



**Concours Co-Chairmen Jules Heumann and Lorin Tryon present racing great Phil Hill with the 1977 Best of Show trophy.**

*Photo: William C. Brooks/Pebble Beach Company Lagorio Archives*



# Driven to Excellence

Phil Hill Scholarships  
Help Students Navigate  
Career Opportunities

BY RENEE BRINCKS

**K**ansas City native Kalila Haddad learned to shift and steer cars when she was six years old. By age 16, she got into pinstriping. She later enrolled in automotive technology classes and gained shop experience while working on modern vehicles.

Classic cars, however, remained Haddad's first love.

A teacher introduced her to McPherson College in Kansas, the country's only four-year liberal arts school offering a bachelor's degree in restoration technology. Haddad was accepted there, and later became one of three students to receive an inaugural Phil Hill Scholarship in 2011.

Established by the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance and administered through the Pebble Beach Company Foundation, the scholarships honor America's first Formula One driving champion and the lifelong auto enthusiast who was a Concours regular until his 2008 passing.

"The scholarships are a natural result of our close relationship with Phil and his family," says Pebble Beach Concours Chair Sandra Button. "Phil raced here, winning the Pebble Beach Road Races three times. He showed cars at the Concours, winning Best of Show twice. And, he was a judge at the Concours for nearly 40 years. Phil and his family were always here; they became family to us."

Haddad experienced the camaraderie and emotion on the show field during her first Pebble Beach Concours, which she attended months after the scholarship was awarded.

"I remember being very excited and anxious at the same time. It was a completely different world," she says, recalling her meetings with judges and entrants.

Watching competitors present cars to the judges is critical for restoration students, explains Button.

"That moment is filled with tension and worry, but also with great expectation and hope. Everything must function and everything must be at its



**Jay Leno introduces Phil Hill Scholars Kalila Haddad (left) and Casey Maxon (right) to enthusiasts at the 2011 Concours; students at Stanford University (center) also benefit from an educational partnership with the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.**

absolute best. Working in a shop, and often in isolation, it can be hard to imagine that moment and realize the importance of your efforts," Button says.

Haddad's own efforts landed her a job with a private car collector in Central California, where she currently manages a library and archives, prepares vehicles for shows, and helps care for about 80 automobiles.

"Before the scholarship, I had no idea that the job I have today even existed," Haddad says. "These scholarships honor Hill's legacy in a tremendous way. While I obviously never had the pleasure of meeting him, his treads are left everywhere in a very real way."

"We all knew that Phil believed in a hands-on education—one that specifically allows students to work with cars. When he was young,

he worked for a time at Jaguar. He felt that led to everything else for him, including his success as a driver and a restorer," says Button. "In conversations with his family after he passed away, we all felt that the best way to honor Phil was by establishing scholarships that would allow other students to have that same hands-on experience."

Today, the multi-year awards cover various

Photo: Steve Gann/Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance



Photo: William C. Brooks/Pebble Beach Company



**(Top) Phil Hill in a Mercedes-Benz Grand Prix car; (bottom) Phil Hill with his 1927 Packard 343 Eight Murphy Town Car Cabriolet.**

educational and living expenses as recipients complete internships and degree programs at places like McPherson and the Academy of Art in San Francisco. The Phil Hill Scholarships are part of a wider Concours-driven charitable focus that has raised more than \$25 million for Monterey County nonprofits since the event began in 1950.

“From the start, this concours has benefited

charity—and we continue to do that on a large scale at the local level. The majority of our donations help children and young people here in the area,” Button says. “But these additional scholarships address a great need in the wider car world: the need for young people who can care for cars long into the future.”

Casey Maxon, another member of the 2011 scholarship recipient class, grew up building hot

COME FIND US AT 1714 CONTRA COSTA | SAND CITY | WWW.WONDERWALL.LIFE

# WONDERWALL

OBJECTS OF DESIRE

Photo: Courtesy of Casey Maxon/McPherson



Photo: Mark Estes/Pebble Beach Concours



Photo: Courtesy of Kalila Haddad/McPherson



**Casey Maxon (left) and Kalila Haddad (right) as Automotive Restoration and Technology students at McPherson College in 2011; the Pebble Beach Phil Hill scholarships are named for Phil Hill (center), shown here at the 1997 Concours.**

rods with his father. His interest in automotive history also led him to McPherson, where he studied everything from metal fabrication to auto restoration to international relations. The summer after earning his award, Maxon interned at the Petersen Automotive Museum, met Hill's family and attended his first Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

"That first year was a great experience. I met

the president of the Historic Vehicle Association, where I now work. I shadowed judges and learned about the cars, the process of judging and the industry as a whole. I made so many connections that are still important in my day-to-day work," says Maxon.

By opening doors for motivated young car enthusiasts, the Phil Hill Scholarships pay tribute to a legend who inspired fans of all ages.

"Phil Hill was a man who just really loved cars. He was truly, truly passionate about automobiles and making sure that the history of the car was passed on," Maxon says. "The scholarship really reflects that legacy. It takes people who are passionate about automobiles and gives them a chance to excel in this industry."

To learn more about the Phil Hill Scholarship program, visit [www.pebblebeachconcours.net](http://www.pebblebeachconcours.net). ■



Photo: Steve Gamm/Pebble Beach Concours

**Hill in his Supercharged 1929 Bentley at the 1979 Concours. Hill first won Best of Show in 1955 with his 1931 Pierce-Arrow 41 LeBaron Town Car Cabriolet, the first collector car to ever win the Concours.**