

Student Life Awards

Honors Scholar - Student Life Awards Winners

Congratulations to all 2008 Student Life Award Winners!!

April 24 Winners Announced

Donald L. McCullough Leadership Award



Samantha Sherwood

Samantha, a Human Development and Family Studies major, was involved with the Honors Council as president, vice president, academic committee chair, and leader for their Alternative Spring Break trip to New Orleans. As an Honors Board of Associate Directors' representative she elected board members for the National Collegiate Honors Council. She helped develop two honors initiatives and published her honors thesis in two venues. She won a student researcher award and was a finalist for the Harry S. Truman Fellowship. Sam was also a participant in the highly selective Leadership Legacy Experience.

April 23 Winners Announced

Individual Community Service Award



Colleen Deasy

Colleen, a senior Human Development and Family Studies and English major, was involved with the Honors Program through Honors First Year Experience program and the Honors Council. She worked at the Writing Center and was a Community Assistant. Colleen wrote the grant application and pursued a partnership with a national non-profit organization Jumpstart. She worked on this initiative and started the only Jumpstart site in the state here at UConn. Next year she will be going to graduate school for a degree in law and education.

April 22 Winners Announced

Individual Husky Pride Award



J. Stephen Ferketic

Steve, a member of the a cappella group “A Completely Different Note” and a Student Advisor for the Jorgensen Center for the Performing Arts, taught a first year experience and made marketing videos for UConn’s Enrichment Programs, Honors Program, and Study Abroad Office. Steve tutored at an after school center in a government housing complex, researched abroad in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Cape Town, South Africa. He was selected as a presenter at the 2007 International Society for Conservation Biology Conference in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

April 21 Winners Announced

Emerging Leaders Award (2 Winners)



Philip Gorecki

Philip, a sophomore in the Honors Program and a student in the Combined Program in Medicine, served as a “training facilitator” for a class of first-year students. He was a volunteer in the Husky Ambassador Program and the Honors Initiative for Prospective Students. Philip served as one of the student representatives for the Honors Board of Associate Directors and a member of the Honors Council Technology Committee. This past summer, Philip served as an Orientation Leader as well.



Michael Mitchell

Michael, an economics and political science double major in the Honors Program, served on the Sophomore Honors Community Council and chaired the Newsletter Project, serving on a committee that creates a community newsletter on issues surrounding the educational achievement gap. Michael was also involved in the Multi-Cultural Business Club and the NAACP. Recently, Michael was one of only twenty-four individuals across the country recognized as the most promising black male college sophomores and selected for a summer internship program in Washington D.C. by the Institute for Responsible Citizenship.

April 18 Winners Announced

Peer Educators of the Year Award



Mina Farahani, Junior

Molecular and Cell Biology Major

Mina helped create the Peer Allies Through Honors mentoring program, and has dedicated her time to HIPS and MAPS as well. She is a dedicated mentor and is extremely devoted to bettering the UConn community through her support and coordination of events and programs. Her constant desire for improvement has been essential to the development of the PATH and HIPS programs.



Kyle Hannon, Junior

Entrepreneurial Management Major

Kyle is a huge presence in the Honor's department, acting as a student coordinator for the Peer Allies Through Honors program. Kyle was heavily involved in implementing the Honors Karnival Kick-Off and the PATH-a-palooza events. He is also involved in the Husky Ambassador Program as well as the

Honors Council. Kyle is described as embodying all aspects of a peer mentor, including commitment, loyalty and enthusiasm.



Colleen Deasy, Senior

Human Development and Family Studies, English major

Colleen is the reason the Jumpstart program has a presence on campus and recruited, trained, and supervised of volunteers for this program. She has also been involved as a Writing Center Tutor and First Year Experience Mentor. Colleen is described as having a passion for Peer Education and the spirit to light a fire with the people she works.

April 17 Winners Announced:

Spirer/Dueker Student Humanitarian Achievement Award & Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship



Winner: Amanda Ploch

Currently in South Africa, Amanda is studying human rights, researching her honors thesis, and interning for the Economic Justice Network. This past year she was involved with UConnPIRG as a co-leader of the Hunger and Homelessness Campaign. Amanda was also the Chief Financial Officer, Vice President, and served on the state board for ConnPIRG. She was also involved with Intervarsity Christian Fellowship, Human Rights News, and International Relations Association. Finally, Amanda was also a UNESCO Student Ambassador as well as a Husky Ambassador. Currently Amanda is a Finalist for the prestigious Truman Scholarship!

April 16 Winners Announced:

Martha & Albert Cohen Scholarship for Enhancing Community



Winner: Yi-Jun Chen

Yi-Jun was a PATH mentor for the Honors Program, a KUBE mentor for students from low socioeconomic backgrounds, and a mentor for the Asiantation Mentoring Program (AMP). Yi-Jun single-handedly designed, secured funding for, and implemented an AMP Scholarship program giving money to AMP mentors and mentees of various ethnicities and backgrounds. She was involved with the Tunnel of Oppression project and served as the Activities Coordinator for the Chinese Undergraduate Students Association.

April 15 Winners Announced:

Edward Victor Gant Scholarship



Winner: Lauren Donnelly

Lauren, an undergraduate majoring in Political Science, was involved with the Women's Center and Community Outreach, and was instrumental in developing an alternative break trip to Washington D.C., in which the group interacted with 13 different community organizations centering on women's rights and policies connected to women. She served as the Multiculturalism and Diversity Senator on the Undergraduate Student Government and was a nominee for the Harry S. Truman national scholarship. Lauren was a community Assistant and an executive board member of Phi Sigma Pi, a co-educational national honor fraternity. Lauren has begun to work on her Honor's thesis that will take her to Morocco in the fall to conduct independent research focusing on the issues of discrimination of women.