

# expEDITION



P.O. Box 104 • Ambler, PA 19002-0104  
[www.katesvitekmemorial.org](http://www.katesvitekmemorial.org)

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## Message from Frank & Ellen

This Foundation is our tribute to a magnificent young lady. Many of you never had the privilege of knowing Kate. She was quite unique and worldly beyond her years.

By the time most of you receive this newsletter Kate will have been gone for two years. It is hard to believe. The pain never goes away. We all miss her and think of her constantly.

To understand the goals of the Foundation, it is important to get to know Kate. We plan on publishing pieces of her writings in this and upcoming newsletters. If you have never been to the website, we encourage you to go to [www.katesvitekmemorial.org](http://www.katesvitekmemorial.org) and spend some time reading about Kate.

It is our mission and the mission of the Foundation to carry out Kate's dreams.

The great outdoors was Kate's conduit to happiness and she wanted to share her enthusiasm and passion to inspire others. With your continued support, the Foundation will be able to carry out Kate's dreams.

### New Logo

As the Foundation moves forward in fulfilling its mission, we have chosen to redesign the logo. With the addition of the words "YOUTH WILDERNESS ADVENTURE AND EDUCATION... ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION" surrounding the original logo, those unfamiliar with Kate are now better able to understand the Foundation's purpose.

## The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation is pleased to present Erik Weihenmayer — World Renowned Inspirational Guest Speaker

On May 25, 2001, Erik became the first blind climber in history to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. Despite the fact that Erik became blind from a deteriorating condition at the age of thirteen, he has become a world-class athlete. Erik has agreed to share his experiences, failures and successes at a special community event for the KSMF. He has impressed audiences throughout the globe and has recently published his memoir in "Touch the Top of the World: A Blind Man's Journey to Climb Farther than the Eye Can See." According to Publisher's Weekly, Erik's memoir is "moving and adventure packed. Weihenmayer tells his extraordinary story with humor and vivid detail, and his fortitude and enthusiasm are deeply inspiring."



**Be sure to join us for this fabulous afternoon as Erik shares his experiences and focuses on key themes including achievement, teamwork, risk taking, leadership, and diversity.**



**Saturday, April 24th, 2004 — 1:15 to 3:00 pm**  
**Save the date**  
**for this fantastic presentation!!**

# Blue Grass Blast is a Blast ... Exceeds Expectations

The Blue Grass Blast, the premier fundraiser for the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, was held on June 28, 2003 at the Svitek's "Here to Stay Farm" in Ambler, Pennsylvania. The first of its kind in the Philadelphia region, this casual, but powerful event drew more than 250 committed attendees raising slightly more than \$75,000 for the Foundation.

Despite record spring rains, the weather cleared just in time for the raucous Blast held under an impressive, multi-peaked professional events tent. Many of the more daring, rugged guests accepted the challenge offered by the Mechanical Bull, imported from Lancaster County. Julie Gubernick earned the personal best time for the evening by holding fast to the Bull for a miraculous 59 seconds. Other, more rhythmic guests tried their hands ... and feet at square dancing and line dancing to music provided by Fred's Mobile Home. Sumptuous, down-home fare was served up by Jim Israel and his team from Culinary Concepts. Far from the traditional

American barbeque, the food was southern gourmet, with desserts to die for. The memorable evening was accented by cheerful country décor consisting of checkered tablecloths, bandanas, ironware, and watering cans overflowing with vibrant daisies and sunflowers. It was a wonderful night for all who attended and a remarkable way to honor Kate and the critical missions of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation.

Special thanks go out to the devoted supporters of the fabulous Ad Book and Calendar, which raised significant dollars exceeding expectations. We would also like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to all of the KSMF volunteers who worked tirelessly to make the Blue Grass Blast an unquestionable success. Planning for next year's event has already begun. If you would like to become involved or share your ideas, please contact Ellen at [esvitek22@aol.com](mailto:esvitek22@aol.com).

More pictures of this spectacular event can be seen at [www.katesvitekmemorial.org](http://www.katesvitekmemorial.org).



## Partnering for Success with - NOLS

The KSMF is proud to deliver on Kate's dream—with your loyal support—by partnering with NOLS (the National Outdoor Leadership School). Founded in 1965 by Paul Petzoldt, NOLS continues as one of the premier teachers of wilderness leadership skills. Last year, KSMF was privileged to support the NOLS Annual Fund with a \$10,000 gift. This contribution enabled five deserving individuals to participate in special NOLS programming. We would like to share the background on a few of the scholarship recipients.

Meet Torben Grumstrump, a 25-year old student at the University of Montana majoring in mechanical engineering. He is an avid mountain biker, rock climber, and backcountry skier who spends his summers working as a Wildland firefighter engine boss for the USDA Forest Service. Torben participated in a spring semester trip to Patagonia where he explored the Pacific coast in a sea kayak and the Andes Mountains on foot. Traveling 145 km. to elevations of 20,000 feet and along 180 nautical miles of coastline dotted with tidewater glaciers, Torben trained in survival skills and recently started a non-profit corporation which advocates space exploration.

Also drawn to Patagonia were Frank Husted, a student at North Georgia College, and Joanne Kuntz, a recent graduate of Western Washington University. Frank aspires to outdoor education and Joanne's goal is to become a member of search and rescue and to pursue graduate studies in environmental conservation. They were drawn to the remote challenges that only a semester in Patagonia can offer. Frank and Joanne faced numerous obstacles from copious rain, to harrowing ice climbing for five continuous days, to kayaking amidst icebergs on rugged waters. Frank excelled in safety and environmental studies, while Joanne received impressive marks, most notably in leadership.

The KSMF would like to congratulate all of the NOLS scholarship participants on their hard work and continuing dedication to the great outdoors. We wish them well in all of their future adventures and hope that Torben, Frank, and Joanne and the other NOLS beneficiaries will stay in touch.

## The University of Vermont – Following in Kate's Footsteps

*The KSMF has been working closely with the University of Vermont, School of Natural Resources, Kate's alma mater, in establishing a special legacy—The Kate Svitek Memorial Award. The Award is valued at \$2,500 for each of 2 students. These will be awarded annually to a male and female student in their junior year who best epitomize Kate's vision and the KSMF mission. We have reprinted the moving letter from Jared Nunery, last year's recipient of the Award. The money enabled Jared to work in Alaska for the United States Forest Service, at an unpaid internship.*

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

I am writing to try to express my gratitude for the generous scholarship that you have donated to the School of Natural Resources, as I was fortunate enough to be the recipient. I am currently working as an intern for the US Forest Service in the Tongass National Forest. When I first was offered this internship, I was unable to accept it, as it is a non-paid internship. Unfortunately, I am not in a situation where I can afford to work an entire summer, not earn any money and then still afford to return to college in the Fall. The money I was awarded through your generous donation allowed me to accept this internship and what an amazing time I have had. I am working as a research assistant to a fisheries technician at the Sitka Ranger District in Sitka, Alaska. Sitka is a small commercial fishing/tourist town on Barof Isand in south east Alaska. My job is to assist the fish tech in her duties, which include a large variety of projects. Each week we fly out to one of the forest service field camps by floatplane. From the field camp we either boat, hike, mountain bike, ride ATV's or helicopter out to our work site. So far some of the projects we have completed include setting up and monitoring a wire to monitor salmon smolt movement out of habitat created by the forest service in 1997. We also have organized



and run a trout derby for the local children of Sitka. and completed several Coho salmon fry transplants in efforts to stock several rivers where fish passes have been constructed. My job is absolutely incredible, and I am learning so much.

I am absolutely amazed by south east Alaska. The wildlife is strikingly abundant. On one week-long trip in the field, I saw 4 brown bears a day. One evening we sat out on the lawn of our field camp and watched humpback whales breach playfully for a half hour. Last Friday I was working at a hatchery and went down to the docks and watched the King Salmon, some 3-foot plus in length, jump out of the water as if they were mimicking whales. I have gone on hikes up to alpine meadows filled with wildflowers, on mountains far younger than those of the Appalachian chain. The country side is magically carved by the glaciers of thousands of years ago. I really am enjoying myself and I just wanted to thank you because without your help, I would not have been able to have any of these experiences and would have missed out on what I feel will be a vital part of my education at the University of Vermont. I cannot express my gratitude enough.

Sincerely,  
Jared Nunery



# SAVE THE DATE!!!

## Don't miss our June 26<sup>th</sup> summer event!!

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation's mission is to provide financial support to individuals, groups, and various institutions to write a range of activities and education principally related to outdoor and wilderness exploration, study, observation, and research. All contributions are tax deductible. All volunteers are welcome to assist in the planning of all activities. Please visit our website at [www.kate-svitek.org](http://www.kate-svitek.org)

# In the Swing – Insurance Industry Golfs for the Future of KSMF

Senior Property and Casualty executives from major national insurance companies and Philadelphia regional insurance brokers competed in the second Annual Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge at Commonwealth Golf Club in Horsham, Pennsylvania, to benefit the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. Putting aside normal business competition for an afternoon of friendly corporate team competition, 27 foursomes raised over \$42,000.

We would like to thank the Corporate sponsors and the myriad of diehard volunteers who helped to make this event possible: First Insurance Funding Corp., Young Adjustment Co., Margolis Edelstein, Belfor USA, and Keenan Motors. We also offer kudos to the hearty and enthusiastic participants: ACE, AIG, Argonaut, CBIZ, Chubb, Clair Odell Group, CNA, Commerce, DVUA, ECBM, Fireman's Fund, Graham Co., Hartford, HRH, JKJ, McKee Risk, NSM, Penn-America, PMA, St. Paul, Simkiss, Stewart Smith East, TRA, USI Mid-Atlantic, Willis, and Zenith.

Despite the number of highly qualified entrants, none of the golfers was able to obtain the hole-in-one necessary to collect on the special grand prizes—a new Mercedes or \$10,000 and two free roundtrip Airline tickets. Event Coordinator, Samuel Milakofsky noted that the Golf team Challenge was a sell-out in only its second year, and that teams are already looking forward to participating in the Fall of 2004. It is never too soon to work on refining those golf skills!

A portion of this year's proceeds will be used to provide scholarships, in Kate's memory, to the North Carolina Outward Bound Program to deserving students from the Community Academy of Philadelphia, a Pennsylvania Charter School.

## Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge Participants

ACE	ECBM	PMA
AIG	Fireman's Fund	St. Paul
Argonaut	Graham Co.	Simkiss
CBIZ	Hartford	Stewart Smith East
Chubb	HRH	TRA
Clair Odell	JKJ	USI Mid-Atlantic
CNA	McKee Risk	Willis
Commerce	NSM	Zenith
DVUA	Penn-America	



s whose interests and goals align with Kate's hopes and dreams. The primary focus is to promote and help under-  
rvation, improvement, expansion, and enhancement. Please remember Kate by visiting our website and making a  
ww.katesvitekmemorial.org to learn more about Kate, her dreams and her accomplishments.



# Getting To Know Kate

*Those who had the fortune to meet Kate all knew what a vivacious and unique person she was. Not only did her sparkling personality shine through, but her intelligence and understanding of her world were immediately evident. This section of the newsletter is being included to give those who did and didn't get to meet her a better understanding of what she stood for and the mark she had made on her world in the short time she lived. When Kate wanted to attend the National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) in Patagonia, her dad asked her to write an essay to him as to "Why." The following is a small excerpt from her response.*

## Why a Semester with the National Outdoor Leadership School would be beneficial to me.

I have been receiving a NOLS catalog of courses for quite a few years now. Every year when I receive it in the mail I run upstairs and read the thing from cover to cover doggy earing all the courses I dream of being a participant on. Before I know it the whole booklet has pages marked down and I have to spend more time rereading and then narrowing down the possibilities. I have always done things like that, dreaming of all the places I would like to go and all the things I want to do. I am always looking for adventure and new places to explore, constantly reading magazines and books, looking on the Internet or requesting information to various exotic destinations. In my own little world, these adventures are what make me happy. They are the reason that I want to be successful in life. The experiences that are unique are the ones that are the most rewarding. They are the things in life that are most important to me because they teach me about myself and make me believe in what a

special and unique person I really am. A NOLS experience would be the tip of the iceberg in my journey through life, but if I never break the tip I will never get to where I need to go. I want to be challenged physically, mentally, socially...I want something to be proud of; this NOLS experience is very important to me.

Nature is a very amazing thing. The concept of humans being so powerless in the natural world never really hits home until you are alone in the wilderness, a part of it for an extended period of time. Being able to take a breath away from any advanced civilization is a very empowering experience for me. Very few people take advantage of exactly what the natural world has to offer. Fortunately, for myself I have, and it has really made me the person I am today. For three summers I went on extended trips in the backcountry, some more intense than others did, but none the less all equally important. Each of the summers I came home a happier person, a more independent person and a person more content with the person I am becoming. I can't imagine that being in one of the world's most remote

beautiful places in the world for almost three months without civilization won't change me for the better. An opportunity like this really cleanses the mind and would give me time to evaluate my life so far and help me in deciding what needs to be changed for the future.

Lastly, this is a leadership course that will teach me all the skills I will need both in the backcountry and my own real life experiences. I will be learning more in this 2.5 months than any lifetime at any University could ever teach me, and that is what counts. I have learned over the years that I am a person that learns by doing. Some people live their lives by the book, literally. I think that it is obvious to myself that I don't. For one, I am excited about a profession that is a little out of the ordinary for a kid who grew up in the environment that I have. What is important to me isn't necessarily how well I may or may not do on my statistics test next week, but what is really important to Kate Svitek as a person, and discovering who I really am on the inside.

Please go [www.katesvitekmemorial.org](http://www.katesvitekmemorial.org) to read Kate's complete essay.

## An Afternoon of Elegance and Style Aids The Foundation

**O**n October 30th, Neiman Marcus invited supporters of The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation to attend a luncheon and exhibit of William Yeoward's collection of fine crystal. Held in the crystal area of the store, formal tables were set with beautiful roses and fine china. A delicious selection of salads, wine and dessert were all served with elegance, design and taste in mind.

William Yeoward Crystal is the result of a collaboration between Yeowad and Timothy Jenkins. The two met in 1993 and realized they shared a passion for the beautiful crystal of the 18th and 19th centuries. Today, with the help of hundreds of skilled glass blowers and cutters, their work duplicates 150 year old exquisite pieces of crystal art.

The flamboyant William Yeoward with his purple shoes, orange socks and multi-colored scarf greeted all of his guests personally. He gave a humorous talk about his crystal creations as well as his life in England where he has a store in London displaying his fine works. Prior to his crystal business, Mr Yeoward was an interior designer for many of the rich and famous, including Margaret Thatcher. In addition to his talk, Mr. Yeoward showed slides of his amazing restored "cottage" near

Bath where he resides when not working in London. His next-door-neighbor is Prince Charles! The tour of this magnificently decorated home was like a treat to a museum.

This delightful afternoon was a break from routine and was enjoyed by all who attended. With the hospitality of Neiman Marcus, The Foundation was able to raise \$900. All purchases made that afternoon were personally signed by Mr. Yeoward.



We would like to hear from you. Please consider a gift to the KSMF that will bring us one step closer to delivering on Kate's dream. We welcome suggestions or ideas regarding fundraising events or programming. Perhaps you have a unique outlook or proposal, a special contact in the environmental or wilderness field, or know of an organization or student in need of our support.



Minimum contribution is \$10.  
Please notify us if the address given is a change of address

Enclosed is a contribution:  In Memory of  In Honor of

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Please acknowledge to:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

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All comments, corrections or news can be sent to [andersongraphics@comcast.net](mailto:andersongraphics@comcast.net).



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