

# TAKING THE NEXT STEP

WITH **ROBIN ABEDON**, CERTIFIED EDUCATIONAL PLANNER

Essential Information for the College Bound

## January 2015



It is another new year. They certainly seem to begin and end with great speed. My mind immediately focuses on my high school seniors who are making plans for next year. A few have a clear sense of the college they will be attending. For them, the uncertainty is over. More are not going to make that decision until the news arrives in the Spring. Wherever the year 2015-6 takes you, it will be in an academic environment where you will have the opportunity to participate in courses and programs that will be intellectually stimulating..

During your college years, I hope you will have the unique opportunity to meet a professor such as Eric Fair who has spent the Fall semester 2014 teaching a writing course at Lehigh University, ***Writing War***.



**[Writing War](#)**

In a New York Times Op-Ed article, December 10, 2014, Fair describes himself as "a soldier, police officer and an interrogator -- grateful to Lehigh for the opportunity to teach the course. The school's willingness to put a veteran in the classroom is the very thing this country needs to be doing in order to collectively process what the last 13 years of war have wrought. But teaching a class about war reminded me daily that I am no college professor. I was an interrogator at Abu Ghraib. I tortured."



### **Which School?**

**Your decision is one of the most important you will ever make.**



Every day of his life he lives with that reality. Every day of their lives his students do not. Yet, for that moment in their education, they were introduced to details of a troubling moment in American history by a man who tortured the enemy and who feels compelled to share his involvement "in painful truths of history". He invited his students to hear his story, to analyze the situation and to form their own conclusions.

This represents the best of a college education. It is living history. It is an example of what an education in the Humanities can offer its students: courses that provoke thought and discussion of difficult concepts and historical realities. How fortunate these Lehigh students have been to learn from a professor who has the integrity to teach from his own "transgressions" so that they "will come to know that this country isn't always something to be proud of."

I encourage you to read Eric Fair's complete Op-Ed [article](#) in the New York Times.

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