

# Some Seniors' Summers More Studious Than Most

By Lindsay Marshall, News Editor

During a typical mid-July, most teenagers can be found lounging around the house or hanging out with friends at the beach. This past summer, though, many seniors had other plans. College is a big decision, and it has to start somewhere. For some seniors, that somewhere was traveling to visit college campuses.

Add to that the applications and SATs required for college entry. This may sound like a lot of work, which is why many seniors have already begun their journey over the summer. Nobody wants to deal with twenty applications and a knowledge of the details in question, so visiting colleges before

applying is beneficial.

Some seniors took road trips or air travel to get to those out-of-state places over the summer.

Cameron Kim is one of those seniors. Over his summer vacation, he traveled to Virginia, Tennessee, Maryland, North Carolina, Georgia, and Miami to visit colleges in the area.

Corrine Szczesny went to MIT's summer program on her road trip to colleges.

"It was a really good chance to get an idea of how I would spend four or more years of my life in college," said Kim. "For instance, at Duke [University], I felt that the people were very welcoming."

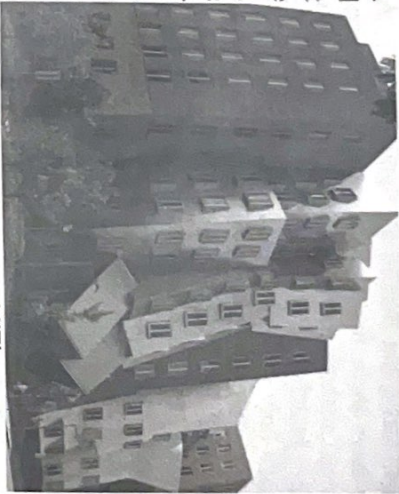


Photo courtesy of by Corrine Szczesny.

Kim got a chance to meet with a senior biomedical student and discuss her activities at Duke, such as her work with stem cells. Kim is interested in the biomedical field, so this was an enriching experience for him.

Some seniors even participated in summer programs at universities, such as Corrine Szczesny, who spent three weeks of her summer at Brown University before stopping at other schools, like Harvard College, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Dartmouth College.

"When you go," Szczesny said, "there is a feeling that it is the right school for you." Szczesny took an engineering class at Brown and is not new to this experience as she took the same program before her sophomore year. After these classes at the university, she has decided that

Brown is her number one school. She realized, however, that four years at a university also means four years of their food.

"Every meal [at Brown] was either pasta or chicken," Szczesny said. "It was really annoying. My parents asked me if I really wanted to go there if all the meals were the same."

Craig Bearison also participated in a summer program. He attended an honors weekend at the University of Florida, where he talked with deans, guidance counselors, and a student panel.

Bearison was personally invited to attend the two-day event. Two hundred students from across Florida were selected to join the program. However, University of Florida is not where he plans to attend come next fall.

"I want to go to Duke," said Bearison. "I went to Durham, North Carolina, in August, and stayed two days. It has amazing opportunities for an undergraduate."

Whether a visit seems necessary or not, a decision has to be made by May, whether that means researching, visiting, or simply applying and hoping for the best.

"It is important to not only research colleges," said Bearison, "but also to visit, because a college experience cannot be summed up by only numbers."

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