



# Beyond High School

## The University of Washington Study Newsletter

Winter 2005—2006

### Greetings from the University of Washington

Dear Participants,

In each annual edition of the BHS newsletter, we try to provide you with a snapshot of a few of the intriguing patterns among our study participants, as well as something about us. This year we are highlighting the accomplishments of several of our former undergraduate research assistants, and we hope you will see how your work with us has contributed to their career choices.

One of the findings we share in this newsletter pertains to student plans to enroll in college the year after high school, and the likelihood of them doing so. About one out of every five high school seniors who plan to go to college right after high school do not. However, many of these may be opting for time off before pursuing a college degree. For the most recent generation of young adults, only about two out of every five who ultimately obtain a higher education certificate or degree do so by following the traditional direct path from a full time high school student to a full time college/vocational school student. Sixty percent take a more extended path to educational attainment by mixing work and part-time schooling, or by taking a leave from education at some point in early adulthood<sup>1</sup>. The process of a successful transition from adolescence to adulthood, either through college, training programs, military, or other routes is not easy to understand. Your continued participation in our study will help!

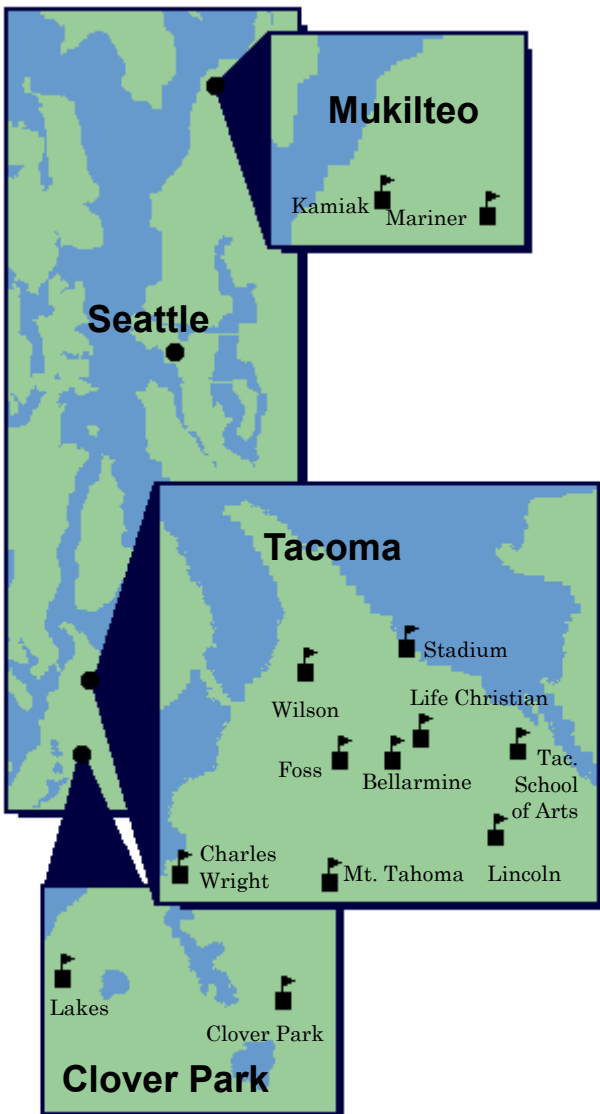
In the meanwhile, we want to again express our gratitude to you for your participation in the UW Beyond High School Project, and we do hope you will find this year's BHS Newsletter interesting and informative.

Professor Gunnar Almgren, on behalf of the entire UW BHS Project Team

Lisa Hudson. Racial/Ethnic Differences in the Path to a Postsecondary Credential. *Educational Statistics Quarterly*. Volume 5 (2). 2003: Pages 1-6.

### BHS Quiz ...

- Are BHS students more likely to attend a 2 year or 4 year college?
- What percent of BHS seniors were born outside of the US?  
a. 10%   b. 14%   c. 18%   d. 22%
- What is the average age at which students expect to have their first child?  
a. 23   b. 25   c. 28   d. 33
- Who is most likely to encourage college attendance after high school?  
a. Father   b. Mother   c. Friend   d. Siblings
- Which did students think was more likely to pay off in the long run: high school education or job they worked in high school?



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# Results from Senior and Follow-Up Surveys

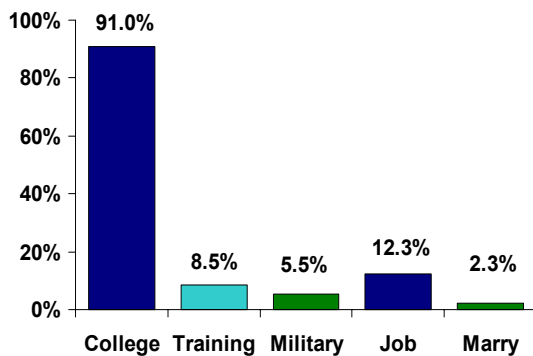


Oluwatope Fashola worked with BHS while she was an undergraduate at the University of Washington. She was able to start at UW as a Junior right after high school because she finished two years of college through the Running Start program. Oluwatope earned her BA with a double major in Sociology and American Ethnic Studies in June of 2004 (graduating with distinction), and is currently in her second year of graduate school in Sociology at Indiana University at Bloomington. Having maintained a 4.0 GPA during her first year of Graduate School, she is currently working on her Master's Thesis; an analysis of internalized racism on African American attitudes towards race-based welfare policies. While doing well in her studies, she also participates in a cappella group, a South African Gumboot Dancing Group, the Black Graduate Student Association, the African Student Association, and the graduate chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. (the first African American Sorority).

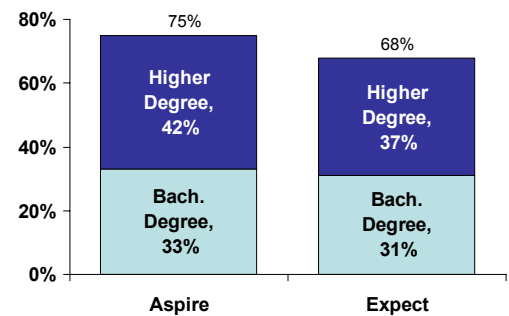
## Encouragement:

We asked each student questions about what others think they should do after high school. Students that we interviewed reported that they were more likely to get encouraged to go to college than any other option. We asked about the opinions of each student's father, mother, siblings, friends, favorite teacher, and other important adult.

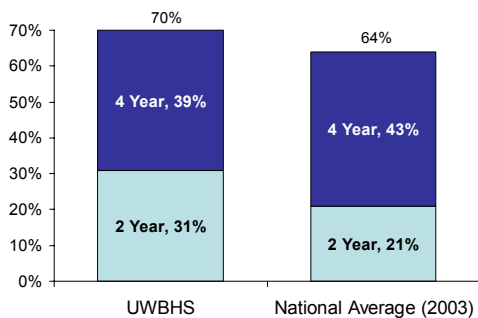
% of Students Reporting Encouragement for Post High-School Options



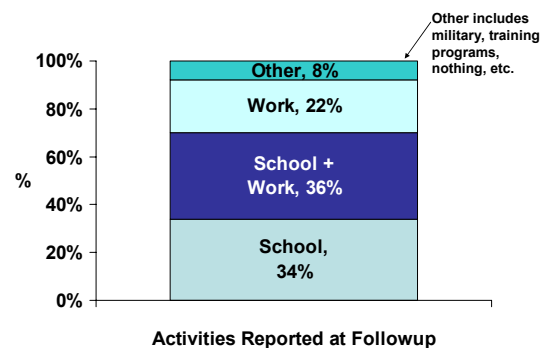
Percentage of Students that Aspire/Expect to Complete a College Degree



Percentage of All Students in a 2-Year or 4-Year College One Year after High School



What are BHS Students Doing at Time of Follow-up Interview?



Answers to quiz: **1)** 4 Year! 39% of all students are in a 4 year school and 31% in a 2 year, **2)** b. 14%, **3)** c. 28 years old (39% of respondents) **4)** b. Mother (81% encourage college attendance), **5)** High school education. (85% of all students think that high school education is more likely to pay off.) In fact, they were correct. The median annual income for 25 to 34 year olds is \$20,069 for non-high school graduates, \$25,542 for high school graduates, \$37,233 for college graduates, and \$43,065 for those with advanced degrees.

See <http://www.census.gov/hhes/income/earnings/callusboth.html> for more information.

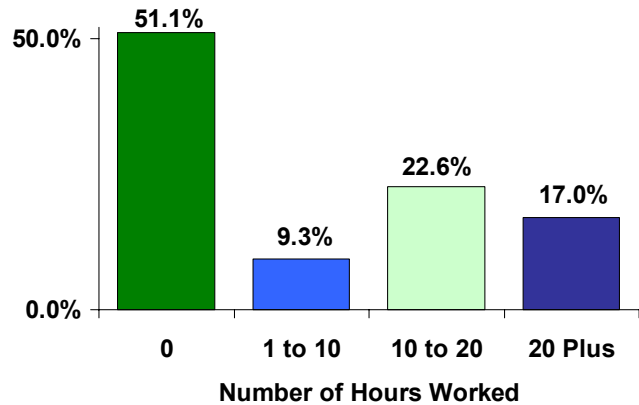
# Students and Employment

Approximately half of all high school students are employed during their senior year.

Should students work? Of course the answer is not the same for everyone. But our findings indicate that working part-time does not have a negative impact on grades or time spent on extracurricular activities.

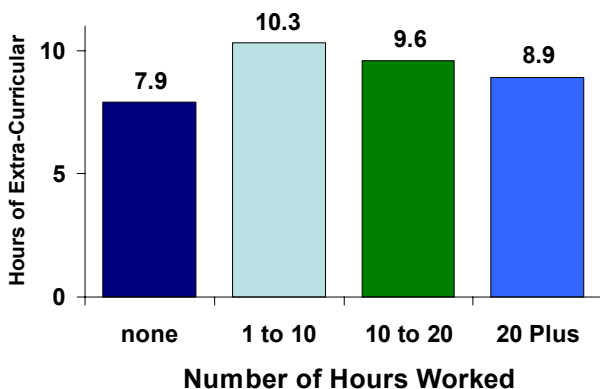


Percentage of Students Working at Time of Senior Survey

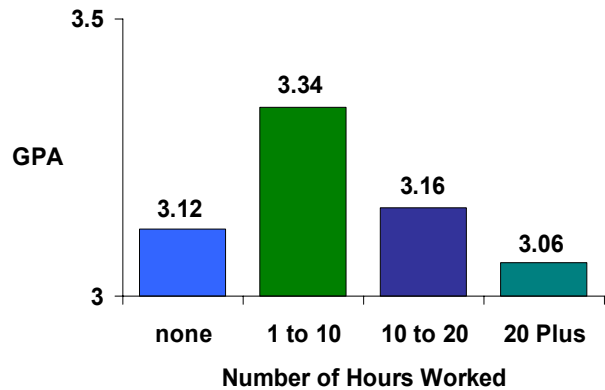


Students who worked 10 hours a week or less report higher GPAs than students who work more, or students who are unemployed. Why would this be? Perhaps students who work part-time budget their time more carefully.

Hours Spent Working and in Extra-Curricular Activities Per Week



Hours Worked and Grade Point Average



**Duc Ngo** graduated from UW in June of 2003 with a BA in Sociology and a BS in Microbiology. He received a Bonderman Fellowship that provided funds for him to travel for four months. Pursuing his interest in international medicine, he went to Southeast Asia, Nepal and several other countries. He earned a Master's Degree in Medical Sciences from Loyola University in Chicago in June of 2005. Duc's first language is Vietnamese, and while at Loyola, he worked as a medical interpreter in hospitals in Chicago. Now in Medical School at the University of Washington, he hopes to have another international experience this summer working in Ghana on Public Health issues.

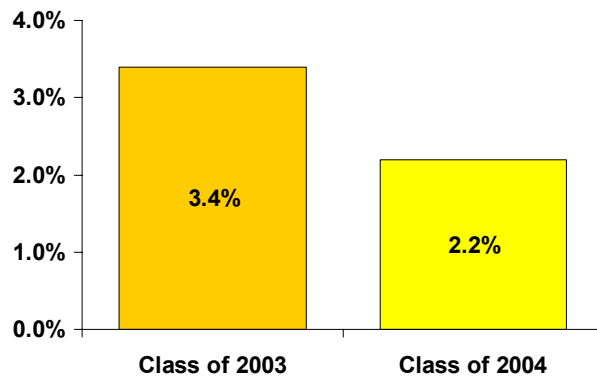
# Students and the Military

## How does encouragement affect choice?

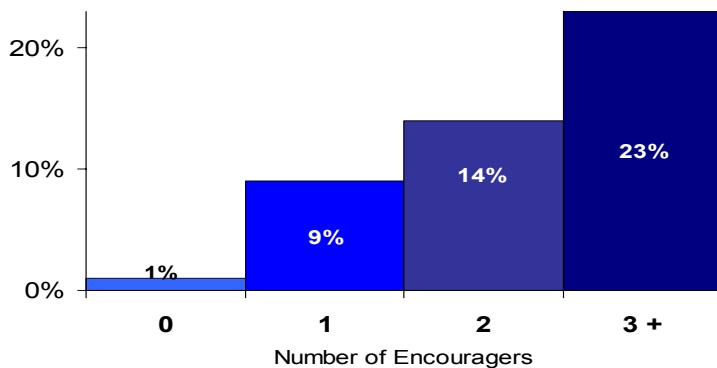
We know that the majority of parents and teachers encourage students to continue their studies at a post-secondary level. Do parents, teachers, or other people important to our respondents also encourage them to enter the military? If so, are students' choices to enlist affected by this?

Not everyone goes directly from high school into college. A small percentage of students were in the military at the time of the follow-up. The likelihood of entering the military is strongly related to whether family, peers, and others encouraged them to join. Only 1% of students who received no encouragement to join the military did so, while 23% of those receiving encouragement from 3 or more sources did.

Percentage of Students in the Military at the Time of the Follow-Up



Percentage in Military by the Number of People who Encourage them to Join Military



Kia Sorensen earned a BA in Sociology and Interdisciplinary Visual Arts at UW in June of 2003. She took a year to travel and then entered Graduate School in Sociology at the University of Wisconsin in Madison. She wrote: "Before I started college, I had never imagined myself pursuing a career in research and teaching. No one I knew had pursued a PhD program. If I had one piece of advice to give to Washington High School students, I would encourage you to pursue your interests and/or goals, even if they seem unattainable and outside of everything you know. My experiences have taught me that goals are not reached alone, and that through not being afraid to look stupid, and by asking many questions I was afforded opportunities that would not have been extended to me if I had not expressed interest." In addition to working hard on her studies and at her job, Kia spends time with friends, playing drums, and rock climbing.

# Where are we now?

The University of Washington places a strong emphasis on the involvement of undergraduates in research. The UW Beyond High School has worked with many undergraduate students since its beginnings, and we are really proud of their accomplishments. In fact, we would like to share some of them with you.

**Ashley Isaksen** earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from UW in Sociology and Political Science in June of 2004. She has worked on the BHS project as a full-time employee since then and plans on starting on a Master's in Teaching Degree soon. She also volunteers at Green Lake Elementary School, and at the Seattle Animal Shelter.

Ashley



**Cara Biddlecom** worked with us while she was an undergraduate at Evergreen College. After finishing her Bachelor's degree, she spent a month backpacking in Europe. Now she is in North Carolina working on a Master's Degree in Health Behavior and Education in the School of Public Health at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill. She has been working on an HIV prevention study to help female inmates reduce the risk of infection following their release from prison. For her Master's Thesis, she has been conducting a needs assessment with pregnant inmates in order to develop a prenatal health education program at the women's prison in Raleigh. She will finish her Master's Degree in May and plans on working to provide preventive health services and health education to low-income communities.

Gioia



**Jason Thomas** earned a BA in Sociology from UW. He is now in Graduate School in the Sociology Department at UW. He has also traveled to London and Scotland where he attended as many soccer games as possible.

**Gioia Rizzo** earned her BA from UW in Sociology and General Studies in June of 2004. She is currently at UW working on a Master's Degree in the School of Social work. Gioia credits her work on the BHS project as one of her major motivators to go to graduate school

**Jeff Eaton** is an undergraduate at UW in the Sociology Department. He worked for us this year and is now working on a different research project - one that is investigating the impact of the effects of the HIV epidemic in sub-Saharan Africa. He will go to South Africa next summer for his work on that project.

**Michele Hanzeli** began working for BHS in June of 2004, right after earning her BA degree in Sociology at UW. Michele's interest in education extends beyond the BHS project: she has spent three summers working with the at-risk youth, and has helped run the after school program of a private school in Seattle for the past year. Outside of work, Michele recently married and spent September exploring the many wonders of Italy, Greece and Hungary with her husband.



**Garth Almgren** is an undergraduate at Cascadia College at the UW Bothell Campus. In addition to continuing his education, he is working for a company that is installing more than 3,000 computers throughout the Swedish Hospital system.

**Peter Graham** finished his BA degree in Sociology at UW in June of 2004. He is now in Graduate School at UW in Sociology and works with Professor Jerald Herting (who also works on the BHS project) on a project that measures the impact of different teaching styles on student learning. When he is not working, he spends time with his two dogs, Loodie and Max.



Max, Peter, Loodie

# UW Beyond High School Research Project

Surveys of High School Seniors, Classes of 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, & 2005:

**Thank you for participating, Seniors!**

## Future Follow-up Surveys:

### Classes of 2000, '02, '03, & '04

At this point we hope to conduct our second follow-up survey in the next few years, perhaps 6 to 7 years after your high school graduation.

## Class of 2005

Sometime in early 2006, you can expect to hear from one of the friendly voices of the UW-BHS team to ask you a short list of "follow-up" questions to find out about what you're doing now that you've graduated. The phone survey only takes about 5 minutes.

Take a Look at Our Website

<http://depts.washington.edu/BHS>

### The Beyond High School Project Team

**Professors:** Charles Hirschman, Gunnar Almgren, Jerald Herting, Stewart Tolnay

**Graduate Research Assistants:** Nikolas Pharris-Ciurej, Irina Voloshin

**Project Staff:** Patricia Glynn, Michele Hanzeli, Ashley Isaksen, Julie Miller

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