

# The Phillips Scholar

## *The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund*

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The Stephen Phillips  
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*The Staff (from the left):  
Kate Gearan, Pamela  
Constantine and Karen  
and Arthur Emery.*

*Service to others is the hallmark of Phillips Scholars. In this issue, Kiley Wilkens talks about losing her heart to orphans in Ghana, and profiles of Caroline Dymek and Kaine Nicholas demonstrate how Phillips Scholars help kids in the inner cities. And in our first sports story, read how the Stanley Cup helped Scholar Eric Tosi bring joy to many fans while helping raise funds for a local scholarship. **To read about other Phillips Scholars, please visit the Alumni Scholars page of our website [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org).***

*—Kiley Wilkens*



My motivation for volunteering in Africa was heartfelt and straightforward. Wanting to do something meaningful upon graduating from Gaucher College, I found a wonderful agency called Students Travel and Exposure South Africa (STAESA) that paired me with an orphanage in Ghana. Because I am devoted to supporting children who face adversity, this program melded my college studies of culture and social problems with my passion for social justice, especially as it relates to children.

Living with a host family and being fully embraced by an entire community really changed me. Aflao is a small fishing village far from any of the Ghanaian tourist spots. The Good Shepherd Happy Children's Home functions in a facility that triples as the orphanage, which houses 40 orphaned or abandoned children and three infants, a church, and a regional school. The staff and residents welcomed me with such open arms and universal and overwhelming appreciation that I will forever be

connected to this tiny village and its people.

Initially, I was to take care of the three infants, Moses, Princess and Agogo. My second day there, I was given the title of Co-director of the Home. I still worked with the babies, but I was also employed to innovate an organizational system for record keeping, to complete administrative tasks, and also to teach math and English to the school children. It was a rather daunting assignment. All the orphans attend the school, along with the other children from the area, who come to provide the orphans with outside company while acquiring an education. The recordkeeping was primitive because organization and time commitments had not had a high priority. There is a laid back attitude that made implementing a system of timely reporting a difficult task! I cared for the infants in the morning and completed administrative tasks with the director and then taught the third graders while the babies napped. I had the opportunity to learn the history of Ghana from my students and to discuss American politics with the high school students. The activities were varied and exhilarating.

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My time abroad left me thinking, communicating, working and learning very differently. I have a new perspective about a lot of things in my life, especially luxuries. After washing cloth diapers by hand, I will never take a washer and dryer for granted! Fetching water from a well and needing to boil it before using makes me thankful for the fresh water available to me. I have witnessed profound poverty and now feel like I understand service on a deeper level. One thing I wish I had done before my time in Ghana was to learn the local language. I think I would have been taken more seriously and presented myself as more of an ally if I had been fluent in Ewe. As I plan to return, I am learning Ewe so that I can be even more effective and accepted in the community.

Anyone who has had the chance to volunteer abroad understands the impact even a short time can have on the lives of the volunteer and the local community. I have been blessed with this opportunity, and that experience will remain with me for the rest of my life. The relationships I fostered and the projects I started are just the beginning of a life-long connection with that small fishing village. Three weeks is not a long time, but it is just long enough to leave a piece of your heart behind.



Kiley with the residents of the Good Shepherd Happy Children's Home in Ghana.

*Kaine Nicholas*



Phillips Scholar Kaine Nicholas, a graduate of Boston Latin Academy and Bentley University (2004), is currently trade coordinator at Tradewinds Global Investors in Los Angeles. He is also pursuing an MBA after completing a Riordan Fellowship at UCLA's Anderson School of Management. Despite this busy schedule he is deeply involved in volunteer activities as Co-Program director in Los Angeles of Sigma Beta Club, a national organization affiliated with Kaine's college fraternity, Phi Beta Sigma, a historically black social action fraternity. "I have had the opportunity to volunteer for every type of community service there is from feeding the homeless to serving as president of the Los Angeles National Pan-Hellenic Council. I do find time to mentor young black boys to help counteract the great number of negative influences that they face. Because of the scarcity of positive male role models in the inner city, I need to lead by example. The challenge in mentoring is getting the mentee to trust me, which takes time and must be managed with great care. Everything after that falls into place. I feel there is a disadvantage to be an African American male in this country, and, although there is currently an African-American president, I still need to do my part."

Kaine can attest to the value of mentors because, he says, he is "the product of a village environment. Without a doubt, I would not have made it to where I am today personally and as an African American male without the numerous mentors and role models I had from middle school to high school. They ranged from people at the Dan Marr Boys and Girls Club, Dorchester House, and Bottom Line to my basketball coach and select teachers." Success in high school led him to anticipate being the first in his family to attend college; taking SAT review courses at Dorchester House, Kaine received mentoring and the basis for excelling academically; at Bottom Line, a Boston organization to help underserved students get into and succeed at college and go far in life, he found both the impetus to dream big and a mentor in founder Dave Borgal, a Bentley graduate, who encouraged Kaine to apply to Bentley as his reach school.

"Life after college has been a journey, and I continue to learn about myself. I receive so much gratification from helping others that the best thing to do is to make volunteering a part of who I am."

## Eric Tosi



Forgive us for bragging, but three of the hands holding the National Hockey League's Stanley Cup in this photo belong to Phillips Scholars! Assistant Director of Media Relations for the Boston Bruins, Eric Tosi (*center*) hoists the coveted cup after the Bruins historic championship win, assisted by his father and his brother Ryan Tosi (Boston College '01), also a Phillips Scholar. For the Bruins, Eric is responsible for the day-to-day media relations between the players and the local and national media. He serves as team spokesman on team-related issues, coordinates interviews and serves as a resource for all media at home and on the road. He also pitches story ideas to outlets that don't typically cover hockey on a day-to-day basis.

But this is a story about making a difference, not just a sports story. As is tradition, each member of the Bruins team and organization enjoyed one-on-one time with the Cup. Eric used some of his precious fourteen hours to host a fundraiser in Beverly for the Benjamin T. Bradley Foundation, a local charity. More than 2,000 fans came from across New England to share this rare opportunity to see the Cup and to help support the Bradley Foundation raise more than \$9,000. "Ben Bradley was a high school classmate and a friend of mine, so the foundation his family set up in Ben's memory definitely means a lot to me. The turnout we received at the event and the generosity from those who attended was tremendous."

And how was that Duck Boat ride around Boston with the team? "Incredible to say the least. To see how many people came out to show their support was amazing. We were able to bring a family member along, so it was great to share the experience with my mother. I don't think she stopped smiling the entire ride." Eric also notes that "seeing the Stanley Cup up close makes you realize why it's regarded as the greatest trophy in all of sports. It contains so much history, with the names of some of the best players ever engraved on it. Once the Cup enters the room, it is almost impossible to take your eyes off it."

Eric majored in Political Science at the College of the Holy Cross, where he also worked as a campus broadcaster and sportswriter. After graduating in 2003, he covered sports for his hometown newspaper, the Beverly Citizen, and worked gameday media operations for Holy Cross basketball games. With that experience, he earned an internship with the New York Jets, moving on after that year to Major League Soccer's Red Bull New York for two seasons before landing the media position with the Bruins.

## Our Historic Building

A recent article in Salem PATCH ([www.salempatch.org](http://www.salempatch.org)) by local historian Jerome Curley traced the history of our office at 27 Flint Street. Built in 1826 for grocer Stephen Fogg, it carried high end, exotic items for the neighbors, primarily wealthy merchants and sea captains, including the Phillips family. In 1840, a residence was added to the store for Lucinda Fogg and her husband Brackley Peabody, a master mariner in the dangerous but lucrative voyages to San Francisco during the Gold Rush. A number of different grocers occupied the building until 1943 when it became Eaton's Apothecary, with its distinctive mortar and pestle sign. When Eaton's closed, Beckett Antiques set up shop during the 1990s.



Directory listing from the late 1800s.  
Photo Credit: Jerome Curley

Until 2005, the scholarship office had been housed on the top floor of the museum that preserves Stephen Phillips' childhood home as a reminder of Salem's great sailing ship era. That year ownership of the home was transferred to Historic New England, which currently runs the museum. The scholarship then moved here, just around the corner, close enough that visitors to the office can easily tour the Phillips House to better understand the people and history behind this fund.

## *Saving Trees and Money*

Would you rather receive this newsletter electronically? To take this green step, please email [staff@spscholars.org](mailto:staff@spscholars.org) with your request, or complete the form on the Alumni page of the website. So many Phillips Scholars are engaged in great activities, and we love to hear about them! Please update your addresses and emails via the Scholar Update Form on the Alumni page of the website, or just send an email. If you send photos, we will share them on the Alumni page of the website.

### *2011-2012 Alumni Scholar: Caroline Dymek*



Caroline (back row, left), joins other Emmanuel College students at a Habitat for Humanity build in Peabody, MA.

Caroline Dymek of West Newbury, MA, has been named this year's Alumni Scholar in recognition of her service to others and commitment to serving inner city youths. Caroline graduated from Pentucket Regional High School and is currently majoring in elementary education at Emmanuel College. A recipient of multiple citizenship and community service awards in high school, Caroline served as President of the Student Council and of SADD at her school. She was also active in the National Honors Society, served as a peer mentor and founded a faith-based community service group with a focus on outreach and spirituality.

While in high school, her greatest passion was working with inner-city youth at the Haverhill YMCA. After being sidelined from her more athletic pursuits by an injury, Caroline focused her energies on working as a youth counselor and art director during the school year and at Camp Tricklin' Falls. With ample reserves of compassion and understanding, she has been able to truly make a positive impact on the lives of these children and their families. In addition, her long hours working with children have provided her with useful experience and teaching skills as well as confidence in her abilities with children; her strong sense of purpose working with these families

continues to fuel her passion for helping children achieve their potential.

All of these experiences can now come together in her academic studies and service to others at Emmanuel. She jumped right in this fall with service projects at the Mission Hill Grammar School, a Habitat for Humanity build and service at the Boston Breast Cancer Walk through ECCO, Emmanuel College Community Outreach, which "has so many events that it is very easy to get involved here." She is also a member of the Emmanuel College Leadership Academy, a four-year commitment for students who demonstrate leadership potential, a commitment to the future of Emmanuel College, and a strong drive to achieve great things.

## *Words of Thanks*

The following Phillips Scholar Alumni have donated generously to the Phillips Scholar Alumni Award during the past year. Matched dollar for dollar by a friend of the scholarship, these funds helped expand our ability to assist students with the soaring costs of education. A sincere thank you to all.

### **\$1,000 and above**

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\*Anonymous

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