

**kate
svitek**
Memorial Foundation

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS AND PRESERVATION

EXPEDITION

P.O. Box 104 • Ambler, PA 19002-0104

www.katesvitekmemorial.org

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Message from Frank & Ellen

Another year has passed and it still doesn't seem real. How can a vibrant, beautiful, intelligent, charismatic 22 year old with her life ahead of her be gone? Writing this column will always remain an emotional challenge. The memories of Kate are always so dear and the pain of her loss so profound. In starting the Foundation created to honor her memory, we certainly feel proud that we have accomplished quite a lot in a short time and feel good about our direction and future.

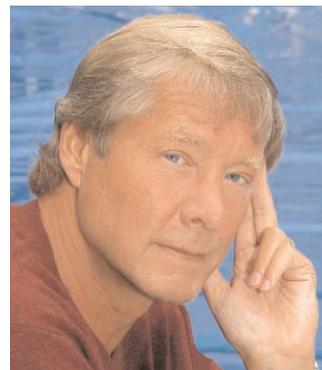
Dana Reeves, in speaking of her husband Christopher Reeves' recent passing, noted that his desire was to make a real difference in the world as his legacy. He wanted to leave the world a better place for his having lived in it.

Kate wanted to make a real difference in the life of the children she accompanied into the great outdoors. We continue her legacy by providing scholarships to children and teens to experience the wilderness as we believe Kate would have embraced. To date, the Foundation has touched the lives of several children and young adults in a meaningful way. Each year we plan on awarding more scholarships in her memory.

There is something grand about nature, the environment and the great outdoors and we hope that our focus on these elements will enable select children and young adults to share special experiences and enrichments which would not otherwise be possible for them.

Please visit the Foundation's website at www.katesvitekmemorial.org and read letters from friends whose lives were touched by Kate.

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation is pleased to present Richard North Patterson, Best Selling Author



Conviction is the latest in a long series of best sellers written by Richard North Patterson. Please make plans to attend this unique evening, meet the author and hear a presentation about his newest book.

Highly skilled and suspenseful, *Conviction* is a novel about the world and politics of death row. When the body of nine-year-old Thuy Sen is found in the San Francisco Bay, the police quickly charge Rennell and Payton Price with her grisly murder. A twelve-person jury, abetted by an incompetent defense lawyer, are nearly as quick to find the brothers guilty—and to sentence them both to die for their crimes.

Fifteen years later, with Payton days from his execution, overworked pro bono lawyer Teresa Peralta Paget, her husband Chris, and stepson Carlo, a recent Harvard law graduate, become convinced not only that Rennell didn't receive a fair trial but that he may well be innocent. Racing against the clock and facing enormous legal obstacles, Teresa, Chris, and Carlo desperately try and stay Rennell's execution, taking the case all the way to the Supreme Court, and to an enormously moving and powerful conclusion.

Richard North Patterson is the author of twelve prior novels, including *Balance of Power*, *Protect and Defend*, and *Degree of Guilt*. Formerly a trial lawyer, Mr. Patterson served as the SEC's liaison to the Watergate Special Prosecutor, and is now on the boards of several Washington-based advocacy groups. He lives on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts.

**Be sure to join us for this fabulous evening as you meet
Richard North Patterson and hear about his newest novel.**

**Thursday, February 10, 2005 7:30 pm
at the home of Richard and Sharyn Berman in Lower Gwynedd, PA**

✂ For Tickets and Reservations

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

Gourmet dessert buffet... \$55 • Gourmet dessert buffet and autographed copy of *Conviction*... \$75

Please send me _____ tickets at the cost of \$ _____ each. I am enclosing a check made out to the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation, P.O. Box 104, Ambler, PA 19002-0104 for a total amount of \$_____. Reservations are required. Directions to the event will be given when tickets are returned.

GOLF TEAM CHALLENGE SCORES AGAIN

Summer was in full swing — even after Labor Day — during the Third Annual Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge. The blockbuster event, which sold out months in advance, was a tremendous success, raising \$45,000 for the Foundation. Twenty six golf teams comprised of employees from national and regional insurance companies and Philadelphia area insurance brokers competed in the 2004 Insurance Industry Golf Team Challenge at Commonwealth National Golf Club on September 7, 2004.

Property and casualty insurance executives assembled for an afternoon of spirited competition, with teams vying for bragging rights for the winning low net and low gross team championship trophies. The day long festivities featured lunch and dinner, Circle of Fortune, gifts, prizes, and a unique opportunity for industry colleagues to substitute typical business rivalries with friendship and fun.

The KSMF would like to express its gratitude to Corporate Platinum Sponsor, First Insurance Funding Corp., and Corporate Gold Sponsors Young Adjustment Co., Margolis

Edelstein, Belfor USA, and Keenan Motors who helped to make the Golf Team Challenge a reality.

Competing insurance teams included: ACE USA, American International Group, Argonaut Insurance Company, CBIZ Benefits & Insurance Services of PA, Chubb Group, Clair Odell Group, Delaware Valley Underwriting Agency, ECBM, Fireman's Fund, The Graham Company, The Hartford Insurance Company, Hilb Rogal & Hamilton, Johnson Kendall & Johnson, Inc., McKee Risk Management Inc., Penn-America Insurance, Philadelphia Insurance Company, PMA Insurance Company, Selective Insurance Company, St. Paul Travelers Insurance, Stewart Smith East, Triester Rossman & Associates, U.S. Liability Insurance Group, Willis, Zenith Insurance Company, and Zurich Insurance Company.

After dinner, the audience was awestruck by the powerful and sensitive slide presentation which highlighted Kate's lifelong dream and the founding of the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation – to provide scholarships and grant money in support of wilderness education, adventure, exploration,

and environmental awareness for children and young adults.

The evening concluded with speeches from representatives of the Community Academy of Philadelphia (CAP), a Charter School in North Philadelphia. With the special partnership and support of the KSMF and the North Carolina Outward Bound Program, CAP students have been able to participate in special wilderness training. Lillian Gonzalez, a CAP senior and former participant of North Carolina Outward Bound, shared her experience which she described as life changing. Her humor and wit were enjoyed by all. Channey Roberts, CAP Director of Development, provided background about CAP and enlightened the audience about the school. Funds raised at the Golf Team Challenge will be used to send CAP students to the North Carolina Outward Bound again this year.

We hope that all of our participants will continue to sharpen their skills and improve their golf game. No one has yet to sink a hole in one for the prized Mercedes or the \$10,000 prize.



TRA Golf Team: Jeff Phillips, Scott Davis, Jeff Triester and Richard Stram



Channey Roberts, Ellen Svitek and Lillian Gonzalez



Registration Volunteers: Hope Clair, Joan Litvin and Rita Bernstein



Maury Alsher



2004 Golf Team Challenge Trophies

Beatlemania Now – We Love You Yeah, Yeah, Yeah

On June 26, 2004, over 230 Beatles groupies and Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation supporters “came together” for a successful and nostalgic evening. The Second Annual Summer Event was an overwhelming success. The event and Ad Book Calendar helped to raise more than \$70,000 scholarship dollars for the Foundation. Attendees rocked and rolled to the tunes of the 60’s and 70’s with Beatlemania Now who perfected the sounds, look and feel of John, Paul, George and Ringo. Additional highlights included vintage costumes worn during the set of Sgt. Peppers Lonely Hearts Club Band and the silent auction featuring Paul McCartney’s original lithographs, John Lennon’s illustrations and other Beatles memorabilia brought by Neal Glaser of Celebrity Art. The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation heartily thanks the tireless committee members, Culinary Concepts and Celebrity Art who helped seal the success of Beatlemania Now, which was replete with great food, friends, Beatles memories and much more.



Pat and George Severns



Terry Stone,
Ranee and Jan
Tecklin



Pam Frebowitz and Neal Glaser from Celebrity Art



SAVE THE DATE!!!

Don't miss our June 25th, 2005 Motown summer event!!

The University of Vermont – Letters from the recipients of the Kate Svitek Memorial Scholarships

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Svitek,

Greetings from the Florida Keys! My internship this summer with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Conch Restoration Program was a very unique experience full of hot summer days, great people and yes, Queen Conch. The idyllic Florida Keys with its abundance of fruit trees, touristy gift shops and turquoise blue waters was an entertaining setting for me, being a far cry from the pleasantly warm Maine and Vermont summers I was used to! That said, I learned so much and could not have asked for a better environment to branch into and broaden my knowledge of Marine restoration.

For my internship, I was able to design and run my own experiment, which helped the conch program and my own endeavors in undergraduate research at UVM. I did an experiment with pre-competent (18 day old) conch larvae and tested their curing response to three different stimuli: juvenile conch, spiny lobster and laurencia (a red algae known to induce metamorphosis). We constructed tubes where sea water untreated and sea water treated with one of the stimuli dripped into either end of the tube. I would drop one head-of-a-pin-sized larva in the middle, watch its activity for 5 minutes, then record its position plus or minus centimeters from the treatment. The experiment was a concentrated, intense amount of work and the preliminary results urge for a second run.

Field days on the research boat were some of my favorite. The keys are really meant to be enjoyed from a boat, in my opinion, and being out in the warm waters measuring conch aggregations made me appreciate this opportunity so much. Your wonderful Foundation makes it possible for students like me to be able to accept these amazing unpaid internships. I thank you so much for this incredible experience and I hope you've enjoyed the pictures and captions.

Sincerely,
Christina Evans

Just call me the conch charmer! Here you can see the foot fully extended, with the pretty spotted mouth around the inside of the lip. What is extended is what people eat, the rest: digestive organs, etc. are what stay in the shell.



Dear Svitek Foundation,

I was recently blessed with the opportunity to receive an intership down in the Panhandle of Florida. However, there was no way they could pay me, but they had plenty of work that needed to be done. That is when I got the second blessing of the Spring of '04. I received one of your scholarships. It allowed for me to go down there and do the work that I wanted to do. Otherwise, I would have worked some desk job for the summer or something like it. That would not have been fun.

I am very grateful to you. The things I got to do this summer were really cool. I got to do a whole bunch of prescribed burn. Fire has to be one of the most incredible things I have ever experienced. It is such a powerful and wild thing to watch and feel and hear. I also did some bioplot monitoring and slope forest community monitoring. I was also elated to get some time on the bulldozer. The whole summer was just an intensive experience that included wildlife and ecology. It was incredible.

I still didn't get to the most important part of my summer. I view this as being more important than the experience that I got. I was able to spend a summer with no stress at all. I would spend more time after work worrying about whether I should run through the preserve or bike the local roads. During that time, I was also able to achieve a clarity of thought that I haven't had in a very long time. I have my goals set finally. I also got the time to cope with my mother's passing about two years ago. It never gets better, but after this summer, it got a lot easier for me to deal with.

This summer is something I have needed for a few years. I want to thank you so much for giving me this opportunity this summer. I will not forget what you have done for me.

Sincerely,
Blake Rainville,
Student of the Rubenstein School of Environment and Natural Resources



Dear Svitek Family,

I would like to take a moment and reflect upon the amazing experiences of this summer with you, my gracious sponsors. Thank you sooooo much for allowing me this wonderful opportunity to learn more about myself and my future profession — that of introducing youth to nature!

Late in June, I began training at the Marine Education Center in Florida, Mass. I could never have anticipated the countless smiles, hugs, laughter, tears, sighs, yawns, swimming adventures, rope swings, jokes, pictures and saddened goodbyes that would make up my Summer of 2004.

The summer environmental education program was made up of a backpacking trip, a canoeing trip and all the wilderness education and lessons needed to prepare the students for the adventure. But you will notice that these things are not what I remember off the top of my head; it's the memories that made these experiences the wonderful thoughts that they are today.

By financing my outdoor education internship, I have learned so much about myself, students of the natural world and my passion for the outdoors. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me my Summer of 2004.

With heartfelt love and appreciation,
Nathaly Filion



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 recreation. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) tax deductible contribution. All volunteers are welcome to assist in the planning of all activities. Please visit our website at www.katesvitek.org

More Of Your Donations At Work...

2 Inner-City Students Experience Adventures At North Carolina Outward Bound

COMMUNITY ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA

A Pennsylvania Charter School

1100 East Erie Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19124

Dear Mr and Mrs. Svitek,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to try something new and memorable. Secondly, I would like to share with you my adventures from the trip as well as how much I was motivated by it. I never thought I would have the chance to experience something so hard; nevertheless, inspiring. Having been selected to go on this trip has enabled me to broaden my views of seeing the world.

Going to Outward Bound was very special to me because I have always dreamed about going on a camping trip. During the course of the trip, I was given the opportunity to do some things that I have never done before as well as learn new things. For instance, for the first time in my life I had the chance to go canoeing. This was especially fun for me because we were allowed to go swimming. I was also given a chance to learn how to rock climb. I enjoyed doing this because every time I reached the very top of the rock, I could see a perfect view of the clear beautiful sky.

Although the hardest part of the trip was doing my solo, it was also the most inspring. When I was given my supplies to build a tent, which consisted of three ropes and a tarp, I was a little confused. I was not sure if I was going to be able to build my tent. Fortunately, by the end of the night I used my instincts and came up with a way to build my tent in less than fifteen minutes.

Another difficult part of the trip was climbing the mountains at night. It was very hard at times to climb in the heavy rain. During our first trip up the mountain I was very confused about my directions; however, by the end of the trip and with the help of some counselors and friends I was able to find my way up the mountain easily.

I would like to thank you again for the scholarship and the chance you have given me to see and do new things that I will never forget.

Thank you,
Roberto Colon

COMMUNITY ACADEMY OF PHILADELPHIA

A Pennsylvania Charter School

1100 East Erie Avenue

Philadelphia, PA 19124

Dear Mr and Mrs. Svitek,

I am writing to tell you how much the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation Scholarship meant to me and how very thankful I am for the opportunity to go to Outward Bound. Going on this trip taught me that I could do anything I wanted if I just put my mind to it. It really tested my limits and I learned to be tough and to just go for whatever I wanted to do. Some of the things I did on this trip I never thought that I would do in my entire life. I couldn't even believe myself. I am so proud of the things that I did and I have you to thank. For me, this opportunity was amazing!

When I was chosen for Outward Bound, I really wasn't sure that I would be able to live outdoors. I really was not a nature girl and I had to get used to sleeping outside. For me, the night was the worst part. I got through it though. When I got home, I was really glad to tell my family about my experiences. I told them how hard it was but that it was so much fun.

This trip really brought out my self-confidence. I can't even tell you how proud I am of myself. I tell everyone about Outward Bound and try to get them to go because it really was great. I made nice friends from all over and my directors were terrific. I learned how to survive out in the woods which will stay with me forever and when I ran ten miles the last day, I couldn't find the words to explain how I did it. I had never really run before. I chose to run ten miles because I knew that If I could do everything that I did out there in the woods, then I could go ten miles.

Through out this amazing trip I tried my hardest and did my best. I even overcame my shyness and sang for my group along with my friend Anna, who could really sing well. I think about my group and all the Outward Bound experiences all the time and miss everyone a lot. I truly believe that this experience brought about a new me and made my personality much better.

When I got home everyone missed me and they were all very proud. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you Mr and Mrs. Svitek for allowing me to go to Outward Bound and to learn so many things about life and myself.

Thank you,
Curtrima Wells

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

Famous Blind Climber Erik Weihenmayer Captivates Audience for Earth Day Event

World-class athlete Erik Weihenmayer shared his impressive adventure experiences April 24th at Upper Dublin High School in Fort Washington, Pennsylvania. The event was sponsored by the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation to thank the local community for its support and to provide an afternoon of entertainment and inspiration. All attendees were treated to a free copy of Erik's book, *Touch the Top of the World*. Mr. Weihenmayer, also an acrobatic skydiver, long distance biker, and marathon runner, is the first blind climber in history to reach the summit of Mt. Everest and one of an elite few in the world to have summited the highest mountain on all seven continents.

Erik Weihenmayer utilized his warm, casual style to personally connect with the audience, despite the large scale of the auditorium. He joked about the vicious tendencies of his dog, Willa, and laughed about his friends' tendency to cheat while playing with

Braille cards. Erik defined a leader as one requiring a "degree of skill, of vision of who he is, with the vision to follow through and lead by example, to encourage, give and be contagious." He described himself as accepting failure, but also as having the "courage to reach beyond convention." Not surprisingly, Erik experienced feelings of desperation and defeat, but found the strength to just keep going, putting one foot in front of the other. And, he inspired his climbing partners to keep going, even when it seemed impossible.

Erik, affectionately known to his climbing partner as "Big E", was accompanied by his dog, Willa. He wowed the audience with humor and harrowing tales embellished with breathtaking slides of his Everest Expedition. He paid special tribute to the Svitek Family and their intensive commitment to the Foundation, describing them as Alchemists – the rare individuals with the grace and optimism to turn lead

into gold. In describing the exhilaration from the summit, Mr. Weihenmayer quoted Helen Keller: "The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt within the heart."

Erik emphasized the power of climbers, when linked together, physically by rope and emotionally with a common vision. He draws inspiration from a variety of sources, including family, friends, and Sherpa monks. Erik left the audience with a greater degree of empowerment and peace as he shared an ancient Tibetan quote: "The nature of mind is the water. If you do not disturb it, it will become clear."

The Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation will be forever indebted to Erik Weihenmayer for his support and for imparting his gifts of passion, drive, leadership and wisdom.



Ellen Svitek, Erik Weihenmayer and Willa



Frank, Ellen and Mike Svitek with Erik and Willa

Check out the new pictures for all of this year's great events!



Please take some time to check our newly designed website!
www.katesvitekmemorial.org



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. Below is an excerpt from her University of Vermont entrance application. As you will see, even at age 17, her view of herself and her future were very clearly defined.

I am also a nature lover. The mountains and beauty of Vermont's landscape bring a sense of peace to me. I have spent the past three summers doing various outdoor activities including backpacking, camping, rafting, climbing, etc. In the summer of 1994, I went to the four corners region of the United States for a six week program with America's Adventure. In the summer of 1995, I enjoyed the beauty of the Pacific northwest on a six week program with Wilderness Ventures. Most recently I had the extraordinary opportunity to participate on an Outward Bound twenty-two day alpine mountaineering course in the North Cascades. The outdoors means a lot to me because it has allowed me the opportunity to grow as a person. For this reason I have every intention of making them a continual part of my life. The University's Outing Club is attractive to me because it suggests there will be other people at UVM who appreciate the outdoors.

The most important reason for my wanting to attend the University of Vermont is because I agree with the teaching philosophy. I believe that it is important to have skills in writing and public speaking. I like the way the University stresses the importance of becoming a strong writer in much the same way my high school has. I have worked hard in high school to improve my writing skills and like that this will not just end in high school. In this way, I agree with the University of Vermont's liberal arts background in order to succeed in a rapidly changing world. The University of Vermont also seems to be a hands on learning experience. This is very important to me because I believe it is the most dynamic and fulfilling way of learning. I learn best in an environment in which there is more to learning than just books and note taking. The class in which I have learned the most about the world around me is in Biology II nature studies course. In this course we do more than just learn in the classroom we branch out and do field studies and plot surveys in order to learn more about the world in which we live.



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July 21, 2004

Mr Frank Svitek
Clair Odell
2 West Lafayette Street #400
Norristown, PA 19401

Re: 2004 Chubb Charity Challenge
Charity: Kate Svitek Memorial Scholarship

Dear Frank:

Thank you for your participation in the 2004 Chubb Charity Challenge. We were able to raise almost \$30,000 for charities in the Delaware Valley Region. Sometimes it's hard to know the difference that we make in the lives of others, but the individuals whose lives are touched by the charities you chose to support, would want to tell you something different. As Mark Twain eloquently stated: "Kindness is the language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see."

We hoped you enjoyed the day as much as we did and look forward to you joining us next year.

Warm regards,

John *Thanks!*

John Swords



Frank Svitek, Jim Gannon, Chris Missett and Rob Odell



Frank receiving a \$1000 check for The Foundation from John Swords on behalf of the Chubb Charity Challenge

Four golfers from Clair Odell Group participated in the Fourth Annual "Chubb Charity Challenge" golf tournament. They won \$1,000 for the Kate Svitek Memorial Foundation. Thanks to Frank Svitek, Rob Odell, Chris Missett and Jim Gannon.
We wish the Clair Odell team even greater success next year as the winning regional foursome gets to compete for the top prize of \$50,000.
Better luck next year!

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

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