

CLASS OF 1976 SCHOLARSHIP FUND

January 21, 2010

Dear Members of the Class of 1976,

I wanted to say thank you so much for my scholarship—I appreciate it immensely and it is quite an honor to receive.

Let me begin by telling you a little about myself. I chose Dartmouth for several reasons; first because of the school's unparalleled academic opportunities. I don't know of any other school in which a large percentage of students are able to travel abroad multiple times, have actual professors that teach as opposed to TAs, and enjoy class sizes of less than twenty members. But, beside the academics, the sense of community is what drew me to Dartmouth. My father and stepfather both attended the College and, since I was young, I have come here feeling welcomed.

Alums and current students are connected by an inexplicable bond; this is something that I love above anything else. I was walking across the Green one day over Homecoming weekend, and I saw an alumnus walking with his wife close to where several students were playing Frisbee. He stopped and asked if he could join in, saying he used to do this all the time when he was a student over 40 years ago. I remember thinking how nice that was—no matter how long it's been since graduation, Dartmouth welcomes you back with open arms, and that is exactly the kind of place I wanted to attend.

On campus, I am involved in several activities. I am on the club volleyball team, which I absolutely love. We have about three tournaments per term and travel all around New England. It is a lot of fun, and everyone on the team has really bonded. There are two other '13s on the team and, while we are made fun of sometimes for not quite knowing the ins-and-outs of Dartmouth, the upperclassmen have really made us feel at home. I've always been really involved in sports and have gone to a lot of varsity games, especially hockey games. But something I haven't done yet is learn to ski, so I hope to fit some skiing lessons into my crazy schedule. If you're going to be in three degree weather, you might as well take advantage of the Skiway!

Besides sports, I recently joined the Big Brother Big Sister organization and will be assigned to a little girl in a couple of weeks. We'll spend about 4-5 hours a week together, and I'll have the opportunity to hopefully make a difference in my Little Sister's life. These are only some of the activities I plan on doing during my four years here.

Dartmouth is an absolutely great fit for me. I've made some really good friends and have been having a great time. When I went home for winter break, I tried to describe Dartmouth to my high school friends. I found myself really struggling to capture what Dartmouth is really like because I feel it's something you just have to experience. I told them all about my DOC

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freshman trip (I was on a hiking trip) and how we were welcomed to Hanover by students dressed up in crazy clothes who sang and danced and made us feel like a member of the community from that first day. Besides not understanding the crazy clothes part, they could not really comprehend why I love Dartmouth so much. It's a combination of so many things from the dance parties at TDX to the Baker bells playing the Alma Mater every night to Blitzmail, our super-simple email system. While I wish I could do something about the freezing weather, there is nothing that bonds people quite like watching the person walking in front of you fall on the sidewalk because he slipped on the ice. I have already done this three times, and I'm sure it's destined to happen again.

Academically, Dartmouth has been great as well. I love working with kids and currently work at the Norwich Child Care Center right across Ledyard Bridge. I'm basically an assistant teacher; a second set of eyes, something absolutely necessary for a roomful of three- and four-year olds. I'm going to try to turn my love of children into a career. I'm planning on majoring in sociology with a minor in education and want to go into a career in education policy. I've always been interested in education and, while I'm not sure I want to be a teacher, I would like to help make education better and more effective.

So, again, thank you so much for making it possible for me to be part of such a wonderful experience. I can already tell it's going to be great.

Sincerely,
Katherine Payne '13