

Dear Owen L. Coon Foundation,

I want to thank you for the incredible gift of the Hardy Scholarship. Due to your generosity and commitment to Northwestern, I am departing college truly proud of myself, leaving behind a momentous academic and debate career.

This past season, my debate partner and I were unanimously ranked the top debate team in the country, winning the Rex Copeland Award. Our season was one of the best in debate history, as we won six regular season tournaments, ending the year as finalists at the National Debate Tournament (NDT). I was also the top individual speaker of the NDT, only the fourth woman in the 70-year history of the tournament to achieve such an honor.

Academically, I have just finished my honors thesis in political science and hope to graduate with departmental and Latin GPA-based honors. I have accepted an offer from a Silicon Valley-based technology company, Palantir, to join their business development team. I will be working with the company to develop contracts with U.S. intelligence agencies that use their software in national security endeavors.

The last four years at Northwestern have been the best of my life. I have met fascinating people who have changed and challenged me. I have learned more about myself than I ever thought possible, and I have achieved more than I ever dreamt. Yet I know this is just the beginning, that I am just reaching the cusp of my potential. I can say with complete sincerity that I am leaving college excited and ready for life, and this would not have been possible without your support. Your gift has changed my life, and I can't wait to someday pass this legacy on to future Wildcats.

All the best,

Ryan Amelia Beiermeister  
WCAS 2012