

# Crary Alumni

## Jeff Allott



My initial transition to college from High School was challenging and short-lived. I had trouble focusing on my studies and seemed to be more interested in getting into trouble. After one semester, I left decided to leave school and take some time to travel the country. It took almost 7 years before I was able to go back and restart my college degree.

I was 24 years old and travel-savvy, but financially broke and very few schools were interested in me. I ended up enrolling in a 2 year program at Adirondack Community College where they decided to “take a chance on me”. With a 3.97 GPA (I almost failed high school, which is hard to do these days), I was accepted in to RPI’s Mechanical Engineering Program, where I graduated Cum Laude with a focus on composite materials.

20 plus years later, I am the sole owner and General Manager of General Composites. We continue to thrive, grow, and give back at every opportunity, inside the Adirondack Park.

As an independent “adult” I was required to fund all of my expenses related to college, and needed to work full time through the entire experience. I had marginal income related to working at a ski shop evenings and weekends and the Crary Scholarship that I received was of great help paying for books and incidental expenses.

## Danielle Marquis



Growing up in Tupper Lake, I had a pretty great childhood. My mom stayed home with us when we were young, and my dad was an art teacher at Tupper Lake High. We spent lots of time enjoying the outdoor recreation opportunities in the Adirondacks, and in general, all was well.

I applied early decision to Union College and was awarded a  $\frac{3}{4}$  tuition academic scholarship, but the tuition at Union was \$30,000 per year at the time, and my mom made \$13,000 per year.

When I got to Union, I poured myself into my studies. I made Dean's List every semester, earned more merit scholarships and eventually graduated with a double major in Economics & Political Science—the first student in anyone at the school's memory to have a true/substantial double major. I graduated 1st in my Political Science class, 3rd in my Economics class, earned memberships into both honor societies, Magna Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa and presented an award winning dual thesis at a national undergraduate research convention. I even found time for a term abroad in Greece, graduated a semester early and met my future husband.

None of that would have happened without your scholarship and I've wanted to say thank you for a very long time.