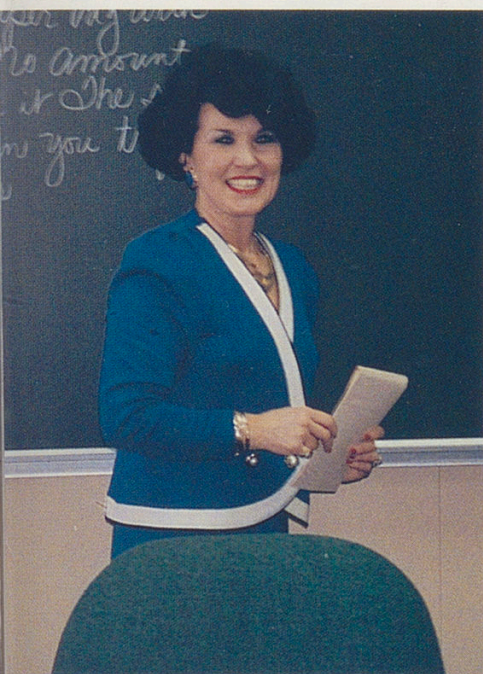


The Big Decision



Any senior will agree that the most stressful part of his or her senior year is applying to colleges. After narrowing down the hundreds of choices to a few favorites, the long, drawn-out process of filling out the applications begins.

Another essential part of the college-selection process is visiting the schools to which one is applying. This is the most valuable means of obtaining first-hand knowledge of a college a student has formerly only seen on paper through brochures and bulletins.

Samir Parikh stated, "I go and visit colleges to see what the campus is like, to find out more about the college, and to talk to students, counselors, and professors. Basically to get a feel of the school."

When visiting a college, there are a number of things that a student should observe and many questions he or she should ask.

Betsy Bass explained, "When I go look at a college, I make sure I see dorm rooms, classrooms, hang-out areas, and library facilities. These things are all important in forming an

opinion of a school. I also make sure I ask about curriculum requirements, class size, social opportunities, and transportation. I also inquire about the possibilities of international studies."

Every student has his or her own expectations for their "ideal" school. There are many variables going into the equation for figuring out what college will be the best match for a student: size, location, academics, majors offered, athletics, and social aspects.

Parikh summarized, "My favorite colleges so far have been Northwestern, OSU, Purdue, Cornell, and Syracuse. They all have big campuses, good locations, and offer strong programs in what I am interested. They also have a good sized student body and a good atmosphere."

Visiting a college tells a prospective college freshman if a campus is compatible with what they are looking for in a school. A college visit is just one of the many factors that goes into making what could be the biggest decision one ever makes.

by Courtney Shackelford



Mrs. Robinson prepares the conference room for the upcoming visit of a college representative. Seniors found it most convenient to attend the meetings in the office where the college came to them instead of making a trip to the school to find out if they were interested in it.

Senior Betsy Bass studies the board in the counselor's office which contains posters about different colleges. Seniors could use these to find out when certain schools would be visiting Sycamore and also where to write for more information about them.



Michelle Shifflett
Alison Shoup
Matthew Shuler
Meredith Shuller
Bareena Silverman

