



The Jackson Laboratory HISTORY OF THE SUMMER STUDENT PROGRAM

Our Summer Student Program has a history longer than that of The Jackson Laboratory itself. The program began in 1924 when University of Maine President C.C. Little (our founder) brought six undergraduates to Mount Desert Island for a summer of biological field studies. The Summer Student Program officially became a part of the Jackson Memorial Laboratory's operation in 1931.

In 1937, a more official and formal training program was implemented. Courses became so thorough, in fact, that Earl Green, a later JAX director, commented that high school students were bored with their college courses after their summers in Bar Harbor.

High school Summer Students were uncommon until 1949, when Fred Avis, a science teacher at Thayer Academy in Braintree, Massachusetts, brought a group of students to study at the JAX Hamilton Station facility. This group also lived on site until 1951, when the Highseas residence was donated by the Morris Family Estate and was immediately put to use as housing for high school Summer Students.

Capacity for more students had already begun to rise in the previous years, with a large donation from the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. A high school student dining hall and laboratory space were built for their exclusive use, but sharing between high school and college students began to grow. Though secondary school students, somewhat disadvantaged in terms of knowledge and experience, had been kept separate from the others since 1943, intermingling began to take place in the 1960s.

Separately, the two student groups devised their own entertainment. College interns held parties, rode horses, bicycled, and developed a tradition of student versus staff softball games. High school students began the annual trip to Mount Katahdin.

More than 80 years later, Summer Students are still planning adventures and making discoveries. Though changes have arisen, the two student groups are united by C.C. Little's thriving vision of young, independent researchers maximizing their potential as scientists and individuals.



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for tomorrow's cures*