



Lifeline

Dear Friend,

I always get frustrated when people talk about my “choice” of lifestyle. Growing up in an evangelical family in Virginia there was no shortage of Dobsons or Falwells to tell me about life’s “bad choices” and the sinners who make them. As Christians we were told to love the sinner but hate the sin.

Like Robert Frost’s road in the woods, however, my path soon diverged; forcing me to choose between my “sin” and my family. After being asked to leave my home, I spent most of my teenage years wondering whether I had made the right choice, whether a home and security were better than the loneliness. Looking back on my life since that day I now know it was the best decision I ever made.

I share my story with you not to dwell on the hardships so many like me face, but to offer encouragement for those who will follow in the future. In the past eight years I graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Pennsylvania and am currently one of the youngest students attending the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. I have worked at the White House and for the Chairman of the Export-Import Bank, and have been privileged to lead numerous LGBT groups that address

issues of race, sexuality and leadership.

I could not be where I am today, however, without the help of others. Whether it was friends who gave me a place to stay, teachers who encouraged me to stay in school, or the generations of LGBT leaders before me who sought to



Christopher Kawasaki,
Harvard University

give me a head start, the battle I fight would’ve been over long ago had it not been for their gestures of kindness.

My current studies reflect a desire to repay such kindness. As a Master of Public Policy student I am building skills to shape the poli-

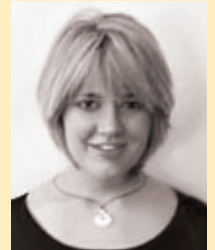
cies that affect our lives. My dream is to work at the highest levels of policy-making, to make sure that our community not only has a voice, but that our voice can be heard in every town where marginalized gay and lesbian youth might live. I believe that with the right leadership, inclusive policies and a stronger community, the need to make a decision like mine will slowly fade away.

This belief is what led me to apply for a Point Scholarship. Through The Point Foundation, scholars are given the community and family that so many of us lost. When our parents aren’t there to move us into our dorms, our Point Mentors will be there to ease the transition. When we get lost in life’s maze of jobs, graduate school and personal difficulties we know that there are scholars and friends who will be our compass. Just think of a time when you were scared or insecure, and then think of how just one person who knew how you felt made

2005 Point Scholars Announced

Meet some of this year’s 20 New Point Scholars. Point Scholars now total 47.

Sol Kelley-Jones
Hampshire College



“As an activist and artist, I believe that by fusing art, heart and activism, we can provide new and creative ways to encourage young people who have felt silenced to believe in the power of their voices to transform our world.”

Sol has grown up on the frontlines of the LGBT rights movement. As the

daughter of lesbian parents, she has known

Continued on page 2

everything better. At The Point Foundation I have many such people. The Point Scholarship also gives me the financial support I need to finish my education and enter public service. Without such assistance, my large financial burden would force my path another way.

I write you this letter because you too are given a choice. A choice to help mold the leaders who will be on the frontlines of the battles ahead. Your contribution to The Point Foundation will allow someone like me to have the resources and the personal relationships that prepare us to lead in the future.

As I finish this letter I

wish I could meet the reader who now knows so much about me and about whom I know very little. I also hope that my words encourage you to contribute to a cause that desperately needs your help.

I leave you with the end of Frost’s poem, a poem I frequently turn to when my path in life is not so clear.

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood, and I... I took the one less traveled by and that has made all the difference.

Thank you for this opportunity and I hope one day our roads will cross.

— Christopher Kawasaki



2005 Point Scholars Announced

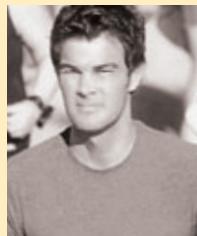
Continued from page 1
the painful sting of homophobia for as long as she can remember. However, from her earliest years, Sol countered the harmful effects of homophobia through her activism and public education efforts. In her elementary years, she developed a multi-racial anti-homophobia curriculum still used in schools today, and began years of leading LGBT cultural competency and diversity trainings for both teachers and youth. At the age of 10, her compelling testimony at a hearing on same sex marriage produced front-page headlines, and she stepped into a role as a national spokesperson on behalf of LGBT families, a role which continues to this day. As a teen, she spoke at national gatherings in Oakland, Chicago, and New York, and before over 500,000 people during the Millennium March on Washington, and she appeared in countless stories in national and

local media. Increasingly targeted for her activism and pride in her own queer identity, she was forced to leave her middle school because staff could not keep her safe. However, she refused to be silenced and instead turned her talents toward giving a voice to other marginalized youth. She has received awards and recognitions for community activism and academic achievement from organizations including GLSEN, the ACLU, NOW, the Urban League and the Madison Rotary. Perhaps her proudest accomplishment is as a co-founder and youth artistic director of "Proud Theater," an award-winning theater troupe and support group for queer youth. As she begins her academic career at Hampshire College, it's just the beginning for this young woman whom *The Advocate* once called "one of the nation's youngest and most effective advocates for LGBT rights."

Matthew Howard

Dartmouth College

"With the help of The Point Foundation, I will be able to turn around and give back my time and energy to future generations of gay youth, aiding with their educational, career, and volunteer goals."



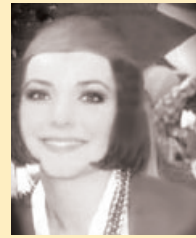
Matthew was born into a Mormon family and grew up in a predominantly LDS town in northern Utah. His family counseled against "choosing a homosexual lifestyle," withdrew all financial and emotional support and ceased providing for most of his basic needs. Facing conflict between Mormon religious ideology and his sexual orientation, Matthew left the state to attend college at Emory University in Atlanta, GA, working to put himself through school. During and after college, he worked for a non-profit foundation that conducts medical research and development aimed

at solutions to HIV/AIDS and other serious health conditions. As a regular volunteer for a HIV/AIDS meal delivery service, Matthew can attest to the impact of medical research. As a volunteer rowing coach for new students at Emory, he has been able to support the development of the confidence and self-esteem of several gay athletes each year. Matthew will enter the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth this fall and hopes to run a non-profit foundation aimed at stemming the spread of HIV/AIDS within marginalized populations who might not seek help from traditional sources.

Yve Cohen

University of California

"The notion that we are powerless in the face of insurmountable challenges is an illusion. We have the power. I am committed to cultivating that collective strength to fight injustice."



Yve began her career as an LGBT rights activist in her native San Diego, where she founded her high school's Gay-Straight Alliance. She expanded the scope of her activism by becoming a youth trainer and organizer for the Gay-Straight Alliance Network, and served as a co-chair of a national leadership team for GLSEN. Yve has coordinated and spoken at countless conferences and summits that aim to empower youth to combat homophobia, transphobia and other intersecting oppressions in their schools and communities.

Upon entering college, Yve became involved with campus hunger and homelessness campaigns, a program offering free SAT preparation for low-income students in the East Bay, and a mentorship program for inner-city Oakland youth, among other direct service groups. Her most recent political organizing has focused on defending affirmative action, integration and immigrants' rights. A tireless fighter for social justice, Yve plans to continue her anti-oppression and queer rights advocacy work for the rest of her life.

Lindsay Higgins

University of Illinois

"As an undergraduate, I had to work 40-50 hours per week to support myself. However, this is not a possibility with the rigor of a medical school curriculum. Because of the Point Foundation, I now have the opportunity to fulfill my dream of becoming a physician."



Lindsay Higgins was raised in a suburb of Chicago, where she stayed in the closet until her junior year of high school. At that time, Lindsay came out as her school's only out lesbian, and as a result, Lindsay's parents sent her to over a dozen different physicians and psychologists, against her will, in search of a cure to her lesbianism. For the remaining two years of high school, Lindsay lived under total house arrest and was denied access to a telephone, the Internet and television. Despite her own problems at home, Lindsay felt the need to reach out and

help other LGBT youth in her community, which led her to found her community's first Gay-Straight Alliance. On her 18th birthday, Lindsay left home and has put herself through college, working 40-50 hours per week at times, while serving as a LGBT campus leader and maintaining honors status in college. The humiliation and abuse that she endured as a LGBT youth continues to inspire Lindsay to work for a better future for LGBT people. As Lindsay will now be attending medical school, she will continue her work for the LGBT community on the healthcare front.

Johnathan Harrison

Academy of Art University, San Francisco

"I am committed to living my life fighting in the pursuit of social justice and equality for all and in the recognition of LGBT individuals, young and old, as more than victims, but as change agents who are actively working to create a better future."



Johnathan was raised in the South in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a high school student, he served as sophomore and junior class president, as well as student body president and a member of the National Student Honor Society. At age 19, he was forced to leave Duke University after his father discovered he was gay and refused to provide tuition support. In the spirit of resilience, Johnathan became a fierce LGBT youth advocate, co-founding the North Carolina Lambda Youth Network, a statewide leadership development organization for other LGBT youth. He has served as a lobbyist for the NC HIV/AIDS Alliance, Youth Program Coordinator for the Lesbian/Gay Community Service of

Greater Cleveland and is also a graduate of Public Allies (an Americorps program) and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force's Youth Leadership Institute. At age 21, he was recognized by *The Advocate* magazine as one of the nation's Best and Brightest Activists. Currently he serves as a board member of Emerging Practitioners In Philanthropy and as a coordinator of the national Public Allies Alumni LGBT Affinity Group, whose purpose is to advance the practice of value-based leadership within LGBT youth development organizations. Johnathan plans to apply his sustainable design studies to promote awareness and increase LGBT visibility within the environmental justice and labor movements.

Brett John Janecek

University of Notre Dame

"After so much pain, tears and loneliness, I'm emerging to find a world full of possibilities. The more I learn about myself, the more I see how much I can give. Thank you to The Point Foundation for helping me realize my potential and for allowing me to share my dreams with you."



Brett was born and raised in Billings, Montana in a conservative Catholic household. After he discovered his sexual identity, his parents, teachers and church told him that he was "intrinsically disordered" and that the only acceptable lifestyle was one of chastity and self-denial. Although Brett suffered throughout high school,

he was valedictorian of his graduating class and student body president, and now attends the University of Notre Dame. While working towards his political science degree, Brett is involved with acting and social service at Notre Dame despite the discrimination he faces at school. He continues to study at the

Continued on page 4



YOUR GIFTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

By supporting diversity in the academic environment, TPF hopes to create a greater level of acceptance, respect and tolerance within future generations for all persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. You can help us make the world a better place through your generous support.

You Can Make a Difference Now

If you want your gift to provide immediate resources for our scholarships, we welcome gifts of cash, securities, property and corporate matching gifts. These gifts can be made in any amount, and may permit you to claim an income tax charitable deduction in accordance with IRS guidelines. Gifts of long-term appreciated securities and property can also allow you to enjoy additional tax benefits; consult your financial advisor or contact us for more information. Gifts of cash should be made by check, money order or credit card.

You Can Make a Difference in the Future

A number of gift plans that secure future revenue for TPF also offer a number of financial benefits for you today, from lifetime income for you and your family to various tax savings. Vehicles for these gifts range from charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder and other types of trusts to beneficiary designations on life insurance policies and retirement plan accounts. As you consider your gift to The Point Foundation, bear in mind that every philanthropic dollar will be used to support our Point Scholars.

For more information on how you can make a difference in the lives of deserving students, contact The Point Foundation, either through the Web site, www.thepointfoundation.org, or by calling 1-866-33-POINT (337-6468).

Every dollar you contribute directly supports Point Scholars. The Board of Trustees and an anonymous donor cover all administrative and fund-raising efforts required for our success.

National Gay and Lesbian Scholarship Fund Announces 2005 Point Scholars

The Point Foundation invests \$3 million in scholarships and mentoring for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students

CHICAGO

The daughter of a lesbian couple who has known the sting of homophobia for as long as she can remember; a young man whose Mormon family withdrew their support when they learned he was gay; and a Vietnamese immigrant who arrived in the U.S. not speaking a word of English and who faced physical and verbal harassment as the first openly gay student in his high school, but graduated valedictorian, are among this year's 20 new Point Scholars. The scholarships awarded this year bring the total number of Point Scholars to 47.

Each year, The Point Foundation awards multi-year scholarships to support academic achievement in higher education among marginalized lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) youth. Point Scholars have demonstrated leadership, scholastic excellence, and a passion for

social change — often in spite of homophobia in their hometowns or families.

"When I came out, my mom said that it would hurt my chances for success in the future," recalls Point Scholar Burt Dewilde. "Every day I work to ensure that my future — and that of all queer youth — will be successful, regardless of sexual orientation."

The Point Foundation acts as a lifeline to LGBT students like Burt, providing substantial grants that cover the cost of tuition, books, supplies, room and board, transportation and living expenses. This year, the foundation will invest nearly \$35,000 in each of its scholars.

In addition, the foundation matches each Scholar with a mentor from the professional world who serves as a positive role model and provides personal support, ensuring that students build a foundation of leadership skills they can use throughout their

lives. Mentors are also often a refuge for scholars who do not have a home to go to during the holidays or parents to help them settle into the dorm at the start of the school year.

Since its inception in 2001, The Point Foundation has invested nearly \$3 million in scholarships and mentoring programs; however, much remains to be done to give marginalized youth who have lost the financial and emotional support of their families a fair shot at attending college.

"We are struggling to fill a tremendous unmet need," explains Vance Lancaster, Executive Director of the foundation. "This year, we had the resources to support fewer than one in 100 of the students who applied. We are constantly striving to develop partnerships so that we can make a difference in the lives of even more of these students."

2005 Point Scholars Announced

Continued from page 3
nation's most conservative university in hopes that he can add diversity and incite change from within. He has consistently achieved recognition on the Dean's Honors List and ranks in the top quarter of

his class. His professional plans include working in higher levels of government and educational institutions to help ensure equal rights for alienated social groups including gays and lesbians.

Amanda Jessen

University of California

"It is important for this country to honor its pledge to offer liberty to each and every individual. However, until there is recognition of equal rights for LGBT people in America, that pledge will fall drastically short in the eyes of its citizens, gay and straight alike. I intend to pursue the fulfillment of this promise with vigor and resolve until I can wake up one morning and be treated equally as the American citizen that I am."



Amanda Jessen was born and raised in Los Alamitos, California, a small town on the western ridge of Orange County. After coming out to her mother, she had to leave the home that she had known for her entire life. The core of her senior year consisted of nomadic conditions, moving from her mother's to her grandmother's and finally settling in with her father. Amanda has maintained a cumulative GPA of 4.12 and is a four-year letterman on the softball team. An openly gay senior at her high school, Amanda has worked to further gay and progressive rights by helping solidify the first Gay-Straight

Alliance since her high school disbanded the organization three years ago. She is also the vice-president of Liberal Youth of America, the school's only political organization. She raised funds for the Peace Corps, collated petitions for peace and participated in a toy drive for HIV-positive children. In the fall of 2005, she will attend the University of California, Los Angeles where she will mentor gay students as well as write for 10 Percent, UCLA's most prominent gay-oriented magazine. She hopes to pursue a career in law, working to further civil rights on both domestic and international fronts.

The Point Foundation

A Scholarship Lifeline for LGBT Students



P.O. Box 11210, Chicago, IL 60611

Individuals who would like to make a donation to support current and future Point Scholars can donate online at www.thepointfoundation.org or call toll-free: 866-33-POINT.

To read more on this year's Point Scholars, please visit www.thepointfoundation.org.