

Near, Beyond & NOW

Reaching past our boundaries

Considering that the top four colleges the senior class applied to were Florida schools, it seemed most seniors wanted to stay in-state. This was not so for seniors Lara Olsson (one of two applicants to The American University of Paris) and Skylar Britton (only applicant to The King's College in London). For Olsson, the jump to Paris did not feel like truly leaving the country. "Paris is a place that I visit for three months a year, so it feels like home to me. I understand French. When I leave Paris, I try to keep up with my French so I can be ready for when I go there because I know some of my classes will be in French," Olsson said.



Despite never having been to the UK, Britton still feels a connection to Europe in a similar way. "I have always had an interest in the UK. I am a real history buff. I just kind of wanted to apply to The King's College and see what would happen because I think it would be really

interesting to have a new culture and different education, and I wanted to be open to the newness Europe brings," Britton said.

Olsson decided to apply to her Parisian school over the summer after realizing she wanted to apply somewhere she felt comfortable, but Britton's story is a little more impromptu. "It was really spur of the moment. I was literally in my English class, and I [thought] 'Ugh, I like my college list, but I am not very happy with it.' I wanted something more, so I just decided, 'I'm going to apply.' I pulled up the application there, wrote the essay, submitted it that night and didn't tell my mom," Britton said.

Britton's greatest struggle was trying to choose where to go. "[My sister] said, 'You know if you end up going to Kings' College you're going to have to stay there for the rest of your life.' And that kind of freaked me out because I'm not ready to choose my life path at 17," Britton said.

Conversely, Olsson feels ready for her Parisian life. "At this point right now, I am thinking of my housing opportunities, which can either be housing with another family or rooming," Olsson said.

University of Washington

13 applicants
45% acceptance rate
#56 National rank (tie)



Pepperdine University

21 applicants
38% acceptance rate
#46 National rank (tie)



University of Utah

1 applicant
76.4% acceptance rate
#110 National rank (tie)



University of Arizona

14 applicants
76% acceptance rate
#124 National rank (tie)



What: Coca-Cola Pay-It-Forward Scholarship
Who: Katherine Quesada
When: Summer before junior year
How Much: \$5,000
How: Nominated on Facebook for the award by her mom for her exemplary community service

Words of Wisdom 1

with College Adviser Mrs. Luciana Mandal

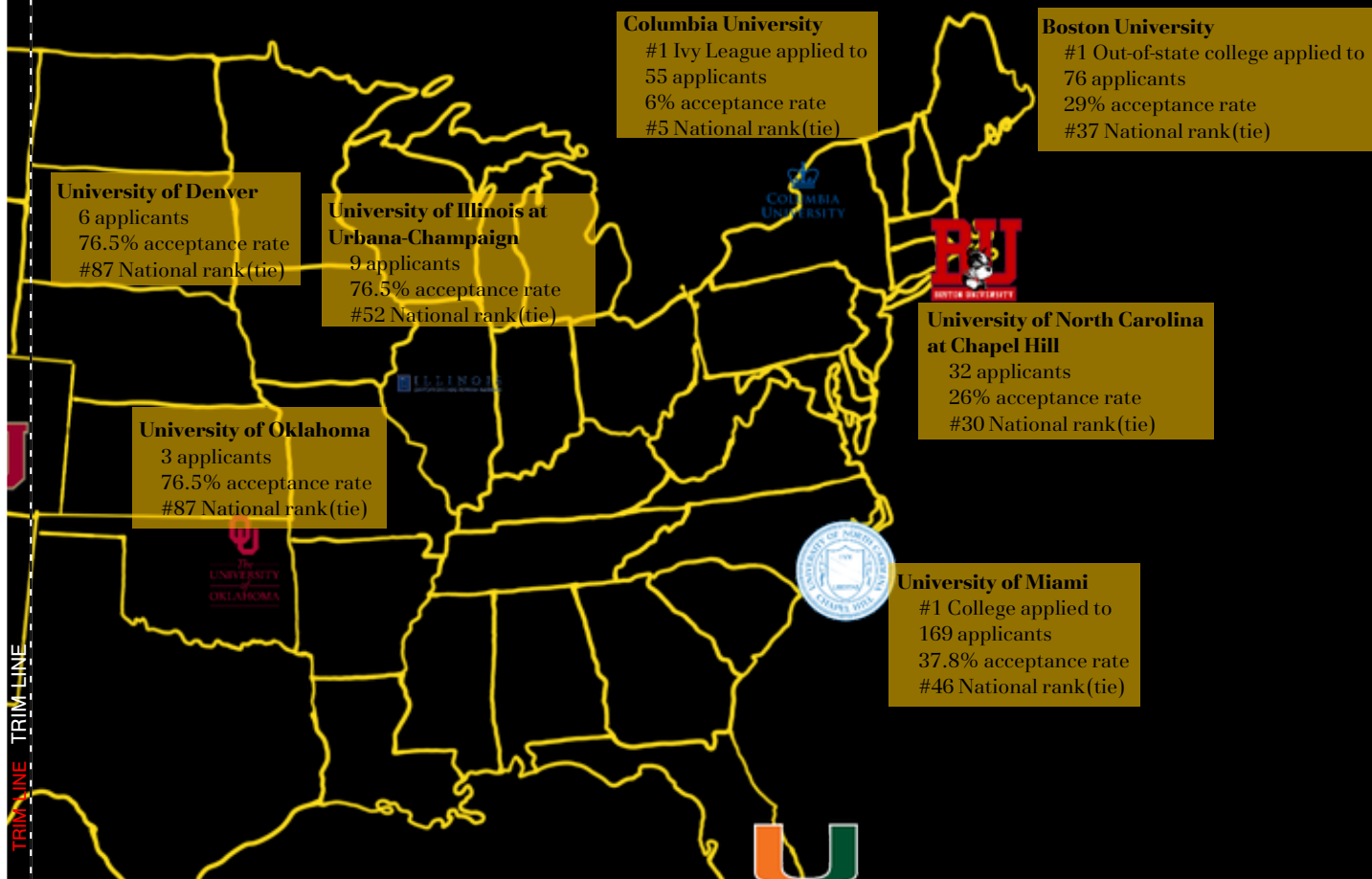
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"I know that prestige matters to you all in high school. The popularity of the name of the college, the ranking, whether people have heard of it or not. One message is to look beyond that and to look at what I call 'fit.' Sometimes, you have not heard of something but it's a really great thing. I would want students and especially parents to look outside the usual ones they have heard of."

The next thing is to think of yourself as an individual. You are not going to college with your friends, so although your friends may have opinions about where you go or where you apply, the student really needs to think of himself or herself as an individual in regards to where they are going to apply in order to get an individual experience and to meet new people. It's hard not to be influenced by your friends, since they matter a lot."

Stats & States

Of 3,460 senior applications as of January 24, 2018



Come One, Come All

"In 10th grade, College Fair helped me because I got to learn about schools I didn't know before and got more information on them. College Fair senior year gives you that last chance to meet the representative from a school. If they see your name and can visualize your face, it's just human instinct that they'll lean to you more than to an applicant who they've never had interaction with."

- Senior Mikaela Basso

Photos: E. Gellman