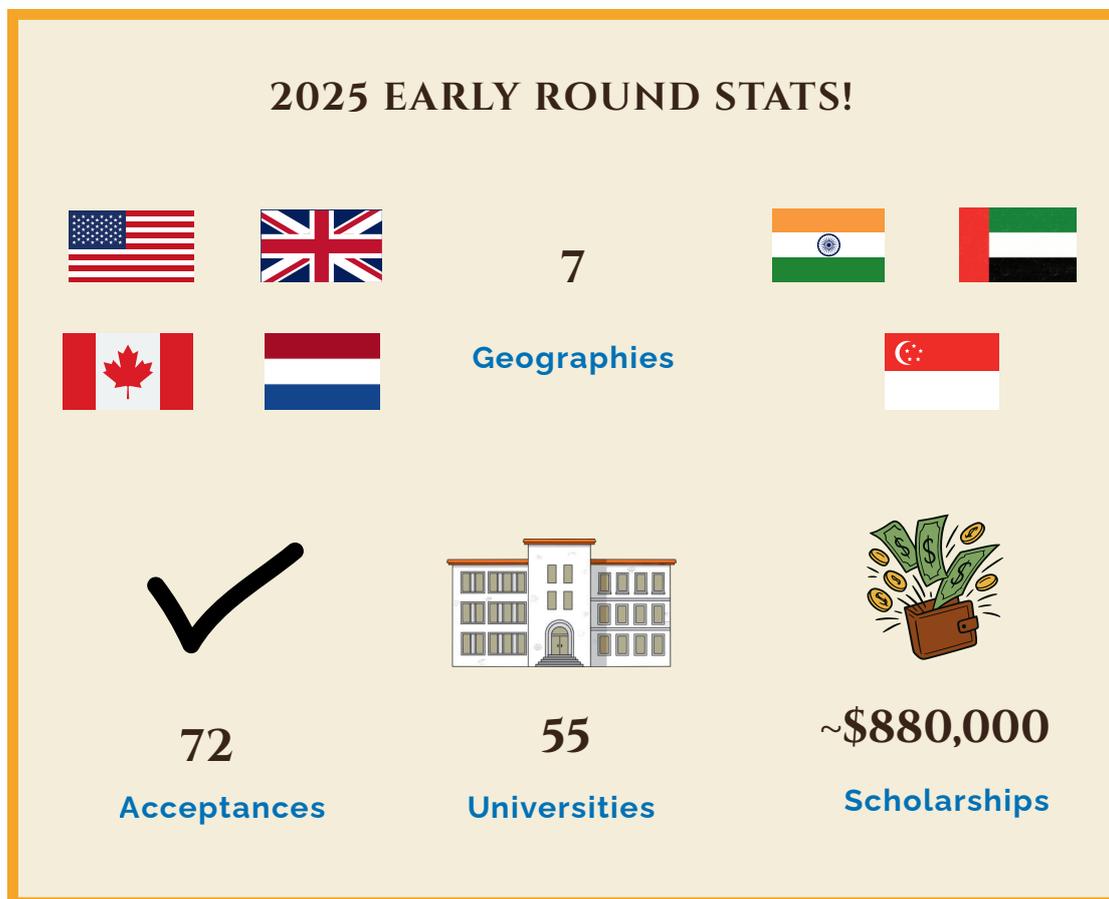
We are excited to present the **seventh edition** of our **newsletter**, which includes updates from the early application cycle and a plan of action for the coming year.

TCP25 Cohort: 2025 was a particularly **testing** year for this cohort, primarily due to the changes in the global political landscape. However, our mentees showed **great resilience** throughout their application process—finessing their **resumes**, compiling their **Activities and Honors**, writing and rewriting their **essays**, preparing for **interviews**, and adapting to last-minute **changes!**

We spent the last **four months** in peak application mode—**TCP25 mentees** submitted their early applications to American colleges and Oxbridge in **October**, the University of California application in **November**, and their remaining global submissions in **December** and **January**.

Early Round Acceptances and Statistics: We are excited to share that **ALL** of our early round applicants already have acceptances for **Fall 2026!** The list of our **early acceptances** can be found in the next section. We hope to share the **complete list of acceptances** in the next edition of our newsletter, in May.

Meanwhile, here are some **statistics** from our early application cycle:



We have also shared crucial insights from the recently released **IEE Open Doors** report further in the newsletter, which reveals that the **United States** continues to be the **preferred global destination** for international undergraduate students.

AI use in essays: As we navigated this application cycle, we noticed the **increasing dependence on AI tools**, specifically in **writing essays** and **researching college and university offerings**. We strongly discourage this practice, as **many universities** have **issued warnings** against the **use of AI to write essays** and will **scrutinize** applications closely to determine AI usage, **rejecting** such applications. We notice that **AI hinders our mentees' self-expression**, resulting in lower-quality essays. Our **Writing and Study Skills Center**, our **Writing Series Master Classes**, and our **Essay Bootcamp** for the application batch provide the needed support for everyone to write strong essays!

Upcoming Conferences and Events: We are committed to our ever-expanding global university focus in 2026, and plan to attend and present at multiple industry conferences, such as **Confluence in February**, **AlIEC in March**, **IACAC in Vietnam in April**, as well as attend an **European university tour in April**, to maintain our strong relationships with colleges, vendor partners, and fellow counselors.

2025 EARLY ROUND AWARDS!



Quickest Decision Turnaround:

1 DAY

IMPERIAL



Highest Annual Scholarship:

\$36,525



Most Early Applicants Accepted:

6



TCP26 Cohort: The spotlight now shifts to our **TCP26 Cohort** (this year's applicants!). We have introduced them to **college research, major selection, and college shortlisting** to provide them with **sufficient time** to understand their preferences, **optimize activities for the upcoming summer**, and **focus on self-reflection** before the hustle and bustle of the application season commences. Amid this prep, these mentees have begun **finalizing their summer plans**—some have even received their acceptances to prestigious summer programs and mentored research opportunities! We have shared a **brief list** of early summer program acceptances in the next section and will share the **complete list** in our **May newsletter**.

TCP27 and Early Advising: Our **younger mentees** continue to keep us on our feet, with their passion for **creativity** and **self-improvement**. While some mentees are arming themselves with **study strategies** to navigate their **upcoming Board exams**, others are applying to **various summer programs** and preparing for the **SAT**. We are eager for our younger mentees to **explore their interests** and focus on "**slowing down**" to allow for full **creativity, self-reflection, and connection**.

We have our fingers crossed for more **good news** on **university and summer program** acceptances. Here's to a fruitful **decision season** for the **TCP25 Cohort** and a **strong start** to our new applicant **TCP26 Cohort!**

All our best,

Amanda and Meghna

EARLY ACCEPTANCES 2025

BLUE DENOTES MULTIPLE OFFERS

United States: 

American University

- AU Honors Program

Bryant University

Case Western Reserve University

Drexel University

Duke University

Fordham University

Indiana University, Bloomington

- Kelley School of Business

Loyola Marymount University

Michigan State University

Mount Holyoke College

Northeastern University

- **Boston**
- John Martinson Honors Program
- **London**
- New York

Oberlin College

Pennsylvania State University

Pratt Institute

Santa Clara University

Texas A&M University

The Ohio State University

The University of Texas at Austin

- Civics Honors Program

The University of Texas at Dallas

Tulane University

University of Illinois

- Chicago
- Urbana-Champaign

University of Massachusetts, Amherst

University of Notre Dame

University of Pittsburgh

- Greensburg
- Oakland

University of San Diego

University of San Francisco

University of Southern California

University of Wisconsin-Madison

Virginia Tech University

Wesleyan University

Yale University

United Kingdom: 

Durham University

Ulster University

University of Aberdeen

University of Cambridge

University of Edinburgh

University of Leicester

University of St Andrews

University of Warwick

Canada: 

Huron University

McMaster University

University of Ottawa

United Arab Emirates: 

Mohammed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence

Rochester Institute of Technology, Dubai

University of Birmingham Dubai

India: 

Azim Premji University

FLAME University

Plaksha University

OTHER EARLY ACCEPTANCES

GRADUATE ACCEPTANCES + SUMMER/RESEARCH ACCEPTANCES

Graduate Acceptances

United Kingdom: 

Imperial College, London

University College, London

University of Oxford

United States: 

Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth

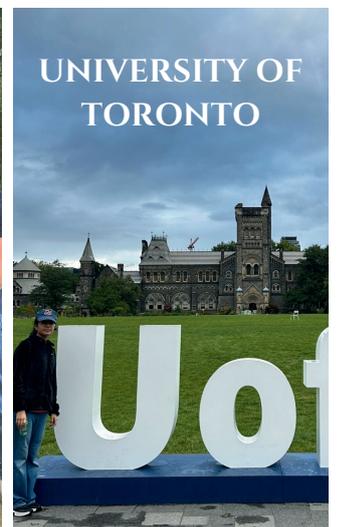
Summer and Research Programs

- Inspirit AI
- [Lumiere Research Program](#)
- [NUS Summer Program](#)
- Yale Young Global Scholars Program

SCHOLARSHIP ALERT

We are excited to announce [The College Path Scholarship](#) for high-performing students from **underserved backgrounds** applying to universities. We will offer our **mentorship and application support at a highly discounted fee**. We trialed this successfully this application cycle through our mentorship of an **Egyptian student** who has been admitted to the **Mohammed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence** in **Dubai** with a **full scholarship**. Please reach out to us via **email or WhatsApp** if you wish to nominate someone for the scholarship.

OUR MENTEES AT THEIR GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES!



LATEST REPORTED U.S. & U.K. COLLEGE DATA

DATA HIGHLIGHTS ON INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS IN THE TWO TOP GLOBAL COLLEGE GEOGRAPHIES, THE UNITED STATES AND UNITED KINGDOM



THE UNITED STATES



5.3%

increase in international undergraduate student enrollments from prior year

6.1%

of total students (~19 million) are international students

51.5%

of international students used **personal** and **family sources** for funds

International students come from:



363,019



265,919



42,293



11.3%

increase in # of Indian undergraduate international students from prior year



THE UNITED KINGDOM



107,480

students in 2023-24
(highest of all countries)



420%

increase in entrants from India in 2023-24



5.1%

increase in international student applications in 2026

WRITING AND STUDY SKILLS CENTER

AN OVERVIEW OF EARLY ADVISING IN 2025

The **past year** has truly been an **eventful** and **meaningful** one for us at the **Writing and Study Skills Center**, filled with **many proud moments**. Most of our **Grade 10 Early Advising mentees** have "**graduated**" to **The College Plan** - we celebrate this **exciting milestone** through a **ceremonial handover** of each mentee to their respective **College Readiness Mentor** - **Amanda or Meghna!**

Having built close connections with each student made it difficult for **Puja** to say goodbye to her mentees, but it has also filled us all with immense pride to see them **grow, blossom, and step forward with confidence** toward their **future college dreams**. While they will shift their focus toward the college application process, Puja will **continue supporting** many of them behind the scenes throughout the application process and whenever they require **guidance** with **writing and study skills**.

To understand the progress of our transitioning mentees, we asked them to complete a **self-reflection survey**, which offered valuable and encouraging insights into both their **progress** and **areas for continued growth**. We were delighted to hear that **89% of our mentees** felt **more confident and motivated** with respect to their academic endeavors with our interventions and support. Four areas reflected the **greatest progress: staying focused and on task, developing new study skills, engaging and participating beyond academics, and developing self-reliance**. **Keeping up with schoolwork** (staying on track with subjects, completing classwork and homework, and not falling behind) presents as the **leading challenge**. We will use these findings to guide our resource development and our work with our mentees.

Mentees' Favorite Study Strategies:

- Eisenhower Matrix for Prioritization
- Planning and Scheduling
- Pomodoro Method
- Flipped Learning Technique
- Feynman Technique
- Spaced Repetition for memory and retention

It has been a joy to watch the **growth** of our **Grade 7, 8, and 9 Early Advising mentees** over the past year. From becoming **more independent learners** and **managing busy schedules** to **building self-reliance and confidence**, we have seen each **mentee** shine in their own **unique way**.

As we continue on their journey of **high-school readiness**, we are eager to support them as they discover their **academic interests, personal passions, and opportunities to shine**, helping them step into **high school** with **confidence, enthusiasm, and preparedness**.

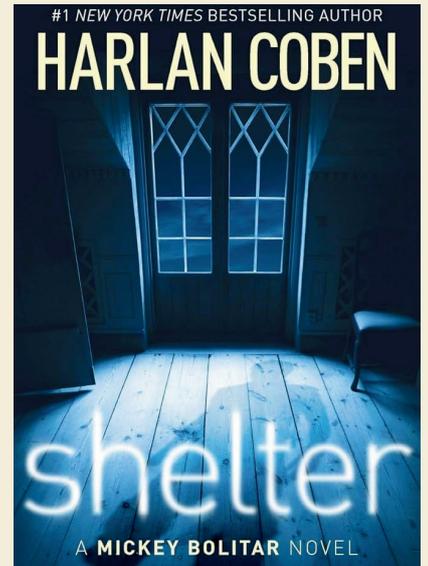
MENTEES' BOOK BUZZ

THESE BOOKS HAVE PASSED THE "TEENAGER TEST"!

SHELTER, HARLAN COBEN

- FROM A YEAR 13 STUDENT IN MALAWI

Shelter by Harlan Coben is a fast-paced and gripping novel that immediately pulls the reader in and **REFUSES** to let go! From the beginning, the story is filled with **mystery and tension**—the plot focuses on the disappearance of the main character **Mickey Bolitar's** girlfriend. **Mickey** cannot ignore the inconsistencies, as each new clue deepens the mystery, making the story more **unsettling** and leaving the reader **constantly guessing**. Although some questions are answered at the end, many plot lines remain unresolved, encouraging **readers to continue** with the series!



One of the novel's strengths is its cast of **characters**. **Mickey, Ema, and Spoon** are immediately engaging and feel real. Mickey narrates the story with a **dry sense of humor and cynicism** (typical for Harlan Coben) that reflects everything he has been through. He has witnessed far more than most his age, including his father's death and his mother's struggles with drug addiction. These experiences make him **mature**, yet incredibly **vulnerable**. Coben aptly balances Mickey's **emotional depth** with **humor** and handles heavier themes with care, which prevents the novel from becoming **overwhelmingly dark**. The portrayal of Mickey's mother struggling with addiction is heartbreaking, especially as Mickey begins to realize that constantly rescuing her may be doing more harm than good. This **emotional conflict** genuinely destroyed me!

Mickey's friendships are particularly **meaningful**, as he does not care about his new school's social hierarchy and gravitates toward more **genuine people**. His bond with **Ema** (pronounced "emo" - **Coben** isn't exactly subtle), an outspoken goth girl, and **Spoon**, a socially awkward nerd, feels natural and sincere. Their dynamic carried the story for me! Mickey repeatedly risks his **own safety** for his friends, and they do the same for him. Can you tell I am a fiend for the **found family** trope?

Shelter is one of my **go-to recommendations** for **reluctant readers**, as it is a perfect mix of **mystery, humor, and heart**. The **fast pace and short chapters** make it highly accessible and enjoyable. For a massive Coben fan like me, it was especially enjoyable to see him write for a **younger audience** without drastically changing his style. His portrayal of teenagers and their relationships is my favorite, as it is clear that he understands their respective voices!

NOTE: *Shelter* is a spin-off novel of **Coben's** popular series **Myron Bolitar** (Mickey's uncle). While it is not required to read that first, I found it pretty cool to spot the **little easter eggs!**

THE DAY I BECAME A RUNNER, SOHINI CHATTOPADHYAY - FROM A GRADE 9 STUDENT IN BANGALORE

Sohini Chattopadhyay's *The Day I Became a Runner* is more than an inspirational book for **little girls** looking to become **star athletes**... it highlights some of Indian society's unspoken rules that go completely unnoticed, but are prevalent in every **budding sportswoman's path**.

The author starts with her **personal experiences** and how she got into **running**—not to unwind, exercise, and de-stress, but to **embrace grief** after her grandmother's passing - "I would tell myself to go a little longer when I thought my chest would burst, to stop a little bit later. When I struggled to draw breath, perhaps I would intuit what her last moments were like and be by her deathbed."

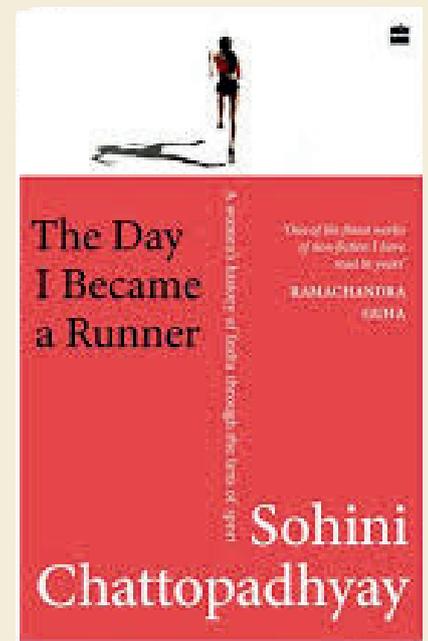
I always thought sports helped people escape the **difficulties of everyday life** and **challenge themselves** to be better. After reading the book, I realized that it's also about **dealing with their problems head-on**. Maybe running a few extra meters isn't a form of self-inflicted torture that you keep denying and powering through, but instead about **acceptance** and then **perseverance**.

Chattopadhyay tells her story by reflecting on the **people around her** and how they **perceive her**. She describes herself as **timid, afraid to own the space**. "I noticed that I never asked to excuse myself when I needed to overtake men on the track. Instead, I would stop running, sidle past, then run again. It disturbed my running rhythm, but I was afraid to ask them to make way. Didn't it make me conspicuous? Didn't it make me pushy?" These words hit hard, as they are **carved into our heads**. In a culture where we're told to shut up or "let it be," are we not entitled to ask for **our rights**?

Each chapter examines a female athlete from India's past, both **famous** and **forgotten**. It is in **chronological order**, so what is very much non-fiction plays out like a **narrative**. Every anecdote comes from a **distinct social, political, or cultural period of India**, which shaped these runners' lives and taught me more about **India's history**. Ila Mitra's story about missing the Olympics because of World War II showed me that no matter how hard you work, uncontrollable factors can change an athlete's success and performance—a sad truth that I needed to hear.

It is **tough** to **illustrate** in words how impactful this book was. While I **struggle** with small issues, there are **women** out there who had **all odds against them**, didn't have the **resources or stability**, but did not stop. That's **real commitment**. It's hard for **Indian athletes**—they are held back due to **societal norms** or no **financial backing**.

Success or **remembrance** is never guaranteed, but you'll feel that much more **proud** and **empowered** that you didn't back away and that you decided to be **different**. I already feel empowered reading this book.



DID YOU KNOW?

OUR PICKS FOR THIS EDITION'S UNIQUE COLLEGE FACTS!

Painting the Cannon at Tufts!

A replica of Old Ironsides, an **original cannon** from the warship USS Constitution, was gifted to **Tufts University** in 1956. Students **paint the cannon** (usually after dark) to commemorate an event (such as graduation), promote a student club, or just for fun. This is a **long-standing tradition** enabling students to bond. But remember, you should only paint the cannon - not the area surrounding it!



Can you spot our mascot, Kismet, on the Tufts Cannon?

You can play Quidditch at college!

Quidditch (**Quadball** for Muggles) is played at many American colleges such as **Middlebury College**, **the University of Texas at Austin**, **Vassar College**, and **Tufts University**. A blend of basketball, rugby, dodgeball, and tag, each gender-neutral team consists of **7 players** (3 Chasers, 1 Keeper, 2 Beaters, and 1 Seeker), who pass the ball through the hoops. The game ends in **18 minutes** or if the Snitch is caught!



A Quadball game in progress! Notice any similarities?

