



Widening Horizons at Yale and Abroad

STUDENT PROFILE

“An undergraduate education is about more than what we learn in the classroom.”

— Skawenniio Barnes '10

Skawenniio Barnes '10 is a political science major in Berkeley College. She comes to Yale from Canada's Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, where she is a citizen of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy, also known as the Six Nations or Iroquois Confederacy.

Skawenniio says she chose Yale because, in addition to the great faculty, resources, facilities, and invited speakers, it has a great atmosphere, too. “The students at Yale are genuinely happy, friendly, and laid-back,” she said.

An active member of the Yale student body, Skawenniio serves on the advisory board of the Native American Cultural Center, the executive boards of the Association of Native Americans and the American Indian Science & Engineering Society, and the Yale Intercultural Affairs Council. In October 2008, she was elected to the board of directors of the National Indian Education Association, the oldest and largest Indian education association in the United States, and in 2007, she traveled with the delegation of 100 Yale students, faculty, and administrators to China. There she met with students and government leaders and toured historical and cultural sites in Beijing, Shanghai, and the ancient city of Xi'an. “At Yale I have learned that an undergraduate education is about more than what we learn in the classroom,” she said. “Our experiences and social interactions are just as important.”

After graduation, Skawenniio plans to go to law school to pursue her interests in indigenous governance, nation-building, and sustainable economic development.

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Skawenniio to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit www.yale.edu/yaletomorrow or call 800.395.7646.