

Headlight: Where are they now?

Written by the students of Marblehead High School for our school and community. Find us online at mhsheadlight.weebly.com

Attention Readers!

This Headlight issue features Paige Kelloway, Ian Kingsbury and Matt Lieber-son, past Headlight editors with their final articles featured in Headlight. All are out of high school and are either attending college or just graduated. All past editors were asked to write about how Headlight has influenced them and where they are currently in life.

We thank all of our wonderful Headlight Alumni for writing such great arti-cles. This issue came to life as current Editor-in-Chief Grace Perry contacted all past editors via Facebook. Headlight wishes all of our Headlight alumni good luck and farewell. If you are a Headlight alumnus and are reading this issue, we thank you for your support. We love our alumni! Your advice and insights on the future are an inspiration to us all.

Ian Kingsbury

Graduate, William & Mary

Assistant Editor 2007-2008

Editor-in-Chief 2008-2009

Last week Grace asked me to provide a brief update on my life and I happily obliged. So now here I sit camp-side in the Congo, a modern-day Livingstone with malaria in bowels, tablet in hand, and fears of a hippo attack dancing in my mind.

Kidding. After graduating from William & Mary in May I was fortunate enough to land a financial services job in downtown Boston. Though I feel blessed to have this opportunity, my lifestyle (wake at sunrise, leave at sundown, workout, play Xbox, wash, rinse, repeat) isn't terribly exciting and need not be further expounded upon.

With apologies to Grace for utterly failing to follow the guidelines of this assignment, I would like to use this opportunity to impart some wisdom from my college years. While I could bore you with abstractions and references to long-dead Irish poets that I've never read and wouldn't understand if I did, allow me to be brief and concrete in my words.

When you make the critical choice of where to attend college, go West, young man. Or any direction, really. Should the opportunity afford itself to you, it is ideal to get outside of the geographic zone in which your parents (or more importantly, their laundry machine and refrigerator) are an easy car ride away. Doing so provides greater independence, while living in another part of the country expands your horizons.

Similarly, go out and experience the world. Note that "experience" is the opportune word here. Don't simply walk around the Champs-Élysées buried in your camera while remaining oblivious of the world around you. Interact with locals and explore areas off the beaten tourist path. Study abroad at least once, twice if it's possible. You will learn more in this time than you do during a regular semester at your university, quality of academics aside.

More important yet, be wise about how you spend your time in college. You have been groomed to understand that academic success begets personal success and for now that assumption is largely correct. However, once you graduate college prospective employers view GPA as a small part of your portfolio. Work experience, volunteer experience and disposition will matter, a reality which can provide a rude awakening to individuals with polished academic success but little else. While grades are important, take the time to volunteer and become involved in organizations, assuming leadership positions when possible.

In *The Graduate*, Mr. McGuire approaches the aimless Benjamin at his graduation party to implore him to consider a future in plastics, "For there's a great future in plastics." In the same vein, here is my one word, just one word of advice to you: drones. They represent the cutting-edge of our military technology and hold great promise for integration into our everyday lives.

More broadly, get in the habit of thinking about the future and recognizing opportunities. The times are a-changin' and if you don't swim, you'll sink like a stone, your floaties having been forfeited the day you receive your college degree.

Paige Kelloway

Sophomore, Elon University

Assistant Editor 2010-2011
2011-2012

It doesn't actually feel like that long since I was the one asking past staff members to send in a reflective article for our next issue. So the message asking me to write for this week was actually the only part of this week of midterms that I looked forward to.

After graduating MHS, I came down to Elon University in North Carolina. I am now a sophomore, majoring in Human Service Studies and minoring in Communications. I know what you're thinking: "So... what are you going to do with that?" I plan to go into either the social work and counseling field, or human or public relations, but I am not sure which path I will choose in a few years.

I didn't think working on Headlight in high school would have had as big an effect on me as it has. I always enjoyed writing, but had never explored the whole journal-

ism aspect until my sophomore year. The only reason I even joined the staff was because I went to a psychic the summer before the school year began, and she told me she saw me as a journalist in the future. But after being involved with it for three years, and being in charge with Matt for the last one, I knew it was something I was interested in.

This semester at Elon I am taking a communications course called "Media Writing" to fulfill my minor. I could have chosen any class to fulfill my minor requirement, but after testing the journalism waters a few years ago, I knew I would enjoy this one. Its purpose is to teach us how to write for all aspects of the media – and it's way more difficult than you would think. I looked back on some of my Headlight articles last week, and was amazed, mostly embarrassed, at how much I have learned about journalism since then.

I admit that I don't work on my school's newspaper, The Pendulum. It was one of the fifty clubs I signed up for at the beginning of my freshman year, but never actually fol-

lowed through with. However, I am sure that the communications classes I take will bring me somewhere in that field. That's the thing everyone has to remember. Everything you do will bring you at least somewhere. Whether it's encouraging you to keep going with that idea, or to turn and run the other way.

Like Matt Lieber-son said, while other people see fall as the times of leaves, cider, and pumpkins, high school seniors' lives revolve around applications and college decisions. And also like he said, remember that it really does all work out. During my college process, Elon was the one school I told my mom I would never, ever go to. But here I am now, and I couldn't be happier. Everyone is right – these are the best four years of our lives. So embrace it all. Sign up for the fifty clubs to see what clicks. Meet all the people on your hall and in your classes that you can. Take the random class you think might be cool. Do everything you can while you have the chance, because I'm not even half way through and I'm already freaking out.

Matt Lieber-son

Sophomore, Vanderbilt University

Editor-in-Chief 2010-2011
2011-2012

Apparently this is the kick-off effort to Headlight's "Where Are They Now?" series, chronicling what old Headlight editors have been up to. I'll admit that when I suggested this to Grace, it was in jest and referring to checking in on all of our old principals. But here I am, saying where I am. I'm in Nashville, Tennessee at Vanderbilt University. I write for their newspaper, the Vanderbilt Hustler, and I also recently joined the marching band and am involved in Hillel on campus. I also frequent a few barbecue joints and karaoke bars downtown.

With it being mid-October, I'm sure that all the seniors at MHS are fretting over their college decision, so the best way I could think to use this space would be to give two pieces of advice. First off, it will work out. No matter where you end up going, it will be fine. Collegiate acceptance makes everybody hypercompetitive and stressed out. But 99% of people end up at the right place for them. It may not be the coolest place to put on the board in the cafeteria, but it usually is the best place to be. Second, once you get to school, you have to be honest with yourself about who you are and what you want to do. It's easy to think of college as a fresh start to become someone else, and that's valid. But if you aren't keeping within yourself and who you are, you'll be miserable.

If you're honest with yourself, awesome opportuni-

ties will come to you. I've gotten to do some great things with the Vanderbilt Hustler, covering everything from golf tournaments to concerts on and off campus. I live-tweeted a Kendrick Lamar and Wale concert for the newspaper, which was hilarious for me, the whitest person I know. But the things I've gotten to do with the newspaper, as well as with marching band, have been thrilling.

One last thing that nobody mentions during the application process: college is hard. Like, really hard. But you get what you put in. If you work hard and are true to who you are, you'll make it work, wherever you are.



Current Headlight Staff *Pictured Above*

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