

A Lookback

- Pierce Law

This February vacation, I went on a cold, frigid, but yet still enlightening college trip with my dad. It was a classic road trip: get in the car, drive to a college, get a tour, get back into the car, and keep driving. From Monday through Friday, a five day span, I visited seven colleges from Washington DC all the way to New York City. I had a few favorites when it was all said and done, and I came to realize what I did not know about myself, and what I wanted before I left.

My trip started with a six hour train ride from South Station in Boston to Union Station in Washington DC. I was meeting my dad, who was already down there for work, and I got to stay at my best friend's house, who lives in the suburbs of DC. Not even a day into my weeklong college adventure and I was already exhausted. But my anxiousness for the road ahead stemmed my exhaustion as I woke up bright and early to visit my first and second schools of the trip, Georgetown University and George Washington University. Although easily confused, these were two very different schools that stuck out in many different ways. Georgetown, which was on the more suburban side of DC, seemed to be an oasis of knowledge that separated itself from DC quite well while still remaining within miles from the center of downtown. George Washington on the other hand, seemed to focus more and more on the fact that they were in fact in downtown Washington DC. Though it seemed to have an excellent program, it just was not my cup of tea. Both a bland information session and tour gave the school a dry and unfulfilling aura, making it seem like they were trying to sell the school rather than educate those who attended.

Just a short time into my trip, and I already had a pretty good idea of what I did not like in a college. I had taken my first real steps on the road of my application to college and boy was it exciting. With each step I take I wait for the next with anxious anticipation to conquer it with practiced ease.