



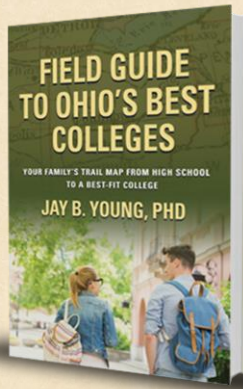
BASE CAMP

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(614) 352-8413 693½ High Street, Suite C, Worthington, Ohio 43085 DrJay@collegeboundadvantage.com

Around the Fire with Dr. Jay

There are a number of reminders that fall is rapidly gaining traction. The leaves here in Old Worthington are beginning to yellow and mornings are suddenly cooler. Inside our office, we are seeing more families seeking to optimize their student's search for a great-fit college and for the first time we are working with a number of family's second student through our process. For all that we are grateful. Finally, we have begun our annual Ohio college ghost story offerings in our blog. We will even include one of last year's stories in this newsletter issue.



Since our last issue, our new book, *Field Guide to Ohio's Best Colleges* hit the newsstand and is now available through Amazon and other online book sellers. The book takes a deep dive into what we believe to be Ohio's strongest 30 residential public and private colleges. We dissect their best academic and co-curricular programs. We also outline our process in a way that any family can follow without our help. We hope that those of you who take time to read it will benefit from a stronger and more optimized search process and a better ability to align college visits with exactly what you are looking for

and can afford.

Later this fall, we will begin a sequence of five college visits to Ohio colleges that offer special, fee-based, learning support programs for students with learning challenges such as ADD, ADHD, Dyslexia, and even light autism. We hope to learn a lot about how these programs are resourced, deliver their services, and make a difference. We plan to explore their metrics and better understand their levels of success and the types of students who gain the most from their offerings. More on this later.

In this issue of Base Camp, we will review some critical college application deadlines, take a look at Residential Learning Communities, explore Ohio's only Incoming Freshman Camps and, in celebration of the season, share one ghost story from an Ohio college campus.

Important College Application Dates to Keep in Mind



Colleges vary in terms of the dates below – you will need to identify the specific dates for each college you are considering and follow them carefully.

Ideal Time for Early Application for Admission and

Scholarships:

September - November Senior Year

FAFSA (Financial Aid) Opening Date:

October 1 Senior Year

Early Action or Early Decision Deadlines:

November 1 or December 1

Regular Application Deadline:

January 1 or February 1

Transfer Admission Deadline:

Most Often May 1

Rolling Admission Deadline:

Most Often March 1 up to May 1

National College Response Deadline:

May

So, What's the Big Deal About Residential Learning Communities?



Residential learning communities (RLCs) group students in residential living spaces based on an academic theme or shared interest. A member of the faculty or staff then works to provide theme-aligned experiences, programming, and generally help students grow together around their shared interest. For many students, the result is improved grades, retention, graduation rates, and satisfaction with their college experience.

RLCs are most often found at larger colleges, but some small colleges offer them as well. At College Bound Advantage, we always explore RLCs with

our clients when they fit with the student's interests, goals, or needs. Let's look at a few examples.

Bowling Green State University is perhaps the most intentional with their RLCs and, as a result, we believe offer some of the best experiences. In all, they offer 22 options, some of which are major specific and others that are tied to themes or interests. For example, among others, options include an Aviation Community, Music Community, Business District Community, Education Community, Forensic Science Community, Global Village Community, Arts Community, and others.

Let's look more closely at one RLC. The Art Village Community at BGSU groups students in a residence hall with other young artists, regardless of genre. Musicians, studio artists, videographers, and even creative writers are free to join. Some students opt for studio space in the community. Faculty and staff associated with the community provide ongoing programming including collaborative projects, gallery tours, film festivals, and social events. On site classes specifically geared to art students ensure students connect closely with each other and their interests. You get the idea!

Not all colleges offer RLCs. For example, the University of Cincinnati has chosen not to offer RLCs whereas OSU offers a number of options. We recommend that you explore RLC options at the colleges you visit and look closely at any that might be a good fit for your student.

Camp Oh-Wooo joins Camp Blue as Ohio's only Incoming Freshman Camps



Freshman Camps have been around for a long time. They are popular in the southern US but less well known in the mid-west. They are not to be confused with orientation. Instead they are designed to help incoming students develop close bonds with other freshman and upper class students, connect with staff and faculty, learn about their schools traditions and history, and build some leadership skills along the way. They are typically held off campus at a resident camp or other location. Research has shown that participation in these camps improves student retention, graduation rates, and satisfaction. Examples include Fish Camp at Texas A&M, Mustang Corral at SMU, Frog Camp at TCU, and Camp Longhorn at the University of Texas.

Until recently, the only incoming freshman camp in Ohio was Camp Blue at the University of Dayton. UD offers one session of Camp Blue each summer. Camp Blue is exclusively for the incoming freshman class. It focuses on leadership development and UD's philosophy of, "Learn, Lead, Serve" and takes place between UD's campus and Camp Ernst YMCA in Northern Kentucky. Students participate in a number of activities including a high and low ropes challenge course. They also explore what it means to be a UD Flyer.

More recently Ohio Wesleyan University launched Camp Oh-Wooo. Let's just say that OWU jumped in with both feet. They offer not just one, but four different freshman camp options including Challenge Camp, Service Camp, Wilderness Camp,

and City Camp. Each themed camp runs 6 days and is organized around team building/leadership activities that vary by camp theme, opportunities to build relationships with other freshman students, upper class students, and members of the faculty and staff, all while learning about the history and traditions of OWU!

At College Bound Advantage we highly recommend these camps to students attending either Ohio Wesleyan University or the University of Dayton. We are keeping our fingers crossed that other Ohio colleges will launch their own version of this powerful first year student experience and begin to enjoy the benefits of improved retention, graduation rates, and student satisfaction that they provide.

Lake Erie College's Ghost of College Hall



Lake Erie College's historic campus is located in Painesville, Ohio. If you are interested in things that go bump in the night, this campus is for you! A center for paranormal activity, Lake Erie College claims to host apparitions in various locations across their beautiful campus. As much as we would like to share all the stories, here, we will explore only one.

Legend has it that sometime in the mid-1800s when Lake Erie College was an all-girls school, a student named Stephanie had begun her studies. Somewhere along the way, she had an affair with a professor. When he refused to marry her she became depressed and, on one fateful evening, hung herself on the fourth-floor bell tower of College Hall, the oldest building on campus.

After her death, students began to report seeing her glowing white figure in a fourth-floor window of College Hall. They claim she peers out the window, perhaps in search of her lost lover.

The 4th floor was often seen illuminated by dim, flickering lights late at night and students below spoke of hearing footsteps and occasional wailing from the floor above even though it had been closed and locked tight. Service workers entering the floor were occasionally frightened enough to refuse to ever return. Even TV paranormal ghost hunters investigated the fourth floor. One took an interesting photograph – check out the circled fourth floor window in the picture above.

As if that wasn't enough, students claim that Stephanie occasionally leaves College Hall in search of entertainment. There is a cracked mirror in the Social Parlor in the nearby Morley Music Building. Stephanie has occasionally been seen walking out of the mirror, dressed in eveningwear, on her way to an evening performance. After curtain calls, she returns through the mirror from whence she came.

So, if you ever visit Lake Erie College, plan to take in a performance in Morley Music Building. Perhaps order a beverage and wander into the Social Parlor. Check out your eveningwear in the standing mirror on the far side of the room. Just don't be disturbed if someone else is looking back at you. On your way to your car after the show, glance over your shoulder at the 4th floor of College Hall and bid Stephanie a good night.

Happy Trails



Well, it's time to re-pack the backpacks and get on down the trail. Thanks for joinin' us for the fun. See you next time!