



THE COLLEGIATE PATH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

VOLUME VI

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FOUNDERS' LETTER

Hello and Welcome, TCP Families and Friends!

In this **sixth** edition, our **final** one for 2025, we are excited to share our updates from the last few months:

College Events, Webinars, and Campus Tours

- **Future Is Us summit, June 2025:** Invited by the Harvard Club of Bengaluru, we led a workshop titled ***Passion to Profession: Cracking the College Code***. High school participants from across Bangalore designed their aspirational college alumni magazine cover with a headline announcing their future professional achievements—from joining the Indian Civil Services to working on breakthrough cancer therapies!
- **International Association for College Admission Counseling (IACAC) conference, July 2025:** Amanda caught up on trends and concerns in the world of higher education at **Northeastern University, Boston**, while connecting with hundreds of global college and university admissions officers.

- **College Tours, July and September 2025:** Over the last three months, Amanda visited universities in the Boston area, embarked on a week-long **counselor bus tour of Ohio university campuses**, and helped organize a **three-day Singapore university tour** for 26 All India Independent Education Consultants (**AIIEC**) member counselors. Look for the **full list** of colleges and universities visited, along with some snippets and pictures from her travels, further in the newsletter.
- **Other events and webinars:** Our Writing and Study Skills Coach, Puja, and our Marketing Head, Shruthi, attended events on traditional higher education options, future-readiness for college graduates, and liberal-arts education in India. They also engaged in webinars with university representatives from **Asia and Europe**.

INTRODUCING KISMET!

This year, Amanda was joined by a **special companion** on her college tours—**The Collegiate Path's mascot, Kismet!**

We chose this traveling tiger as a representative of Karnataka's Kabini River backwaters near our home base in Bangalore!

Like our mentees, Kismet is **confident, adventurous, and ambitious**, and brings a little bit of Karnataka and our team with her wherever she goes.



We are excited to share Kismet's travelogue on **our Instagram page!**

Cohort Updates

- **TCP24:** In our **July Send-Off Session**, we bid farewell to the TCP24 cohort—most of whom have now embarked on their college journeys across the **United States, the United Kingdom, Canada, and India**. We are excited to see them step into independent college life, armed with valuable advice from our experienced TCP alumni! The **list** of our mentees' final college and university destinations is available in the next section.
- **TCP25:** The upcoming months for our TCP25 cohort will be **fast-paced**, with essay writing (for the Common App, UC App, UCAS, and individual college supplements), interviews, and final submissions. We plan to ensure our mentees complete their applications and required essays by **December 15**, so they can relax (finally!) over Winter break! December will also bring Early round decisions. In addition to the **United States**, our mentees are applying to colleges and universities in **Canada, the United Kingdom, Europe, the Middle East, India, and Singapore**.

- **TCP26 and Early Advising:** While our Early Advising mentees are busy navigating **high school and enrichment opportunities**, our TCP26 cohort has commenced their college research and SAT prep in preparation for their applications next year! Our **dedicated TCP26 Master Classes** started in July, with their goal for this calendar year being to shortlist their **target majors** and **colleges**.
- **Style Guide:** We have added a **condensed** version of our ***TCP Style Manual*** to our website to support our mentees with essay-writing. Please do download it!

We are looking forward to the coming months of helping our applicant batch perfect and submit their applications! In our **next edition** of the **newsletter**, we hope to share details of our mentees' **Early-round decisions**.

Cheers to a coming fruitful application cycle and continued good wishes for the festive season ahead!

Amanda and Meghna

TCP24 FINAL COLLEGE DESTINATIONS

OUR MENTEES' FINAL COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY CHOICES!

(BLUE DENOTES MULTIPLE STUDENTS)

United States:

- American University
- Babson College
- Bard College
- Bryant College
- Columbia University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Cornell University
- Duke University
- Johns Hopkins University
- Indiana University
 - Kelley School of Business
- New York University
 - Steinhardt School of Culture, Education, and Human Development
 - Stern School of Business

Northeastern University

- Boston
- London
- Oakland
- Pennsylvania State University
- Stanford University**
- Syracuse University
- The New School
 - Eugene Lang College of Liberal Arts
- Tufts University
- University of California, San Diego
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
- University of Pennsylvania
 - Jerome Fisher M&T Program
- University of Rochester
- University of Washington, Seattle
- University of Wisconsin, Madison
- Washington University in St Louis
- Yale University

United Kingdom: 

Imperial College, London

University of Oxford

University of St Andrews

University of Warwick

India: 

Ashoka University

Narsee Monjee Institute of Management

O.P. Jindal Global University

Plaksha University

Canada: 

University of Toronto

COLLEGE TOUR LIST 2025

AMERICA

BOSTON AREA

- Boston College
- Northeastern University
- Tufts University

OHIO

- Case Western Reserve University
- Denison University
- Kenyon College
- Miami University of Ohio
- Oberlin College
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- The College of Wooster
- The Ohio State University
- University of Cincinnati
- Xavier University

SINGAPORE

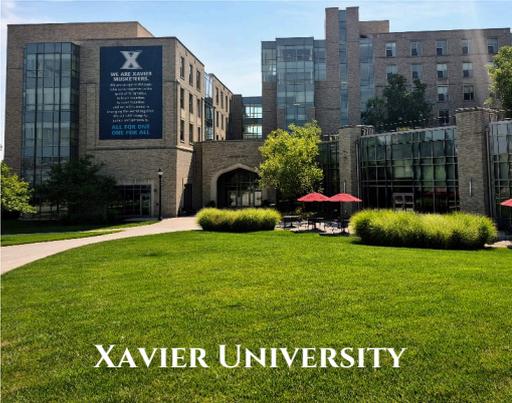
- ESSEC Business School, Asia-Pacific, Singapore
- LASALLE College of the Arts
- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- National University of Singapore (NUS)
- Singapore Institute of Management (SIM)
- Singapore Management University (SMU)
- Singapore University of Social Sciences (SUSS)
- Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD)
- SP Jain School of Global Management, Singapore

KISMET ON AMANDA'S 2025 COLLEGE VISITS!



2025 COLLEGE TOUR - UNITED STATES

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AMANDA'S U.S. COLLEGE TOUR!



XAVIER UNIVERSITY



CASE WESTERN RESERVE



IACAC 2025!

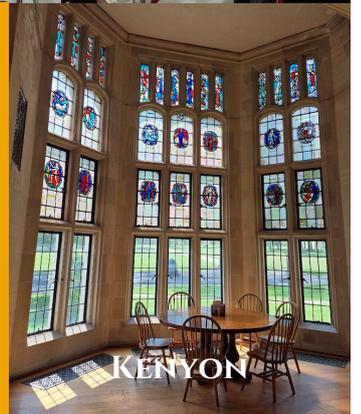


BOSTON COLLEGE

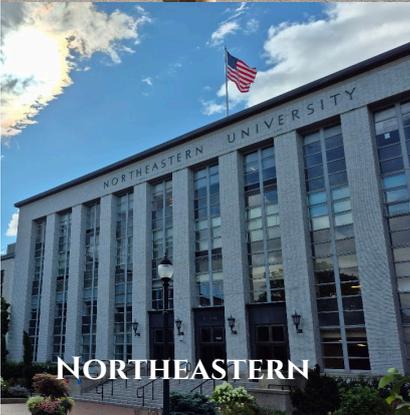
SUMMARY OF OHIO TOUR

- Ohio colleges offer **lower cost of attendance** and ample scholarships.
- The quality of Ohio's institutions, with their **wealth of resources** and opportunities, rivals those found on the East and West Coasts.
- Columbus, Ohio, is witnessing **immense economic growth** and was named 2024's second-fastest growing U.S. city*, providing a **large number of job and internship opportunities** for students.

*Bank of America report, Feb 2025



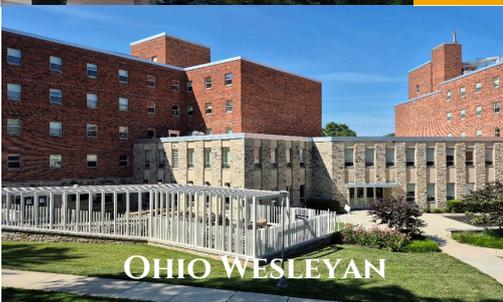
KENYON



NORTHEASTERN



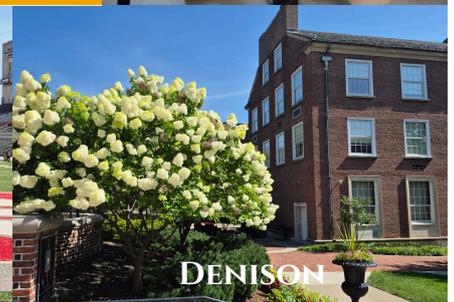
WOOSTER



OHIO WESLEYAN



OHIO STATE



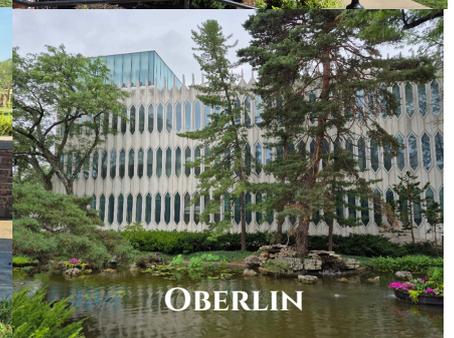
DENISON



TUFTS



MIAMI UNIVERSITY OF OHIO



OBERLIN

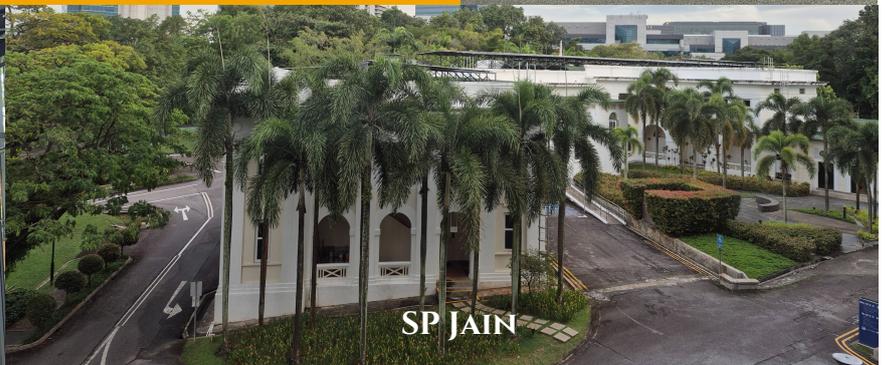
2025 COLLEGE TOUR - SINGAPORE

HIGHLIGHTS FROM AMANDA'S SINGAPORE COLLEGE TOUR!



SUMMARY OF SINGAPORE TOUR

- Singapore continues to be a **popular global destination** for higher education.
- Undergraduate programs embrace the American "**liberal arts**" style of education, often partnering with top U.S. universities.
- International student **scholarships** are available across programs.
- Singapore has positioned itself as a premier destination for **engineering, management,** and research, as well as for **art, design,** and **entrepreneurship.**



APPLICATION UPDATES 2025

IMPORTANT UPDATES ACROSS THE THREE MOST POPULAR APPLICATION PORTALS: COMMON APP, UC, AND UCAS

COMMON APP

- Open for the **2026** Admissions cycle **from August 1** (supplemental essays updated by **September 1**), with a new and improved **interface**.
- While the **essay prompts** stay the same, the length of the **Additional Information** section has been reduced from **650 to 300 words**.
- The optional **Community Disruption** essay has been updated to a **Challenges and Circumstances** prompt to capture broader student experiences. The word limit is the same (**250 words**).

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA (UC)

- Open for Fall 2026 admissions through the UC admissions portal for its **constituent 9 colleges**.
- The application can be submitted between **October 1 to December 1 (Pacific time)**.
- The **admissions process** and the **personal insight questions** (four out of eight essays) stay the same.
- Join our workshop-style **Master Class** on **October 25** to understand how to fill in this independent application!

UCAS (UNITED KINGDOM)

- Submissions open from **September 3**, with an **October 15** deadline for **Oxford, Cambridge, and Medical degrees**, and a final deadline of **January 14** for other colleges.
- This year, the **personal statement** has been broken down into **3 mini-statements**, each with a minimum 350-character count and an overall character count of 4,000.
- Students applying to **Mathematics, Computer Science, Economics, Engineering, and Science** courses will have to attempt exams such as the **TMUA or ESAT**, depending on their choice of college - **Oxford** has its own set of exams, depending on the coursework.
- All the exams can be taken **only once**.

There are **3 internal submission deadlines** for the **TCP25 cohort**:

1. **October 5** (for applications due by November 1)
2. **November 10** (for applications due by December 15)
3. **December 15** (for applications due after January 1)

WRITING AND STUDY SKILLS CENTER

SUMMER STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

The **Writing and Study Skills Center** offered its **Study Skills Master Classes** beyond our own cohort through our Study Skills Bootcamp. It was a pleasure to interact with enthusiastic students from different schools and curricula. We were especially delighted to work with the talented students from **Project Maargam, our community service partner**, who impressed us with their focus on academic excellence.

I got to learn so many new things. My highlight was the Pomodoro technique. I also learned how to manage time, take notes, and read effectively - Hafsa, Grade 8.

After the sessions, I am planning to create a schedule, as suggested, so that I have enough time for revision. The bootcamp was really helpful - Aditri, Grade 10.

What our sessions focused on:

Our sessions helped participants explore **practical strategies** to enhance their **study habits**, achieve their **academic goals**, and optimize their **learning process**. Developing strong study habits not only supports better academic performance but also helps students **reduce stress and anxiety** while **building confidence** in their abilities—especially during exams and for their journey to university and beyond.

Through **individual Study Habits Survey reports**, we identified areas of improvement and taught this curious group how to **prioritize tasks, manage revisions, plan submissions, and structure self-study** to help them gain a sense of control instead of feeling overwhelmed. Achieving this balance is crucial, as it provides them with more time for rest, relaxation, and extracurricular activities to **improve overall well-being**.

Why do study skills matter?

Even students who score well on exams could actually be inefficient and **“spinning their wheels”** during their hours of study. The increasing workload in high school can lead to **burnout** if these habits do not evolve. Establishing effective strategies reduces stress and equips students with critical skills for higher education and beyond.

We love helping students build the **skills and confidence** to thrive academically and personally.

Don't forget to join our upcoming **Study Skills Master Classes**, starting this month!

Me : This subject is so easy I'll read it a day before exam
While reading it a day before exam :



when you're ready to memorize the entire semester in 12 hours

Me after working for 5 minutes



MENTEES' BOOK BUZZ

THESE BOOKS HAVE PASSED THE "TEENAGER TEST"!

RUNWAYS, A MARVEL COMIC - FROM A YEAR 13 STUDENT IN MALAWI

A **Marvel comic** generates a stereotypical, colorful image, filled with spandex and memorable catchphrases. Many readers view the medium as entertaining and dismiss it as childish entertainment. However, comics span many genres, and a striking example of this is my favorite Marvel comic, **Runaways**, which changed my life! Originally written by **Brian K Vaughan** and set in a world of superheroes, it is a story about family and the struggles of growing up. *Runaways'* premise is simple—a **group of teenagers from Los Angeles** (one of the first superhero comics to be set here) discover their parents are secretly part of a crime ring known as 'The Pride'.



Each year, the kids are forced to meet and hang out while their parents host a charity dinner, where they witness their parents sacrificing someone. Shocked, they flee their homes, band together, and discover some of them have powers.

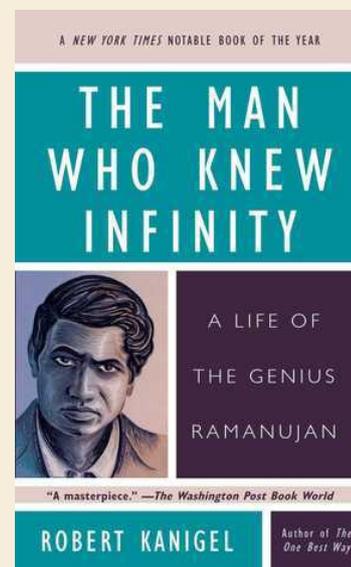
What makes **Runaways** stand out to me is the way it explores **universal experiences**. They are teenagers rather than heroes, caught between **rejecting their parents' legacy and trying to shape their own**. Every teenager, at some point, wrestles with the same question: Am I destined to become like my parents, or can I choose my own path? The series literalizes the question, yet never settles for a simple answer, only saying that family will always remain **complicated**. The series reminds us that young people are not extensions of their parents but still capable of shaping the future.

The **Runaways** is unlike Marvel's other **popular titles**. The characters are united not by a mission or a cause, but by circumstance and survival. There are no costumes (well, sometimes), and they do not have an HQ. Their goal is not saving the world, but trying to **survive it**. **Runaways** thrives on quiet moments such as awkwardness over crushes, struggling to trust someone new, and random arguments. These teenagers do not seek out **adventure or glory**; they stumble into it reluctantly because of the choices of the adults around them. Their **growth is messy and often painful**, but also hopeful.

While I have focused on the themes and story of the 2003 edition, there are over **100 issues** of **Runaways** to consume! While the story evolves, the underlying theme is constant—**family** and the struggles that come with it. **Runaways** proves how comics can tell **complex, moving stories** that can rival any novel. For interested readers, the comic offers an engaging narrative and a **new way of thinking about literature**.

THE MAN WHO KNEW INFINITY - FROM A GRADE 10 STUDENT IN INDIA

I had the pleasure of reading *The Man Who Knew Infinity - A Life of the Genius Ramanujan* by **Robert Kanigel**, a well-known American biographer. The book sheds light on the life of the brilliant mathematician **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. It beautifully describes a mathematician's human side, delving not only into formulas and papers, but also **traditions, values, and relationships**. I found it interesting to see the effects of family struggles, religious values, and traditions on a mathematician. Its exceptional detail on the inner workings and family dynamics of Ramanujan's life fascinated me.



Born in Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, Ramanujan impressed many with his mathematical prowess. From an early age, all he did was **math**. While other children played outside, he would sit on the porch of his house, solving math problems. His genius did not go unrecognized, as he received a scholarship from the government college. As the years passed, he sought recognition for his work in various theoretical fields. By exchanging letters, meeting people, and contacting friends, Ramanujan found himself at **Cambridge**, where he would study under **Professor G.H. Hardy**. He was the first Indian Fellow of the Royal Society and one of the few Fellows at Trinity College.

The book is a perfect blend of humanistic nature and mathematical genius. I highly recommend it not only to all **math lovers** but also to those fascinated by **human emotions and perseverance**.

DID YOU KNOW?

HERE ARE OUR PICKS FOR THIS EDITION'S UNIQUE COLLEGE FACTS!

Become a modern-day pirate!

Offered by the **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (MIT), the MIT Pirate Certificate is offered to students who have completed Archery, Fencing, Pistol (Air Pistol or Rifle), and Sailing. The certificate is an incentive to finish the university's Physical Education & Wellness General Requirement. But beware, piracy is still a crime!

A day of no classes as a surprise!

At **Juniata College**, Mountain Day is a surprise each fall when classes are cancelled and students and faculty leave campus for a day of fun! The first outing was in 1896 and now takes place at nearby Raystown Lake, with water sports, outdoor activities, arts and crafts, a mechanical bull, raffles, a tug-of-war, and an even faculty-student contest!

