College senior to take people skills worldwide

By Mike Latona Staff writer

PENN YAN – As well as Dennise Doyle knows Penn Yan, chances are Penn Yan knows the outgoing 20-year-old even

"I waitress, and my parents feel sorry for the people I wait on because I talk their ear off," she said, laughing.

A lifelong resident of this Yates County community, Dennise said that, following graduation from St. Bonaventure University next spring, she would "love to live here the rest of my life."

Before she pursues a career in teaching, however, Dennise plans to familiarize herself with many other parts of the world. She has qualified for the cast of Up With People, and will trek to nearly 20 different countries starting in the summer of 1996.

Begun in 1965, Up With People is a touring musical show whose performers range in age from 18 to 26. Dennise will travel with a cast of more than 150 young adults over a 10-month period, covering 30,000 miles.

Although best known for its energetic productions, Dennise emphasized that Up With People involves itself extensively in community-service projects as well.

"People don't know that because it's behind the scenes," Dennise explained.

As they travel from show to show, Dennise and her fellow cast members also will visit schools, hospitals, prisons, centers for the handicapped and adult residences. And by staying with volunteer host families in the communities they stop through, she will gain a first-hand cultural experience in such countries as Mexico, Canada and Russia.

Dennise was initially attracted to Up With People by the experiences of her sister Christine, who toured with the group in 1993 and 1994.

"Just on a whim, she goes to me, 'Why don't you interview?," recalled Dennise, a parishioner at St. Michael's Church. "It was one of those 'What have you got to lose' things."

Due to her scant experience on stage — her background is in athletics — Dennise was somewhat surprised at being chosen since less than one of every 10 applicants makes the final cut.

Extra Credit

OEight Geneva DeSales High School students were named recipients of this year's DeSales Spirit and Pride Awards.

Two students from each class were honored: seniors — Steven Mahoney and George Kelly; juniors — David Morgan and Annjeannette Clark; sophomores — Susan Nearpass and Theresa Patrick; freshmen — Aaron Passalacqua and Alicia Mirabella.

OJennifer Wurtz, a sophomore-tobe at Nazareth Academy, has been



S. John Wilkin/Staff photographer

Penn Yan native Dennise Doyle will travel to 20 countries with the cast of Up With People during the summer of 1996. The St. Michael's parishioner will begin her journey after completing her senior year at St. Bonaventure University in the spring.

"I'm not a big performer, but I'm not afraid to try," she said.

Yet personality also weighs heavily in the selection process, and that made the difference in Dennise's case.

"I love to have a good time, and that's a big part of Up With People," she acknowledged. "The last thing they asked me is if I had any musical talent."

Tuition for Up With People is not cheap: Dennise is hoping to raise \$15,000, mostly to cover travel expenses. She's collected \$1,000 so far through a variety of fundraisers.

By participating in this experience, Dennise hopes to continue making her beloved Finger Lakes area part of the vast network encompassed by Up With People. Her sister's troupe performed at

recognized as a national award winner by the United States Achievement.

Jennifer was honored for her skills in foreign languages. In addition, the U.S. Achievement Academy has named her an All-American Scholar.

OAida Hinds, entering sixth grade at Nazareth Hall Elementary School, won the Diocese of Rochester "Math 24 Challenge" in May.

Other Nazareth Hall students who participated in the competition included Paul Vacca, Jesse Schott and Channon Lucas.

OSt. Helen's School, Gates helped provide meals for needy families by means of a student-sponsored food drive held in June.

The one-week drive enabled St. Helen's to donate non-perishable goods to Rochester-area food pantries.

Penn Yan Academy in 1994, and another Up With People show came to nearby Geneva this past June.

"When my sister brought it here, it sold out in two days — it was incredible," said Dennise. "This is the type of thing that would make a little town known."

EDITORS' NOTE: Donations to Dennise Doyle's tuition fund for Up With People may be sent to: Marian E. Love, Regent of Court St. Michael No. 1173, Catholic Daughters of the Americas of Penn Yan, P.O. Box 642, Clifton Springs, N.Y., 14432. Potential donors also may call Ms. Love at 315/462-7851.

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