

Helping to Build Futures

The PAA Foundation Scholarship

Award

Student Focus: Julie Ann Haldeman
Dartmouth College

By Melanie Bible

Director of Communications



Having graduated from Yale University with a distinction in classics, Eleazar Wheelock, a man who personified a cohesion of academic prowess and charitable purpose, furthered his education in theological studies, became licensed to preach, and was an enthusiastic participant of the (First) Great Awakening, serving the movement as Chief Intelligencer in charge of spreading revival news - and all that within a few short years after graduation. So, when a local Mohegan woman, desperate and poverty afflicted, petitioned him to teach her son, Samson Occom, a young man who would go on to be the first Native American Presbyterian clergyman, and the first of his people to publish in English, Wheelock accepted the challenge, which ignited the idea of a school for Native American Indians. After some time, and some major fundraising efforts, Dartmouth College, which everyone knows was named after the Earl of Dartmouth who bequeathed \$50,000 in trust funds and garnered the support of King George III, who contributed to the project with his own 200 pounds and royal blessing, was founded.

Of course, all this occurred more than three hundred and fifty years ago, but the spirit of giving, the development of a strong community of diverse individuals, and a sense of vibrant individuality remains. That is how Julie Ann Haldeman, currently in her freshman year at Dartmouth, described the atmosphere of the Ivy League college. Able to meet with me for a quick lunch on a cold December day just before Christmas, Julie Ann greeted me with a winsome smile and a light bounce to her step. It was her first long break from the rigors of academia; and, while glad for it, she shared that she was also anxious to return to the remote campus and her new friends. Of course, that was before the snow began to fall.

Located in Hanover, a town of 11,000 in western New Hampshire on the Connecticut River, Dartmouth is blanketed with snow during the winter months. Students survive. There's the tradition of the giant snowball fight on the Green the night of the first snow and, of course, skiing (the school owns its own slope) and sledding. It is just what you'd imagine from a small, student-centered, undergraduate and graduate college, one with three leading professional schools - Dartmouth Medical School, Thayer School of Engineering, and the Tuck School of Business. The campus is home to approximately 4,100 undergraduate and 1,700 graduate students.

Looking like a relaxed Taylor Swift on days when she's not on stage or in front of a camera, Julie Ann wore her long, wavy blonde hair in a low side pony tail and carried a pink Apple notebook.

She smiled as she sincerely thanked the PAA Foundation for awarding her a Community Service Scholarship Award. Epitomizing the type of student the foundation is looking for, Julie Ann has been actively involved with various community service projects over the course of many years.

Through Key Club at Abington High School, she helped organize various community service activities and fundraisers including a Red Cross Aphaeresis Blood Drive and a reusable water bottle sale. She volunteered as a science presenter at The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, both during the school year and summer months, where she taught visitors various science topics through interactive presentations, like how to make paper from pulp or how steam locomotion works. She was heavily involved in the World Affairs Club and then the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia, participating in planning programs for other students and writing the resolution selected for debate at the Model United Nations Conference. She helped tutor through the National Honor Society, volunteered at the local library, and was a computer tutor at St. Joseph's Manor Retirement Community, teaching elderly residents basic computer skills.

In 2009, she received a Congressional Award Gold Medal. A national program recognizing the initiative, achievement, and service of today's youth, the program required over three years of commitment, 400 hours of voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development, and 200 hours of physical fitness as well as a one week expedition. Julie Ann was one of 267 young Americans recognized at the awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. "This is an amazing program for young people," Julie Ann explained. "It is the reason that I became so involved in community service."

Continued on Page 22



Mary Rodgers, a teacher at Abington High School who is in charge of service learning and assisted Julie Ann with the program, said, “Quite simply, Julie Ann is one of the top ten students with whom I have ever had the pleasure to work. She puts as much thought into her issues as action. She backs up everything she does with research, discipline, and enthusiasm.” On the program, Rodgers continued, “The Congressional Award is the highest award for youth in the United States and must be earned. It is not simply bestowed on young people.”



Julie Ann is also well traveled. When just eleven, she visited Germany with the Philadelphia Chapter of Children’s International Summer Villages. A unique four week international camp, the program sends its delegates to experience a multilingual and multicultural immersion as they participate in a mix of educational, cultural and sporting activities. Two years later, she took part in the group’s Interchange program, this time living with a host family in Denmark.

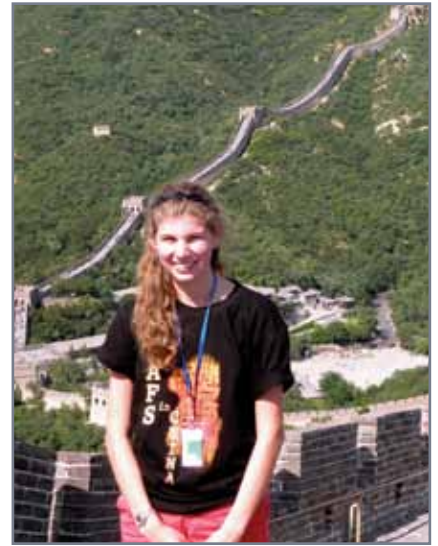
In 2007, she spent the summer in Arles, France, living with a host family and advancing a year in her high school language program. She still speaks French, “though not fluently,” she laments. Still, she frequently watches Youtube videos in French and, when dining with like-minded friends, finds occasion to practice the language.

The next summer, Julie Ann lived in Okinawa, Japan for six weeks, attending school in a program titled “Japan-U.S. Mutual Understanding for the 21st Century.” Finally, last summer she lived with a host family and studied Chinese in Changzhou, China where she delivered presentations about American culture to local communities. This last trip was part of the National Security Language Initiative for Youth, and Julie Ann was a recipient of a merit scholarship from the Department of State. She continues to Skype with her host sister. Despite a passion for international travel, Julie Ann is still contemplating one of Dartmouth’s study abroad opportunities.



“There is so much I want to do. We’ll see.”

In late August of 2010, Julie Ann, and more than 18 million other students descended on college campuses across the United States. Julie Ann expressed her deep satisfaction with Dartmouth. “I can’t imagine a better place. It’s wonderful to be at such a fine academic institution in which the undergraduate experience is really emphasized,” she wrote in our first email exchange. The school hosts many activities to acclimatize incoming undergraduates and bolster the sense of community that freshmen quickly discover.



During the week of freshmen orientation, upperclassmen introduced various clubs. The school’s gospel choir performed. The singers danced down the aisles, happily belting out harmonies and moving their bodies to the music, inspiring Julie Ann, who previously played bells with her church choir and has been playing the violin since third grade, to immediately sign up to join the group.

The school also offers First-Year Trips, which exist to give incoming students an exciting welcome to the Dartmouth community. Trips, as they’re called, provide new students with an introduction to the College’s



traditions and spirit, as well as a safe outdoor experience led by the Dartmouth Outing Club. Julie Ann chose the kayaking trip led by two upperclassmen. "It was a great way to meet new people."

In fact, Julie Ann offered that she rarely enters the cafeteria without seeing someone she knows.

Julie Ann also made friends by volunteering, and serving as co-chair, of the Bonfire Committee. A tradition called "Dartmouth Night", the festivities have evolved over the years to include a bonfire, a homecoming celebration, and a football game. The tradition of freshmen running around the bonfire, in multiples of their graduation year -114 times for Julie Ann - began in 1904 when the Sixth Earl of Dartmouth visited the College to lay the cornerstone for the new Dartmouth Hall, which had been destroyed by fire. Students built an enormous bonfire to celebrate the Earl's visit. Wanting to make the occasion even more memorable, the students dressed in their pajamas and marched around the Green. No one knows when pajamas were abandoned, but most first-year students now wear green T-shirts imprinted with their class year as they sprint around the fire. Others have worn gorilla costumes, and one intrepid student two years ago cut a hole in a canoe and wore it, secured by suspenders around his waist.

Today's bonfire bears no resemblance to those of the past. The old ladders and wooden barrels have been replaced by 6x6 timbers of rough cut pine, and the design of the bonfire has also been altered to ensure safety. The base is shaped into a six-pointed star 33 layers tall, followed by a hexagon 22 layers tall, and topped by a 10-layer square. The 65-tier structure is then filled with old pallets for easier burning. Julie Ann helped with the organization and construction; she designed and ordered t-shirts for her class; and she ran.

Julie Ann continues to find ways to get involved on campus and to promote charitable works.

She participated in the United Way Day of Caring, cleaning out and preparing the chapel at the Enfield Shaker Museum Site for a fundraising event. She had also hoped to take part in an alternative spring break program, performing community service at the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe Youth Center; however, there were only a dozen spaces available for volunteers, which mostly went to upperclassmen. "Participation in extracurricular activities is very competitive," she said with a shrug meant to disguise disappointment. But Julie Ann is keeping busy. She has been offered a research position with Dr. Mary Albert and is being trained on lab equipment that will allow her to analyze ice core samples from Greenland and Antarctica. Majoring in engineering sciences, Julie Ann purposefully chose Dartmouth "since most other colleges don't offer research opportunities for freshmen." She is sure to do great things, both at Dartmouth and in the future.

Julie Ann was one of nineteen students who received the PAA Foundation Community Service Scholarship Award, the purpose of which is to showcase the philanthropic contributions of today's youth who, like dealers, are working to make a charitable impact in their communities. From the more than 150 applications, only nineteen students were chosen to receive awards.

The scholarship has two basic requirements. The students are evaluated on their commitment to and active involvement in community service projects and must be the child of an employee at a new car or truck dealership in Pennsylvania.

Julie Ann's mother, Pamela Haldeman, works for Sloane Automotive as Executive Assistant to Robert Sloane. The company holds franchises with Honda, Scion and Toyota and is located in areas north and just west of Philadelphia, with its primary store in Glenside.

The PAA Foundation offers its congratulations and best wishes to Julie Ann, to her parents, and to Sloane Automotive.



www.paa.org

Help Grow Our Scholarship Program



The Next Student Helped Could Be One of Yours.



Call 800-242-3745 for more information
or donate online at
www.paa-foundation.org