



The Lenfest Connection

News and Happenings From the Lenfest Foundation

Fall 2006

*“We believe
these stories can
and will serve
as inspiration
for other
students.”*



Welcome to *The Lenfest Connection*.

Year after year, we are incredibly impressed by the young men and women we meet through our Lenfest College Scholarship Program and Lenfest College Preparatory Program. We are confident their achievements are but a glimpse of the many great things they will accomplish in their lives.

That's one of the reasons we developed the *Connection*. We hope to showcase the stories of these students. We want to do that not only because their efforts deserve recognition. We believe these stories can and will serve as inspiration for other students.

We also hope the *Connection* will become a sort of alumni magazine for our scholarship recipients, providing a way for them to follow the work of their fellow students and a means to stay in touch. In a way, this is a call to recipients to continue to send us updates and stories. We never tire of hearing how you are doing.

We thank all those who play such a large role in the lives of students and especially those who assist us with our programs. We welcome your comments on those programs and the *Connection*. You can reach us at connection@lenfestfoundation.org or 610-828-4510.

Thanks for reading.

Gerry Lenfest

Gerry Lenfest

Amber Shines at Wyoming Seminary and University of Penn

Twenty-year-old Amber Oberholzer took a risk in her sophomore year of high school that paid off. Her father had mentioned the Lenfest College Preparatory Program, aimed at helping students from select public schools succeed by providing them scholarships to independent boarding schools.

Amber, who was attending classes at James Buchanan High School outside of Mercersburg, asked her guidance counselor about the program. Even though she wasn't fully sold on the idea, she figured she could apply and back out if it didn't feel right. A funny thing happened

along the way. While waiting for the application to be processed, Amber sold herself on the idea and eventually sold her parents on the concept too.

“I was sort of bored with school and felt I needed a change,” Amber remembers. Once accepted, she packed her bags and headed from her rural home for Wyoming Seminary, just outside of Wilkes-Barre. It was a three-hour drive from her family and the farming community she grew up in.



The
LENFEST
Foundation

Continued on page 3



Martin Razo

“It was a life altering experience. I learned to connect with all different kinds of people from all different types of cultures.”

Twist of Fate Opens Door to Lehigh University

Fate played a hand in Waynesboro resident Martin Razo's applying for a Lenfest College Preparatory Program scholarship.

When band practice was cancelled one day, he went to an advisory meeting instead and heard an announcement about the program. He asked for the application.

“The thought of going away to a boarding school had never entered my mind until then. But once I applied, that's all I could think about,” says Martin.

Martin recently graduated from Westtown School, just outside of Philadelphia, a two-and-a-half hour trip from his home. He boarded there since the start of his junior year and credits the experience with his acceptance and scholarship to Lehigh University, where he will study engineering and foreign languages.

“It was a life altering experience. I learned to connect with all different kinds of people from all different types of cultures,” says 18-year-old Martin. At Waynesboro (High School), I was headed for a music career, but I got involved in robotics at Westtown and I'd really like to get into engineering as a career.”

Martin was exposed to classes at Westtown that he might not have experienced elsewhere. “I took dance classes and became the captain of a competitive dance team. I also took up cross-country track and started an A Capella club.”

“I don't think I'd be on my way to Lehigh if I hadn't had the Westtown experience. It's definitely a life changing experience,” he says. “I'm not as quiet as I used to be

and I'm better able to articulate my thoughts.”

Martin's mother, Laura Dawson, agrees.

“If you asked me two years ago, I wouldn't have believed this would be the outcome,” Laura says. “He needed a push. Now he is totally different. More independent. I really like that he's making his own decisions.”

Martin says he thought he would be homesick, but that was not the case. “My relationship with my parents got better. We appreciated each other more on the visits home.”

He also met a kindred spirit at Westtown, Porsche Jackson, who will also be attending Lehigh University.

“We have a bunch of stuff in common,” Martin says. “We're both interested in physics, math and foreign languages. We just clicked.”

Martin would encourage other students to apply for a similar scholarship.

“If someone were thinking about filling out the application, I'd say definitely try it. The process wasn't difficult and it could change your life like it has changed mine.”



Lenfest Foundation Opens Many Doors for Students

The Lenfest College Preparatory Program and the Lenfest College Scholarship Program were founded in 2001. The programs are core initiatives of The Lenfest Foundation, which is based in West Conshohocken, Pennsylvania. The foundation supports programs in the education, arts and environment.

The Lenfest College Preparatory Program

The program is designed to help promising public school students from rural areas. Scholarship recipients receive tuition, room and board to Pennsylvania college preparatory boarding schools. Students in grades 8, 9 and 10 in select public school districts are eligible.

The Lenfest College Scholarship Program

The program seeks to help promising public school students from rural areas succeed by encouraging them to attend challenging academic colleges. Students apply for scholarships in their junior year of high school. The program provides up to \$12,000 a year for four years toward the cost of attendance at any accredited U.S. private college and up to \$7,500 a year toward the cost of attendance at any accredited U.S. public college.

Eligibility

Both programs are open to students attending public school in the Bermudian Springs, Conewago Valley and Upper Adams school districts in Adams County, the Octorara Area School District in Chester County, the Chambersburg Area, Fannett - Metal, Greencastle-Antrim, Tuscarora and Waynesboro Area school districts in Franklin County and the Upper Perkiomen School District in Montgomery County.



Many people at Wyoming Seminary know Amber Oberholzer became a star. She received the Levi Sprague Award her senior year and was invited back to school this summer to teach English as a Second Language.

'Big Change' Pays Off Nicely

Continued from page 1

"At first, I was homesick for my family and the country life for sure," Amber says. "But once I made the decision, my parents put their feet down and only allowed me to come home on holidays. That was smart of them. I needed to spend time in the dorms interacting with students from all walks of life."

She took a variety of classes at Wyoming and was accepted into the University of Pennsylvania's nursing program. She has two more years to get her nursing degree and will continue her studies this fall. She hopes one day to work in an acute care setting as a nurse, and possibly go on to become a nurse practitioner or a clinical specialist.

What advice would she have for other students considering the move from a public school to a private boarding school?

"You have to consider that it is a big risk and a big change. I think the students who go to boarding school really value education and are willing to make the sacrifices of leaving home...perhaps earlier than they had planned," says Amber, who is spending this summer at Wyoming Seminary teaching English as a second language.

Amber took advanced placement classes, got involved in the theater and became a resident assistant in her dormitory. Along the way, she also built up her self-esteem.

"I know I became more confident. I wasn't a star student at my old school, but neither was I here. I accepted the idea of measuring my own progress and to simply enjoy the experience rather than focusing on the results. It's been a very valuable experience."

Lenfest Scholarship Leads to William & Mary

Amy Haldeman feels "blessed" on a number of fronts. The 21-year old Greencastle native receives \$15,000 a year from the Lenfest College Scholarship Fund to help pay her tuition at William and Mary College in Virginia.

"I feel blessed to have had parents who got me to focus on and apply for lots of scholarships," she said in a recent phone interview from campus. "The Lenfest Scholarship has been a great blessing and so has the college experience here at William and Mary."

She also feels blessed that she was guided in choosing a college by Lenfest Foundation advisor Roger Lehecka.



Music is another of Amy Haldeman's talents. She uses her abilities to teach others and in her community outreach work.

"He conversed with me by phone, e-mail and in person. I probably wouldn't have chosen this college if he hadn't steered me to the program here."

The goal of the Lenfest College Scholarship Program is to help promising students succeed by encouraging them to attend academic colleges. The Foundation believes scholarship recipients will find that the college experience enriches them for a lifetime.

Amy grew up on a dairy farm. At the age of 12, she bought a cow and started saving money from the sale of its milk and calves.

"My parents were gracious in allowing me to be a part of their business," she added.

As for the application process, she says it was a bit of a challenge.

"It was pretty extensive compared to other scholarship applications. From the beginning, the Foundation expressed that the money was intended to help enrich the lives of young people, who will in turn help others. I thought at the time, and still do, that that was a great quality in the program."

Amy says early in her college term she joined a church with a diverse group of congregants. She serves as a youth leader on the Worship Team.

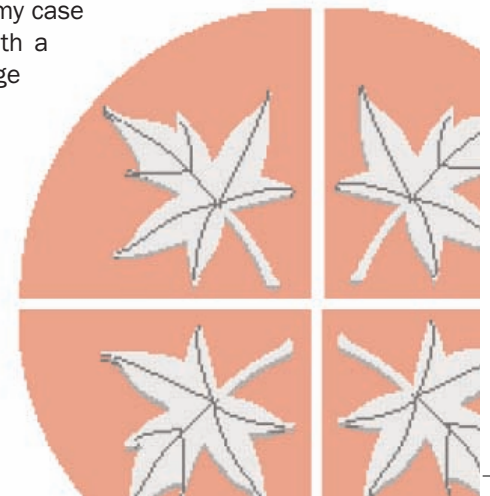
"It's just been a great learning experience. I've also taken on the role of being a mentor."

Amy is studying public policy, with an eye toward working at a non-profit institution like a church or halfway house.

"I still have a year left in my studies. God has directed me this far and I know He won't let me down."

What would she tell other Lenfest Scholarship applicants?

"I would encourage others to apply for a Lenfest Scholarship. There is no harm in applying and if you don't get it, it's not the end of the world. In my case it helped me connect with a variety of people at college and I've learned more about myself and what I'm interested in."





Meet the Lenfest Scholars

A partial list of the young men and women The Lenfest Foundation is proud to have come to know. The year indicates when the students entered, or will enter, college.

Lenfest College Scholarship Program

2003

Amy Haldeman	College of William & Mary
Wesley Payne	Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Joshua Smith	Columbia University
Linh Truong	Columbia University
Andrew Yeatts	Bucknell University

2004

Jena Frey	Taylor University
Zachary Mills	University of Pittsburgh
Colleen Seidel	Gettysburg College
Joel Wentz	Huntington College
Jaime Wetzel	Duquesne University

2005

Adam Haldeman	Clemson University
Zachary Hoopes	Columbia University
Kathleen McCann	Carnegie Mellon University
Brandy Shindle	Dickinson College
Zachary Wachter	Messiah College
Dustin Young	Ursinus College

2006

Justin Beaver	Carnegie Mellon University
James Eury	College of William & Mary
Kayla Federline	Ursinus College
Patrick Hess	Columbia University
Chelsea Laylock	College of William & Mary
Beth Pheasant	York College
Brenda Reyes	Georgetown University
Julia Robertston	University of Virginia
Amanda Schweitzer	Columbia University
Romelle Whalen	Amherst College

Lenfest College Preparatory Program

2004

Amber Oberholzer	University of Pennsylvania
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2005

Laura Bitner	Johns Hopkins University
LaToya Brown	Ursinus College
Brenten Burkhart	Puget Sound University
Ashley Helmuth	Parsons School of Design
Dale Statler	Bucknell University

2006

Zachary Bull	Columbia University
Jennifer Dahlmann	Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Mindy Dice	Shippensburg University
Wes Henry	McDaniel College
Brennan Kelley	Savannah College of Art and Design
Samantha Klouser	Shippensburg University
Deanna Kump	Moravian College
Derek Mahaffey	Campbell University
Kathleen Metcalfe	College of Wooster
Erin Mumper	Pacific Lutheran University
Martin Razo	Lehigh University
Kathleen Vanderau	Juniata College
Janita Wills	Susquehanna University





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Lenfest Scholars Relive Past with a Look to the Future

Lenfest Foundation advisor and former Columbia University dean of students Roger Lehecka (center) talks with (from left) Lenfest College Scholars Andrew Yeatts, Zachary Mills and Colleen Seidel at the first Lenfest Scholars Community Day. Lenfest College Scholarship and Lenfest College Preparatory Scholarship recipients met in June to recount their experiences and talk about how the Lenfest programs can better serve new Scholars. The students also honored teachers who had made a difference in their lives and discussed ways Scholars can help each other, both now and in the future. The day was an interesting and exhilarating affair with a second Scholars Community Day planned for June 2007.



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