

Person High School senior surprised with acceptance into high ranking universities



Dartmouth College



COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY



Yale



Princeton University



Photo by Grey Pentecost/C-T

Ashley Harris will be attending Stanford University in the fall.

By GREY PENTECOST
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Person Senior Ashley Harris couldn't believe her eyes when she checked her e-mail one recent Wednesday afternoon this spring. There before her were notices of acceptance into five Ivy League schools: Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Columbia and Dartmouth. Harris remembers being

shocked and thinking, "Wait, this can't be real." She'd had another "freak out" moment just the day before, when she received notice that she'd been accepted into Stanford University, her first choice of schools.

Harris had applied to a total of 16 colleges, and ironically, said she had been waitlisted by four less-selective schools prior to learning of these acceptances. She ended up getting accepted into eight of the schools, waitlisted at six and rejected at two.

When it came time to decide where to go, Harris said she looked at financial aid offers first. She then visited four of the schools—Harvard, Princeton, Stanford and Columbia—all of which paid her airfare to visit.

In the end, Stanford still stood out the most, and offered her a scholarship that would pay most of her tuition. Harris will be packing her things and heading for California in the fall. Being an intended biology major, Harris was particularly focused on the schools' science programs, and said that Stanford and most of the

others were strong in that area. However, she also liked Stanford's quarter system, which would allow her to take more classes. And she appreciated the fact that the requirements there were loose on what types of classes she would have to take.

Of the Stanford campus's atmosphere she commented, "It's just got a general laid back vibe. It's not quite the same as the east coast schools. It's just a completely different world

almost."

Harris said she had "no idea" what stood out about her to the colleges she was accepted into.

"The fact that I'm from the middle of nowhere probably helped," she related.

Harris also took several online classes in high school, including French, Spanish and a couple of advanced placement classes, and said that for the colleges, her taking them probably "showed initiative."

When it came to preparing for college, Harris said she just tried to pursue her interests, rather than doing

things simply because they would look good on a college application.

Harris's father Al shared that ever since his daughter was a child, she had the motivation to succeed, and has always been a hard worker and a "big reader."

Al said he reminded Harris to remember those that helped her along the way, and not to be afraid to help someone else.

Harris said attending school on the other side of the country will be different but exciting.

"I think it'll let me be independent more and pursue more of what I want," she commented, "as opposed to having restrictions and things like that."

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Tom Oakley & Sara Bieber

Senior profiles from the Class of 2011

Roxboro Community School seniors tell their fondest memories of their senior year.

KRISTEN MARIE ADCOCK said, "My fondest memories of my senior year were spending time with my friends and being able to look back at the years spent with everyone and having a smile on my face."

KRISTEN DALE TINGEN shared, "I have so many fond memories of my senior year. The best memory I could ever have expected was Lindsey Fagala coming into my life. God has always looked after me, and I really know he sent an angel to help me through my senior year. I honestly couldn't have made it without her help and support. In such a short time, I made so many memories with Lindsey that I will always remember. One of my favorites we share is when we spent time after school every day at our friend Cameron Hall's house. We always had a great time over there, and we would stay for hours. Another memory that I will never forget is growing up. I have matured so much throughout the year and definitely have a different aspect on life than I did when I first started my senior year. My entire mind set has changed on a lot of things, and I have a different mentality on life."

LAUREN ELIZABETH COATES' fondest memories of her senior year were "getting closer with my lunchtime buddies and AP United States History class!"

LINDSAY MICHELLE LONG declared, "My fondest memory would be participating in the production of Grease as Marty. It has given me the confidence to continue my education with dance, moving on to hopefully perform on bigger stages."

LISA HART SANDERS shared, "One thing that made my senior year great was not having a first period and getting out at 12:15. Not having to rush to get ready or deal with the hectic traffic was a relief. It's the simple things that have a strong effect and have allowed me to be stress free."

LUCAS ANTHONY TRESSLER commented, "My fondest memories of my senior year come from spending time with my friends, both in and out of school. I have lounged around playing video games, gone to rock concerts, attended birthday parties, and completed group projects with my friends, and I will remember doing so for a long time."

MORGAN LYN AYERS said, "My fondest memories of my senior year are hanging out with my friends and discovering who I am."

ZAKKARY KRAIG SMITH shared, "Grease was my fondest memory of my senior year. It was the first time I have ever danced, sang a solo, and acted in front of a large crowd. It was the biggest thrill of my life."

VICTORIA MORGAN COOPER said, "My fondest memories are going to lunch with my two best friends Hannah Harris and Amanda White."

NATHAN ALLAN OAKLEY commented, "My fondest memories of senior year were when I got to be part of the Grease performance cast. We had so much fun with the play, and I felt like I got to know more people to a point that I started to refer to them as family."

NATIA MONIQUE KENNEDY's fondest memories of her senior year are "spending time with my family, boyfriend, and friends."

OLIVIA STUART MEYERS declared, "My fondest memories include hanging out with friends from the senior class and growing closer to people that I have not previously in my high school career."

RACHAEL LAUREN OAKLEY's fondest memories of her senior year are "having fun with all of my friends."

RYAN JAMES HUTCHINS' fondest memories of his senior year are "senior pranks, lunchtime challenges, and all the practices and games of lacrosse."

STEPHANIE (STEVIE) NICOLE BOYETTE's fondest memories of her senior year are "hanging out with the best friends and meeting new ones along the way."

CARRIE ELIZABETH FOX declared, "The fondest memories of my senior year are the ones spent with my closest friends."

SHANE JULIAN GARRETTSON's fondest memories of his senior year are "hanging out with friends and the wild adventures we had."

SHAYNE KURTIS WILLIAMS' fondest memories of his senior year are "the invaluable time I have spent with my friends."

SUMMER DAWN HENDERSON shared, "My fondest memories of my senior year would be the April Fool's prank Mr. Finnigan played on the seniors."

TYLER SPENCER PERKINS' fondest memories of his senior year are "hanging out with friends, and the wild adventures we had."

MARGARET VICTORIA MARSHALL commented, "My fondest memory of senior year was being the role of Sandy in our production of Grease. It was the first time I had ever sung or acted in front of an audience, and the first play ever put on by RCS. Not only did I become close to a group of people I didn't really know before, but I became part of a very close family. It is a memory I will never forget and a bond with friends that will never be broken."

CHRISTOPHER WYATT ROBINSON said, "One of the fondest memories I have from my senior year is running and sneaking through the hallways from the strict teachers just so I wouldn't have to tuck in my shirt, or so that I could wear a senior hoodie on days other than Wednesday."

ZAC WAYNE DAILEY commented, "My fondest memories of my senior year are being with my friends and making new ones."

TYLOR KELLY GILL said, "My fondest memories during senior year have been the trips with the golf team. Win or lose we always laughed and had fun. If one of us was having a bad day, the other members of the team were always there to do something to turn their day around."

SUZANNE LEIGH CLAYTON commented, "My fondest memories of senior year are the times spent with my friends."

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Go confidently in the direction of your dreams. Live the life you have imagined. ~ Henry David Thoreau