



2009 YEARBOOK



Q & A

Seniors from King and Trinity Catholic high schools in Stamford share their memories and visions as they prepare for today's commencement exercises.

Interviews by **Elizabeth Kim**
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Daniel Kang

Daniel Kang, a King senior from North Stamford, plans to pursue a dual degree in math and economics at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

ON DECIDING WHERE TO GO TO COLLEGE:

One of the reasons I chose to go to Wharton is that I really don't know that much about finance, and I think I should, given the current state of the economy.

Regardless of what career I end up choosing, business will help me get there.

TOUGHEST DECISION:

I had gotten into six of the eight schools I applied to. Having to choose between those six and having to choose between one school that offered \$20K every single year.

FAVORITE MEMORY FROM THE PAST FOUR YEARS:

Going to my older cousin's wedding.

I'm half Colombian and half South Korean, so having your whole family in one room is, I think, a very different experience. We just had people from everywhere. It was like a United Nations conference going on.

THE DOWNSIDE OF BEING PART OF A TECH-SAVVY GENERATION:

It fuels a want for instant fulfillment and gratification. Because we can Google and answer instantly rather than think about something and struggle with it, we just want it there for us.



Keith Busby

Keith Busby, a Trinity senior from Stamford, plans to study business at Villanova University.

WHAT KIND OF BUSINESS DO YOU WANT TO STUDY?

I was thinking along the lines of international, but beyond that, I'm entirely not sure.

MOST MEANINGFUL ACTIVITY:

I've been a Boy Scout in Troop 9, which is in Stamford. I joined at the end of fifth grade. And then I got Eagle Scout last year. I learned a lot—Everything from Scout skills, like knot-tying and first aid, to life skills, like leadership and taking responsibility. I love the program.

WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE A BOY SCOUT?

My father was a Boy Scout back when he was younger, and my brother was a Cub Scout and then a Boy Scout. So I followed suit. I wanted to

be like my brother, I think.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT:

Last year, I was senior patrol leader and given the task to run an event for the counsel, which is composed of troops mostly in Fairfield County. I was in charge of the event, and we ran it with Scouts only. It was a tremendous success.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT COLLEGE?

I am looking forward to a little more sense of independence. I kind of like being self-reliant and being conscious of my own schedule.

ON TEXTING:

I'm a little more old-fashioned. I still like calling people. It's just easier for me. I don't want to have a conversation with my fingers.



Melissa Schoenherr

Melissa Schoenherr, a Trinity senior from Stamford, plans to attend Boston College.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE BOSTON COLLEGE?

I think they have really great programs and academics. But my brother also goes there, and I think it's important to be with family. Family is a big part of my life. My brother is going to be a junior. My cousin is going to be a sophomore there. So that was a big factor.

DID MONEY HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR DECISION?

My parents have said that they really believe in education. They believe it's wasted on the youth. My mom wants to go back. They said that no matter where I go, they will find a way to pay for it.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT:

My goddaughter's christening. That meant a lot to me. When my cousin asked me to be her godmother, I was so touched. It meant so much to me that she would think of me.

HOBBIES OUTSIDE SCHOOL:

I've done dance for 13 years. I do jazz, ballet, pointe and lyrical. I absolutely love it.

ROLE MODEL:

My grandmother. Even though she died when I was in seventh grade, whenever I have a tough choice to make, I always think, "Would my grandma be proud of me if I did this?" And that helps me make the right decision.



Gabriela Jones

Gabriela Jones, a King senior from Rowayton, plans to study journalism at University of Michigan.

HOW DID YOU CHOOSE THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN?

When I first started applying, I decided I wanted to go the farthest south to get out of cold weather. But of course, I'm going farther north. I think that toward the end, I got more realistic and looked at the schools rather than just the locations.

WHAT WILL YOU MISS MOST ABOUT KING?

I'm going to miss the people. I've gotten really close to my class, the teachers and people at the school.

DID MONEY PLAY A ROLE IN THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS?

In my final decision it did, but when I was applying, it did not. I got accepted into Michigan as an in-state resident, so it's half the cost since it's a state school. My dad lives there. It was my No. 1 to begin with, so I got really lucky, and it was the cheapest school that I applied to. My mom was happy about that.

SUMMER PLANS:

I work at Cosi. So I'll be saving money, and then I will go to Guatemala in August. I'm half Guatemalan, so my family lives there.

DO KIDS REALLY TWITTER?

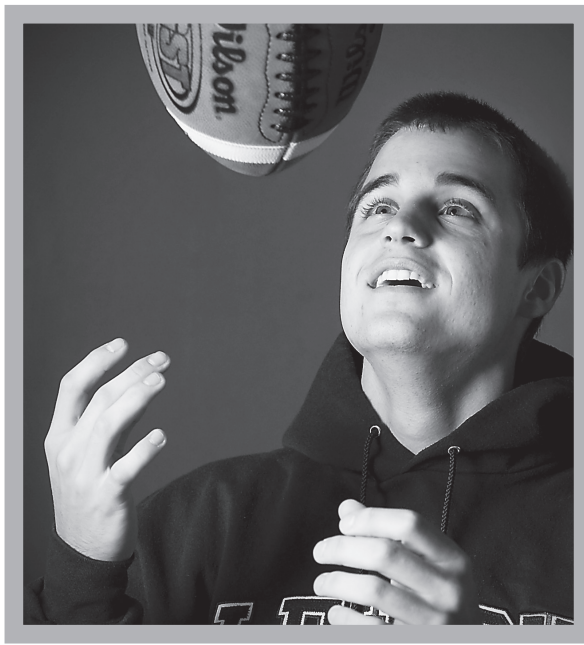
No. Twitter is a way that older people think that they're in touch with younger people, but none of us twitter. (Laughs.) So it's really just their own thing.

DREAM JOB:

Being a sports reporter. I feel like I have the personality for that, and I'm really into sports.

ON ASPIRING TO A CAREER IN A STRUGGLING INDUSTRY:

It's nerve-racking. But I think that in any field that you go into, knowing how to write, knowing how to make a story out of something, is really useful. I feel it will open a lot of pathways for me.



Mike Santoro

Mike Santoro, a King senior from Stamford, plans to study engineering at Lehigh University.

WHY ENGINEERING?

Ever since elementary school, I've loved math and science.

Engineering is a combination of both, so I figured it made sense.

DID MONEY HAVE AN IMPACT ON YOUR DECISION?

It definitely had some impact.

Lehigh offered me twice as much as Boston College, so that really played a factor in determining which college out of those two I chose.

Another college offered me even more than Lehigh, but I didn't like it as much. It caused a little conflict: Do I go to the one I like more or the one that offered me more money?

I chose the middle.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT COLLEGE?

A change of scenery. I've been at King for 12 years. I'm pretty excited to enter a new environment and meet new people.

SUMMER JOB:

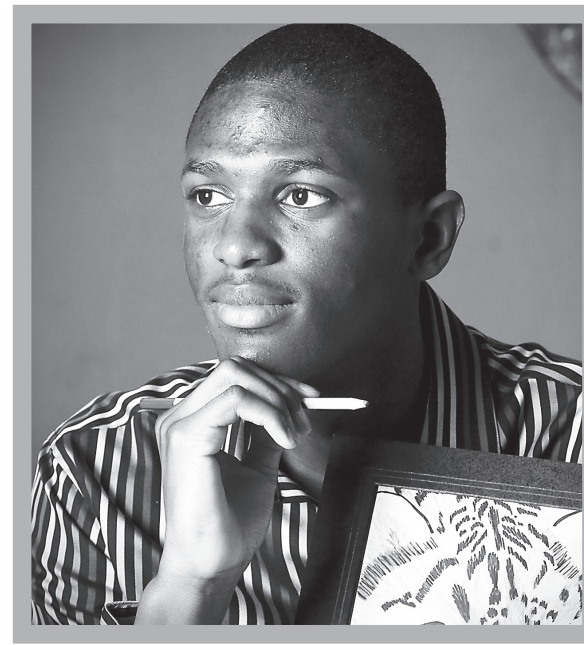
Working as a camp counselor at the Italian Center. It's not the best-paying job, but it's a way to enjoy myself and be outside.

MOST MEMORABLE MOMENT AT KING:

I was the captain of the football team, and we beat our rival Brunswick. We won in OT.

It was probably the biggest crowd ever at our school. There were so many people, and everyone rushed onto the field.

It was like pure happiness.



Ryan Adkins

Ryan Adkins, a Trinity senior from Greenwich, plans to study computational media at Georgia Institute of Technology.

DESCRIBE YOUR MAJOR:

It's animation, video game designing, special effects for movies, anything along those lines.

My dad is a computer engineer with IBM, so I've always been involved with computers. And I love art, so I wanted to mix the two together.

DREAM JOB:

Probably working somewhere at Disney or maybe a big-time video-game-designing company.

WHY DID YOU CHOOSE TO GO TO GEORGIA TECH?

Both of my parents graduated from Georgia Tech. So I've been there multiple times to see football games and basketball games. It's always been part of my life in a way, and I could just see myself also being there.

ON MOVING TO THE SOUTH:

I'm actually from the South. I was born in Florida. I moved to North Carolina, then to Texas and then to Connecticut. So even though I've been here for a while, the South is still in me. The transition shouldn't be too hard.

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FORWARD TO MOST ABOUT COLLEGE?

I'm going to join a fraternity, Kappa Alpha Psi. That's the fraternity my dad belongs to. He started the chapter at Georgia Tech.

Kappa Alpha Psi is a black fraternity, and it's all about brotherhood. It takes ordinary people and teaches them how to be extraordinary. It's like a family outside the family.

WHO IS YOUR ROLE MODEL?

I'd say my dad. He's built a strong family and has a successful job.

But as far celebrities go, I'd probably say P. Diddy. He's just an all-around talented person.