

# 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.*

### *Phillips Scholars Flying High*



Since its inception, the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund has provided some level of college funding to 2,227 students in, it seems, every possible major at hundreds of schools across the country. But only two have chosen an aviation flight path: Yasel Santana and Seabron Stafford. Yasel has finished her studies at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University and will soon be placed as an air

traffic controller. Seabron, a second year student at North Shore Community College in Massachusetts, had always wanted to be a pilot, but assumed it was an unaffordable option—until he started tapping into resources and realized he could do it. He says that, in addition to cost, the biggest hurdles to this endeavor are weather-related delays of flight training, which increases the pressure to complete one's required hours on time; the academic rigor of the program; and the difficulty of fitting in work along with classes, studying and flight training.

"My first solo was nerve wracking. I was filled with tons of emotions, confident, but at the same time very nervous. Once I completed it, I felt more independent and more motivated. It strengthened my desire to become a pilot," reports Seabron, who plans to transfer to a four-year college with an aviation program next year.

Despite the demands on his time, Seabron is very involved in life on his campus. President of the student government, he reports that voting issues and diversity are "tops on their list" right now. He also serves as coordinator of Y.E.S., an after school and summer program for at-risk youth in Lynn, where he plans and facilitates activities for about 30 middle school students per session, serves as a mentor and tutor, and resolves behavioral issues. "Having been an at-risk youth myself, I have a great understanding and compassion for these students. I find these relationships very important for both the students and myself. I love seeing the positive changes that occur as students progress through the program," he says. Seabron has also served as a tutor counselor for an Upward Bound program at University of New England, a six-week residential program that is geared to low-income students who have the potential to become first-generation college students. During that time, he forged close relationships with students designed to promote their academic and personal growth as they worked toward finishing high school and entering college.

Born in the Dominican Republic, Yasel had also always wanted to fly, and had to face the same financial barriers as Seabron, as well as the notion that women just weren't pilots. With the encouragement of teachers at Lawrence (Massachusetts)

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## Surveying the Scholars

Once Phillips Scholars graduate, too often we lose touch with you. We would love to know what you are doing now--and not just out of idle curiosity. As a scholarship that seeks to assist both good students and good citizens, we are interested in the different paths our recipients take after college. This understanding will help us to refine our evaluation of applicants and may affect the overall philosophy of the scholarship. We are also interested to learn more about your education loan status. Many of us in the scholarship field worry about the increasing levels of indebtedness for students as education costs soar. If you are willing to provide loan-balance information to us, that may also affect our future decision-making and policies. To that end, we have posted an on-line survey on the Phillips Scholars page of the website that you can complete and submit with just a few mouse clicks ([www.phillips-scholarship.org/survey.htm](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org/survey.htm)). If you would rather, the survey also appears on the back of the letter you received with this issue of *The Phillips Scholar*. You may complete that form and return it to us by mail. Thank you for your help!

If you are a Phillips Scholar who has graduated, please complete our brief on-line survey at [www.phillips-scholarship.org/survey.htm](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org/survey.htm)

## Hello from Cameroon!

“Hello from Cameroon!” e-mails Rachel Ekstrand, graduate of North Park University, who volunteers as teacher, in the library, and with the boarding hostels at the Rain Forest International School, a junior/senior high school in Africa. “One of the greatest delights in my work is being involved in students’ lives. The diversity here is beautiful, and the small environment means much more one-on-one time with each student. For the students who live in the boarding hostels, I get to be a part of their family life --which is sometimes challenging because they’re regular teenagers...” Rachel attended RFIS in high school, and is using this time to explore and experience teaching with an eye toward education as a career choice.

Other Phillips Scholars have e-mailed us about their graduate studies, jobs and travels. We want to hear your stories, too--so please respond to the survey described above!



## Making a Difference



When Sarah Varadian read that girls in Afghanistan weren’t allowed to attend school and compared that to her excellent education at Ursuline Academy, she set about researching what she could do to make a difference. The answer came through CARE, USA, which translates monetary donations into schools for girls. Searching for a fundraiser, she didn’t have to look any further than the green plaid uniform skirt she wore to school each day. Learning how to sew from her mother, she bought small teddy bears, then created and dressed them in green plaid pleated skirts, with matching bows and the letters UA on their chests. At first she planned to recycle old skirts, but, to her delight, discovered that the uniform store would donate a shipment of skirts that had the plaid running the wrong way.

The first year, she sold enough bears to open two schools for girls in Afghanistan. Throughout high school, as she continued to sew, assemble and market the Wee Care Bears, as they came to be known, the project earned literally thousands of dollars. Continuing to support the girls schools, she also researched other causes to add to the project. Through those little bears, Sarah has raised funds to provide Christmas gifts for an entire orphanage in Armenia, her ancestral home, and to provide diagnostic testing in the Central African Republic and Kenya, through the organization Science with a Mission.

Now a Phillips Scholar who is a first-year student at Stonehill College in Massachusetts, Sarah has had to step away from the Wee Care Project. Having trained younger students at Ursuline Academy in the whole range of activities involved in this project, she hopes that the plaid-clothed bears will continue to fund worthy causes across the world. In addition, her website [www.wee-care.org](http://www.wee-care.org) encourages all of its readers to undertake similar projects, providing instructions for everything from where to find the bears, to sewing, to tips for marketing them and for researching beneficiaries. Reflecting on this on-going experience, Sarah says, “I’ve come to realize that everything I do affects others, and it is up to me to decide upon my actions. As one thing leads to another in a ripple effect, I hope to influence others to realize that community is a global concept, and that they, too, can make a difference.”

## *News from the House*



Arthur Emery of the Phillips Trust hands off the Phillips House key to Peter Madsen and Carl Nold of Historic New England.

On May 1, 2006, the Trustees of the Stephen Phillips Memorial Trust House transferred ownership of the Phillips family home at 34 Chestnut Street in Salem to Historic New England, the largest and oldest regional preservation organization in the nation. The Trustees had concluded that this decision best served both the preservation of the site and the interests of the public.

According to former Phillips House Managing Trustee Arthur H. Emery, "Historic New England is recognized as one of the best preservation and museum organizations in the nation. The Phillips House staff and trustees have worked closely with them over many years for advice on collection care and preservation issues. Historic New England's expert staff, large membership and financial stability are assets to the museum, and will ensure its success as a prominent cultural destination for Salem and for visitors from around the world." Historic New England's President and CEO Carl R. Nold added

that the Phillips House and its rich collections of carriages and automobiles, paintings and archival materials nicely complement their current holdings. "The Phillips House trustees and staff have done an outstanding job of creating a successful museum," Nold said. "We see our responsibility being to carry that work forward, to provide professional expertise, to expand collaboration with community partners, and to support and promote the museum."

Located literally around the corner from the Scholarship Office, the museum is open from Memorial Day to October 31st on Mondays through Saturdays, 10 am to 4 pm. The tour includes both the house and the carriage house. We encourage Phillips Scholars to visit this living connection to the Phillips family history. Please visit [www.phillipsmuseum.org](http://www.phillipsmuseum.org) to stay abreast of all the new projects and special events.

## *Renewing Your Award*

**All students must reapply each year in order to renew their Phillips Scholarship awards. Remember that the postmarked deadline for Renewal Applications is April 2, 2007.**

### **January to March**

- As soon after January 1st as possible, complete your Renewal FAFSA on the web.
- Order an official transcript, with fall grades, to be sent to you to include with your application.
- Then go to the website's Renewal Applicants page, and follow the registration and application instructions there.
- Mail your application and its supporting documents --don't miss the April 2nd deadline!

*Renewing your award for next year can be almost painless if you start early!*

### **June**

- Receive the notification about your award along with your Acceptance Agreement.
- Sign the Acceptance Agreement and mail it to us right away. We will not order your first semester check until we receive it! If you will be away, make arrangements for someone at your home to take care of this.
- Enjoy your summer, and look forward to the coming year at school.

## *Beating the High Cost of Textbooks*

According to a recent article in *The Boston Globe*, the average estimated cost of books and supplies for a full time, first year student is \$898.00, adding about 25% again to the cost of tuition and fees at a public university. To help students combat the ever-increasing cost of textbooks, organizations such as [MakeTextbooksAffordable.com](http://MakeTextbooksAffordable.com) are lobbying state legislatures to take steps to discourage this trend.

For immediate relief, the *Globe* recommends that students shop early for their textbooks in order to take advantage of the limited stock of used books available on their campuses. In addition, students can browse websites that deal in used books--again, shop early to allow for shipping times. These sites include [www.textbookx.com](http://www.textbookx.com), [www.half.com](http://www.half.com), [www.bigwords.com](http://www.bigwords.com) and [www.bestbookbuys.com](http://www.bestbookbuys.com).



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High School, Yasel pursued her dream, first at Bridgewater State College and then at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University, where she majored in Air Traffic Control and minored in flight, which saved some money on her flight training. Yasel reports that she is well on her way to becoming a controller, which requires graduation from one of 13 specific colleges; a recommendation to the FAA Academy; an extensive application; and aptitude, psychological and physical examinations.

Yasel anticipates the biggest challenge to air traffic controlling is that one can't let down at any time--there is no room for mistakes in front of the radar screen. And, although the world is changing, it is still rare for women to be air traffic controllers or pilots. "I attended a school that was 95% male," writes Yasel, who would like to return to her middle and high schools to bring the message that girls can fly, and that aviation is a very rewarding field, despite its almost prohibitively high cost. "I love flying, and there is not one thing I regret about the decisions I've made. I can't wait to start working!"

### *Katherine Julian: Alumni/Alumnae Scholar*

The Phillips Scholarship Alumni/Alumnae Award was established in 2003 to recognize one new scholarship recipient in particular who exhibits great concern for improving his or her community and has met our academic and financial need standards. The Trustees are very pleased to announce that this year's recipient is Katherine Julian, a 2006 honors graduate of Dennis-Yarmouth (Massachusetts) Regional High School, who is currently in her first year at Boston College.

Katie Julian's high school career demonstrates strong commitments to academics and community service. As Salutatorian of her class, she earned near-perfect grades in a most challenging course of study; she frequently contributed articles to the Cape Cod Times "Young Voices" column and also participated in its Writers Forum. A member of the Student Council, she also represented her school and her state at the National Young Leaders conference in Washington, DC. Katie volunteered daily in her school's WAVE program, assisting developmentally disabled students in their classroom and during after-school activities. She also mentored fourth grade students and worked to promote human rights through Amnesty International. A cancer survivor, Katie exudes a passion for learning and for wringing every experience possible out of life.

Katie writes from Boston College that she enjoys the bustling atmosphere of campus life, where there is never a dull moment -- between studying, attending classes, meeting new people and being a "Superfan" of BC sports. Katie has already written several articles for *The Heights*, the campus newspaper, and has recently become a beat reporter for resident issues. She is also part of a freshman leadership program for potential editorial staff members.

Congratulations to Katherine Julian on her selection as Alumni/ae Scholar!

### *Words of Thanks*

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

#### **\$100-\$499**

John Burke  
\*Sean Callahan  
\*Kathryn Dalton  
\*†Nathaniel Malloy  
\*Monica Scott  
\*†Emma Nowinski

#### **\$50-\$99**

Enri Azizaj  
†Erin Hackett  
Kristy Kerin  
\*Emily Sweet  
\*Michael Taylor  
†Elizabeth Tung

#### **up to \$49**

Michael Bednark  
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