



**Jones College Prep**

**Home of the Eagles**

606 SOUTH STATE STREET – CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60605 – [www.jonescollegeprep.org](http://www.jonescollegeprep.org)

August 1, 2007

Dear Jones Junior and Senior Families:

***We are the new Jones counseling team!*** We're writing to introduce ourselves and to start our work together – a collaboration that will be so critical to your children's success at Jones, in college, and beyond.

To chair the department, Matt Curtis arrived at Jones in April. John Fanning came next, arriving in July. Molly Lee then signed on, moving from California; she'll start at Jones in mid-August.

We all bring counseling experience and graduate education with us to Jones. More importantly, we are all highly-motivated, hard-working, and creative people. And, most importantly, ***we are very, very excited to work with you and your children!***

Dr. Curtis' needs assessment last spring made it very clear that college preparation is of primary importance to Jones students and families. To meet this imperative, we are expanding current programming to help students and their families (1.) find the best college "fit" for them and (2.) prepare the highest quality applications possible.

Getting underway, we know that our rising seniors have ***immediate*** concerns and information needs regarding college. To address these concerns and meet these needs, we have planned four ***College Knowledge for Seniors*** nights during the last week in August and the first week in September. We hope to see ***each and every*** senior and at least one of his or her parents or guardians at ***one*** of these four meetings. ***It is very, very important that you join us for one of these meetings***, as we will be discussing our processes, introducing our software, and handing out our *College Knowledge for Seniors Handbook*. (*College Knowledge for Juniors* will follow later in the fall.)

We are also planning ***The First Annual Jones College Prep Liberal Arts College Night*** on Wednesday, September 12, from 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Over 165 college representatives have been invited to meet with juniors, seniors, and their families. We've asked these schools to highlight their fly-in and bus-in programs, which offer ***all-expense paid*** trips for diverse high school seniors to visit their campuses. The applications for many of these trips will be due in September – so it's important for interested students and families to apply right away. While these trips are usually open only to seniors, juniors and their families are ***very*** welcome to this event. It's not too early to make these connections and to prepare for next year's ***free*** trips.

A schedule of important fall dates and deadlines is listed on the back of this letter. Our contact information follows our signatures below. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely – and enthusiastically – yours,

Dr. Matthew Curtis

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Ms. Molly Lee

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Mr. John Fanning

[jfanning@jonescollegeprep.org](mailto:jfanning@jonescollegeprep.org)

(Phone numbers are being assigned to us soon. Until we have our numbers, please contact us via email.)

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

### **College Knowledge for Seniors, attend *one* of the following four:**

Monday, August 27, 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 28, 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, September 5, 5:45 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 6, 6:45 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Site: Jones cafeteria. Cost: free. Juice and cookies will be served. Parking: complimentary in the lot at State and Balbo. A parking pass has been included in all senior letters; please display it prominently in your windshield when you park in the lot.

### ***“Colleges That Change Lives” Fair***

Sunday, September 9, in Northbrook (12 noon – 2:30 p.m.) and Schaumburg (5:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.)

Cost: free. See <http://www.ctcl.com/events/chicago.htm> for more information. We will make a trip via public transit to the Northbrook event for a limited number of students, meeting at 10:15 a.m. at Union Station and returning at 4:30 p.m.. For families needing assistance, expenses will be paid by Jones; reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis. (You’ll learn how to reserve for this and other events at the *College Knowledge* nights; juniors will learn during advisory.)

### ***The First Annual Jones College Prep Liberal Arts College Night***

Wednesday, September 12, 5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Site: Jones Auditorium, and throughout the building. Cost: free. Come meet with college reps and Jones alums from small colleges catering to students at all levels. Juice and cookies will be served.

Complimentary parking unfortunately can not be provided for this event.

### ***Columbus Day Campus Tours***

Monday, October 8

Times and Campuses to be determined. Cost: free. Columbus Day offers an excellent opportunity to visit college campuses, as Jones is not in session but most colleges are. We will organize one or more tours to colleges in the Chicago area, most likely to schools in the suburbs. For families needing assistance, expenses will be paid by Jones; reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

### ***The Annual Performing and Visual Arts College Fair at Northwestern University***

Saturday, October 13, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Site: Northwestern University. Cost: free. This annual event is important for students interested in studying the performing or visual arts. See <http://nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/Events/CollegeFairs/NCF/FallNCF/FCHI.htm> for more information. We will be making a trip via public transit for a limited number of students, meeting at 12:15 p.m. at Ogilvie Station and returning at 3:30 p.m.. For families needing assistance, expenses will be paid by Jones; reservations will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis.

### ***The Annual National College Fair at Navy Pier***

Saturday, October 20, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Site: Navy Pier. Cost: free. This annual event is Chicago’s largest college fair, with an expected attendance of 8,000. We will arrange to meet students at the fair. For more information, consult:

<http://nacacnet.org/MemberPortal/Events/CollegeFairs/PVA/PCH.htm>

### ***ACT Registration Deadline (for FREE October 27 retake)***

Friday, September 21, free for seniors retaking the test. For more information, contact Matt Curtis.

### ***FREE ACT Retake***

Saturday, October 27, for seniors retaking the test. For more information, contact Matt Curtis.

### ***The Annual MLK HBCU (Historically Black Colleges and Universities) Fair at Navy Pier***

I do not have information on this fair yet, but I expect it to take place in early January, as it did last year.

**PLEASE NOTE!** If you are attending any of these fairs or tours on your own, please (!!!) consider carpooling and/or bringing along other Jones students. Encourage your children to invite their friends. This will benefit us all! **Thank you!**