

Mblem

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Event Calendar **insert**

Goodbye, scholarships
by Ed Williams

Some months ago, I decided to relinquish the job of Scholarship Chair for MENC, so a new person can get into it while I'm still around to be of help. I learned that Audrey Lambert had been in charge of scholarships and financial aid at a university, and I thought "Here's the ideal person!" She agreed to take on the job, and I understand the ExComm has appointed her. I hope everyone will support her as you have supported me.

I really don't remember when I first took on the scholarship chair, but it was sometime in the 1980's. I have enjoyed the task, especially because I have had the chance to meet some of the young people who have received scholarships through MENC, and have seen how grateful they are for the assistance we give them, small though it is. (The biggest national-level scholarships are \$1000.) We have had an average of between 60 and 100 applicants per year, and have frequently had 3 or 4 national and regional winners. Several years ago, MENC started awarding a small scholarship. I take this opportunity to urge the ExComm to enlarge it, and/or to award more than one scholarship. I also want to thank the good folks who have given of their time to be judges of the essays we receive. In the last several years, Nancy Lee, Sharon Ochsman, Kim Oliver, Cherie Ernest and Ann Lewis have served as judges, and Betsy Barbeau has collated the judges' scores and made up the forms that we send up the line. I know everything will go well under the new management. Best wishes to all.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Really nothing interesting in this issue
- Well, try learn about TV shows or Chinese
- Explore David, Ed, and Gene's wisdom
- See the pictures of the vineyard that you missed.
- Try the web version of Mblem to see Pictures in color.

The Immigrant Experience
by David Skaar

Once again, I am writing a piece for the Mblem at the last minute, on last minute inspiration. As today is July 4, and from a story I heard on the radio, I realized that I could write an article about notable figures in American independence, without much effort. However, once again, I forgot that if what I write is to be relevant when it appears in print, I am supposed to work a month in advance. My problem is that I can't get inspired ahead of time. So, you'll just have to deal with events a month late, and count it as a reminder of past events.

Anyway, as we all know, America is a nation of immigrants. True, the folks who came across the land bridge have been around a lot longer than those of us whose families came from the migrations of more recent centuries. The people involved in the American War for Independence (or Revolution, depending on the technical interpretation of Revolution, but that's a topic for an etymology article) were of all immigrant vintages. None of the major American players in the war had local roots going back more than about 150 years (except

for the Indian tribes that were involved, and they too, are a topic for another time), and as we shall see, some of the players were hardly off the boat.

For example, John Paul Jones, the great American naval hero, wound up in the American navy almost by accident, under circumstances that aren't entirely clear to history. Born John Paul, in Scotland, he served on various merchant and slave ships, but became disgusted with the slave trade, limiting his career track. His moment came when on one voyage, everyone who outranked him died of yellow fever, and he safely brought the ship home, and was rewarded with a cut of the profits and command of another ship. That's where he got into trouble. He was accused of 'excessively cruel' discipline in the flogging of a troublesome sailor who died several weeks later. No charges were made against John Paul, but his reputation was severely hurt, and he left the merchant fleet when he remained under an increasing cloud of suspicion. His brother had been a planter in Virginia, and had recently died, leaving a position that John Paul took over in 1773. As some point at this time, he added the Jones to his name, to try to break with the past and start over. Conti. To P. 2, Immigrant

Conti. From P. 1, Immigrant

Whether the planting went badly, he felt some patriotic fever for his new home, or he was just bored, when the continental navy in 1775, he was ready to volunteer. With Richard Henry Lee standing up for his abilities and achievements, he got into a position of command, and had a career of mixed success and stagnation. He kept getting into political disagreements that sidelined him for months and years. At one point, in command of the *Ranger*, Jones had the first ever American naval victory over a military opponent, the *HMS Drake*. His most famous battle was as commander of the *Bonhomme Richard*, in which he and his companion ships captured the *Serapis* and the *Countess of Scarborough*, and the famous statement "I have not yet begun to fight" was made. After that, he never did much else. For a time he was a rear admiral in the Russian navy, but still as an American officer. He left the Russian navy as a result of more political arguments, and died in obscurity in France in 1792, having tried for several years to get back into the Russian navy, and just before he would have found out that he'd been appointed U.S. consul to Algiers.

Another notable immigrant intimately involved in American independence was Friedrich Wilhelm Rudolf Gerhard August von Steuben, Freiherr von Steuben (or Baron von Steuben, for short). He served in the Prussian army, reaching the rank of Captain before being discharged in 1763 for reasons that are not clear. An ex-soldier at 33, he got a job working for a minor German prince, who was broke, and from 1771 to 1775, they wandered around France trying to borrow money, without success. Von Steuben, cut loose again, and in debt, tried to get a job with any army that would take him, finally meeting Ben Franklin who recommended von Steuben to General Washington, as the knowledge of a Prussian General Staff Officer was viewed as very valuable to the mostly inept Continental army.

His expertise gave the army its military structure that is still has today (for better or for worse). He wrote tactical manuals, taught musket drill and bayonet fighting, created an organizational structure, promoted camp sanitation and

developed discipline. Most notably, on the discipline front, he showed the Americans how things were done in a properly trained army. With very little command of English when he began training soldiers, he had an aide translate his French yelling and swearing into English, as he felt that verbal abuse of recruits was essential to making them proper soldiers. His work paid off with American victories at Bunker Hill and beyond, and he was eventually helped by his highly placed American friends to a comfortable life in New York, where he was a prominent elder of the German Reformed Church, and a not very good businessman. Von Steuben day in September is the German-American equivalent of St. Patrick's day, and he has cities, counties, and schools named for him in New England and the Midwest. He is also one of four foreign military leaders to have a statue in Lafayette square in Washington, D.C.

Next comes one of my favorite military men in early American, Casimir Pulaski. A Polish nobleman and cavalry officer, he was a leader of the Bar Confederation, and fought for independence of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and tried to kick the Russians out of his country. Only in his twenties, he fought the Russians from 1768 to 1772 with many notable victories, but then tried to kidnap the king of Poland to improve the influence of his confederation. This attempt failed, the Confederation was disbanded, Pulaski was sentenced to death in absentia, and he was persona non grata for all European countries. After sneaking illegally into France, he was recruited to the American army by the Marquis de La Fayette (aka Lafayette), and fought on behalf of the Americans from 1777 to 1779. He is called the "Father of American Cavalry", and lead Pulaski's Legion, one of the few American Cavalry regiments. He fought at the Battle of Brandywine, and the Sieges of Charleston and Savannah. It was at the Battle of Savannah that he was wounded and later died, October 11, 1779, at the age of 34. He was thought to be buried at sea, but there were claims that he was actually buried in Savannah, which started a controversy just a few years ago over the identity of the remains and who had the

rights to them. However, in 2004, the identity of the remains was declared "inconclusive".

With the later large scale immigration of Poles to the U.S., Pulaski became a legend. October 11 is Casimir Pulaski day, and is widely celebrated in Chicago. Most of the original 13 colonies have towns or counties named Pulaski (but pronunciation varies). Most other states where Poles settled also have towns named Pulaski, and in some places the kids get off school. Bridges, roads, highways, interstates, a submarine, and schools have all been named in his honor, and he has a statue in Washington's Freedom Plaza.

Finally, there is possibly the most famous foreigner who furthered American independence, Marie-Joseph-Paul-Yves-Roch-Gilbert Du Motier, Marquis de La Fayette, or Lafayette, as he's most usually known in the U.S. A rich young French aristocrat, he joined the French army at 14, and was a Captain of Dragoons at the age of 19, when the American colonies declared their independence. He was caught up in the righteousness of the cause, and against the advice of just about everyone he knew, he made contacts, and arrangements were made to commission Lafayette a major general in the American army. American military disasters made his friends tell him again, not to go, and Benjamin Franklin also told him not to go. The king of France forbade Lafayette to leave the country, and he was arrested trying to leave. He escaped custody in disguise, and snuck into the U.S., escaping British attempts to intercept him.

The arrival of this 19 year old aristocrat, who was coming to claim the second highest rank in the army upset a few people. Lafayette understood the difficulty, and offered to serve without pay, as a volunteer. This impressed the Continental Congress, as most other foreign officers who had come to serve were in it for the money, and they passed a resolution appointing Lafayette a major general. He then met George Washington, in whom he found a kindred spirit and lifelong friend who became the namesake and godfather of Lafayette's elder son.

Conti. To P. 3, Immigrant

Conti. From P. 2, Immigrant

Lafayette took part in many engagements, always skillfully and honorably, if not always terribly distinguished. His more important role was through his political connections, and his ability to influence Louis XVI to support the American cause. After the war, he returned to France, in time for the French revolution, which he initially supported, but as a constitutional monarchist, and a mostly rational person, he disapproved of the actions that led to the "reign of terror", and wound up imprisoned for five years. He was mostly retired after that, but was publicly opposed to Napoleon as consul for life and emperor, played various roles in the succeeding French governments of the restoration and was politically active during the Hundred Days.

Also notable for American history, he made a triumphant return tour of America from July 1824 to September 1825, where his arrival in New York was attended by a crowd of 80,000. He was present at the dedication of the Bunker Hill memorial, the inaugural banquet of the University of Virginia, and visited every state existing at the time. His visit also saved Independence Hall in Philadelphia, which had fallen into disrepair,

but was renovated when the Philadelphia reception committee realized that they needed an appropriately significant place to host the marquis.

Lafayette was particularly moved by his visit, as he was proud and impressed that the new American democracy was still alive. Even though the great principles were not necessarily the same as originally intended, and there were some problems (while Lafayette was in the country, the particularly vicious election of 1824 took place, in which Andrew Jackson had the lead in the popular and electoral votes, but the House of Representatives gave the presidency to John Quincy Adams), the American democracy still existed, unlike what had happened in France in the intervening years. He hoped that America could be an example to the rest of the world, and predicted that one day it would save it. This led to the visit of John Pershing to Lafayette's grave when the American Expeditionary Forces arrived in France in 1917, a grave filled with soil from Bunker Hill (or maybe Breed's Hill, where the Battle of Bunker Hill took place, I'm not sure), and one of the most famous lines ever was spoken, "Lafayette, we are here" (probably by Col. Charles Stanton, not Pershing).

Just about anything that can be named after a person has been named for Lafayette (including the park behind the White House) and finally in 2002, Lafayette was granted honorary American citizenship by act of Congress.

It is at this point that I should probably give some sort of insightful summary and reflect on the accomplishments of these men. I should say that it was men (and women and children) like these that created the country, and world, that we live in today as their legacy. They and others fought for a variety of reasons: righteous fervor that their cause was just; fame, glory, and piles of money; or just because it was a paycheck and they had no other options. Some had lives filled with great aspirations and accomplishments, others lived otherwise mediocre lives with moments of greatness, most were just people doing what they felt they had to. Whatever their reasons, they got the job done, and there is almost no country or society on earth that has not been influenced by what happened in America 230 years ago. I could summarize like that, but I'm not any good at it, it's late, and I'm pushing a deadline, so it's time for me to stop.

GREENSBORO COORDINATOR'S CORNER

by Ellen Muratori

It's Vacation Time! The stragglers who don't get to the beach or mountains know that the next refreshing thing is getting together with other members.

And so it is! Saturday Night supper is a real pleasure because the usual weekend crowd has thinned out. And the

Tweaky Tuesday regulars continue to mull over worldly topics (as though our opinions could actually make a difference!) The creme de la creme remains Fourth Friday Games Night. Even Charlotteans Bonnie Haskins, Martha Covington and Robert Jones swished through fierce thunderstorms to enjoy a game of "Mexican Train" with Brian Stumpf. Tom Zavist, Melinda Kite, Dave Powers and Ellen M. ended the evening with a game of Spades.

Well, vacation time is cutting my report short. See you next month!

New TV Shows

submitted by Ed Williams

Lawe and Daughter - Remember McMillan and Wife? This new series is about a PI named Lawe who works with his PI daughter.

Copts - A crime series set among the Christian part of the population of Egypt.

Star Trick - series in which it turns out that the sky is really the inside of a sphere enclosing the Earth, with

the sun, stars and planets projected on it.

Deuteronomy - series to follow Numbers - about a young genius physicist who discovers a new sub-atomic particle called the deuteron.

The Amusing Race - teams go from Disney World to Disneyland and similar places in France, Japan, etc.

Gunschmuck - series about a Jewish cowboy in the old West.

Shrubs - a non-medical series (not like Scrubs) about Bush's less-known

relatives.

Trading Spices - an Australian cooking show featuring all the aromatic additives from Australia and its neighbor, Indonesia.

The Bald and the Beautiful - a confidence-building show for men who are losing their hair.

The Old and the Restful - tries to hook the demographic that doesn't watch The Young and the Restless.

WHY SHOULD ANYONE PURSUE SOCIOLOGY?

by Gene McMahan

During my sophomore year in music college (Ithaca College, Ithaca NY), I chose as an elective: "American Politics and Government (AP&G)." Undoubtedly, curiosity (ignorance?) was a primary motivation. The AP&G class dealt with our Constitution, the effect it had on our various branches, agencies and niches of government, mostly federal, and, in particular, the houses of Congress -- with remaining scraps of time devoted to the Judiciary and the Executive Branch. Also covered were the Declaration of Independence and the Bill of Rights.

I had at the same time also elected astronomy, another discipline that I still follow with fervent interest. Still, the freshness of the presentation of the AP&G classes persists to this day. I regret to say that my participation, rather, lack of participation in this class, did not distinguish me in any way!

Yes! There was the occasion when I performed on piano, during an evening concerto concert, the fabulous Liszt "Hungarian Fantasia for Piano and Orchestra," with a truly superior college orchestra on that occasion. I won the award for "best performance of the year" for that performance. In the AP&G class, the following morning, our instructor (bless him) announced that we had a truly great talent in our midst, naming myself, to which I humbly bowed, and quickly thereafter, we thankfully reverted to the customary class protocol.

The AP&G class must have had more impact than I first attributed to it, for I seem to have subconsciously ruminated on it for several years throughout attendance at a quite different music college (U of I, Urbana, IL). Shortly after departing the latter university, I began my personal investigation into such basic questions as had long pestered me, such as (1) Why do we need any government at all? (2) What should the governed demand that their agreed-upon government must provide? (3) What should the governing eminences themselves demand for their services?

Now, what is crucially important about the prior three questions is that exactly the same questions apply to very primitive or alien societies -- those societies hundreds, or thousands, even millions of years apart from our current, usual suspects.

Looking back to my notebooks at those times, I find notes regarding explorations in a kaleidoscope of random directions. The AP&G class had already provided much from ancient codes of laws and their subsequent protocols, such as the "Ten Commandments," and the "Hammurabi Code." But later I did extended excursions into Marx's "Das Capital," J.S. Mill's prolific writings, Spengler's comments on "The Decline of the West," John Holt's "Freedom and Beyond," Robert Audrey's "The Territorial Imperative," etc., etc., merely to tip this iceberg.

Flailing in another direction, I launched excursions into appropriate mathematical formulations. Such excursions stemmed from my own conviction that any sociological constructs stated merely in words, due to the flabby and slippery character of words, must only initiate endless controversy! My excursions traversed Game theory, the Markov Chains of Matrix theory, many branches of Statistics, and eventually, Information theory: this latter turning out to be the winner, because turning Information theory inside out resembled mathematical formulations well known in Psychology, Economics and Semantics. Thus was my theory born!

I dipped a toe into prevailing waters with my initial article on "The Mathematics of Love" in the Boston Mensa newsletter of Sep 1977. Not promising! Nobody grasped it. Then I submitted the article "Information Measure and the Dimensions of Societies" to the Mensa Research Journal (MRJ) (others demanded proprietary rights). This article appeared in the MRJ spring/summer issue of 1979. A follow-on article, "The Evolution of Societies," appeared in the summer issue of 1982.

At a later Boston RG, where I provided entertainment -- performance of a series of piano pieces -- one attendee came up to me afterward saying that he'd never seen any article in the MRJ better than my "The Evolution of Societies." This was the single time any Mensan ever commented on my two articles from decades of work! Yes, there was high praise from non-Mensan's to whom I'd sent copies of my articles, for example, two celebrated achievers on the Cambridge Tripos (two superlatively prominent chief electronic engineers). On the other hand, but for my single Mensan, I had no inkling that any Mensans, by and large, had any grasp of my Mathematical Sociological theory. This was a severe disappointment, because I'd anticipated that the audience for whom I'd written my papers probably lacked the mathematical skills to grasp them. That left no one to understand, support or extend my sociological theory, except mathematically accomplished engineers interested in sociology!

I confess I extracted income to sustain myself by being a globe-trotting, trouble-shooting, electronic engineer. BIG company got trouble? I go, I see, I fix!

In the 30 years subsequent to the publication of my two papers on mathematical sociology, none other has revealed his/her grasp of the material. It seems I have much reason to empathize with Gregor Mendel, who spent his whole life waiting hopelessly for someone to grasp his fundamental work on genetics. Yes! He was adamant! "My time will come!" Unfortunately, it didn't until long after he'd died.

Presently I'm writing a third paper on Mathematical Sociology, "Groupings Within Societies," to bridge gaps of my prior two papers and to extend their scope. Data within this paper reviews emergent related concepts and relevant mathematics since 30 years ago -- concurrent with and since my own original work.

And perhaps my Mathematical Sociology extends further than I've revealed . . . Do I sound like Ed Williams (bless his heart) yet?

AMC News

In response to requests for a central location for dues amounts and other membership information, we've implemented a Member Primer in the Members section of the AML site (www.us.mensa.org/primer).

J. Howard Prince, Director of Operations
American Mensa, Ltd., howardp@americanmensa.org

MENC Scholarship Winner by Ken Walsh

I was elated to hear that my friend Francisco Chavez was selected as this year's MENC Scholarship winner. I'll write about some of his accomplishments, but first I want to describe the teenager I met three years ago. Francisco (I use his nickname Pancho) is a young man who wins friends with every smile, but he's hardly a salesman. Pancho served as Student Council President, but he always served himself last. Pancho easily commanded valedictory honors, but his emotional speech held no bravado. He's an unassuming young man that engages activities simultaneously with trepidation, talent, and a strong work ethic. It's always refreshing to meet a teenager who doesn't think he should be pitched softballs.

Life has never pitched softballs to Pancho. He began working at six years old in Oaxaca, Mexico collecting bottles, weeding crops, and goat-herding when classes were out, and he was brought to the United States at age eleven. After a year of sixth grade outside Charlotte, he learned enough English to begin succeeding in middle school. Life should've been simpler from that point forward.

Doctors discovered an inoperable brain tumor when Pancho was a sophomore in high school. Although the tumor is benign, Pancho lost most of his vision and some hearing. He suddenly had to learn how to cope in a world he couldn't see. I've met many young people who have lost their vision, but the toughest adjustments are for those who lose their sight as teenagers.

I met Pancho when he began studies at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind in downtown Raleigh. At this

residential school Pancho started learning Braille, orientation and mobility skills, new computer programs, and basic living skills for the visually impaired. Along with these skills, he continued with his high school curriculum and competed in wrestling, track, and cheerleading. Mastering trigonometry was an especially difficult challenge; imagine reading geometric figures and solving equations when you can only read one term at a time.

After graduation in May 2005, Pancho still had some cane and Braille skills to learn, he needed some confidence traveling by bus, and he needed to practice using Microsoft Windows without a mouse. Despite his acceptance to UNC-Charlotte, he remained in Raleigh this year working on those skills and worked toward his second interpreter certification at Durham Technical Community College (3.8 GPA in five classes). Despite the heavy workload, Pancho found the time to volunteer several evenings each week and share his interpreter talents at Urban Ministries Open Door Clinic.

Some competitive scholarships and generous benefactors have made it possible to raise the out-of-state tuition Pancho needs to attend four classes at UNC-Charlotte this summer, and he plans to continue attending classes there next fall as he works toward his Psychology degree. Although the MENC scholarship award isn't large, every little bit counts and the Mensa name looks great on Francisco's resume. I've wondered why fate led me to join Mensa, and I think this award answered that question.

(Editor: Ken also included Mr. Chavez's resume which is not printed. Also, According to our Scholarship Chair, the award Mr. Chavez received is not a "MENC Scholarship". See his article on Back cover page.)

ExComm News

reporting, the Editorial Staff of one

Our Executive Committee members are busy doing their jobs. Please note the changes in the ExComm and Appointed Officers listing on Page 7, the back inside cover.

The new Deputy LocSec, Evie Hornak, has replaced Sonia Johnson to be the Public Relations Chair. Sonia has done a wonderful job in proactively making contacts, turning a new page in the history of MENC's PR effort. When she has some time, she might even tell you what it was. For now, she has been extremely busy in her personal life and with her family. Though Evie is taking over the day to day reactive activities Sonia would still be at an advisory position with some possible proactive work. Congratulation and thanks to both able people.

After serving as Scholarships Chair since the 1980s, Ed Williams has passed the helm to Audrey Lambert. Please see Ed's article "Goodbye, Scholarship" on Page 1. I hope the resignation is only a coincidence in time but not the result of his suggestion of increasing the number of scholarships being denied. During his tenure, he had diligently and systematically solicited applications from schools and colleges in MENC covered area. He also formed a strong team of judges to do a fair job of selecting deserving young men and women. According to LocSec Nina Ward, "...it's official that Audrey Lambert is the new scholarship chair with the support of Ed".

Talking about the Officers list on Page 7, I apologize for missing the Greenville Contact, Brenda Stewart, from the July issue.

Want to Learn Chinese, Or about Chinese Thinking?

by Shiangtai Tuan

In September, I will be teaching two short courses through Duke University Continuing Learning Department. Speaking Chinese 1 starts on Sept. 11 for 6 Mondays. Then, starting on Sept. 19, for four Tuesdays, I will be talking about what a Chinese would usually encounter while growing up, like Confucianism, Taoism, and Buddhism.



Vineyards Visit 2

A Visit to the Museum LG News (Aug. 19, 1 PM) by Shiangtai Tuan

It is hard to say what would please the members. For instance, a wine tasting event in the 90s attracted nearly 20 people. A wine tasting at the Morrisville winery attracted about fifteen people. In comparison, at the wine tasting with a vineyard visiting and arts/crafts show, only four members and two guests showed up, two of them did their visit on their own. Being the person who arranges a theme for each month, without hearing from anybody, I just have to do my best in guessing. I often think of some intellectual activities though intellectual doesn't necessarily go parallel with intelligence. A book reading session may be great but I think that is more like something for a book club. Well, there is nothing against a book club but it does not sound a LG activity. Hope some one would start one.

Considering the fact quite a few came to the Planetarium visit, I hope a

visit to the museum could be appealing too. There are several very good museums in NC. Ignoring the famous Mint Museum in Charlotte which is too far from us, we have a great Fine Arts Museum, a History Museum, a Natural Sciences Museum, a Life and Science Museum ... in Raleigh. For the August LG, let's go to the NC Museum of Fine Arts.

The entrance is free for the permanent collection of the Museum of Arts. It spans more than 5,000 years, from ancient Egypt to the present. The European collection includes important works by Giotto, Sandro Botticelli, Raphael, Anthony van Dyck, Peter Paul Rubens, Antonio Canova and Claude Monet. American art of the 18th and 19th centuries features paintings by John Singleton Copley, Thomas Cole, Winslow Homer, Thomas Eakins and William Merritt Chase. I will not bore you by listing more names. You can see the detailed description on their website at ncartmuseum.org.

They sometimes charge for their special exhibitions. However, their Au-

gust show is free. It is "French Sculpture from the Collection of Lynne and Mark Hammerschlag". It includes sixteen works in bronze and terracotta from the 1770s through the end of the nineteenth century. The exhibition includes some well-known names, like Jean-Antoine Houdon and Albert-Ernest Carrier-Belleuse. One work you might know: Frédéric-Auguste Bartholdi's *Liberty Enlightening the World*, a larger version of which is the *Statue of Liberty*.

They open on Saturdays from 9AM to 5 PM. To make it easier for us to get together, I suggest to meet at their restaurant, Blue Ridge, before 1PM. I will be having coffee there, perhaps from noon to 1PM. From there we can stroll leisurely around the rooms. If anyone is interested, we can go somewhere for dinner.

If you like Patty Griffin, you may stay around till 8PM for her concert at the Museum (at \$18 premium reserved or \$13 on the lawn).

See calendar pages for directions.

People I have known - John duPont by Ed Williams

A multi-millionaire convicted of murder? Wow!! I am a stamp collector. In 1990, I was on a trip to one of my old hang-outs, New Zealand, doing some trout-fishing, mountain climbing, etc. I spent a week in Auckland, where I used to be the American Consul General. While there, I visited an old friend who is N.Z.'s most prominent stamp dealer. He invited me to lunch, along with another of his friends and clients, John duPont, an heir to the duPont chemical fortune. I found out we shared a philatelic interest - the stamps of Samoa. I saw him on other occasions during that week, and we talked at great length about our Samoa collections. He had exhibited that collection (which was a lot better than mine, of course) at a major exhibition at Chicago in 1986. I saw that exhibit, but of course I didn't know him at the time. I also saw one of the truly great philatelic gems which John owned (still does, as far as I know):- the famous British Guiana 1856 "penny magenta", the only one of its kind in existence, which is often referred to as "the world's rarest stamp". John had paid nearly a million dollars for it! He had armed guards standing by that exhibit 24/7. His British Guiana exhibit won the Grand Prize at Chicago.

We kept up a sporadic correspondence for two or three years about Samoa, but eventually lost contact. Then, in 1996, I was utterly amazed to read in the newspapers that John had been arrested for murdering an athlete who was

among a number of Olympic and professional athletes whom John supported. He had turned his Pennsylv-

vania estate into a camp for wrestlers. He had always aspired to be an Olympic athlete. He was a big promoter of the triathlon. For reasons still unknown, in Jan. 1996, John shot Olympic wrestler David Schultz several times. He then barricaded himself in his home, and it took 2 days for the police to get him out. He was charged with "third degree murder", but was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia and was sentenced to up to 30 years in a medical institution.

I was amazed at all this, because in my meetings and conversations with him, I had never noticed any sign of mental illness. He always appeared to be a good, regular guy - despite being one of the "really wealthy". I can't say that John and I were "friends", but I liked him and certainly respected his philatelic expertise. I hope he is being treated so that he can eventually be released.



Vineyards Visit 1

Mensa of Eastern North Carolina



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August 2006

Regional Scholarships Winners From MENC Area

by Ed Williams

I have received the list of Mensa scholarship winners. We have 4 regional winners (no national winners) in MENC, from the 13 candidates whose essays we sent in. Our winners are:-

1. Danielle Cushing - Kuhnel Scholarship (\$500). She —, lives in High Point and plans to study journalism.
2. Sarah Fenton Snelling - Fruecht-McGrew-in honor of our parents Scholarship (\$500). She —, lives in Cary, and is in grad school at NC State studying Special Education.
3. Francisco Aragon Chavez - Jack Haley Memorial Scholarship (\$500). He —, lives in Raleigh and plans to study psychology and social work at UNC-Charlotte.
4. Diane Guinan - Diana Mossip Memorial Scholarship (\$300). She —, lives in Greensboro, and is studying physical therapy at Guilford Tech CC.

The certificates for the winners have been received and arrangements are being made to present them and hopefully get some publicity.