

PAUL HENKEL

The Point Pleasant Foundation for Excellence in Education will induct six new members into the Point Pleasant High School Hall of Fame at the ninth annual Hall of Fame Dinner at the Crystal Point Yacht Club, Point. Pleasant on Friday, March 10.

Alumni of Point Pleasant Borough High School being honored as a result of their extraordinary achievements include Paul Henkel, class of 1991; Jim Hibbs, class of 1966; Robert Wells, class of 1971; and Frank Scarpone, class of 1972.

This year's Community Service Award Winners are John "Jack" Watson and the late Loren MacIver. Both Mr. Watson and Mr. MacIver were nominated for their leadership and lifetime commitment

to education, children and volunteer services.

The foundation is pleased to highlight the accomplishments of Paul Henkel whose commitment to education, literacy, public service and action is making a difference in the fight against HIV/AIDS on a global scale. Mr. Henkel's dedication to the health and welfare of others inspired members of the foundation to accept his nomination into the hall of fame.

Mr. Henkel graduated from Point Pleasant Borough High School in 1991 and went on to attend Mount Saint Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md, where he was a dean's list scholar for eight semesters and graduated magna cum laude in 1996 with a bachelor of science degree in elementary

education.

After his acceptance into the Peace Corps, he traveled to Namibia where he attended language, cultural and educational training to prepare for his work as a primary education teacher trainer at the Ruacana Teacher's Resource Center. While there, his primary focus was training elementary school teachers in English and teaching methodology. He provided workshops as well as one-on-one instruction; he personally guided teachers in efforts that prepared them for exams to achieve certificates in intermediary teaching; and he started computer training programs for teachers, students and members of the community so they could gain access knowledge and information that could save lives.

He also supervised former students in the My Future Is My Choice HIV/AIDS peer education program. After his 25-month Peace Corps commitment, he traveled for four months throughout southern and eastern Africa. In January 2000, Mr. Henkel started his master's program in environmental conservation education at New York University. In June of that year, he left for Kenya for six months to become an HIV educator for the Crisis Corps, a division of the Peace Corps. While stationed at Shanzu Teacher's Training College, he trained the students and faculty of the college in basic HIV/AIDS information, and developed action plans that helped students and members of the community learn about the virus. He spent the summer of 2001 in northern Tanzania at Ndolage Hospital. He also led a group of college and graduate students

on a service-learning trip to volunteer at the hospital.

At this time, Mr. Henkel became part of the Salamatu Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to providing libraries and resource materials to Namibia and other African countries. He has been the lead HIV educator and currently serves as board president. He co-wrote a series of picture books about HIV/AIDS, so Namibian teachers can teach their students about the pandemic. He has gone back to Namibia three times to train teachers on how to teach their students about HIV/AIDS through literacy. There will be a fourth training in June, if funding allows.

In 2002, Mr. Henkel completed his master's program and graduated summa cum laude from NYU. He went to work at Bailey House Inc., the second oldest HIV/AIDS organization in New York, as the educational services specialist, where he was responsible for running all the educational programs and services for the organization. After two years at Bailey House, he left to teach full-time at the Art Institute of New York, a two-year culinary and design college where he is currently teaching math and English.

Mr. Henkel is starting work on a second master's degree in math. His newest project places him in the early stages of creating a nonprofit consulting agency, called CNPC, where he plans to continue his lifetime commitments on behalf of others.

The foundation also sponsors teacher grants, student leadership awards and multiple scholarships, so the evening would not be complete

without honoring some of the students and teachers currently contributing to the success in the Point Pleasant Borough School System. Other awards during the evening program include:

- Student Leadership Grant Award Winners: Meghan Breheney, Marissa Foray, Marissa Masellis, Samantha Brannick, Brittany Messenger, William Drzymkowski, Drew Bottone, Jon Workmeister, Ryan Speiser and Daniel Lewis.
- New Jersey Teacher Governor Award Winners for 2006: Kathleen Aronis, Ocean Road School; Kelly Quabeck, Nellie Bennett School; Katherine Clapp, Memorial Middle School and Derek Hulse, Point Pleasant Borough High School.
- District Teacher Award Winners for 2006: Kathleen Molyneaux, Barbara Kaklamanis, Tracey Ferm, and Jean Marie Harris.
- Keating Community Service Scholarship Winners: Courtney Norton, Daniel Lokerson and Drew VanDeMark.

The public is welcome to attend this event dedicated to highlighting excellence in education in Point Pleasant. Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres will begin at 6:30 p.m. Dinner and the evening's hall of fame program will begin at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$45 per person. For ticket information, call Pat Daw at 732-899-5938.