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Class of 2016 Alums Share with the Class of 2017

“It was a lot of worry; I was so stressed out,” explained Garden City High School alum Cristin Crowley about the college application process and her decision to apply “Early Action.” Looking in the rearview mirror as a freshman at Georgetown, she felt all the worry was really about “nothing. You really do end up in the place that’s best for you.”

Cristin was one of 18 members of the Class of 2016, pictured here with members of the Guidance Department, who returned to the high school to share their transition-to-college experiences with the current senior class. The alums spoke about adjusting to the college environment, including academic concerns such as class schedules, the workload, time management, grading policies, college class sizes, and advice about getting to know the professors. Socially, they addressed adjusting to roommates (including international students with limited English language), Greek life, clubs, and taking care of themselves (getting enough sleep, and limiting outside activities and distractions).

Many alums repeatedly stressed the importance of students challenging themselves academically by taking advantage of the high school’s many Advanced

Placement (AP) and College Level course opportunities, stating that the work load would prepare them well for college assignments. (And with the added benefit of gaining valuable college credit toward graduation, i.e., depending on a student's high school AP exam scores, colleges may waive one or more required college courses). One alum shared that she received an entire semester's worth of college credit because of the APs she took at Garden City High School, freeing her to graduate a semester early or lighten her course load along the way.

Many thanks to members of the Class of 2016: Sarah Banahan (Villanova), Jennifer Beihoff (Elizabethtown College), Brittany Costa (Adelphi), Cristin Crowley (Georgetown), Collier Curran (Dartmouth), Alexandra Evans (Providence), Katelyn Focella (Georgetown), Catherine Honan (Texas Christian), Mark Luglio (Fordham), Hannah McDonald (University of Pennsylvania), Howie Miller (Fordham – absent from photo), James Murphy (Ithaca), Breanne Naegele (Jefferson/Cabrini), Katelyn O'Hare (Drexel), Chloe Savino (Stony Brook University), Jayna Silva (Virginia Tech), Chloe Stapleford (Boston College), and Andrew Wykowski (Villanova).