

The Phillips Scholar

The Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund

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The Stephen Phillips
Memorial Scholarship Fund
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Photo credit: Photo of
Mooselookmeguntic Lake
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The Look of Giving: Arthur Emery

Mrs. Phillips was a person of routine in all that she did. As a private trustee in the Phillips Family Office, I would visit Mrs. Phillips in her home and, many afternoons, find her pouring over her “big sheets,” as she would call them. She had created her own system of working on her annual charitable giving by utilizing sheets of paper 11”x17” which contained the names of 125 to 150 different organizations. Almost on a daily basis she would make her giving decisions and jot the gift amount down by hand.

Philanthropy was very much second nature to the Phillips family. The Biblical injunction “To whom much is given, much is required” was a guiding principle. Long before Mrs. Phillips established a scholarship fund, generations of the Phillips family had been actively involved in giving something back to society. Family gifting was not limited to one specific area of interest. Over the years, students of need and academic promise were provided funds for college educations. Thousands of acres and miles of shoreline in the Rangeley Lakes area of Maine are forever protected by trust. Several museum and school libraries have been built, touching hundreds of lives. Within the City of Salem, a whole residential block was rebuilt following the great fire of 1914 for the purpose of providing housing for those who had been left homeless. Stephen C. Phillips, Stephen’s great-grandfather and Salem’s second mayor during the mid 19th century, donated his entire mayoral salary to the Salem schools each year.

Mrs. Phillips was not always predictable when it came to philanthropy, however. I remember on one occasion when she wanted to make a gift of a 15,000-volume library that she owned—the books and the entire room, that is. She suggested that we merely detach the library from the home and move it to Governor Dummer Academy in Byfield, Massachusetts. It was a rare event indeed when Mrs. Phillips’ visions were not carried out to the letter. Today, I am happy to report that Mrs. Phillips’ gift of 15,000 books, together with the former library’s oak paneling, is housed in a special building at Governor Dummer designed and built by Mrs. Phillips. The former library, I might add, now serves as a room to display large pieces of modern art.

So many of you have started your own journey of giving, whether it be volunteering with literacy and tutoring programs, inmate assistance projects, or Habitat for Humanity. I can think of no better way in which to say thank you to the Phillips family for their generosity than by your own individual actions. The look of giving starts now.



Mooselookmeguntic Lake, Maine



The recreated library at Governor Dummer Academy.

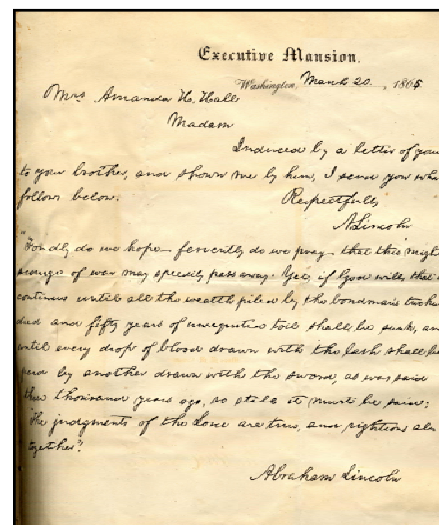
Treasures from the Trust House

Induced by a letter of yours to your brother, and shown me by him, I send you what follows below. So begins the most exciting new find of the “treasure hunt,” the inventorying of some 11,000 items left to the Phillips Trust House museum by five generations of the family. Discovered in a scrapbook in one of 109 trunks stored in the carriage house, the handwritten letter from Abraham Lincoln on Executive Mansion stationery quotes from his Second Inaugural Address delivered earlier that month.

The inventory completed, the Trust House staff and trustees must now

determine both how to care appropriately for these treasures and how to share them with the public. To help with the first issue, Juliette Rogers has been hired as Collections Manager/Registrar. She will manage the care and storage of the collection as well as catalogue it.

The second issue is at the heart of the museum. According to Naomi Gray, Curator, “The goal of any museum is to transform a static object or idea into something of relevance. As we plan for the future, we are considering ways we can appeal to our audience, whether it be in the form of



special tours, educational programs, lectures, or exhibits.”

Phillips Scholars and Volunteerism



“Youth is that inherent urge in every human soul to change the world. It is the belief that you can change the world simply because you have the willpower to do it.”

First-year Yale student and Phillips Scholar Leveille' McLain (pictured above) delivered these words to more than 700 clergy and lay people at the Episcopal Diocesan Convention last year. “When you focus the energy and willpower of youth, you get leadership of a caliber that is nearly unstoppable,” he continued.

As our applicants know, the Phillips Scholarship looks for evidence of committed service to others in our selection process. This year’s renewal applications revealed a broad range of areas where our students focused their energy and willpower while juggling the demands of college life. Most frequently mentioned are literacy and tutoring programs. Some students teach in area schools, some at shelters, and others at community centers. In some cases, the focus is on recent immigrants to this country who

need help not only with language and culture, or translation of their children’s school notices and parent-teacher conferences, but also with more mundane activities, such as bill paying and shopping. Several students ran playgroups or entertained small children at government agencies, such as welfare offices, where the wait is frequently long.

Housing and building programs benefit greatly from student volunteerism. Increasingly, Phillips Scholars spend their Spring Breaks with Habitat for Humanity—or other, similar programs—attending to the universal need for shelter. “For one week, I worked alongside people who did not speak my language, who lived a different lifestyle, and who possessed a culture different from mine. I learned enough Spanish to communicate, I grew to respect elements of a lifestyle I do not lead, and I tasted a beautiful culture, rich in its cuisine, music, and dance,” wrote Rochelle Kohen about building houses for seasonal farm workers from Mexico.

Students also recognize the importance of feeding programs. Activities ranged from reclaiming food from

school cafeterias for distribution to soup kitchens to actually serving meals or filling bags at food pantries, as well as providing meals to people suffering from AIDS.

Person to person connections are fundamental as well. Scholars have formed relationships with younger children, elders, refugees, and people challenged by mental handicaps and emotional difficulties. One student described his work with the School for Kosovar Youth in Boston providing academic and cultural support for young refugees. “We have introduced the kids to the Museum of Fine Arts, Museum of Science, the Aquarium, and *The Nutcracker*. Seeing how they have progressed, I think we have managed to restore some faith in their war-torn image of humanity.”

The opportunities are apparently boundless. Students help inmates read aloud on tapes to send to their children; provide urban children with opportunities for farming and raising farm animals; and obtain computers for a shelter for abused women for job training. Focusing their energy and willpower, Phillips Scholars do make a difference.

A Scholar's Story: Elizabeth Tung

Dust is flying kicked up in whirlwinds. Feet skip and dance almost with joy, almost with fear. A swell of voices, of determination, of spirit rolls into a wave of children. Continuous, the swarm snakes around the schoolyard into the street; beautiful voices of protest rise from the rubble that they are forced to call home. The police are there, and dogs. Inexplicably, shots ring out. The first child crumples from the new unknown pain, Hector Peterson, a boy of thirteen. On June 16, 1976 in the black township of Soweto, children, some only eight years old, were brave enough to dance in the sun-baked streets in protest against the apartheid schools that only taught students in Afrikaans—a virtual slave language. The day ended in loss and triumph. The loss of young life marked the shift in the struggle against apartheid as the revolution passed into the hands of the youth. They led it, fought it, sacrificed for it, and finally won freedom for themselves, their families, and their people.

South Africa, straddling its bloody past and new freedom, writes its history now in this lifetime. Not some distant lesson recorded in textbooks, the South African struggle against apartheid was won only five years ago. This summer, with the African Studies Institute, I sensed the emotion that lay latent at the Hector Peterson memorial, witnessed the strength that allowed South Africans to live looking forward towards progress and normalcy, and felt the humanity of their forgiveness. Every South African is a testament to the ability of people—and most importantly, kids—to effect change no matter how absolutely the status quo seems to be entrenched. As students, we often discount our potential to do something. We are too frightened to take the plunge, to wander from the

goals of self-interest and pecuniary gain that our environment teaches us to strive toward. Instead we have become merely a tired parade of students who fail to use the education that we are so lucky to receive. South Africa was the first place to show me that my songs of idealism were not just naïveté, and that my heady dream to not live my life merely for myself had substance and worth. I realized that my actions don't need to be revolutionary; they only have to strive towards an ideal I love and believe in.

One afternoon in a small village called Ezzizeni, our group conducted the interviews that would form the primary data for our individual research projects. The villagers made clear that their main concern was water. They wished that they had enough of it, that their children wouldn't get sick from it, and that they could use it to grow vegetables from the dust they lived on. We had just driven into this town and accosted these people with pens and notebooks. They invited us into their modest mud and scrap-metal homes and into their rich lives, grateful that someone actually seemed interested. They spoke of their problems with candor, humor and dignity. As I created real relationships with the villagers, their plight was no longer a statistic, but a heartache. That night, we students decided that we wanted to abandon our individual topics and work together to produce a study of Ezzizeni's water quality and

the social costs attached to it. That little room truly tingled with excitement and the anticipation of actually doing something. It would be a tribute to the people of Ezzizeni, an articulation of their struggle, and maybe it could help them with something as

simple as a tip on how to remove hard bases from their drinking water. I felt like I was part of a revolution. And, in a way, I was. I had realized that the most useful learning is not done only with the mind, but equally with the heart.



Elizabeth Tung (center) with new friends in Ezzizeni, South Africa.

Elizabeth Tung graduated from Phillips Academy and is currently a freshman at Yale University.

Phillips Facts

- We are on the 'Net! Visit our website for important information about the scholarship fund. There is also a link to the Trust House's website.

www.phillips-scholarship.org

- This year we awarded 803 scholarships for a total of \$3,050,750. Of those, 551 awards were renewals and 252 were new awards.
- We have provided awards to 1,092 students since 1991.
- Renewal Application Forms are now available! Request your transcript **now**, especially if you will be off-campus in the spring, and send your completed application packet as soon as possible.

Summer Visitors

Visitors are a real treat for us! We thoroughly enjoyed our visits with 41 scholars this summer, many of whom brought family along, too. In addition, we attended a luncheon at Gordon College for scholarship providers and recipients, where we had a delightful visit with five Phillips Scholars.



The Trust House reopens for the season Memorial Day weekend. We'd love to meet you, too, and add your photo to our scrapbook. Please call ahead to be sure that we will be here when you come to visit.

Top to bottom, left to right: Arla Bascom, Michael Blunk, Felecia Cerrato, Phillip Chadwell, Catlin Converse, Mary Cronin, Halissa Delphin, Lauren Dennis, Eileen Donato, Charles Doret, Michael Flaherty, Janette Funk, Melissa Gorham, Jessica Healy, Jessica Hill, Leah Johnson, Theresa Johnson, Matthew Konjoin, Emily Leary, Leveille McClain, Katherine McGuire, Douglas Merritt, Renee Morin, Francis Nagle, Kevin O'Keefe, Daniel Oreper, Kristen Parcell, Audrey Patten, Michael Peterson, Russell Pierpont, Bonnie Pihl, Stephanie Regan, Shelley Rose, Melissa Rowell, Joshua Schultz, Adam Shain, Maria Speridakos, Seann Tulloch, Elizabeth Tung, Joanne Wan, Nathan White.
At Gordon College: Aaron Cotnoir, Derek Lawrence, John Ludlum, Vesna Vuletic, Blake Whitney.