



fall | 2012

www.THESHORTLIST.org

Meet Some of Our Clients

THE SHORT LIST'S success stories: Princeton China



Empowerment: Summer

Multiple Applications



The Short List started working with Summer after she had been denied by most of the schools to which she had applied. We had worked with

several of Summer's classmates who recommended she speak to us before deciding between acceptance to a U.S. school that did not excite her, school in the U.K., or a gap year before applying again.

Summer was a top student who should have had more choices. It soon became clear that her application materials were a key part of the problem: There was no theme to them. Her essays were not very well thought out and she did not highlight the things that we felt would have made her stand out.

Summer had gone through a very difficult year. In addition to applying to college, she was completing the final year of her IB diploma program. While challenging, this workload should have been manageable for someone with Summer's academic record. We pressed for more information and finally learned

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Greetings from THE SHORT LIST

Letter from Our Founder

This has been a year of multiples as The Short List continues to expand. We had students with multiple acceptances. We also had multiple students accepted into the same elite schools, including three to Princeton, two to Harvard, four to NYU, and four to Tufts. Some of our students were accepted into multiple programs, including one who was accepted into a joint JD/MBA program and another into the dual program between Columbia University in New York City and Sciences Po in Paris, France. We even saw our own staff grow and now have staff in multiple locations, including New York City, Massachusetts, Virginia, California, Hong Kong, and New Jersey.

Our most common multiple remains students from the same high school because so much of our business is referral. You can find profiles of many of our students on our redesigned website: www.theshortlist.org

The multiple that makes us the proudest is the multiple donations we received to The Short List College Fund. In this newsletter, read how one family found a way to serve every student at a New York City public school. Please contact us if you would like to donate to this fund or learn about other ways to help our pro-bono clients.

As another school year starts, we acknowledge the hard work of our clients. Regardless of where they come from, what they plan to study, which school they call home, or what career path they may be pursuing, we congratulate them and wish them all the best.

— Bill Short, Founder and President



www.theshortlist.org

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: **Cornell**

New York

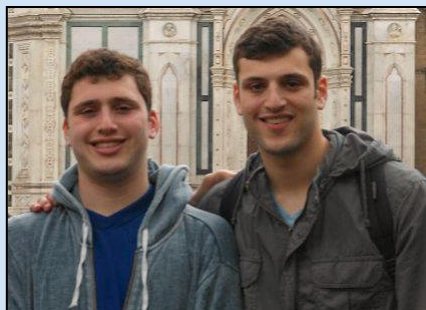
**Reduced Stress: MICHAEL****Multiple Siblings**

The Short List has worked with many siblings, including many sets of twins and younger siblings who have watched an older sibling go through the process. Even among siblings, every student is different.

We worked with Michael's older brother three years ago and met Michael, then a high school freshman, at Zach's graduation dinner. Michael asked if he might be able to work with The Short List too.

We started working with Michael in his sophomore year, which gave him plenty of time to plan out the process. He was studying Latin at the time. After traveling to Nicaragua for a sophomore community service spring break, during which he was frustrated by not being able to communicate with the people he was trying to help, Michael decided to switch

to Spanish so he could return to Nicaragua the following spring and converse with the villagers.



Brothers Michael and Zach

He arrived back in Nicaragua a year later and many of the villagers greeted him by name. They shared stories about their lives, families, and aspirations, and Michael began to understand the true benefit of language.

Michael enrolled in a Spanish course that summer to accelerate his learning and allow him to enter Spanish III as a senior. The Nicaragua trips and summer program had changed his thinking about what he wanted to study, so he took his time exploring colleges and applying.

Michael began to look for strong language and economics programs that would allow him to continue studying Spanish and economics in the third world, especially Central America. Michael's relaxed strategy paid off; he was accepted to almost every school to which he applied and elected to attend Cornell University. He wrote, "I intend to continue learning Spanish and study abroad in one of Cornell's many Spanish-speaking programs. Cornell requires all study abroad classes to be taught in the language of that country, which will unquestionably aid in my ability to speak Spanish fluently one day."

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: **NYU and Tufts**

Turkey

**Unique Approach: Nancy and Tim****Multiple Classmates**

Nancy's family works for the State Department and has hosted several international community presentations for The Short List. We met Tim at the presentation they organized for us in Istanbul, Turkey. It was clear from our first meeting that Nancy and Tim were good friends. They had just returned from a school trip to Nepal and were eager to share their experiences with us. They also shared their stories.



Nancy and Tim

and soon began considering a life in the performing arts. She began looking for schools with strong acting programs.

Nancy and her mother traveled back to the United States in the spring of her senior year for several interviews and auditions. She rehearsed her songs and monologues while we helped her prepare her resumé and prep for her interviews. She returned a week later and waited for the results.

When Tim came to The Short List he was very clear on a few things: he wanted to have an urban college experience at a school with a strong international student population. Having lived in Paris, Madrid, and Istanbul, Tim was accustomed to a diverse and cosmopolitan community. He had always enjoyed math and science in school and had a real passion for technology. So as he started thinking about a college major, he realized it had to be something that

would incorporate math, science, and technology, and focused on schools with computer engineering.

Tim was also able to make a trip to the US, so we worked with him to maximize his campus visits and prepare him for his interviews at a number of schools that met his criteria. Later, as Tim worked through his college essays, we pushed him to reveal the interests and passions he had as a student and individual. He was able to express himself in beautiful essays that were infused with his wry humor. The only question that remained was whether his colleges would recognize his unique qualities.

When April finally arrived, both Nancy and Tim received news that they had been accepted to top universities. Nancy is now a freshman in NYU Tisch School's nationally ranked acting program, and Tim is just hours away in Boston at Tufts University where he is enrolled in their highly acclaimed engineering program.

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: **Columbia University and Sciences Po**

France

**Total Happiness:** *Marie-Sophie***Multiple Programs**

Marie-Sophie is French and was attending a bilingual school in New York City when we first met her. She was looking at US colleges but was still intrigued by studying in France. She turned to The Short List to help her navigate the American college admissions process.

Despite a natural shyness, Marie-Sophie was a well-rounded student: a top academic performer and avid runner who loved the performing arts and community service. She loved most subjects, was fluent in three languages, and had strong interests in economics and politics. We believed her

challenge would not be in communicating what she had to offer but rather in defining what she wanted to pursue.

We explored schools that would nurture Marie-Sophie's multi-cultural heritage and multi-faceted personality, and we encouraged her to express herself even further. She was thrilled and terrified when she was cast in a solo role in the high school musical. As she explained, performing "gave me the passion and the courage to pursue singing, and play a role in front of an audience. Whenever the whole cast is on stage, I can feel a current of energy that makes me want to stay on stage forever."

Marie-Sophie's parents took her on visits to her top-choice US colleges. Her confidence grew and her future goals began to take shape, but she couldn't quite let go of her desire to study in France. She was thrilled to discover the dual BA program between Columbia University and Sciences Po in Paris, an opportunity to receive degrees from two world-renowned universities. She would have to apply and be accepted separately to both schools, which would have been daunting enough to scare off most applicants.



But Marie-Sophie pursued admission with gusto.

Her efforts paid off when she was offered a spot in the dual program. She wrote, "The dual BA will be a perfect continuation of what I have enjoyed since I was in first grade, which is being in an environment that is fully bicultural and which constantly reminds me that there is always more than one way to look at something. It will also allow me to study further and more thoroughly what I find the most interesting: trying to understand the world in which I live."

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: **Villanova JD/MBA**

Pennsylvania

**Future Success:** *Grant***Multiple Degrees**

The Short List met Grant when he was a high school sophomore. Even then, it was apparent that Grant had many academic interests. His four years at Boston College allowed him to explore all of them. During college, Grant interned in financial services and law firms and spent his junior year studying in Rome, Italy. Wherever he worked, lived, or studied, Grant had a quest to learn and take in as much as possible.



Near the end of college, Grant decided to pursue either an MBA or a law degree. Together, we reviewed the requirements for both. Grant could see that it would take quite an effort and he wanted to do it right, so he decided to take a year off after graduation to research schools. Always one to challenge himself, Grant decided that he couldn't decide between the two degrees and would instead pursue a joint JD/MBA.

Most joint programs require that you be accepted to one program before applying to the second. Grant focused on schools that had equally strong law and business programs, and The Short List helped him implement a strategy to increase his chances: We encouraged him to attend events and network with key personnel

so they knew him before he applied. We also emphasized the importance of the entrance exams. Grant spent the summer traveling two hours each way, twice a week, to prepare to take the exams in the fall. He scored highest on his LSAT, so he decided to apply to law schools first and worked to make his law school applications as strong as possible.

Grant received an offer from Villanova Law School and felt a great sense of relief, but knew he still had to be accepted to the business school to complete his dream. Villanova raises the level of commitment required by asking students to enter their first year of law school before applying to the joint program.

Grant decided to make that commitment and took on the

burden of applying to the MBA program while also trying to adjust to his first year of law school. His efforts paid off, and he wrote to us: "I wanted to let you know that I was accepted into Villanova's JD/MBA program! I am extremely excited." He went on to add, "After finishing up law school courses, I plan on beginning business school courses in the summer. Not much of a summer break, but I want to begin business school courses before law school starts up again."

Grant closed his note to us by saying "You've now helped me through the process of applying to college, law school, and business school...I still can't really believe it all came true."

THE SHORT LIST'S
success stories:

Summer
China



Continued from page 1

that her father had passed away during the previous year. We asked if she really felt ready for college. It was as though a watershed had opened; someone had finally given Summer permission to deal with her loss.

We helped Summer plan a gap year to deal with her loss and find a new purpose. She spent the first months after graduation at home with her mother as both adjusted to life without her father. While

home, she learned that she had scored a perfect 45 on her IB final exams, something that only 1% of students worldwide achieve. She then signed up for an art history course in Italy and was awarded a two-month marine conservation internship in Madagascar for December and January. From February on, she stayed in Beijing with extended family and took an intensive language course.

Summer had started running as a coping mechanism and,

as she built her endurance, decided to run the New York City marathon, registering with the American Stroke Association to honor her father. She spent several weeks prior to the race in the U.S., and we encouraged her to use the time to visit schools. She wrote essays that revealed her strengths in meaningful ways and sent her early application to Princeton only once she was fully satisfied with it.

Days later she found herself at the start line of the marathon. Summer shared that she met other families who had lost loved ones and thought about her father throughout the race: "This year is bittersweet; wonderful developments are happening in my life but I can't share them with my dad. I know that wherever my dad is now, he is looking down on me with pride." Six weeks later, Summer learned that she had been accepted to Princeton.

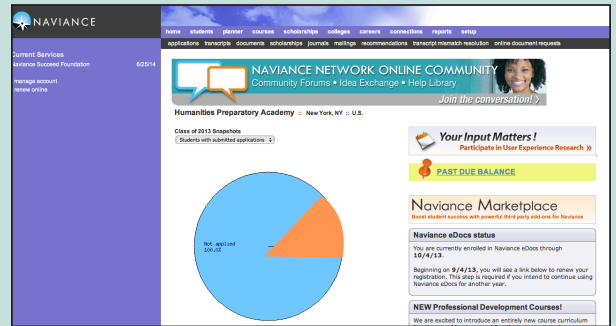
Prep Commitment

This year, Founder Bill Short began working with his 10th senior class at Humanities Preparatory Academy, a public school in New York City.

This public school does not have the budget for a guidance counselor, let alone a college counselor, so they rely on The Short List and other volunteers to guide students through the college admissions process. **The Short List College Fund** helps Prep students pay for college textbooks, visits, application fees, and other expenses. This year, one family wanted to help as many Prep students as possible and **paid for a multi-year Naviance subscription**: software that will allow the school to centralize its counseling process and build a college-bound culture beginning in 9th grade. We

cannot express our gratitude enough for this generous contribution.

We hope you will consider donating to the College Fund to help new generations of Prep students attain their goal of a college education. Please contact Bill Short at **wshort@theshortlist.org** to learn how you can make a difference.



Itzel

At our first meeting, Itzel shared how she had exhausted every math course Humanities Prep had to offer. We encouraged her to enroll in a math course for high school students at Hunter College and to become an assistant to the math teacher at Prep. Still unsatisfied, she enrolled in math

courses at New York University without telling the professor she was a high school student. Itzel fell in love with NYU, applied, and was accepted. She graduated last June as the valedictorian of the Humanities Preparatory class of 2012 and is now a freshman at NYU.



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