

PCHPS Scholarships By Kirk Dooley

The Park Cities Historic and Preservation Society funds scholarships for selected HP students to encourage historical and preservation ideals. Read this year's impressive students accomplishments.



Greer Gordon is using her PCHPS scholarship to help with her education at Washington and Lee University. A 2016 graduate of Highland Park High School, she has continued her passion for volleyball and now plays on the college level.

"Sports in general, and volleyball in particular, have meant a lot to me," she said. "Through playing, I have learned many things about myself and I learned to be a good teammate, to be goal-oriented, to work to overcome adversity and to maintain discipline. It has also taught me to manage my time."

She loves everything about her university, from the focus on a liberal arts education and a student's ability to pursue multiple interests, to the small student-to-teacher ratio, to being an institution deeply-rooted in our country's history. Plus, she enjoys W&L's academic challenges and opportunities.

"I plan to double major in history and economics. Washington and Lee has very strong departments in both areas. I enjoy the study of history because many times we can find the answers to today's questions in the past. I like the study of economics because so much of what happens in our country is driven, on some level, by an economic issue."

The daughter of Susan and Brad Gordon, Greer's closest friends date back to elementary school. **"I feel very fortunate to have grown up in the Park Cities and attended the public schools here. There is such a strong sense of community.** It definitely prepared me for college. I developed a passion for history when I took Mrs. Knott's AP U.S. History class in my junior year. It was challenging, but I enjoyed it. My interest in economics began my senior year. I liked seeing the big picture from an economic perspective. After college, I would like to live in Washington, D.C., and work for a couple of years in the financial services industry or in the public sector. After that, I plan to apply to business school or law school."



Charles Mencke has had a passion for government and history since he was 10 years old. He has always had a keen interest in learning about World War II. Following the 2008 presidential election he remembers how he loved learning about the past and keeping up with current affairs.

Now a freshman at Cornell University, Mencke plans to continue his passion and utilize that knowledge towards a job in Washington, D.C. with relations between businesses and the government.

He is thankful to the Park Cities Historic and Preservation Society for his scholarship and he is also appreciative of the positive impact that the Washington, D.C.-based Pete Sessions Leadership and Growth Program has made on his life.

"During my stay in D.C. I was able to see firsthand the rooms where legislation is made and learn about the processes to enact legislation."

Mencke, the son of Mary and Robert Mencke, graduated from Highland Park High School last spring and has fallen in love with Cornell, where he competes on the school's lightweight rowing team. "I enjoy the rigorous academics combined with the beautiful environment that Ithaca has to offer as well as the brilliant people that I encounter and converse with daily. Cornell is a great environment for me to study government, history and business."

He enjoyed growing up in the Park Cities and compares the neighborhood warmth to the small-town feeling of Ithaca. "They are both close communities and have rich histories, making the quality of life much better," he said. **"Due in large part to the efforts of PCHPS, people have helped preserve and keep a beautiful town and wonderful sights for people to enjoy. Much like the Armstrong tree that I would sing under around Christmas time while I was in Lads and Lassies."**

PCHPS anticipates that these two native Texans will return home and become important community leaders.

Make your tax free donations to the scholarship fund at www.pchps.org.
Home Tour tickets can also be purchased on the website.