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Madden awarded Pearl scholarship

By Meghan Foley
Posted: 06/12/2010 12:42:48 AM EDT

Saturday June 12, 2010

North Adams Transcript

WILLIAMSTOWN -- Patrick W. Madden is the first senior at Mount Greylock Regional High School to receive the Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship.

Madden, 18, was named the eighth recipient of the \$1,000 award -- given in memory of the late journalist -- during Class Night activities on Thursday.

"One of the things in reading about Daniel Pearl I came to understand was the appreciation he had for writing not for the sake of writing, or playing music not for the sake of playing music, but as a way to make the world a better place," Madden said during an interview Friday morning.

Pearl, who began his career as a reporter at the North Adams Transcript, and then The Berkshire Eagle, was pursuing a news story when he was kidnapped and killed by Pakistani terrorists in 2002. At the time, he was the south Asia news bureau chief for The Wall Street Journal.

Madden said he was surprised and honored to receive the scholarship, which he learned about from his parents, William and Sarah.

"They encouraged me to apply partly because of my overwhelming interest in music, which goes back to the second grade when I started taking piano lessons, and I had just taken up editorship of the school newspaper, The Echo," he said.

The Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship is given to a Berkshire County student who plans to study and pursue a career in journalism or music.

Madden plans to attend Brown University

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in August to study music and theater.

"I'm sure I'll study a lot of things, but music and theater will be two key studies of my Brown education no matter what," he said.

Since entering the seventh grade at Mount Greylock, Madden has participated in the band, chorus and orchestra.

He plays the piano, clarinet and violin, but admits he has dabbled in playing a few other musical instruments.

"Creating music from notes on a page is a form of expressing myself unlike anything I do in my academic life," Madden said. "I'm so grateful to have attended a school that has give me all this opportunity."



Meghan Foley/North Adams Transcript Timothy Payne, principal of Mount Greylock Regional High School, presents Patrick Madden, 18, of Williamstown with the Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship during Class Night on Thursday.

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He is also grateful to his elementary school music teacher, Betsy Reali, for focusing his love of music.

In addition, Madden performed in numerous theatrical productions and musicals put on by the high school and other theater companies.

"What really draws me to acting is the chance to experience the world through a different perspective," he said.

Developing a character on a stage gives a person the opportunity to learn to see the world as the character would, and broaden his mind," he said.

Madden has received several awards for his performances and academic honors, and even composed a song for the Sage City Symphony in Bennington, Vt. in 2009. He later rearranged the composition for the Mount Greylock band for his senior project.

Writing was something that came later in Madden's life.

"I think one of the strengths of Mount Greylock is its writing program. While I did some writing in middle school, my ninth grade English teacher, Robin Lehleitner, really sparked my interest," Madden said.

He said he is most interested in "persuasive communication" such as writing speeches and essays.

"I feel drawn to writing forums that influence people and change the world for the better," he said.

While he began writing theatrical updates about drama productions he was involved in for The Echo, he wrote news articles as he got older.

"I like news reporting better. I think especially in a small community like Mount Greylock, getting news and opinion out there to students is important," he said.

Madden joins seven other Berkshire County seniors who have received the Daniel Pearl Berkshire Scholarship.

Past recipients include: Kathryn E. Anderson of Pittsfield in 2003; Luke C. Massery of Pittsfield in 2004; Thomas J. Buchte of Sheffield in 2005; Linnéa K. Clark of Washington in 2006; Brian F. Mastroianni of Adams in 2007; Samantha deManbey of Sandisfield in 2008; and Elizabeth Murray of Adams in 2009.

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