



The Lenfest Connection

News and Happenings From the Lenfest Foundation

Fall 2009

*"I look forward
to great things
from these
talented
young people."*



I am very pleased to welcome our newest group of Lenfest Scholars. In our most competitive program year yet, we recognized 24 young men and women from 12 high schools in Pennsylvania. You can meet the Lenfest College Scholarship Class of 2009 inside the newsletter. I wish them well as they get set to enter their senior year of high school.

The students in our Lenfest College Scholarship Class of 2008 have graduated high school and are beginning their college careers at institutions such as Johns Hopkins University, Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania. I look forward to great things from these talented young people.

Our June Community Weekend was a big success. Marguerite and I enjoyed talking with the students who joined us. It is always exciting to learn the accomplishments of the students and hear their perspectives on any number of topics. I want to thank Mozelle Thompson, a senior adviser at Facebook and a former member of the Federal Trade Commission, for joining us. Mr. Thompson's insights on social networking and public policy were thought provoking.

Have a healthy and safe fall.

Gerry Lenfest

Lenfests Honored for Philanthropy

Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest were recently recognized for their civic contributions with the Philadelphia Award.

Given at a ceremony at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the prestigious award is given to citizens of the Philadelphia region who have acted in the best interests of the community. Previous recipients include Lenore Annenberg, Marciene Mattelman and Judith Rodin. The award was established in 1921 by Edward William Bok, an editor, author, philanthropist and community leader.

Mr. and Mrs. Lenfest were honored for their region-wide civic leadership and support of the Museum of Art, the Curtis Institute, the Kimmel Center and the Barnes Foundation.

Speaking at the event, Governor Rendell called Mr. and Mrs. Lenfest the region's "go to couple."

Mr. Lenfest said he and Marguerite were "over-awed" by the award.

"What we have done has been hand in hand with others," he said.



Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest



From Chambersburg to St. Petersburg

The Lenfest Connection spoke recently with Kathleen Vanderau, a 2006 graduate of Wyoming Seminary Upper School, also known as “Sem.” She credits teachers in the Chambersburg Area School District with giving her the confidence to take her academic career in a new direction....all the way across the Atlantic.

How did your teachers help you on this journey?

My teachers were very helpful and encouraging. I heard about the Lenfest program from a friend of mine, but when my English teacher handed me a brochure with a note that said “all of your teachers think you qualify,” I truly started believing in myself.

Tell us about your college choice.

I currently attend Juniata College and expect to graduate in 2010. It was Arnold Hillman who suggested I look into Juniata; he knew the school well and thought it would be a good fit. I figured he was right about Sem, so I looked into it.

Juniata is a really great school and the perfect size. There are lots of opportunities to be involved in extra curricular activities that don't interfere with my studies. The atmosphere is really great and I enjoy it.

What are you studying at Juniata?

International studies and Russian. I became friends with a number of international students at prep school, so I became interested in other parts of the world.

My primary interests are intercultural communication and foreign relations. In the future, I'd like to be involved in foreign policy and international relations, helping countries better understand each other.

You travelled to Russia recently. Where did you go?

I studied for a semester in Volgograd, formerly Stalingrad. The people were great, especially my host family. Their daughter was studying in my place at Juniata so they put me in touch with a number of her friends which was nice.

While there, I traveled to St Petersburg, which is a great city. I got to eat a lot of good food and practice my Russian. I am looking forward to getting back to Russia for an extended period of time.



Kathleen Vanderau's studies took her to Palace Square in St. Petersburg in Russia.

How would you wrap up or summarize your experience with The Lenfest Foundation?

Two things stand out.

I did the right thing by going to Sem. I was more challenged; to do well, I had to work harder for it. I also don't think I would have gone to Russia, nor would I be studying international relations if I didn't go there.

Also, people at The Lenfest Foundation are always so willing to help you. It is very difficult for high school students to be informed on college in general. Lenfest provides great opportunities for students to learn about what's out there; to get out and see a variety of schools and, of course, help folks afford really great colleges and universities.

I am very grateful for the experience, and am so glad I tried it. It has taken me to great places.

What do you do for fun or to blow off steam?

Music is the main thing I do: concert choir, band, orchestra and the percussion ensemble, in which I play mallet instruments and the xylophone. When I need to relax, I run over to the knitting club and make a scarf or something like that.

Do you have any words of advice for high school students back in Chambersburg?

Go for a Lenfest Foundation scholarship; you have nothing to lose by trying. Lenfest really looks at who you are and how you use your brain, as opposed to how much your parents have in the bank.

Also, despite growing numbers of people going abroad, fewer Lenfest scholars are studying overseas. I'd encourage students to go abroad in any capacity. It's a really great experience that will enhance your time in college and life in general. Lenfest can help you go abroad, so take advantage of it while you can.

Hey Jude...Make That Joel



Joel Wentz shows off the skills he uses in his Beatles tribute band.

Joel Wentz, a Beatles-loving, 2004 graduate of Greencastle-Antrim High School, is very appreciative of the opportunities he has received through the Lenfest College Scholarship Program.

"I am incredibly thankful; it has been a huge blessing," Wentz says. "I went to a private liberal arts college and, after six years, will have a bachelor's and master's degree without a penny of debt. Not many college graduates can say that," he added.

Wentz completed his undergraduate degree at Huntington University in Indiana, where his residence hall director, a Ball State graduate, encouraged him to continue his studies at the Muncie, IN University.

Wentz is currently in his second year of graduate school at Ball State, earning a master of arts in Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education, as well as a certificate in college and university teaching.

"I love academia and have decided to stay in it and work in it," Wentz said.



He plans to work at a major university in admissions or residence life and eventually get a Ph.D. and teach full time.

According to Wentz, the scholarship program offers more than just financial benefits.

"There are constant mentoring and a network that come along with the scholarship," Wentz said. "Five years after I won the award, Roger Lehecka sought me out when he was in Indianapolis and took me out to dinner along with other scholarship recipients in the area; it was a great time and I had the chance to meet others in the program."

Wentz praised The Lenfest Foundation's commitment to honoring well-rounded students.

"I wasn't valedictorian or even Top 5 in my class," Wentz said. "The Lenfest Foundation looks at the personality, skills and motivation in a person and aims to foster that growth." To that end, Wentz encourages potential applicants to give it a shot no matter what and "don't be discouraged if your GPA isn't the highest or college seems too expensive."

According to Wentz, The Lenfest Foundation looks at the whole person. "That encouraged me to pursue the scholarship," he said.

Outside of academic interests, Wentz is involved in his church and engulfs himself in the arts. "I love anything art related: literature, film, poetry and especially music."

Wentz collects vinyl records, and plays guitar, piano and classical trombone.

"I recently formed a Beatles tribute band," Wentz said, who cites "Rubber Soul" as his favorite Fab Four album. As for favorite tune, "I'd have to go 'Ticket to Ride,'" Wentz concluded.

"The Lenfest Foundation looks at the personality, skills and motivation in a person and aims to foster that growth."

Foundation Welcomes Latest Class of Lenfest Scholars

In May, The Lenfest Foundation awarded Lenfest College Scholarships to 24 high school juniors. The students will receive up to \$12,000 per year for four years of attendance at an approved and accredited U.S. college or university. Introducing the 2009 Lenfest Scholars:

“A college education will open the door to a brighter future for each of these students”

Autumn Bowers	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Antonio Cuesta	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Andy Dessel	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Arlo Ehly	Biglerville High School
Jocelyn Elias	Upper Perkiomen High School
Erin Emory	Fairfield Area High School
John Englebert	Bermudian Springs High School
Molly Geiger	Waynesboro Area Senior High School
Laura Hillegas	Spring Grove Area High School
Maricela Juarez	Biglerville High School
Cody Lentz	New Oxford High School
Alivya Long	New Oxford High School
Sarah Lovegren	Spring Grove Area High School
Christopher McNeal	James Buchanan High School
Branka Miric	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Sarah Moore	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Thomas Neff	Pequea Valley High School
Mary Seitz-Brown	Spring Grove Area High School
Megan Snider	Chambersburg Area Senior High School
Michael Spigelmyer	South Western High School
Bailey Stevenson	Octorara Area High School
Derek Sullivan	New Oxford High School
YuQing Tang	Pequea Valley High School
Sarah Wiest	Spring Grove Area High School

“A college education will open the door to a brighter future for each of these students,” said Bruce Melgarey, executive director of the Lenfest Foundation. “We are proud to help these students achieve their goals.”

In 2009, the eighth year of the scholarship program, 270 applications were submitted, a 40 percent increase over 2008.

Scholars Zachary Wachter and Wesley Payne discuss grad school at the recent Community Weekend.



Community Weekend

continued from page 6

and left us all with a refreshed sense of anticipation for the summer and beyond.

Scholar-led discussions helped to create new bonds between scholars from the prep and college programs, and scholars new and old. Conversations about graduate school, study abroad, extracurricular activities, and personal finance helped students connect on a personal level and through the wisdom and experience of older scholars. Another very special treat was a unique program taught by Linda Reals from Barnard College called “Financial Fluency in Your Twenties.” We learned about good habits, and credit cards, and stocks and bonds, and ways to manage personal finances, now and in the years ahead.

One very important advance by the scholar community was the establishment of a formal communication network. Later this fall, thanks to the work of Wes Payne and members of the Foundation, Lenfest Scholars will have the option to open their own Lenfest Scholar e-mail account. Other perks of the new Google Apps site are the access to a community calendar, a listserv to contact all scholars simply by entering one address, and having the ability to save documents on the account. In addition, the Foundation with the help of Wes Payne, has also applied and been approved for the establishment of a Facebook network.

After a final brainstorming session, the scholars moved to create a Planning Committee for the next annual weekend, and also for regional and holiday gatherings, and service opportunities. The Planning Committee consists of Emily Bock, Liz Cox, Jay Eury, Zach Mills, Wes Payne, Beth Pheasant, Colleen Seidel, Katy Vandereau, Ted Waddelow, and Janita Wills.

One of the Lenfest Scholar Planning Committee’s primary goals for the year will be to coordinate a service event for scholars in celebration of the Lenfests and scholarship program’s establishment.



The Lenfest Community Weekend is an opportunity for Gerry and Marguerite Lenfest to talk with Scholars. Sarah Eadie, a graduate of Mercersburg Academy now attending Reed College, was one of the students at the Weekend.

A primary tenet of their message was the need to be flexible and willing to accept opportunities as they arise, especially in this economy.



Mozelle Thompson, a senior adviser at Facebook, was a guest speaker at Community Weekend. His talk on social networking and words of encouragement inspired Scholars.



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Community Weekend Helps Chart New Directions

By Emily Bock
2003 Lenfest Scholar

This year at the 4th annual Lenfest Scholars Community Weekend, we saw a new energy abounding that led to several new developments in the structure of communication and networking for the Lenfest Community.

Speakers David Stone and Mozelle Thompson, two engaging and inspiring men, connected vibrantly with scholars. A primary tenet of their message was the need to be flexible and willing to accept opportunities as they arise, especially in this economy. Stone and Thompson, both trained as lawyers by profession, had diverse experiences to share with scholars. Stone is currently the Vice President of Communications at Columbia University. He has worked in law and government and has been a writer, producer and consultant for many well known organizations, including NPR and PBS. Thompson, a former Federal Trade Commissioner, was a member of Obama's Economics and International Trade Transition Team. He has taught at Fordham, Stanford and Princeton Universities and is now a consultant for Facebook, Inc. Both had poignant messages of encouragement and understanding for scholars,



More than 60 Scholars participated in the annual Lenfest Community Weekend at Wilson College.

continued on page 5

