

The Phillips Scholar

Stephen Phillips Memorial Charitable Foundation

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Stephen Phillips Memorial
Charitable Foundation
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The Staff (from left):
Pam Constantine,
Barbara Welles Iler and
Kate Gearan

College Access Programs provide important resources to low-income rural and urban students who are often the first in their families to attend college, helping students successfully navigate the complexities of planning for and succeeding in college. The Phillips Scholarship has long worked with a number of these organizations across New England; recently some current and alumni Phillips Scholars have begun taking leadership roles in a few such programs. Here we catch up with three Scholars to learn more.

Jesenia Tejada (Northeastern University '08) serves as Coordinator of the College Success program at Salem CyberSpace in Salem, MA, the city's premier academic center for low-income adolescents. Students typically begin working with this program as juniors in high school and receive significant individual and group support. The staff in-



Victor (Manny) Cruz and Yibelis Pena (both Northeastern University), Jesenia Tejada (Salem Cyberspace and Phillips Alumni), Scarlett Gonzalez (Endicott College) and Johanna Rodriguez (also Northeastern University) are all Phillips Scholars with connections to Salem CyberSpace.

teracts with the students weekly as they research careers and colleges, access test preparation and academic tutoring, and move through the college and financial aid application process. Once the students have enrolled at the colleges that best suit their academic, social and financial needs, Jesenia explains, "we help students learn how to navigate through all the available resources at

their colleges, such as where to go to receive tutoring or writing assistance, how to get involved in clubs/study abroad opportunities, how to locate the career centers for internship possibilities, where to seek medical help and much more. Throughout this process we challenge our students to go beyond expectations and to become self-advocates."

With more than 30 high school seniors and juniors in the program and another 40 in college with whom they continue to meet to "ensure their academic success and help them overcome the inevitable barriers that they will encounter," Jesenia manages the entire program, leads the high school groups, and oversees the associate coordinator and the volunteers who work with the students.

During Jesenia's college co-op placement with Bottom Line, a college access program in Boston, she had a caseload of 46 high school seniors, helping them with the college process. With this experience, and after graduating from Northeastern with a degree in Human Services, she served as the Associate Coordinator at LaVida Scholars in Lynn. At LaVida, she worked with Alex Tercero, also profiled in this article, before coming to Salem CyberSpace.

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Mallory Sullivan (Stonehill College '13) has been involved with Let's Get Ready in Brockton, MA, for two years, first as a volunteer SAT coach and this summer as a Site Co-Director. Started by several Harvard undergraduates in 1998 Let's Get Ready has grown to more than 70 programs across New England and New York. The program offers free SAT prep courses and also assists students with the college search and application process. Mallory explains, "All of Let's Get Ready's site directors and coaches are college students or recent graduates, allowing for a peer mentoring relationship to develop between coaches and students. Because college students are not far-removed from the SAT and college application process, they are able to relate to students well. One of our coaches even took part in Let's Get Ready when she was in high school. Students will sometimes



text coaches with questions or updates long after the program is over- I think this is testimony to the unique 'students helping students' dynamic that LGR creates." Mallory's work this summer involved recruiting coaches and students, fundraising from local businesses, and working with site partners. In addition, she organized college trips for the students to Stonehill College and Bridgewater State University and planned a financial aid presentation night.

Committed to service, Mallory plans to participate in a domestic service program like Americorps or the Catholic Volunteer Network after graduation. She is an inaugural member of a special interest house called Students for Service at Stonehill where students are bound by their common passion for offering service in the local community.



Alex, on the far left, with some of his students from the Let's Get Ready program.

Alex Tercero (Boston College '14) worked for two college access programs last summer: La Vida Scholars Program in Lynn, MA, through a grant from the Forest Foundation, and Let's Get Ready, the same program as Mallory, but in Lynn.

La Vida is a rigorous three-year after-school program open to high-achieving Latino students from Lynn that provides both MCAS and SAT prep as well as assistance with the college search and application process. Alex was a graduate of this program himself in 2010. "This summer I assisted in the student selection process, interviewing applicants and their parents and re-

viewing their paper applications. I read incredible personal stories of students' overcoming tremendous obstacles. At times, I was overwhelmed by the stories." In addition to this work, Alex also participated in the Forest Foundation's program through which all 27 of the summer's interns divide into groups, select a nonprofit from their area and write a proposal for the Forest Foundation to fund that organization. Alex's group secured a \$5,000 grant for Salem Cyberspace, coincidentally, the college access organization where Jesenia works.

Like Mallory, Alex was also a Site Director for Let's Get Ready in Lynn, working evenings and weekends, while his La Vida work was weekdays. He was able to encourage strong community support for the program, both in terms of monetary donations and help from his high school friends: 23 of the 25 coaches were college students originally from Lynn. With no help from the local schools to recruit students for the program, Alex and his co-director searched for participants in unconventional places, like churches and other after-school programs such as Salem Cyberspace; they ultimately were able to serve 45 students. Their program ran college trips to Boston University (as pictured in the photo above) and to Salem State University.

Alex has volunteered at Another Course to College, a college preparatory high school in Boston for highly motivated students, and is considering graduate studies in law and education after Boston College.

The Phillips House Museum

Besides being incredibly philanthropic, the Phillips family were also avid collectors. Visitors to the Phillips House Museum can see furnishings, books, art, travel souvenirs, photographs, and more from five generations of this well-known Salem family. Now, thanks to a major project to catalog over 4000 objects in this collection



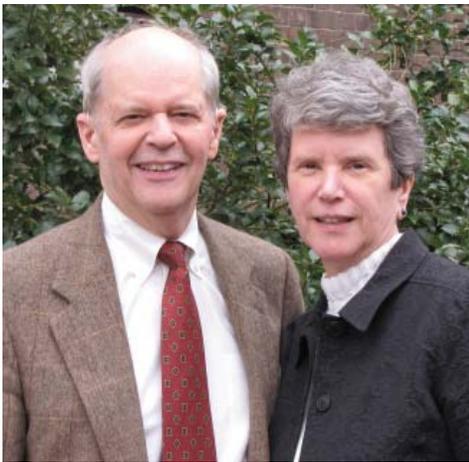
Photo credit: Historic New England

undertaken by Historic New England, the nation's leading heritage organization who operates the museum, virtual visitors can see these items on line.

Some of the more interesting pieces include European paintings and bronzes, South Pacific ethnographic objects and a large collection of Chinese export porcelain, including the 229-piece c. 1867 Rose Medallion dinner service (pictured at left). Begun in 2009, the CAP project was a three-year, grant-

supported project to make online access possible for thousands of objects in Historic New England's collections. Visitors to the website (www.historicnewengland.org) will be able to see images and descriptive information relating to museum objects, books, manuscripts, photographs, and other materials—useful for scholarly research or simply to satisfy curiosity. At the Phillips House, this project was managed by a team of staff and interns who came from as far away as Oklahoma, Missouri, and France.

Leadership Changes



After more than two decades at the helm of The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund, Managing Trustee Arthur Emery and Program Director Karen Emery retired at the end of this summer.

As every recipient knows, Mrs. Betty Phillips conceived of the scholarship after the death of her husband, Stephen Phillips, in 1971. She made a small gift to the program and selected the recipients for several years. After her death in 1996, Arthur and Karen, his wife, developed the program from Mrs. Phillips' initial concept to the significant institution that it is today.

According to the Emerys, "The first year's applications all fit in one small file box, and the Trustees met around Mrs. Phillips' dining room table to vote the first awards. Now, around the deadline in May, the incoming mail on any one day alone is four to six post office cartons.

Since 1991, The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund has provided \$40 million to more than 3,000 students. It has given us great joy to see the Scholarship live out Mrs. Phillips' vision of assisting scholars who would become valuable and productive members of society and who give back to others through a wide range of careers and endeavors." Although retiring as Managing Trustee, Mr. Emery will continue to serve on the Board as a trustee.

Barbara Welles Iler has been hired as Executive Director of the Scholarship to continue developing the vision of Betty Phillips to enable students with limited financial resources to attend college and become contributing members of their communities. Ms. Iler's professional career has been dedicated to providing underserved youth with educational opportunities that promote academic achievement and social responsibility. She is the founder of ANCHOR, a pioneering organization that established New York City's first two boarding school programs for low-income youth, and also served as a director of Student Sponsor Partners, a large scholarship and mentoring program, also in New York.

2012 Alumni Scholars



Congratulations to **Ashley Kemembin**, left, and **Melissa Aptt**, below, who were both named Alumni Scholars for 2012! Thanks to the overwhelming generosity of Phillips Alumni this year, two students received this distinguished title and the specific funds associated with the donations. Ashley and Melissa both personify the attributes of a Phillips Scholar: financial need, academic achievement in a challenging course of study, leadership, a strong work ethic, and significant community engagement. Here's a brief introduction to each of them.

Ashley Kemembin is a first-year student at Temple University, where, she reports, "Life is amazing!" A graduate of Fitchburg (MA) High School, where she was Co-Facilitator of the Peer Leadership Club and worked for LUK, Inc., as a peer leader trained in suicide prevention and teen dating violence, Ashley has joined TU HOPE, a public health club at Temple whose main focus is to teach new mothers in the Philadelphia area how to take better care of their infants, in an effort to reduce very high infant mortality rates in that area. She also continues to pursue opportunities for peer mentoring at Temple.

Melissa Aptt is a graduate of Gloucester (MA) High School and is a first-year student at Endicott College, where she is part of their rigorous nursing program. She gained significant volunteer experience at two hospitals during high school, working with mentally challenged adults and with children, perfect experiences for her future career. She achieved top grades in high school as well as extensive school involvement, all while holding down the same job for four years. At Endicott, Melissa is building on her high school volunteerism through the Friendship Club, which plans and carries out activities with mentally challenged young adults, as well as other organizations.



Please read more about Ashley and Melissa on the Alumni Scholars page of our website, www.phillips-scholarship.org.

Words of Thanks

The following Phillips Scholar Alumni have donated generously to the Phillips Scholar Alumni Award over 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.

\$4,000 and above

†*Emma Nowinski
*Anonymous

\$500 - \$999

*Michael Bednark
*Jeffrey Figueiredo

\$100-\$499

† Nathan Aronson
Michael Baumann
†*Sean and Joe Callahan
* Ellen Chiu
*Kathryn Dalton
Nancy Do
Justine Evans

Michael Flaherty
† Naveen Goela
*Matthew Harutunian
*Michael Kishko
*Mathew Kozlowski
†Emily and Julia Le
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†*Nathaniel Malloy
*Richard Moy
*Laurel Palazola
*Anne Powell
*Monica Scott
*Emily Sweet
Jesenia Tejada
*Ryan Tosi
†*Paul Yee
†*Sophia Zlatin

\$50-\$99

*Enri Azizaj
†Leanne Burnett
*Rebecca Cole
*Eileen Cuddy
Kerryann Foley
*David Gay
Emily Green
Jieh Greeney
Joshua Hills
*Melissa Jackman
*Seamus Kraft
†George Lewis
*Caitlin Lombardi
*Michael Piche
*Jennifer Scafidi
*Aimee Valeras

*Victoria Wong
*Wei Wong
up to \$49
Kimberly Beiler
†Ian Comacho
†*Peter Colleran
*John DeCaro
Gregory Elinson
†*Joseph Ferrantino
*Jocelyn Fleming
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