



spring | 2009

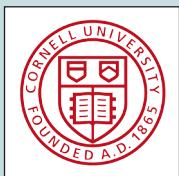
www.THESHORTLIST.org

Meet  
Some  
of Our  
Clients

THE SHORT LIST'S  
success stories:  
*Zach* (New York)

## Client Ownership

### The Risk Taker



Zach was in 10th grade and one of the stars on his high school football team when he first started working with The Short List. He was

already planning to play football in college, but fate had something different in store. During a routine spring training practice, Zach tore his ACL.

He sat on the sidelines his junior season. Although frustrated he couldn't be on the field, he didn't let his injury diminish his role as a team leader. Toward the end of a losing season, a few seniors asked the other players to vote to suspend the season rather than keep losing. Zach refused to vote. He told his team members they had made a commitment to their families, their coach, their school, and each other. He said that if the team suspended the season, they would probably regret that decision the rest of their lives. One by one, the other players agreed with Zach and decided to continue playing.

Early the following spring, Zach tore his other ACL and, like that, his football career was over. The Short List encouraged Zach to remain focused and find other ways to stay involved. Soon he was coaching in his community's football little league, was enjoying being a Peer Leader in his school, and joined his town's Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »



# Greetings from THE SHORT LIST!

## Letter from Our Founder

As another school year draws to a close, The Short List would like to take a moment to share our appreciation for your support and for all the success our clients have experienced this year:

- ▶ **94% of our high school students were accepted to one or both of their top two college choices.**
- ▶ **Our graduate school-bound clients are off to great universities, including two who were accepted to Harvard.**
- ▶ **Our career clients are finding great jobs and creating a bright future, despite these trying economic times.**

We have five guiding principles that govern our work with all of our clients: **Client Ownership, Reduced Stress, Unique Approach, Ultimate Happiness, and Future Success.** Despite the new challenges facing our clients, **our mission remains the same.** The young people highlighted in this newsletter exemplify these values, and it has been our pleasure to work with them in achieving their goals.

We would also like to thank many of you who so generously gave to The Short List College Textbook Fund, helping many of our overburdened scholarship students pay for textbooks. **We raised nearly \$10,000 in 2008 and have expanded the program.** Now called **The Short List College Fund**, it will help support college visits, application costs, textbooks, transportation, and other costs that may limit or burden students. Your kindness has made college more affordable for so many young people, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity. **If you would like to contribute to The Short List College Fund for 2009, please contact me directly at [wshort@theshortlist.org](mailto:wshort@theshortlist.org).**

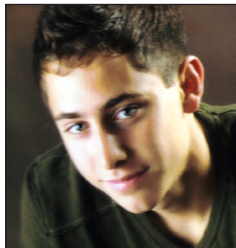
The other wonderful news we are thrilled to share is that **The Short List continues to expand.** Our international efforts now extend beyond Europe and reach clients in Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Turkey, and Brazil. We also opened a second office in Western Massachusetts.

We continue to strengthen our **commitment to pro bono work and community outreach programs.** I just completed my sixth year working with students at **Humanities Preparatory Academy** in New York City. We are also working with **Cambodia Living Arts** in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and the **Railroad Street Youth Project** in Southern Berkshire County, Massachusetts. These organizations help young people who might otherwise fall through the cracks during their critical teenage years.

Once again, it is hard to believe that another high school class is graduating, our college grads are starting their careers, and many of our other clients will be heading off to graduate school in the fall. We wish them all success and happiness, and we thank you for your continued referrals, recommendations, and support.

— Bill Short, Founder and President

## THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: *Mitch* (Illinois)**Reduced Stress****The Wait Listed**

At a community presentation by The Short List when Mitch was a sophomore, Mitch's father learned that, by starting early and planning carefully, a student could put

together an academic and extracurricular program that would provide a much better chance for acceptance. When we met Mitch, we recognized that he did not want to be put under pressure. He said he wasn't sure what he wanted to study in college. In fact, he wasn't even thinking of college and seemed more interested in playing soccer. We told him his focus was exactly where it should have been at that time.

We discussed what excited Mitch about his high school experience, and he gradually opened up. It quickly became clear that he needed to be methodical in his approach and question why each step of the process was necessary. Over the next two years, The Short List helped Mitch plan his junior and senior curriculum, look at summer activities, and explore internships. During his junior year, Mitch fell in love with science and engineering. He started visiting colleges and discovered a program called Biomedical Engineering that really excited him. Mitch was one of just two

students accepted into a paid medical summer internship, where he helped conduct research with top doctors and witnessed several surgeries.

Mitch's college visits introduced him to Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. Although a strong student, Mitch felt that Vanderbilt would be a reach school for him. He knew his best chance would be applying early but did not want to be rushed into applying Early Decision, so Mitch took advantage of Vanderbilt's second Early Decision deadline (January 1) to hone his application and cultivate some contacts at the school. In the spring, Mitch was accepted at several schools, but was wait listed at Vanderbilt.

The Short List helped Mitch put together an appeal strategy while also encouraging him to get excited for one of his other schools. Mitch updated Vanderbilt on his life since applying, shared his enthusiasm for the school, and affirmed why he felt he would be an asset. In mid-May, Mitch received a call that a spot had opened up.

In the end, Mitch's curiosity and steady approach to the process are what got him excited about a field of study and a school, motivated him to pursue the wait list, and will help him become a great researcher or doctor.

## THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: *Juliette* (France)**Unique Approach****The International Student**

Juliette's family is French and she is fluent in both French and English. Both of her parents are international entrepreneurs, and Juliette felt that she, too, would enter a global career some day.



Juliette had worked with The Short List as a high school student when going through the college admissions process. She chose Mount Holyoke and worked hard in her

classes while exploring many different subjects. Juliette found true joy in her language classes and decided to become a Romance Language major during her sophomore year.

At this time, Juliette approached The Short List for help applying to a summer language program. She researched several different summer programs and discovered Middlebury College's prestigious seven-week Spanish language immersion program.

At first, Juliette felt a bit daunted in applying to Middlebury because she had been denied as a high school senior, but The Short List encouraged Juliette to see things differently. She had grown both as a student and in her enthusiasm for Middlebury.

Juliette had visited Middlebury in high school and loved it. As she shared that with the department heads, she learned that she had much of what they were looking for. She cultivated those relationships, shared how she had participated in two different language programs in Spain during high school, and agreed to take the Spanish language proficiency exam. She also asked several teachers to write on her behalf and recommend her for the program.

In late spring, Juliette received the news that she had been accepted and left a voice mail for The Short List expressing how happy she was and that her acceptance was truly "a dream come true."

**Click here to hear Juliette's message. ▶**

**contact us**

- ▶ **E-mail:** [info@theshortlist.org](mailto:info@theshortlist.org)
- ▶ **Mail:** The Short List  
Ansonia Station #543  
New York, NY 10023
- ▶ **Main:** (917) 691-5977
- ▶ **NYC:** (212) 956-0181
- ▶ **MA:** (413) 528-5478
- ▶ **Web:** [www.theshortlist.org](http://www.theshortlist.org)

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: *Jake* (Ohio)

## Ultimate Happiness

*The Ensign*

When The Short List met Jake during his sophomore year, he had one school in mind: the United States Naval Academy.

Jake's parents clearly had their concerns. We discussed the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Jake listened but felt it was both a privilege and a duty to serve his country. He also knew the Academy was a long shot because all of the service academies look for tremendous leadership and top-tier academic achievement.

We encouraged Jake to take those requirements as a motivator, so he worked hard on his academics, studied for the SATs, and watched his GPA and

SAT scores climb. He became a leader on his high school lacrosse team and attended camps to improve his skills.

Jake was appointed to Ohio's Buckeye Boys State, a program that stresses leadership and honor. He also applied and was accepted to the U.S. House of Representatives Page Program. He says those two experiences changed his life forever.

Jake visited many schools during the process and several interested him, but he remained focused on the Naval Academy. He visited it several times and began to envision himself as an Ensign. The Academy has a complex application process that requires the applicant to receive a nomination from a U.S. Senator. Jake was able to secure that nomination, went through several grueling interviews,

and then was asked to pass the physical.

It took nearly a year from start to finish, but Jake says his acceptance was worth the wait. Recently his government teacher asked the class if they approved of the U.S. government. Many said "no." She responded, "In a government run for the people and by the people, only you, the people, can change that." Jake shares that belief, and one of his goals is to choose the best way to serve his country.

Jake showed all of us that when a student has a plan and is willing to follow that plan, the results speak for themselves. We have no doubt that Jake will serve the United States proudly.

[Click here to hear Jake's message.](#) ▶

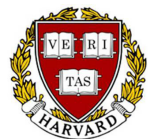
THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: *Hannah* (Connecticut)

## Future Success

*The Graduate Student*

Hannah was one year out of college when she approached The Short List for help on planning her future. She was considering



graduate school and researching several programs in education. She felt her own educational path had led her to a career in which she could support

other students in the pursuit of their dreams.

Hannah had spent the summer between sophomore and junior years of high school in Europe, as part of the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth (CTY) program in Dublin. Her experience with CTY eventually led her to work for their summer programs in both residential and academic capacities.

Hannah went on to attend Connecticut College as a Medieval Studies major and especially enjoyed her position as a CTY teaching assistant for their Middle Ages class.

In college, Hannah spent time studying abroad in Paris and returned to Dublin, but not without some effort. To study abroad for all three trimesters of her junior year, she had to prepare and present a special appeal. Her diligent pursuit of her international studies program helped place her among the mere handful of students who were granted the permission.

When she began considering graduate school, The Short List urged Hannah to continue dreaming big and to take the same diligent approach to the graduate school admissions process.

Hannah narrowed her list down to seven of the top graduate schools for education. She visited each of them, taking note of their differences and meeting key decision makers. At our encouraging, she also decided to apply to Harvard, but said it would be "just for fun." Over the months, however, she discovered Harvard really was a perfect program for her. In her application, she addressed what made the school unique and why she felt she was an appropriate fit for the school.

Hannah was accepted to the seven schools and was preparing to attend the Accepted Students Day for one of them when she received an acceptance call from Harvard. Her efforts to personalize her applications had paid off: Harvard stated that her ability to articulate her reasons for attending was the deciding factor.

THE SHORT LIST'S

success stories: *Zach**Continued from page 1*

Zach is a double legacy at Cornell University and had always thought he would apply Early Decision. However, as the time approached, Zach

shared that he did not want to limit his options by committing to one school and regretting not having a choice.

We listened to Zach without judgment, knowing only he could make this decision. He decided to forgo applying Early Decision and instead applied

regular decision to several schools, including Cornell.

Zach shared his high school successes in his essays—how much he loved football and was now trying to instill that passion in younger players, the difference he was making as a Peer Leader, and the enthusiasm with which he pursued new interests, such as the school musical. In the spring, Zach received great news from many schools; among other acceptances, he was accepted into the Honors program at one of the country's top universities. He was also accepted

to Cornell, where he will start his college career this fall.

Zach says it was that vote junior year that guided him. He felt tremendous pressure to apply Early Decision, knowing that would have been his best bet at such a prestigious university. But he did not want to go through life asking, "What if?" Thanks to his willingness to take risks and commit to pursuing his goals, he won't have to. Zach also reminded us that when a client takes full ownership of the process, they also get to own the successes.

## A Reminder of Why We Do What We Do



### Prep Commitment

This past year, Founder and President Bill Short completed his sixth year as a volunteer college counselor at Humanities Preparatory Academy in the New York City public school system. Many of the students Bill has worked with are the first in their family to go to college and yet have gone on to attend some of the most prestigious schools in the country. Some from the first class are now enrolled in premier graduate programs, such as Stanford Medical School and the University of Chicago. This year's graduating students are another exceptional group.

At left: 2009 Prep grads Tyrell (Colby), Melody (Villanova), Luigy (City College), Pema (Brown), Founder Bill Short, Kimberly (LaGuardia).

### The Ivy Leaguer

Pema is a Tibetan refugee who speaks four languages fluently. Her father abandoned her and her four sisters in India when Pema was two and her mother left the family when Pema was nine to pursue a better life in America. Five years later, her mother was able to bring Pema to the U.S. Over the past three years, Pema and her mother have worked nearly full time to bring her other four sisters over as well. Pema exhausted every course at Humanities Prep, so Bill encouraged her to take classes at NYU. She was accepted nearly everywhere she applied and will attend Brown University in the fall as a biology major working toward becoming a doctor.

### The Filmmaker

Tyrell's mother abandoned him as a child, and his father was deported when he was seven. Tyrell moved from foster home to foster home, where he was often abused or neglected. It wasn't until he enrolled in a weekend and summer Harlem Arts Program that he discovered not only his voice, but a talent for filmmaking. He has written, directed, edited, and produced three award-winning films that have been included in several film festivals. Tyrell was accepted on scholarship to Colby College, where he hopes to combine filmmaking and environmental science.

### The Peacemaker

Melody's mother empowered her to believe in herself and confront challenges. In an Outward Bound program during her freshman year, she was one of just four minority students in a group of nearly 150. The four students encountered racism and considered dropping out, but Melody instead facilitated a discussion on racism that earned her the respect of everyone present. She was later asked to speak at the National Outward Bound Convention, where Vernon Jordan presented her with the organization's Best Essay Award. He went on to become her sponsor for two more summers. Melody will attend Villanova University, where she plans to study Peace & Justice.