

NHS Valedictorian

Amy Aaronson, valedictorian of the New Hope-Solebury (NHS) High School class of 2005, said the size of the school is one of its strong points.

"It's a small school, so you get a lot of attention in the classroom and the classes are small," Aaronson said. She noted that, during her senior year, one class only had six students.

"So you really get a lot of hands-on experience because you have a lot of one-on-one time with the teachers," she said.

Aaronson, who was in the NHS school system from kindergarten, has a sister who is going to be a junior and a brother going into seventh grade.

Aaronson didn't find out she was valedictorian until two days before graduation because the results of her finals had to show her ahead of her class. She said she was first academically in her class all four years of high school.

Aaronson will attend Syracuse University in the fall where she plans on studying broadcast journalism.

"I always wanted to do performing and then I got into the journalism classes here and just kind of put the two together and decided I wanted to be in front of the camera reporting the news," she said, noting that she did the morning announcements at school and was an editor for the school paper. —Sean Patrick Murphy



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NHS Class President

Tessa Arbani, senior class president of the New Hope-Solebury (NHS) High School class of 2005, said the main reason she wanted to be class president was so she could deliver the speech at graduation.

"I remember sitting at last year's graduation being really nervous listening to last year's president," Arbani said earlier this week.

"I was happy that my peers selected me to be president and worked hard all year with the staff," she said.

Among the many extracurricular activities in which she participated, Arbani was MVP of her field hockey team, was a member of the National Honor Society, and was involved in student government.

"Student government entailed a lot," she said. "We planned homecoming and spirit week" among other events. "So that took up most of my time."

Arbani is going to Tulane University in New Orleans in the fall thanks in part to a scholarship from there. She is undecided about which major she will pursue.

Arbani, 18, has a 24-year-old brother who also went to Tulane and who is currently at Temple University law school. Her sister is 32.

She was in the NHS school system from kindergarten on.

Aside from field hockey, Arbani said she is interested in history and government. —Sean Patrick Murphy

NHS Salutatorian

New Hope-Solebury (NHS) High School class of 2005 salutatorian Grace Giles said she found out she was being given that honor only the day before graduation.

"It was exciting," Giles said. "I worked really hard academically and I've kind of always been flip-flopping between second and third, so I was relieved that I (came in second)."

Giles, 18, has a sister in ninth grade.

Aside from the National Honor Society, Giles was involved with the drama club for three years, and cross country and track for four years.

The best part of attending NHS, she said, was "definitely the time I spent with my running team between cross country and track because I was able to get to know people that I wouldn't have normally — it was just a great experience."

Giles will attend Middlebury College in Vermont and is thinking about chemistry as a major and is "definitely" minoring in Spanish.

She also said she may enter the field of pediatrics. —Sean Patrick Murphy



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Educated, Now What? JoLeonard College grads: get creative to get hired

I'm writing on behalf of my daughter who is feeling pretty down about the fact that her friends have gotten jobs and she hasn't. Some are doing more of a summer job than a full-time career-type job, but they're still working and she isn't. Should I just tell her to relax, take the summer off and start looking in the fall, or are there things she can be doing now? She's very shy and doesn't like to do the networking thing, but this seems to be the way jobs are found these days. Her field is the nonprofit world. Do you have any thoughts?

Vinny

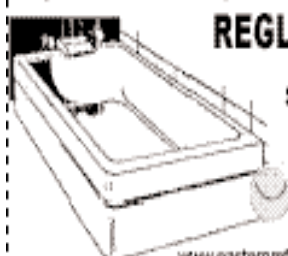
Parents often find me before their offspring do.

I often wonder why, but it occurred to me the other day that despite the fact that our young adults grew up on the Internet, the art of research is still just that, an art. So when they see fellow college grads struggling to find their way or being rejected day after day by the big job search boards, they take it upon themselves to seek out more creative ways to help their kids find jobs. And presto! They find us.

So let's talk about creativity and how it can dramatically and positively impact a career search.

Our friends Lucy, Peter and Mark all fell into the category of "wanting to go into see Leonard, page 29

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