

# Episode 70 - Aly Beaumont

 Tue, 4/27 7:27AM  36:52

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

students, activities, college, kids, aly, people, ice cream, colleges, scoops, parents, podcast, dessert, kenyon, summer, family, literally, panini maker, dining hall, soccer, andrews

## SPEAKERS

Moira McCullough, Aly Beaumont

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Moira McCullough 00:00

Welcome to the College Scoops podcast. I'm your host Moira McCullough, and today we're talking with Aly Beaumont to help juniors get prepared to tackle the activity list on the common app this summer.



Aly Beaumont 00:11

I tell students they should sit down with their parents and do you know brainstorm what activities should go on the common app as a family because parents have never forgotten anything that their child's ever done.



Moira McCullough 00:31

This is the College Scoops podcast and I'm your host Moira McCullough, we focus on everything college related from the admissions process to where to eat, stay and explore on and round campuses. Our guests include founders, educators, authors and experts in the college space. Join us as these experts share their knowledge, experiences and lessons learned to help you have stress free and formative and tasty college journeys. Whether it's your first or last child going to college, or you're just interested in going to a college town for a game or meal, we've got you covered. If you haven't already, please subscribe to the College Scoops podcast to get the inside scoop, send everything college related, and

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A

Aly Beaumont 02:48

You're welcome. I'm happy to be here.

M

Moira McCullough 02:50

I'm thrilled to meet you not in person, but on zoom. I feel like I talked with your son recently who you introduced me to. He is kind enough to be our Kenyon student ambassador. And what a lovely son. I always like telling parents that when I meet their kids, I'm like, Oh, he's so nice. Such a great communicator, and a joy to speak to. So congratulations, Mom. You did it.

A

Aly Beaumont 03:14

Thank you as he always likes to say I'm his favorite child. However, he says that, but I always laugh because I actually tell each of my children, they're my favorite child. I just said you're my favorite child. And a minute later, he was my favorite child.

**M** Moira McCullough 03:32

That's the way we moms have to roll with it. Exactly. So you are first off a mom with three, one graduated one in college, two in college.

**A** Aly Beaumont 03:42

Three boys - one who graduated from Santa Clara University and he's 24. One is almost 22 a week graduating from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland this year and a sophomore at Kenyon Nikki, who you spoke to who's 20.

**M** Moira McCullough 03:57

So we will have to have another podcast to talk about the whole St. Andrews and applying to attending and graduating an international rockstar school like the University of St. Andrews.

**A** Aly Beaumont 04:09

If I could go to college now as I've seen so many colleges in the world, sign me up for St. Andrews tomorrow.

**M** Moira McCullough 04:16

But today you're coming on because we have so many students that are getting ready in high school for the summer and trying to organize themselves in terms of the common app and looking at activities and extracurricular activities. And we'd love some advice and guidance for those families. So first off, like how do you even approach the comment the activities section of the common application? I mean, I've had three kids now go through it. And it's always like, a first time around. So you're the expert.

**A** Aly Beaumont 04:46

I actually tell families, I tell students they should sit down with their parents and you know brainstorm what activities should go on the common app as a family because parents have never forgotten anything that their child's ever done. Most students, when they sit down to first do the activities go, I don't know, I can only think of one or two. And then their parent would walk in the room and be like, well, you did this and you did this, don't you remember you did that. So that's the first thing. First of all, people should just think

about it. Colleges are just looking to know what a student did and how they spent their time. So those are what activities are, how did you spend your time? But you know, what exactly makes for an activity? That's a little complicated. So one kid can say, I don't know, I love to bake, is that an activity? Well, it's not an activity. If you bake once a week, it is activity. If you bake every week, and you experiment with different recipes, and you follow, you know, five baking blogs, and you are constantly tweaking new things and creating new delicacies. That's an activity, or a counselor wrote in and said, I have a student, and he has done so many informational interviews with people about the different industries and jobs that they have. And he goes think that's an activity. And we're all like, not really. And so then one of the counselors wrote in, but if he blogged about it, that's an activity.

M

Moira McCullough 06:14

And that's a big distinction, right?

A

Aly Beaumont 06:17

It's a big distinction, and what exactly is an activity? So I had a girl who had two dogs, and that in and of itself, not an activity, but she actually she bred her two dogs. She was the one who was responsible in her household for hiking her dogs every day and grooming them and keeping track of their food and she built a whelping box, well, then it became a huge activity for this kid.

M

Moira McCullough 06:40

Well, I think sometimes when you start off and you think about writing your brag sheet, or what it is that you've done, we don't necessarily like to talk about ourselves for spat out all the wonderful things that we've done. And as you're right, as a parent, I remember sitting with my kids, and I immediately rattled off five different things. But if I were in their shoes, I probably would have had the same dilemma. And not coming forth with all the wonderful things that we do everything that we don't take credit for, or think of in a different manner.

A

Aly Beaumont 07:10

I think that most kids just don't honestly, the school stuff is pretty easy. They usually remember Okay, I was like, on the yearbook committee, and I was in, you know, Latin club or whatever it is the kind of things they do at school, I did robotics, it's the other stuff that they'd spend their time doing that they might not necessarily think of their parents really helped.

**M****Moira McCullough 07:31**

I love that, because that starts the conversation, too. It's this process is so stressful, as we both know, from a parent and being in the industry that having that discussion with your parents earlier in high school so that it's not junior year, summer.

**A****Aly Beaumont 07:46**

Well, actually. So that's very true. We have a regular conversation around dinner at our house where we talk about, what are you thinking about for this summer? What have you been up to, and some of our most fun ideas and some of the things that our kids end up doing, and loving the most come out of those conversations. Actually, you know, last year during COVID, was a big time where all of a sudden, everything that kids had planned was canceled, you know, and it was right around this time last year. And we're like, what are you going to do for this summer, and I had two kids in college who were needing to make money over the summer beyond also wanting work experience. And we all started brainstorming, and my one son, who's a Kenyan, is super creative type. And he's just the kind of kid who, I don't know he can cook things not because anyone ever taught him but because he's creative, and he likes it. And he'll just get on, you know, whatever blog and start messing around and come up with recipes. So somehow, I don't even know how it came out. He decided he was going to start making ice cream. And he literally said, well, I want to make ice cream. Yes, I like that idea. Because everything else we said he does not want to work with kids. I've worked with kids for years. I don't want to do that. I know this that. He goes yeah, making ice cream sounds good. And all of a sudden he goes I'm gonna call my company Munch Creamy and he was like, I'm gonna make custom ice cream for people. And no joke. He literally like it came out of that dinner conversation. He started a company he got first one ice cream maker that he ended up ordering a second we funded the ice cream makers to begin with, but he ended up paying us back he literally started this company and said I will create custom ice cream flavors for you put it up on our town Facebook pages. And next thing you know, had literally 100 orders couldn't even keep track of the orders. And he made vegan free dairy free ice cream. I don't even know how he came up with the recipes. He was making them up on the fly and it was the most unbelievably delicious ice cream you've ever imagined. And he ended up giving away half the money he kept for himself for college expenses and half the money he donated to Yale Pediatric Hospital. It was incredible and he didn't even what he ended up doing is you're not supposed to be making food in your house and selling it he ended up saying to people I'm giving you the ice cream and if you want to give me a donation please do. And people were so generous and so excited that he was doing something. It was like a huge hit. He has, I think more followers on his Munch Creamy Facebook page than I have on my business page.

M

Moira McCullough 10:11

That's another thing Nikki and I have in common here, I'm gonna have to swap out some of my brownies for his ice. Think about that, not only from the creative side with making it, but then how do you package it? How are you marketing it? You could have a great idea but then you're left with all this ice cream with nothing, you know, nowhere to put it.

A

Aly Beaumont 10:36

It was incredible. He had to figure out how to store it all because we didn't have that much freezer space. So he ended up finding people who gave him freezer space, he had to figure out, as you said, packaging, he got these adorable, you know, quart containers that look like cow prints. He had to come up with a logo and create a logo he had to come up with and create his Facebook page. He had to figure out how he was doing his social media marketing, and just literally keeping track of all of his orders and what people were paying him and how much money he was going to donate and what he was doing. It was a huge undertaking. He was great at the making ice cream. He is my creative kid. So the business part got him a little box there for a while in the middle.

M

Moira McCullough 11:16

So did you help him out?

A

Aly Beaumont 11:19

He did. He said, Nope. This is my deal. I'm doing it. He was a little overwhelmed. Because he went from sitting around doing nothing to literally working 14 hour days, I'd come down to 10 o'clock at night and he'd be making his his ice cream formulas for the next day because you freeze them overnight. And then you put them in the machine and the whole bit. So he like never stopped. And then he was going around town literally delivering them. He had to figure out getting ice cream and ice bags to like take them all around to how many could he take before they would not be frozen enough? and everything. It was amazing.

M

Moira McCullough 11:51

Absolutely. Do you think he'll continue it just out of curiosity?

A

Aly Beaumont 11:55

So that's really interesting. He has an internship in New York City, but it's unpaid. So he will probably make ice cream to make up some spending money for college again this year. Now he has all these followers who want it who are like, are you making ice cream again this year?

M

Moira McCullough 12:12

What's the summer flavor? I mean, come on we need to know.

A

Aly Beaumont 12:15

I'm not kidding. He made so many creative, crazy flavors. I can't even tell you. He made strawberry out of fresh strawberries. He made mint out of fresh mint. We bought mint plants, and he grew them. I mean, it was unbelievable.

M

Moira McCullough 12:28

So and I think what he probably learned like that one idea that was generated out of that family brainstorming session, all of a sudden, it's like, I like that as a hobby too. But there's so many other aspects that you learn, okay, is this something that I would want to do full time? Do I like the creative part of it, but I definitely would want to bring in a business partner to deal with the business aspect and all the admin. So I think from a student's point of view, it's, it's wonderful to see that, that idea, you know, really take off. And then the learning experiences from that

A

Aly Beaumont 13:03

100%, I can't tell you, I actually, you know, I always call them my COVID silver linings. But I really think one of the biggest COVID silver linings that has come out of this entire pandemic, is students have gone back to sort of an old fashioned basics, getting involved in activities and things they love that are local, they've gotten away from, you know, having to be gone for the summer doing these pay for play programs, it's come back to sort of a basics, and everyone is being so much more creative about what they're doing. And I think that's such a huge bonus, because it's also people are doing things that are accessible to you, sort of no matter what income level you come back come from. And I think that's incredible. And they're also doing amazing volunteer things that are local, that are making differences in the small communities that they live in.

M

Moira McCullough 13:51

You're right. And I hope that's some of the things that will continue on. Because we know when you have kids, as parents, you're supporting them, you're tired driving them around to everything. It's just to get a checklist to what looks good on paper, and then we lost the just come out and play the way I grew up, go out and play at eight o'clock, come back at five and dare step inside until it's fine. It's okay, and to your point access to all. So there are so many opportunities that you don't need money for that you

A

Aly Beaumont 14:20

Just need a thought and kindness in order to do something like that. What you just said reminded me of a student I had last year, she was a really amazing singer. And COVID had everyone was still worried about people who were in the nursing homes, and just you know, the lack of social interaction. And her singing group would go every weekend and sing outside the windows.

M

Moira McCullough 14:39

So those are those types of things. I would love to know Are there certain resources or things on the internet or where you could point students to to find something like that, or obviously like you said this, this young student had a great voice and created that opportunity for herself. So are those some of the things that you're kind of recommending to students or sharing?

A

Aly Beaumont 15:01

No, I start when I speak to a student about, you know, what can you do during this time and especially during COVID? I literally tried to get them to think first about their own life. And I say, Is there someone in your life or something in your life that you think you could make a difference to help. And I was on the phone, you know, or I was on a zoom with the student of mine the other day, and she was a big soccer player in the crossfire and she goes, Oh, my God, we really need a new goal, we really need a new goal and new nets at our rec center. And I said, Great, so now you know, something that you want to do like that you want, you want to try to help get your rec center a new goal, because yours is like falling apart. And it's so bad. And it's really hard to play with. And I said, Now let's think creatively. What can you do to to get that goal, like, how can you help? So then I also try to get them to think even more. I had a student last year, who was a big soccer player, you know, really, really good soccer player. And so I said, Well, what can you do to help people during COVID? And she's like, Well, everyone is like, really over their kids, you know, and

just the way she said it made me laugh. It was like, a little bit like a reliever over there little kids. And she's like, well, maybe I could go on the town local pages and say I'll do a socially distance small groups of kids, and I'll teach them soccer, little kids, like I'll do soccer clinics for an hour, two hours at a time for little kids outside socially distance. And I said, Great. And I said, Why don't you do that, and telling this other student how my student did that. And I was like, if you did that, like she's an incredible soccer player, this student I was on with last week. And I said, if you did that, and just volunteered to give soccer clinics and then same thing, tell parents, they can donate to you, whatever they feel comfortable with. And say you're going to use the money to get a soccer goal for your rec center. I was like, I guarantee people end up being more generous when they realize like what you're doing. And usually they're just so excited to also see young people like taking their own initiative and doing things on their own.

M

Moira McCullough 16:56

I think from that mentorship, it's actually a win win. Because I think the high school students feel like there's younger students who look up to them, and who really need them. And what they're doing is you can see, we know when you see a smile on a student's face, that's that's worth everything. They're getting more than they're giving.

A

Aly Beaumont 17:14

Right? So I don't know I have a few independent educational consultants have had lists going around. But I say you first start with the number one thing that any kid could do is get a job, right? And and get a local job if you want. And I think of things like babysitting, dog walking, doing some sort of private coaching, be it soccer, tennis, golf, baseball, whatever lessons for something music, what have you, you could do any kind of yard work or landscaping, especially now there's so many older people who need help with, you know, something at their house. There's tutoring, there's lifeguarding there's camp counseling, there's being a barista at a coffee shop, or you know, working at a supermarket or restaurant or hosting any of those things, dishwashing, you know, delivery driver for pizza, what have you a golf course caddy. And then there's also local opportunities for volunteering, and just literally that's thinking about who might need help in your area. It can be something more organized, like volunteering with a hospital or a nursing home or an animal shelter, you know, a first aid squad or elementary school tutoring or something like that. Local Food Banks and churches. I mean, the list goes on and on libraries, museums, parks, or benches like, you know, a beach is anything not for profits. But there's also like a lot of national organizations right now that need volunteers.

**M** Moira McCullough 18:37

What are some of those that you have or students have had - good experiences with or you would recommend to your students?

**A** Aly Beaumont 18:46

There's all different kinds of things. There's Meals on Wheels, there's, I know some kids who have done different programs, and I can't think of the name right off the bat. But there's one where you can write letters to senior citizens, and create like a pen pal relationship with senior citizens. If you even Google what are remote virtual volunteer opportunities? There's so many things that kids are doing, you know, I like kids to do something. There's a student I worked with this year, who is a great piano player, he actually developed his own 501 c three, he taught piano lessons to little kids and he use the money to buy instruments for kids in an area around us that the high schools really can't afford to have instruments for the kids. So I mean, there's so many ways you can take it, just think of something that you can do. I mean, I know somebody in our town was making cinnamon rolls, somebody was making holla bread, like you know, and every time somebody jumps up to do something like that people get excited to support them

**M** Moira McCullough 19:43

Exactly - doing something that they love and doing something that they care about which they're actually get excited, versus just again going through and doing it just because the expectation is that they do something Have you heard about anchor, it is the easiest way to make a podcast and it's free. You can use their own creation tools to record and edit your podcast right from your phone. Anchor will distribute your podcast for you. So it can be heard on Spotify, Apple podcast, iTunes, and many more. You can make money from your podcast with no minimum listenership. If it sounds easy it is because it is. Here's how you do it, download the free anchor app, or go to [anchor.fm](https://anchor.fm) to get started.

**A** Aly Beaumont 20:39

Volunteer Match which is a great place, there's something called do Something.org, which is another organization kids could go through. There's so many things when students have all these different activities that they come to you and they're like, here.

**M** Moira McCullough 20:54

What do I do with this? What is some guidance that you would give to students as they start to work on that test this summer?

A

Aly Beaumont 21:03

Okay, so the first thing I actually if you're looking at your common application, which is the application that most students would use to apply to colleges, I actually like kids to start with the activity section, which is a section where you can write about 10 different activities. And you get 50 characters to write about what your position or leadership description is. 100 characters write about the organization name, and then 150 characters to write about your activity description, or what your actual accomplishments are. It is very little space, when you get down to it. I asked students to start with that section, because I think it's the easiest section of the common app. And I actually think it can then give you ideas to brainstorm writing your college essay and your other essays from first thing because you have so much limited space, do not write full sentences. Instead listings, you want to use really strong positive, like action words, and less, you know, adjectives and adverbs, you want to be really specific, and you want to quantify things as much as possible. So if you can use a lot of numbers, say like I was, first out of 66. In the state championships, things like that are really, really helpful. You want to emphasize any leadership skills that you have. And you want to describe your activities in the current tense. People tend to describe things in the past tense, but mostly kids are still doing those same activities. So that's really important. And describe more things that you have done versus like, if you're editor of the school yearbook, for example, don't just say I'm editor of the school yearbook, say what kind of talents you've developed through being editor of the school yearbook, or what you've done, you run weekly meetings, you manage a team of 20, as the editor, you, you know, go through copy, you have to proofread everything before it goes out, like say what you do,

M

Moira McCullough 23:01

Don't just say what your title is - it is really good advice. And then when you talk about putting everything down to it also helps to put down as much as you can, because then you'll start to look through things. And there'll be common themes, or repeats, or you're a member of these 15. But these three, you actually had a more active role.

A

Aly Beaumont 23:21

Well, yes. And actually, today's teens are so incredibly accomplished. I always get amazed, I get so many kids who come to me and they're like, I have way more than 10

activities. I'm like, what do you mean, you have way more than 10 activities? And they're like, but I do so then what ends up happening is when you see common themes, you're like, Okay, great. I can put in band, chorus, and performing arts all in one activity. And I can combine them that way, I can actually get 10 things down as opposed to less. And some kids come to me and they literally only have three activities. And first of all colleges don't care. Colleges want to see that you're dedicated and focused on what you want. They would rather see you a kid who's really committed to their three activities than necessarily a kid who does 10 And isn't that committed to any of them?

M

Moira McCullough 24:07

That's a great point. Because somebody you could be so focused on filling out the 10. But you're saying get really good ones.

A

Aly Beaumont 24:15

That's the whole thing about college admissions Be true to who you are all the way through. I have some kids who only have a couple of activities, but they have incredible depth in those activities. And then sometimes you have to take an activity and you can split it up into multiple things at a championship horseback rider this year. Well, she was a championship horseback rider, but she also prepped horses for other kids in the ring. She also did quite a bit of work in the barn because she was kind of a working student as well. So it wasn't actually the one activity that you wrote it down at by the time she finished it was actually for activities. And the other advice that you have for students college admissions has become such a pressure filled journey for so many that I don't want to put more pressure on those students. I would like to speak to a student for an hour a year in Nigeria. And then our year in 10th grade. And that hour is mostly around core selection and their activities, believe very strongly that you should encourage kids to follow their passions and do what they like. I know that there's other independent educational consultants will guide say very highly motivated students who are looking at highly selective colleges. And they will say to them, well, you should consider, you know, dropping Model UN, so that you can focus more I don't even know on, you know, being president of the Latin society or something or dropping, you know, playing basketball, which you really like, so that you can focus more on debate. I don't do that. I actually don't believe in that, I believe, hey, guess what? High School might be the time that you get to play basketball, and you should play basketball because you like basketball. Not, you know, you should think about dropping basketball because it might help you to get into Georgetown in three years. So I actually tell students do what you love. But I, the biggest thing I say to them, is do what you love. But also keep in mind, you're very lucky to be a high school student doing what you love. Keep in mind other people and always try to

give back to somebody else in your life at a good life lesson for us all.

M

Moira McCullough 26:16

Absolutely, definitely. I also think though, you alluded to it to your only kid once. I mean, isn't there something to be said for maybe just picking up a book and reading a book for pleasure? I actually think having a summer of just not being over programmed, would do us all.

A

Aly Beaumont 26:34

But that's the COVID silver lining again, exactly. I had this year on the common app, one of the questions was - how COVID effective you? I had so many students who said to me, I know this sounds really horrible. And I don't know if I can write this, but my life's better now. They're like, I sleep more, I eat better. I have time to like, talk with my family and just relax. I read books. And I said to them, You know what, that's a great answer. That is an okay answer to put an actually, I've heard from several college admissions officers, they really liked those answers.

M

Moira McCullough 27:10

I almost think you don't get that honest answer. And all those other write applications, all those others are because you think that you have to do it. And this is just plain. I actually liked it better. And I actually had more fun. And I liked hanging out with my family and playing, you know, Scrabble a card game, or just taking a walk on the beach. You know, we're having these, like you said, brainstorming sessions with your family about who can come up with a different business. There was less pressure for a lot of kids during COVID.

A

Aly Beaumont 27:39

As much as all the horrible stuff and it's not to negate the horrible stuff, because there's been incredibly horrible things. And some kids have been through nightmare. But there was this no pressure zone for a lot of students. That was really great.

M

Moira McCullough 27:52

And I want to touch on you also, during this time, you set up a company, and you helped form this new company, The College T. So tell us a little bit about that.

A

Aly Beaumont 28:02

So that again, to me was a COVID silver lining. So I when COVID hit, I had students myself who were accepted to colleges that they had never seen, and they were sort of panicked, and what are we going to do and you know, there's no way to go see these colleges now. And I don't know how I could possibly make a decision. So I put on our town Facebook pages, I have some students who have been accepted to colleges that they can't see. You know, are there any college students out there who'd be willing to talk to local high school students about the colleges they've been accepted to? Next thing I knew it just like, took off like wildfire. And I had over 500 students, I couldn't believe it. Like, I couldn't even keep track of them all. Like, I had my kids involved and helping me create Google Docs, because I'm not so good with technology. And then next thing I knew, I was connected to another young woman, Amanda Jaffe, who is one of the other founders of The College T. And she had done the exact same thing in her town, which is a town over from us. And she had like another 160 people. And then George Copley, who's the other founder of The College T reached at me. He said, I'd really like to make this into a website. I was like, that's a great idea. I have no time to help you. And that was basically the conversation. And I said, but you know, I'm all for being involved in advising you guys as much as I can. And I have to tell you, I found him another intern who was a friend of mine, his daughter who jumped on the Neeve McCarthy, and his mom got involved in doing PR stuff. And he brought him his partner. And literally, the young people ran with it. They were amazing. And they've created this website, and most of the kids from the original list, jumped over and decided to be ambassadors is really incredible.

M

Moira McCullough 29:42

There's definitely great synergies between the two. I love talking.

A

Aly Beaumont 29:45

Thank you. And I know that we're also excited for the ambassadors to start doing some of the College Scoops Q&A. I think it will be great.

M

Moira McCullough 29:52

So Aly, what do you wish you knew before you attended college?

A

Aly Beaumont 29:56

Okay, so I had to think about that one for quite a while. I have two things. The first is not

to take things so seriously. I think when you are 18,19, 20, 21 years old, everything seems so incredibly dire and important. And you know, in retrospect, going back now, as a 50, something year old looking back, it's not so important. There's really most things will not have a major life effect on you. That's the first thing. And the second thing is, I really wish that I had gone to class more, I was not a very good student in high school, and I wasn't a great college student, when I love something, I was really good. And I went to school all the time. And I was really involved. And when I wasn't that interested, I just wasn't that interested. And now looking back, I actually wish I had spent more time on the things I wasn't so interested in.

M

Moira McCullough 30:49

When I went to Columbia Business School, I, I went through an executive program, and I did it all on my own. And my parents said, I wish you had that energy when we paid for your college. So I think that as a parent now I keep on saying to my kids, Oh, please, I hope that college is a wonderful opportunity for students and not everyone has access. So I'm with you. I think both of your answers were right along my answers, and I could have easily swapped out alley with my name. Are there any other desserts or campuses, if you're going to specific campus, you take a detour to go to a specific dessert place or food.

A

Aly Beaumont 31:25

First of all, I love this question so much. So I have two answers for that one, two. The first one is I am a huge cookie lover. And to me, the ultimate cookie is the chocolate chip cookie. And my favorite thing is that when you use in normal, non COVID times, when you tour Skidmore College, they actually take you through the dining hall and give you a choice of cookies and you get to take a cookie on your walk, which I think every college give everybody a cookie. And they were really, really good, by the way. So that was the first thing. And the second one is Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, has in their dining hall, waffle makers and the waffles are in the shape of the state of Texas. And waffles fill them up with you know, whipped cream and ice cream and the whole bit. I was just dying because to me I was like it was so Texas to get this huge Belgian waffle shape of the state of Texas. I thought that that's like maybe my favorite all time dessert I've ever seen that the college.

M

Moira McCullough 32:26

If it was Rhode Island, I wouldn't have been as thrilled with it. It's Texas,

A

Aly Beaumont 32:34

It was just so Texas. I loved it so much. I can't even tell you I tell everyone about the waffle iron.

M

Moira McCullough 32:39

I love the fact that you're one of the few podcast guests. We got a couple others that have actually picked Dining Hall, which is absolutely wonderful because it means that, it's right there on campus. There's great dessert and food on campus, you don't have to go off it's go into your own dining hall. And here's where you can where you can find some gems.

A

Aly Beaumont 33:01

Well actually, let me add a third then, because the president of Kenyon College, so I can't take credit for this one, Sean Tucker, he will actually tell you that this is one of his favorite things about Kenyon. He likes to go into the dining hall and they have chocolate chip cookies, and they have a Panini maker there. And he likes to take the chocolate chip cookie, and put it in between two pieces of wax paper and put it in the Panini maker. It is so delicious. When it comes out. He's like it's all gooey and hot. And he's like, there may be a little ice cream on top. So again, it goes back to my love of chocolate chip cookies that I remember this.

M

Moira McCullough 33:38

I look at my oldest son is at University of Richmond. And when I asked him, what are your thoughts? Do you like the school all he kept on talking about was the dessert bar. And that was his one takeaway. And I'm like, whatever. So if you're a parent, you have a kid and all they talk about is the food or some other aspect of the college. Right? It's all good. And my moto is, you know, dessert first. So of course, as a parent, I was all over that as well.

A

Aly Beaumont 34:02

God, you would think both of us were huge the way we're talking right?

M

Moira McCullough 34:05

Well, we do know that if we did go on a college visit, we'd have bring along some walking shoes or something so that we would be able to walk over whatever we ate.

A

Aly Beaumont 34:14

So actually, that's my big joke is that when I tour colleges, I usually eat so much when I'm there that one of the first things I like to do in the morning is go for a jog and I'm not normally a runner. I'm a good you know, I work out and I do other things. But I'd like to jog because first of all, I think it's a great vantage point to see a campus at eight o'clock in the morning or 7:30 in the morning, when everyone's just waking up and you go jog around and it's a great way to sort of get another look on what life on campus is like. And because I tend to eat all day when I'm going so at least then I don't feel as guilty.

M

Moira McCullough 34:47

My daughter laughed when I dropped her off for orientation. I bring my bathing cap and goggles wherever I go because I'm a swimmer. I jump into any of the master's programs and we were at orientation and she's like, where's my mom? I had just gotten out of a master's program, and I'm running to the orientation and she knew that I had to get that in before we start our day. So you and I, Aly, I love a good approach to college visits. Aly, thank you so much for coming on our show today.

A

Aly Beaumont 35:14

Thank you so much for having me. I really appreciate it. It was so much fun.

M

Moira McCullough 35:21

Thank you, Aly for joining us today as we discussed ways in which students can best prepare for the summer of 2021. Students start the activity section on the common app by listing in bullet format and short sentences, everything you have been involved in. Ask your parents to join in on the conversation, as every parent loves to brag and point out all the great accomplishments of their children. Be true to who you are, and get involved in activities, organizations and volunteering opportunities that you truly enjoy. Get a job it is really important as you will learn more lifelong skills and whatever job you get. And remember, it's important to have depth in any activity versus being a passive member of many. You can find all of our show notes and links to the helpful resources mentioned throughout our conversation on our website at [collegescoops.com](https://collegescoops.com) podcast. You can learn more about Aly and Admissions Village on her website at [Admissionsvillage.com](https://Admissionsvillage.com). Please take a couple of minutes to rate review and subscribe to College Scoops. Thank you for listening to our College Scoops podcast. Our entire College Scoops team strives to make the college journey a little bit easier, less stressful, fun and tasty by sharing all the inside scoops we have curated along the way. We would love to hear from you about topics to

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