

## Grand-Senior Interviews cont'd

### North Carolina State University Raleigh, NC



Heather Carroll

*What are things you like most/least about your school?*

Most: independence, close food locations, tons and tons and tons of fun classes to take. Least: huge size, distance from classes, still some dumb "no boys" rule after 1 or 2 am (this only matters if you get stuck in an RA suite, like I did).

*Is there a big former S&M population at your school (or do you hang out with mostly S&Mers? Do you like that?)*

I do mainly hang out with former S&Mers, but it is hard to make new friends at such a large university.

*What are some advantages/disadvantages to your school's location/size?*

State's big. Depending how far you live away from classes, you could be close or

really far (like me).

*Do you know what your major will be? If so, did something at the school make you pick that? Is there a department at your school that you think is awesome that the school isn't well known for?*

State has an awesome English program that nobody knows about because it doesn't have the money to advertise. I mean, did you know that State has more undergraduate options in English (World Literature, Creative Writing, General, Teacher's Education, Language/Writing/Rhetoric) than UNC does? I think that's pretty interesting. I'm told our History department is awesome, too. My dual degree program degrees are Chemical Engineering and World Literature. I really hadn't thought about pursuing English until I got to State and had an awesome advisor tell me how there were about 30 other kooks like me who were getting two degrees- one in engineering and one in humanities/social sciences and that they got money for it. So it all worked out.

### Stanford University Palo Alto, California



EDWIN SMOLSKI

*Describe your feelings about your college experience*

I love the weather, and the campus is incredibly gorgeous here at Stanford - I won't lie - that definitely was a factor in my wanting to go here. I really chose this school because I am a science person who's also interested in the humanities, and I couldn't find a school that appeared to have a better mix. After being here, I'm even more impressed than before I came. I'm majoring in Chemistry, but I've decided to double major in a humanities area (Linguistics or Psychology or...), which is something I never conceived of doing before I got here. I miss NCSSMers - there is one other one here, whom I see

often - but I really feel that going to a new area with new people is a great thing for anyone. This school is diverse in any way you could possibly measure it, and there are opportunities to do things that I never thought I would get to do. One extremely interesting and little-known department here at Stanford is "Symbolic Systems", which focuses on learning and artificial intelligence. I suppose it's best described as the boundary between computer science and psychology. I have nothing but positive things to say about Stanford. It will expand anyone's horizons not just academically, but in all aspects of their lives.

*Advice to current S&Mers:*

Relax - almost any place you go will be amazing. But most of all, don't ever let others choose for you. Pick the college that feels right for you - where you can pursue, but not be limited to, what you're interested to doing. Chances are, what you'll want to do will change.

### Virginia Tech Blacksburg, VA



ROBIN MAYS

*What are three things you like most/least about your school?*

1 - I really love the engineering department. They definitely know what they're doing and can prepare you for getting a job. 2 - I really love the campus and surrounding area--so pretty!! There are mountains and rivers and all

kinds of fun things to do. 3 - I don't like all the alcohol. even a lot of people who came to college with absolutely no intention of drinking end up drinking.

*Is there a big former S&M population at your school (or do you hang out with mostly S&Mers? Do you like that?)*

There is only one s&mer at my school; I like the small population now, because it means that I've met lots of new people, but at the beginning of school (when I didn't know anyone) it would have been nice for there to be more familiar faces. In the long run, though, I'm glad I didn't know

lots of people before coming here.

*What are some advantages/disadvantages to your school's location/size?*

Location - there aren't many big cities around, but there are plenty of activities to do outdoors. Size - A big student population has a lot of advantages because it means that the college can do a lot of really diverse activities. Also, even though it is a big campus, I still tend to run into all the people I know, so I don't find the size intimidating.

### Princeton University

#### Princeton, NJ



VERA DADOK

*How did NCSSM prepare you for Princeton?*

Living at school for two years really prepared me for college. The workload at college is comparable to at S&M. However, at Science and Math there are a lot more rules, but along with those rules, the per-

sonal attention is greater. Of course, you can always find help if you need it at college, but there aren't any mandatory bonding activities at the beginning of the year, so you have to take initiative to join clubs and meet people.

*Do you have any advice for NCSSM students?*

Have lots of fun and participate in many activities while keeping up with their work until second semester senior year. Then they should just concentrate on having fun and not failing. Also, I'd tell them to be careful in high school--don't screw up and get

yourself kicked out or on probation. It is only 2 years until there are not any real rules to break!

*Any advice do for seniors deciding on college?*

I'd advise seniors to think about where they'd have the most opportunities, where they would enjoy living. Because college is not just about the classroom education, it is about ALL the experiences and interactions. Don't get me wrong, make sure academics come first, or at least almost first, but no matter where you go, you'll learn a lot if you want to.

### Goucher College Baltimore, Maryland



PAT VIDEOU

*What are three things you like most/least about your school?*

1. I love the close atmosphere of the people and the teachers. Everyone is ready and waiting to help you. 2. I love the ability to do ANYTHING you want here. If you have a dream you want to pursue, go for it and you will have many people who are more than willing to help you. 3. I love the fact that we have no frats...if that is your thing, go to a state school.

Goucher is small and closely knit. Sometimes it freaks me out how similar it is

to s&m in that respect.

Even though I went here because of money, it has all worked out for the best. I wanted to study bio and there is a good bio program here. It focuses a lot on molecular and cellular bio and genetics. It has some amazing lab stuff like squid eyes from the mid 1800's. Crazy stuff like that. I really do like it here. Also, the education program (my 2nd major) is fabulous here. From the moment you start classes, you MUST have classroom experience. They get you in the classroom from the beginning.

*Is there a big former S&M population at your school (or do you hang out with mostly S&Mers? Do you like that?)*

I am the sole S&Mer here. There are no others. It is easy to find people you can talk to but they never quite understand what S&M is all about. I wish there were more here but

c'est la vie.

*What are some advantages/disadvantages to your school's location/size?*

We are in the outskirts of Baltimore (big city). We are not in the suburbs but not downtown either. We are 8 miles from downtown Baltimore which means everything is close to us. Everything is within easy walking distance and we have an awesome bus system, especially compared to Durham. The selection of food in Baltimore is the best I have ever found (exception of NYC and Atlanta). There is SOOOOOO much amazing and tasty food. Disadvantage is that Baltimore is ringed by intense ghetto areas.

The school is 1250 undergrads 2100 with grad students (most are education or creative writing masters candidates).