

Remarks by Kary Antholis '84  
Scholarship Appreciation Luncheon  
May 12, 2011

Hi there. I am here today because my wife and I have established a scholarship in the name of Andrew A. Haldane, Class of 1941, and I would like to tell you why.

I graduated from Bowdoin College in 1984. I was part of the Orwellian class. After I left, I had some good fortune and found my way into a career where my education in history and historical narrative and my many hours of experience watching television actually came in handy.

I reconnected with the college in 2001 shortly after 9/11. A member of the development office invited me back to campus and arranged a lunch for me with a half dozen or so of my former professors. During the course of that lunch I realized that these individuals were like parents to me; they helped shape my values, my thinking process, the way that I had come to see the world. This was particularly resonant to me in the aftermath of the tragic events in Manhattan, Boston, D.C. and Pennsylvania.

Then — in the parlance of my chosen field — CUT TO February 2007: I was working with a guy named Tom Hanks on a miniseries about World War II in the Pacific. It was a follow-up to Hanks' miniseries *Band of Brothers*, and helped to shed some light on the experience of our servicemen in the lesser known Pacific Theater of Operations.

One of the collaborators on the miniseries overheard me talking about my fondness for Bowdoin. He said, "You know the Captain Andy Haldane in our miniseries? He went to Bowdoin." Here are some interview clips and scenes from the miniseries that tell a bit about Andy.

Soon after I learned that he was an alum, I became aware of Andy Haldane's significant legacy as a Marine and here at the College. He won the Silver Star for valor, and was honored by his fellow Marine and Bowdoin alum, Everett Pope by the establishment of the Haldane Cup, which every year for the past

60+ years has gone to the student who demonstrates exemplary leadership and character.

Then when I came back to the college in the early spring of 2008, the archivist of the school, John Cross, showed me a series of letters between Andy Haldane and Bowdoin's Dean Paul Nixon. Reading these letters was an epiphany for me. As I share some excerpts with you, I hope you will see why.

Dear Dean,

Life here at Parris Island is not bad at all. Ev Pope, Bob Connolly, Hoyt Miller and John Williams are still ok. Let's hear from you..., Dean.

Sincerely,

Andy Haldane

Dear Andy,

I just passed Hutchings on campus and I told him I had heard from you and that you spoke of the other boys. He's headed for Parris Island very shortly now. The college's very best to all you boys. It may be that you've all discovered by now that we are all mighty proud of you, and quote your names pretty far afield.

Yours cordially,

Dean

Dear Dean,

For the past week I haven't been feeling so well and now I am resting up again. Malaria is a peculiar disease.

There is really not much to write about, but I just had to answer you for you have been so conscientious in your letter writing. I'll write again when I feel a little better.

Sincerely,

Andy Haldane

Dear Andy,

Ev Pope wrote he had recently seen you and that you were in fine trim. Apparently you had the malaria licked at that time.

According to the papers, another push is starting. I hope you fellows who had so much to do at Guadalcanal will be given a long respite and some other folks can share the glory.

Yours cordially,

Dean

Dear Dean,

Once again I am back on duty and it feels pretty good... I tried to get out of the hospital early but the doctor said, "No."

As soon as I got back to camp, a job was assigned to me and now I am out in the field for at least 20 days. However, I find it interesting for I certainly like firing weapons.

Ev Pope is looking fine and of late I have seen him quite a bit. You know Dean men don't come any better than Ev.

Write again when you find time Dean for I enjoy hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Andy

Dear Captain,

It's fine to be able to address you by that title, and quite natural in view of your football office. So you are in the field again. Well, Andy, I hope, hope it isn't as lousy a field as the Bowdoin field you one time busied yourself in.

I am glad that you and Ev are hitting it off well. He's quite a boy, I have known that for a long time.

As ever, yours

cordially,

Dean

Dear Dean,

The men on Saipan are having a hot time but so will I in the near future. Our next operation will be a honey.

The hometown papers have been giving Bowdoin quite a write up so now I have all these clippings whenever anyone tries to kid me about my College.

Take care Dean and wish me luck on this next one.

Sincerely,

Andy

Dear Andy,

Indeed I do wish you luck and I have got every finger I own crossed several times and several ways. Of course it doesn't take a prophet to guess where you are at this particular moment.

Very best to you Andy. And believe me I mean it!

Yours

cordially,

Dean

Dear Dean,

At last I have a moment to write and let you know I'm still ticking. We have had a hell of a snap, but again we came out on top. It doesn't pay to lose in this game.

Right now I'm on the beach enjoying a 4 day swimming party.

Give my best to everyone.

Sincerely,

Andy

Dear Andy,

It was mighty good of you to write. No doubt your people told you that an item appeared about you in the press as one of the fellows who stopped five Jap assault series.

Meanwhile, don't catch a cramp in any swimming party and lose the war for us.

Yours cordially,

Dean

Dear Dean,

Now that the Bismarck Archipelago is virtually secured, the stage is set for the final show. Our enemy is in a bad way. It won't be long now.

Sincerely,

Andy

Dear Andy,

Almost every day for weeks I've been thinking about you boys particularly ever since that newspaper account of how you and six other alumni were on that Peleliu landing. I earnestly hope that no news is good news or as Tom Means used to say, "No noose is good noose." Best wishes Andy. These fingers of mine are so tightly crossed that they hurt.

Yours

Cordially,

Dean

On October 12th, 1944 as he was examining the terrain on the Island of Peleliu under heavy sniper fire, Andrew A. Haldane raised his head from cover and a bullet found him, killing him instantly.

Dean Nixon sent a private letter of sympathy to Andy's parents, and Andy's Dad Sydney Haldane responded with this note to Dean Paul Nixon on Nov. 5th, 1944.

Dear Friend,

Your letter so sympathetic and understanding was a great help to us in our time of sorrow and shock. It was my pleasure to talk to you, Mr. Nixon in front of Moulton Union just before a football game and I made myself known to you by saying I was Andy Haldane's father. O the happy days of old. My only regret now is that I had only had one boy who was able to attend your Bowdoin College. We thank you again for your kindness in our sorrow.

Sincerely yours,

Sydney Haldane

It has been almost exactly 70 years since Andy Haldane walked off this campus for the last time. However, I believe that these letters capture the timeless bonds formed here at the college between students and their mentors. They also reveal the profound values of mentorship, friendship, leadership and common good, which the school and its people foster and inspire. This crystalizes why Bowdoin means so much to me, and this is why we have established the Andrew Haldane Scholarship to support students whose actions and leadership have been in the service of the common good.