

The Phillips Scholar

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund

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

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship places great emphasis on service to others in selecting recipients, and we are gratified that Phillips Scholars continue to be standouts in their college years and beyond. In this issue, we write about Scholars who are giving back in a variety of ways and hope that you find inspiration to continue your service to others in reading about their efforts.

The flooding of New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina has been followed by an unprecedented flood of volunteerism to the devastated city, and many Phillips Schol-



*Emma Stenberg hammering
away on her first Gulf coast
trip.*

ars have strapped on tool belts and forgone their vacations to go help. For Emma Stenberg, it was a “life-altering trip” with her classmates from St. Michael’s College, and she feels “fortunate to have played even the smallest part in renewing hope” for the residents there. She expresses the single most common theme from the essays scholars have written about their experiences: “After gutting, rewiring and restructuring a house, my team and I emerged with new lessons about service, compassion and faith.”

Latoya Ogunbona’s group from North Shore Community College (MA) assisted a family whose losses stemmed from the flooding and then, in a dishearteningly common event, from a contractor who stole \$70,000 worth of supplies and even their furniture. Latoya drew great inspiration from the homeowner for both her diligence in

finding a way to bring her family home and for the way that she was able to open up to Latoya’s group and trust them after all she had been through. “It made me think about how fortunate I am; I loved the service work in New Orleans so much that I chose to attend school there where I can continue to help.” Latoya now attends Xavier University in New Orleans.

And, according to Julie Dabrowski, an ‘08 graduate of Tulane University, there will be plenty of opportunity for service. Julie wrote about her experiences as an RA responsible for students who were evacuated during Katrina in an earlier newsletter, and writes that post-Katrina life at Tulane is distinctly different than before. “The spirit of rebuilding is evident throughout the city and its reverberations have been seen in the spike in community service on campus. Service has become such an essential part of the Tulane culture that I have yet to meet a student who is not involved in some type of community work. While Katrina was an unspeakable



*Latoya Ogunbona in the
home she helped rebuild
in New Orleans.*

continued on page two

tragedy for the people of New Orleans, it has ushered in an era of hope that will outlast the rebuilding of the city.”

But the time frame for that rebuilding has been pegged by some at 10 years, which requires long-term commitments to service. Bard College in New York has made such a commitment, writes Bard student Katie Reed ('09). Immediately following Katrina, Bard students collaborated with the neighborhood group of one of the most flooded areas of the city to create a comprehensive GIS map of the neighborhood, collect data and photograph every property, and conduct needs-assessment surveys, providing data for individual case management. The Bard New Orleans Initiative has fostered a number of other grassroots projects, such as Katie's work to analyze numerous proposals regarding bicycle infrastructure changes and present a recommendation that helped to inform the City's Master Plan. The Initiative has also created a Semester in New Orleans program for undergraduate students who take courses in urban planning, legal studies, and human rights, while serving as interns with community-based organizations and neighborhood associations. An Urban Studies major, Katie reports that this has been a “powerful experience to immerse myself within their rich culture and history as well as the realities of working within a very bureaucratic local government.”

Wanderley Timas

Nativity Preparatory School is a tuition-free private middle school for economically disadvantaged boys from inner city neighborhoods in Boston. In the summer, Nativity Prep runs a month-long program on the campus of Holy Cross. Phillips Scholar and Providence College junior Wanderley Timas has served as a counselor for that program which, he says, “offers kids the opportunity to build closer relationships with their classmates and continue to learn in the summer while also having fun with their teachers and friends. This is a safe and caring environment to be in, instead of being home without anything to do.”

As a mentor, he was responsible for supervising the kids during their activities and field trips as well as serving as a teacher assistant. And who better to mentor these boys than Wanderley: A graduate of Nativity Prep, he has attended now as both student and counselor. “The most lasting impressions of my time there were swimming in the pool for hours with my friends while the sun burned our skin. Also, I remember the morning classes, which we all hated by the way. The evening study was another thing I remember dreading.” Wanderley reports that current students still complain about the early-morning wake-up, the morning classes and evening study, but that it is a program that works, and the students eventually accept that.

Wanderley feels grateful for the “opportunity to give back to my community. I was fortunate to see how the summer program works through the eyes of a counselor instead of a student, and this knowledge of all the work that goes into making the program work makes me appreciate it even more.” In the summer of 2008, Wanderley used this experience, along with insights gleaned from his coursework in psychology, in his job as a direct care counselor at Wediko Children's Services, caring for emotionally, behaviorally and physically challenged children from morning to night. “I did everything from watching over them during their activities to restraining them when they became unsafe. I loved the supportive staff; the kids who could make the day tough but also ask for a hug or back rub before bed; and the activities and outdoor space. Most of all, I loved that every day I was both challenged and learned something new about this kind of work.”

A Change to the Scholarship

From spring 2009 on, the Phillips Scholarship will serve only students who are permanent residents of a New England state (Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island or Vermont). Current recipients of the scholarship are unaffected by this change, as will be students whose families move after they have been awarded the scholarship. “There is significant need among New England residents for scholarship aid,” says Managing Trustee Arthur Emery. “By limiting our awards to this region, we hope to reach more of the students in New England for whom money is a very real barrier to education. We also feel that we better understand the particular socio-economic challenges of specific cities and towns in New England, and so can make more informed decisions about financial need.”



New Applicants for the scholarship must now be permanent residents of a New England state when they apply.

Julie Arrison, Site Manager of the Phillips House writes:

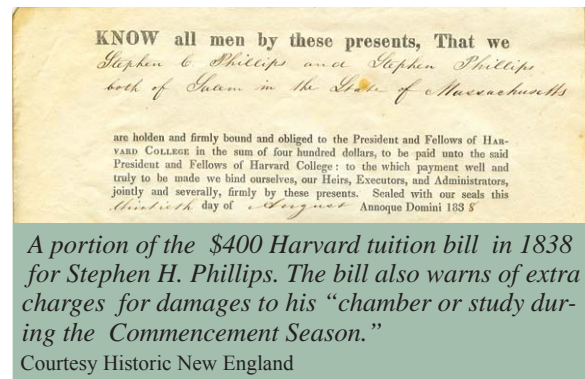
Education is a long-standing Phillips family tradition. Though four of the five generations of Salem's Phillips family attended Harvard, their perspectives on education strike a familiar chord with any college student. In his autobiography, Stephen Willard Phillips, the father of Stephen Phillips, writes, "I have always enjoyed looking back to my college experiences and have taken a keen interest in college matters. I...believe that education is one thing and learning a job is another, and that they are not the same and that one should not substitute for another." His philosophy follows the ideal that students should "learn to think clearly and learn to express themselves clearly."

Stephen Clarendon Phillips, the grandfather of Stephen Willard, was the first generation of the Phillips family to attend Harvard College. His son, Stephen Henry Phillips, began his Harvard career in 1838 and left a detailed journal of his first-year experiences. Much like college students today, Stephen Henry worried about examinations, roommates, homesickness, rushing to class, getting lost on campus, and eventual success. When he wasn't fretting about these issues or studying history, the Classics, or geometry, he spent his time "kicking a football" or learning the "sophomore tricks." Stephen Henry devoted his time at Harvard to "obey the laws and gain knowledge." He didn't consider college "the place to go to create disturbances or for killing time."

In their writings, the Phillips men reflected the sentiments that, all too often, the humanities and arts, areas of study so important to their personal educational philosophies, are shunned for the study of science and mathematics. The Phillips also relished the value of time spent with family and friends. They realized the importance of stepping away from the books—on occasion—and pursuing activities for the sake of leisure and relaxation.

The establishment of the Scholarship showcases the value of education that is deep-rooted within the Phillips' family history. Please join us and discover more about the family's history and treasures at Historic New England's Phillips House. Visit www.historicnewengland.org/phillipsmuseum to help you plan your visit.

News from the Phillips House



A portion of the \$400 Harvard tuition bill in 1838 for Stephen H. Phillips. The bill also warns of extra charges for damages to his "chamber or study during the Commencement Season."

Courtesy Historic New England



Chelsea Dodds (Dartmouth '10), shown here with a young spearfisherman from Ethiopia, took advantage of Dartmouth's unique semester schedule to volunteer during the 2008 spring semester at an orphanage in Ethiopia. Living at the orphanage with "occasional running water and electricity," Chelsea helped teach basic medical care and hygiene to the children and their caretakers, as well as teaching English and math to elementary-aged children. She was amazed by how quickly her students picked up English as well as how much Amharic, the Ethiopian language, she learned herself in ten weeks. "The rest of my time I played and coached soccer and worked with a few older boys to build a swingset, which was very difficult in a country where 2 x 4s don't exist! We ended up having to use metal poles. The swingset wasn't the prettiest, but it was sturdy and the kids loved it."

Off to Ethiopia

In Memorium

We are deeply saddened by the recent death of Phillips Scholar Timothy Padulsky of Woburn, MA, after a courageous struggle with leukemia. Valedictorian of the Woburn High School class of 2005, Timothy had been attending Boston College. Tim was the epitome of a Phillips Scholar: he was committed to both academics and to service and was of the highest character. Following a high school career filled with leadership of service organizations, he served as president of the Rotaract Club at BC, in which students organize volunteer projects to bring significant improvements to the community. He was also selected for membership in BC's Emerging Leader program designed to enhance leadership skills and potential. Our thoughts go out to his family, especially to his sister Kristen and brother Stephen, who are both also Phillips Scholars.

Students Helping Students

Bo-Stacey Nicholson (Temple University '09) wrote to us about a scholarship initiative that she is involved with in Philadelphia. "I am currently working at a nonprofit youth organization, mentoring Philadelphia high school students to become agents of social change themselves. They have taken it upon themselves to raise money to establish their own scholarship fund in an effort to show that youth do care about issues like education and nonviolence. They believe that more accessible avenues to college will help curb violence in the city by encouraging young people to look ahead at the potential for their own futures.

Bo-Stacey also wrote that she is amazed by the generosity of Mrs. Phillips to establish a fund to aid so many college students. "Throughout the process of developing the Temple Youth VOICES Youth Action for Peace Scholarship, I have been able to tell my high school students about the mission and generosity of the Phillips family, and they, too, have been inspired and amazed by the story. They have since raised half of the money that they hope to provide in college scholarships!"



Bo-Stacey Nicholson (in the blue shirt) with the enterprising teen philanthropists.

2008-2009 Alumni Scholar: Bianka Mancebo

The Phillips Scholar Alumni Award was established in 2003 to recognize one new scholarship recipient in particular who has exhibited strong involvement in his or her community. The Trustees are very pleased to award an \$8,000 scholarship this year to Bianka Mancebo of Salem, MA, who began at Quinnipiac University this fall.



Bianka is studying nursing at Quinnipiac, as she has always been interested in medicine. Her years spent as a weekly volunteer at the Shaughnessy Kaplan Rehabilitation Hospital have helped to refine that interest, as has her family's personal experience in the wake of her father's recent accident that left him paralyzed. "Although he was fortunate to have great medical attention from skilled doctors, I strongly believe that the nurses who cared for him made a considerable difference in his rehabilitation after the surgery," she says. Bianka hopes to develop the same strong relationships with her patients' families once she is a nurse as well.

Although carrying 5 classes and 2 labs, Bianka has dived into campus activities at Quinnipiac, much as she did in high school. She participates in the Black Student Union, the Latino Cultural Association, and the Alana Mentoring program and has already found opportunities for service to the community.

Many thanks go to all of the alumni of The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund who donated so generously to support Bianka through the Alumni Scholarship!

Words of Thanks

The following Phillips Scholar Alumni have donated generously to the Phillips Scholarship 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

- *Anonymous
- †*Judith Nowinski

\$100-\$499

- Ellen Chiu
- †*Daniel Hartmann
- *Leah Kelly
- †*Nathaniel Malloy
- *Richard Moy
- Andrea Okerholm

- † Stephanie Regan
- *Monica Scott
- Rebekah Sullivan
- *Emily Sweet
- †*Paul Yee

\$50-\$99

- Denis Aliu
- Katelyn Byrne
- *Eileen Cuddy

- Carol Healy
- †Jeffrey Held
- Teeda Keo
- †*Joseph Kimok
- *Michael Kishko
- † Marybeth and Abbey Maney
- Dan Restuccia
- *Michael Taylor
- *Aimee Burke
- Valeras

up to \$49

- Laura Anderson
- Megan Benevides
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- †Catherine Courcy
- *John DeCaro
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