



## 2006 PEG Scholarships Awarded

The following seven burn survivors will pursue their postsecondary education during the 2006-2007 school year with the assistance of Phoenix Education Grant (PEG) scholarships:



**Edward Dowling** is applying his PEG grant to his education at Adelphi University in Garden City, New York, where he enrolled as a freshman this fall. Injured as a young child, Edward underwent many surgeries during his school years, but was committed to returning to school as soon as possible after each procedure. "Postoperatively I could have stayed home, but I didn't want my burn to affect the way I functioned," said Ed, who has also attended burn camp for 11 years. As a high schooler, Edward earned the academic designation of a "student of distinction" and participated in indoor, outdoor, and cross-country track teams. Although Edward's immediate plan is to pursue a degree in education, ultimately he hopes to earn an advanced degree in psychology. "My overall goal," said Edward, "is to have a counseling practice and have my own patients who I can help."

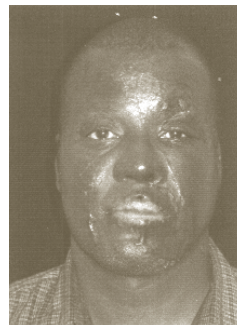


**Esther Ferris** of Modesto, California, also plans to use her education to work with children, but for Esther this won't be anything new. Not only has she volunteered for 10 years in the children's ministry at her church, but she also was a licensed home childcare provider for 8 years. Esther is

currently attending California State University, Stanislaus, where she is pursuing a bachelor's degree in child development and business administration. Her goal is to "own and operate childcare centers based on the philosophy that children learn through play."

"Children only get one childhood," explained Esther, "and I believe it should be the best experience it can be."

**Sean Seger** of Jasper, Indiana, spent the last weeks of his junior year in high school in Shriners Hospitals for Children- Cincinnati. Despite this setback, Sean graduated on time last spring with an outstanding academic record and a high school career that included 4 years on the football team, 3 years on the track team, and membership in the Key and Spanish Clubs. This fall Sean is attending Indiana University where he plans to pursue a bachelor's degree in marketing, the first step toward his goal of promoting a rock group or sports team.



**Duane Howard** of Baltimore, Maryland, has focused on continuing his education since shortly after his burn injury in late 2002. After earning a certificate in human services at The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC), Duane went on to graduate last summer from CCBC magna cum laude with an associate of applied science degree in human services. At World Burn Congress 2005, Duane also completed The Phoenix Society's SOAR (Survivors Offering Assistance in Recovery) peer supporter training. Duane's PEG scholarship will assist him in continuing

his education as he pursues a bachelor's degree in social work at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. However, his ultimate goal is to earn a master's degree in psychiatric counseling to help other burn survivors in dealing with the challenges they face.



“Not many people know exactly what they want to do when they enter college, said **Jamie Nieto**. “Some do not even know when they finish postsecondary education. I am fortunate. I know what my life calling is. After I graduate, I want to take my degree and use it to teach people the game of golf.” After his injury 3 years ago, Jamie was determined to get back to the golf course, despite severe burns to his hands. In January 2006 he enrolled in the Golf Academy of the Carolinas, where he is training for a career as a golf pro. Jamie, who is a SOAR volunteer, hopes that one day he'll be able to use his skill to help burn survivors and others with physical limitations enjoy the game.



**Justina Page**, a daycare provider and HeadStart teacher in Houston, Texas, is currently pursuing a degree in business administration with an emphasis in organizational psychology and development through American InterContinental University Online. Justina hopes to put her education to use as project director of The Amos House of Faith.

“This project was birthed by a need I saw in the burn community as I worked with those affected by burn tragedy and is in memory of my deceased son, Amos Beniah Page,” said Justina. Tragically, 22-month-old Amos, a twin, was lost in the 1999 housefire in which Justina and Amos' twin brother, Benjamin Josiah, were severely injured. “The facility will provide temporary housing for caretakers of burn patients in emergency situations,” she explained. “It will also host monthly

meetings and fieldtrips for children affected by burns. Daily, it will provide a place of respite, support, and refreshments, for family members of burn patients.” In the meantime, Justina is a dedicated volunteer in the burn community. In 2001 she became a burn unit volunteer at Memorial Hermann Hospital, where she is also a SOAR-trained peer supporter and co-coordinator and a member of the Memorial Hermann Volunteers Organization Board of Directors. Justina is also a peer supporter at Shriners Hospitals– Galveston.



**Adam Phillips** of Cumberland Furnace, Tennessee, is a freshman at Berry College in Mount Berry, Georgia. Adam, who is interested in construction is leaning toward a career as a structural engineer, but hasn't ruled out teaching history at the high school or college level. Adam has worked as a carpenter and carpenter's helper for the last 3 years and, while a student at Berry, he plans to use that experience volunteering with Habitat for Humanity.

## ABOUT THE PEG PROGRAM

PEG scholarships are awarded annually to burn survivors to assist them in furthering their education at an accredited college, university, or trade school. Applicants must be a high school senior, have earned a GED, or be enrolled in a college, university, or trade school. They must have also demonstrated academic achievement; have been accepted to an accredited college, university, or trade school; and be willing one day to help another burn survivor further his or her education. Additional information on applying for a PEG scholarship can be found on the Society's website, [www.phoenix-society.org](http://www.phoenix-society.org), by clicking on “About Us,” then “Key Programs.”

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

To learn how you can contribute to the PEG endowment that makes these scholarships possible, contact The Phoenix Society office at 800-888-2876.



This story is an excerpt from The Phoenix Society's *Burn Support News*, Winter Edition 2006, Issue 4. *Burn Support News* is a quarterly publication that contains articles on the emotional, psychological, and social aspects of burn recovery.

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