

# 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):  
Pam Constantine and  
Karen and Arthur Emery*

### *Scenes from an Open House*

On August 8, 2004, the backyard and downstairs of the Phillips Trust House at 34 Chestnut Street in Salem came alive with the conversations of more than 450 Phillips scholars and their parents. This was our first Open House, and we were thrilled both to meet students and to welcome back those whom we had met before. Recipients traveled from all six New England states and New York for the Open House, which enjoyed a perfect blue sky and bright sunshine. The Salem Trolley brought visitors from a central parking lot to Chestnut Street to tour the house and the carriage house, meet other students--sometimes from their colleges or high schools--chat with staff and readers, and learn about the Phillips family and its history. Museum guides were on hand to provide more background about the Federal-style home and its furnishings and the carriages and cars in the carriage house. We had a great time meeting so many recipients, and only wish we would have had more time with each family. Many thanks to our volunteers, without whom we could not have managed the day: Scholars Denis Aliu, Henry Arlander, Abby and Sarah Beckwith, Andrew Carr, Tristan Freeman, Jurgen Lika, and Anna Samogray, as well as parent volunteers Carol Carr and Constance Arlander.



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## *An Essay from a Reader: Allison Lobdell*

We are not always aware of the ramifications of saying “yes.” When I accepted the offer to become a reader for the Stephen Phillips Memorial Scholarship Fund five years ago, I had no notion of the rewards, and sometimes the disappointment, this new job would hold. I have three children of my own. I didn’t need any more. I’ll explain.

First of all, exactly what is a reader? Each year the Phillips Scholarship receives boxes full of applications composed of personal and academic information, transcripts and test scores, letters of recommendation, essays and financial information. Once the scholarship staff has ensured that each is a complete, financially viable application, all but the financial materials are turned over to one of seven readers. Once a week, for six to eight weeks in the spring, I arrive at the Phillips House and collect an armload of applications. I head home and begin to read.

What begins simply as a name on the first line of the application suddenly morphs into a multi dimensional, colorful individual. One applicant was a snowflake in *The Nutcracker*; while another worked summers at a recycling center and as a mail carrier. One young man had little volunteerism listed, but it soon became clear that because of the sudden death of a parent, he had to work, after a full day of school, to help his family. I’ve read about students who have made their own musical instruments; worked side by side repairing houses with their grandfathers; volunteered as tutors in inner city community centers; published poetry and painted murals; or who have been in marching bands and orchestral groups, singing, dancing or debating their way through high school. I recall applicants whose passions have been sports of every kind. They practice diligently, often passing the important lessons learned from their coaches along to teams they now coach. Some applicants have traveled to foreign countries to do volunteer work, while one admitted to a secret love of romance novels! And there are those students who have overcome overwhelming odds and adversity and have succeeded stunningly along the way. Each student is unique. Every single applicant is different and deserving, which makes the scoring tough.

Scoring an application happens after we have read and many times re-read the entire file, trying to weigh this against that: grades versus test scores, extracurricular activities and leadership roles versus heavy family responsibilities. And there are those cases too, frankly, where the applicant is a scholar and a class leader, a phenomenal athlete, a frequent volunteer, but the essay was, well, poorly written, filled with typos and only one paragraph long. It’s disappointing. A sinking feeling sets in.

There are countless variables and circumstances that affect the final score. It isn’t a perfect science and sometimes we gratefully accept the help of one of the other six readers. Finally, scores awarded, I deliver the same armload back into the careful hands of the staff, who thoughtfully manage the process from that moment on. It isn’t without worry that you release these files and the students they reflect. You’ve come to know each and to admire many. You hope for the best, wish them well and wait anxiously to hear who receives scholarship dollars.



Allison Lobdell (in white) surrounded by readers (from left) Cheryl Martha, Reid Swetland, Lynn Welbourn, Kate Gearan, Loyce Thomson and Ann Moulton.

While I can admit to privately tossing and turning, hand wringing and pacing, I must say, in the end, I am usually delighted by the results. And the feelings for these kids last long after the initial reward. Each year thereafter, the recipients are required to send an essay letting us know how they have spent their year – what has been wonderful, what has been hard. I have read over 400 applications and 95 of “my kids” have already graduated from college. And those special kids out there, whose files I have read and scored, and who have been rewarded, I consider *nearly* as dear as my own children.

## *Renewal Reminders*

With your fall semester just about over, now is the time to order your transcript and think about the Renewal Process! Visit our website [www.phillips-scholarship.org](http://www.phillips-scholarship.org) to download your renewal application. You may fill it out on the computer, print it, and mail it in with your supporting documents. If your e-mail address has changed, please be sure to send us that change so that we will be able to send you updates and reminders.

File the FAFSA as soon after the first of the year as possible, so that you will receive your Student Aid Report in a timely fashion. Remember: **April 1st is the mailing deadline** for your application, a copy of your most recent financial aid award letter, your W-2 form(s), and a sealed transcript with fall semester grades included. Your Student Aid Report, if not included with your application, must be received by May 15. If you have trouble downloading the application, please email ([renewal@spscholars.org](mailto:renewal@spscholars.org)) and we will send one to you. We will not, however, automatically mail applications to all current recipients, as it is available on the web.

We look forward to reading your essays to learn about your experiences at school this year. As always, early applications are greatly appreciated!

## News from the House

The year 2004 has been one of many changes and exciting projects for The Stephen Phillips Trust House. In September, Margherita Desy became Curator/Site Manager of the house after Naomi Gray, who had served in that capacity for ten years, created and assumed the new position of Coordinator of Grants and Marketing. The museum staff was thrilled, therefore, to receive several important grants this year and to undertake projects that will help to continue its great progress in collections management, educational programming, and preservation of the house and its contents.



Laurie Austin inspects the family movies as part of a complete preservation project for the films.

Grants from both the federal Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) have allowed the Phillips House to undertake the preservation of the Phillips 16mm home movie collection. Recorded in the late 1920s and early 1940s, it portrays the Phillips family at work and at play. Phillips House staff will review the movies, create a finding aid, and select the most important films to be placed on the website. A link with the North-eastern Massachusetts Digital Library will make these films accessible to online researchers, while DVDs will be available to view at the House.

The Phillips House also received a matching grant of \$2,000 from the Essex National Heritage Commission (ENHC) Partnership Grant Program that will support an interior paint analysis of the four rooms in the oldest part of the Phillips House. These rooms were originally part of an estate built by Captain Nathaniel West and Elizabeth Derby West in 1800 at a site called

Oak Hill. They were moved from Oak Hill to 34 Chestnut Street between 1820-1821. The paint analysis will help establish a chronology of work done on these four principle rooms and will directly impact future interpretation of the Phillips House.

In addition, The Phillips House is taking part in an initiative by the Northeast Massachusetts Regional Library System (NMRLS) to add documents to its digital library. The archives selected are from the Anna P. Phillips collection that relate to Anna's involvement in the Special Aid Society for American Preparedness during World War I and her travels abroad in the 1920s and 1930s. In June 2004, two technicians scanned most of the documents slated for digitization; with the scanning and transcribing process already underway, the project should be finished after the summer of 2005.

As always, we encourage you to visit the Stephen Phillips Trust House from Memorial Day weekend through October and the website [www.phillipsmuseum.org](http://www.phillipsmuseum.org) for up-to-date information on the house and our ever-growing activities.



Taking paint samples will reveal the chronology of the oldest rooms in the house, finding a story in every layer of paint.

## Words of Thanks

The following Phillips Scholar Alumni have donated generously to the Alumni Fund. To read about this year's recipient of the Alumni Scholarship, please turn to page four. And many thanks to all for your support.

### \$1,000 and above

† Amanda Fraga

### \$500-\$999

Alleana Edwards

### \$100-\$499

Mark Anzalone

\*Claire Blais

Lisa Briand

Paul Carr

\*Celeste Cassino

Jillian Doan

Kerry Donovan

\*Kristin Heil

Julie Hill

\*†Nathaniel Malloy

Jennifer Mullen

Amanda Nyland

Stephanie Root

\*Jennifer Scafidi

†Andrew Viera

### \$50-\$99

\*Sean Callahan

Matthew Daelhousen

Stephen Doret

Patrick and Naomi

Gray

Ryan Janda

\*Michael Kishko

Jennifer Loach

Adriana Raudzens

Marcie Schweigert

Monica Scott

Michael Taylor

Scott Taylor

### up to \$49

Steven Ambruster

Adam Belanger

Jennifer Botelho

Meghan Britt

Dmitriy Burt

Cassandra Clark

Andria Darby

Rebecca Downing

Erin Emlock

\*Jocelyn Finos

Hillary Fitzgibbons

Marcia Flaherty

\*Timothy French

Stasha Fyfe

Marquisa Gaines

Whitney Grace

Irina Grinberg

\*James Holley

Katie Jussaume

Eun Soo Kwak

Vivian Lam

\*Fanny Lau

Maria Lazebnik

\*Marybeth Maney

Pamela Maryanski

Amy Mosher

Allison Nutting

Laurel Palazola

Heather Pierce

Alison Pruchansky

Alison Reichert

Andrew Rosenthal

\*Brad Russo

Jeremy Simons

Emily Sweet

Aria Thomases

Seann Tulloch

\*Meghan Willard

†Karen Woods

\*Multiple-year donors

† Parent donation

## Scenes from an Open House

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## Degelis Tufts: Alumni Scholar

The Phillips Scholar Alumni Award was established in 2003 to recognize one new scholarship recipient in particular who has exhibited great concern for improving his or her community as well as meeting our financial need and academic standards. Generous donations from Phillips Scholar Alumni were matched, dollar for dollar, by a friend of the scholarship, and all monies collected were used to fund this award. The Trustees are pleased to announce that this year's recipient is **Degelis Tufts**, a 2004 honors graduate of Swampscott High School, who lives in Nahant, Massachusetts. Pictured here in front of the Phillips family's late-19th century extension-front brougham at the Phillips Trust House museum is Degelis with **Arthur Emery**, Managing Trustee. She has received a renewable scholarship of \$5,000 per year to study at the University of Virginia.



In high school, Degelis served as an officer of both the National Honor Society and the Student Council. Captain of the Field Hockey team, she was twice named to the NEC Field Hockey All Star team. Her community involvement included volunteering and fundraising for various charitable organizations, and serving on the search/interview committee for the current Swampscott High School principal. At UVa, she continues her involvement serving on her dorm council, playing club field hockey, and planning and participating in both fundraising and community service events.

Congratulations to **Degelis Tufts** on her selection as Alumni Scholar and to the generous Phillips Scholars who helped us expand our ability to help students attend college in these difficult financial times.