



2009

*Friday, April 17, 2009  
4 o'clock in the afternoon  
Student Union Ballroom*



*Welcome!*

*A Letter from the President*

Dear Friends,

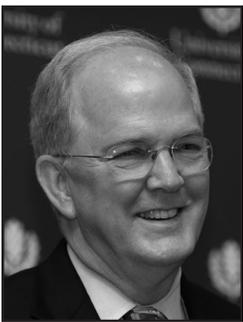
At our annual Student Life Awards event we recognize some of our outstanding UConn student leaders for their efforts to make this University a better place. I join you in congratulating this afternoon's honored students. And it's important that we applaud many other students who have contributed time, ideas, effort and just plain hard work to give back to their community, to make a difference over the past academic year.

After all, UConn is your home away from home, your new neighborhood, your new world. One of public education's goals is to prepare our students for participation in their own communities. This is the true test of what we've learned, and today we honor our student leaders who have taken this message to heart.

Without students, UConn would have little purpose. Without strong student leadership, UConn would be a diminished university. Students are the reason I've dedicated my life to higher education, and why I'm so pleased to congratulate our Student Life Awards recipients this afternoon.

  
Michael J. Hogan  
President

*President Michael J. Hogan*



Michael J. Hogan became the 14th President of the University of Connecticut on September 14, 2007. President Hogan came to UConn from The University of Iowa where he served as Executive Vice President and Provost and F. Wendell Miller Professor of History from 2004-2007. Before his move to Iowa, he was a tenured Professor of History at The Ohio State University, where he served as chair of the Department of History from 1993 to 1999, as Dean of the College of Humanities from 1999 to 2003, and as executive dean of the Colleges of the Arts and Sciences from July, 2001, during which time the position of Executive Dean evolved into a separate free-standing office with oversight of five colleges and forty-one departments. Born and raised in Waterloo, Iowa, President Hogan earned his B.A. degree at the University of Northern Iowa, where he majored in English with minors in History and Classics; his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in History were conferred by The University of Iowa.

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## *A Message from the Student Life Awards Committee Chair*

On behalf of the Department of Student Activities, I'd like to welcome you to the 2009 University of Connecticut Student Life Awards – recognizing outstanding contributions to and leadership of the University community! As demonstrated by the 175-plus nominations for the various Student Life Awards, the campus was very much alive this past year with student involvement, service, leadership and pride! The student engagement represented by all of this year's nominations not only created an environment of diverse opportunities and activities but also served to enrich the campus environment and enhance student learning.

The process and work of recognizing all of our outstanding student leaders and bringing everyone together today began at the start of this academic year and has continued non-stop throughout the past eight months. Below is the list of the members of our 2009 Selection Committee, who spent a significant amount of time reviewing nomination material and interviewing finalists. It is also important to recognize the many folks who have played a role behind the scenes in everything that culminates in today's event. Therefore a special thanks to Liz Santos, Anna Milot, Deb Blanchette, Mary Shaw, Lillian Palacios, Janella Mildrexler, Dr. Christine Wilson and the entire staff in the Office of Leadership Programs.

Finally, a note of particular thanks to our donors and award sponsors who have so generously supported this program, and more importantly our students. You are invited to learn more about all of our donors and sponsors on the following pages.

Congratulations to all of the nominees and thanks for making the University of Connecticut a vibrant campus community in which to live and learn.

Joseph P. Briody  
University of Connecticut  
2009 Student Life Awards Committee Chair



## *Student Life Awards Selection Committee*

**Carl Dean**, *Student Support Services*

**John DeWolf**, *Engineering*

**Valen Diaz**, *Legacy Student*

**Matt Farley**, *Community Outreach*

**Kathy Ficher**, *Women's Center*

**Jessamy Hoffman**, *Honors Program*

**Leo Lachut**, *Student Support Services*

**Stefanie Landsman**, *Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs*

**Christie LeTarte**, *Residential Life*

**Cindy Morrissette**, *Student Activities Business Office*

**Caitlin Partyka**, *Legacy Student*

**Angela Rola**, *Asian American Cultural Center*

**Elizabeth Santos**, *Leadership Programs*

**Heather Strunk**, *Involvement and Leadership Programs*

**Julia Stulock**, *Club Sports*

**Marisa Sullivan**, *Leadership Programs*

**Yoo-Mi Thompson**, *Legacy Student*

**Dana Wilder**, *Office of the Vice Provost*

**David Yalof**, *Political Science*

*A special thanks to all of the members of this year's Student Life Awards Selection Committee for their time and commitment to recognizing and supporting student contribution to and leadership of the University community.*



## *Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship*

*Recognizing the dignity and rights of all, the Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship for Civil Liberties is named after Matthew Benson Schechter, who earned a Bachelors of Art in English in 1962. This award was established in 1969 to recognize students' contributions to causes of human rights, human dignity, civil liberties and freedom of thought.*

### *Recipient*



#### ***Christopher Martin***

Christopher, a Political Science major, is part of the Jumpstart Program which helps area pre-school children with literacy development. He is editor of the student human rights journal on campus, NAMASTE (Hindi word meaning the spirit in me meets the same spirit in you). In addition to this, Christopher volunteers at soup kitchens and is a member of a social justice punk band.



## *Organization Community Service Award*

*This award honors a student organization that has initiated and/or actively engaged in a community service project. The project may be a single event or a series of activities. The Department of Athletics is the proud sponsor of the Organization Community Service Award.*

### *Recipient*



#### ***HOLDUP!***

Husky Outreach for Leadership Development, Understanding, and Pride! (HOLDUP!), is a student led program where members travel to area high schools and work with students on their leadership development, civic engagement, and citizenship. With a common theme of personal leadership, the workshops and activities focus on effective communication, conflict resolution, ethical decision making, and other important topics. The workshops include discussions and active reflections that engage these often at risk high school students and provide them with a framework for success.



## *Martha and Albert Cohen Scholarship for Enhancing Community*

*The Martha and Albert Cohen Scholarship for Enhancing Community, was established by Stephen Cohen, a member of the Class of 1965, to honor his parents and recognize students who have actively engaged in activities that demonstrate a commitment to eliminating bigotry, prejudice and discrimination - particularly through participation in social service work, advocacy, and/or humanitarian work aimed at improving inter-group relations.*

### *Recipient*



#### ***Emily Blandford***

Emily, a Communication Sciences major, was involved with the Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) and was a featured presenter in a program called "Unite" to the Pan-Hellenic Sororities on campus. This program aimed to foster tolerance and encourage unity among individuals on campus. She is also a member of Sexperts, works with the Rainbow Center's Speakers Bureau, and is a trained Husky Handler with the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity. Emily has also spent time volunteering in New York fighting HIV/AIDS and at the Rockville, Connecticut Homeless Shelter. In addition to all these roles, she is a Community Assistant and works at the Student Union as a Technology Assistant.



## *Student Organization Advocacy Award*

*This award honors an outstanding student organization for the achievement of a remarkable goal or completion of a major project that significantly impacted students through advocacy or awareness initiatives. The Division of Student Affairs is the proud sponsor of the Student Organization Advocacy Award.*

### *Recipient*



#### ***UConnPIRG***

UConn Public Interest Research Group (PIRG), is a student funded organization which devotes its time to developing strategies and solutions to deal with global issues including climate change, hunger and homelessness, and education. The organization kicked off last semester with the New Voters Project, in which over 3,000 new voters were registered on campus. UConnPIRG also received the Allison Chase Spirit Award for their weekly volunteer work at the women's shelter in Hartford.

Bottom row, left to right : Jessica Roberts, Blair Izard, Marta Musial, Marissa Goldberg, and Madeline Green. Top row, left to right: Joe Antelmi, Megan Corning, Kevin Wilhelm, Kaitlyn Schlegel, Blayne Sapelli, Marisa Gumpert, Danielle Schindler, Megan O'Branski, Victoria Nowak, Emily Lau, Rina Lee, Andrea Bass, Sarah Thong, and Janhavi Madabushi.

## *Spirer / Dueker Student Humanitarian Achievement Award*

*Herbert F. Spirer is a professor emeritus of information management and former director of the MBA program in Stamford. Marilyn Dueker, is a professor emerita of statistics also from the Stamford Campus.*

*Spirer, whose academic career focused on statistics and information systems, says he came to the field of human rights late in life. In 1985 he began to apply statistical analysis of data to human rights issues; a novel approach at the time. Since then, he and his wife Louise, a UConn alumna, have devoted themselves to the cause. Together with Dueker, they established the Spirer-Dueker Humanitarian Award, given annually to recognize a UConn undergraduate who has performed innovative humanitarian services outside their regular classes.*

### *Recipient*



#### **Joseph Antelmi**

Joseph is part of the Model United Nations at UConn and is majoring in Economics and Psychology. As a sophomore, he assumed a leadership position with UConn Public Interest Research Group where he planned and implemented their first conference on hunger. The following summer, he worked as an Opportunity and Prosperity intern with the Connecticut Association for Human Services. In his junior year, he became a Teaching Assistant for Dr. Mark Overmeyer Velasquez. Joseph has spent time working with the First Year Experience Program and is a member of the University's Leadership Legacy Experience. He is also on the board of directors for End Hunger Connecticut!



## *Husky Pride Award*

*This award honors an organization for outstanding external representation of the pride and spirit associated with being a part of the University of Connecticut. The Division of Student Affairs is the proud sponsor of the Husky Pride Award.*

### *Recipient*



#### **SUBOG**

The Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) is responsible for campus wide student events at UConn and hosts musicians, comedians, lecturers, and many other presenters. The organization also plans major weekends and events like Husky WOW, Homecoming, Winter Weekend and more. The members of SUBOG work extremely hard to make the college experience more enjoyable.



## Program of the Year Award

*This award honors an organization or individual responsible for the development and/or execution of an event/program that significantly enhanced the social, recreational, educational, and/or cultural life of students and the general community at this institution. The Department of Athletics is the proud sponsor of the Program of the Year Award.*

### Recipient



#### **Political Action Day Committee**

The Political Action Day Committee created an event on the Stamford Campus that grew out of the Get Out the Vote initiative, but became much more. The event was meant to interest, inspire, and motivate students at UConn and the surrounding area to engage in the political process. The committee hosted speeches by U.S. Congressman Jim Himes, State Senator Bob Duff, Former U.S. Congressman Christopher Shays, and Green Party Candidate Richard Duffy. The event was attended by over 100 people, who also registered to vote, and was featured on the local Channel 12 News, El Sol, and in the New York Times.



## Outstanding Graduate / Teaching Assistant Award

*This award recognizes Graduate Assistants who go above and beyond their assigned responsibilities by contributing their time, energy, and talents to further the growth and development of undergraduate students on campus. The Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Graduate Education is the proud sponsor of this award.*

### Recipients



#### **Katherine Etter**

Katherine is a Community Assistant in the Northwest Complex and a Teaching Assistant for a Bio-Medical Engineering class. She directly teaches six sections and oversees fifteen lab sections, enrolling a total of over one-hundred students. In addition, she is also responsible for overseeing five sophomores who serve as her lab assistants. Katherine has offered her services to mentoring her students at any given time and has made impromptu mini lessons for students who need help completing homework assignments. She has devoted herself to keeping her lab assistants up-to-date and guiding them with future decisions.



#### **Mark Oliver**

Mark, pursuing his doctorate in Educational Psychology, has worked with the Global House Learning Community since its inception while serving as a Teaching Assistant for the many courses taught to those in the community. Mark stands out in his duties as a Teaching Assistant because he prepares lectures with great anticipation and with future assessments in mind. He keeps in constant contact with his students by following up with them and taking time out to help those that need extra help.

# Edward Victor Gant Scholarship

The Edward Victor Gant Scholarship was established by the Board of Trustees and the family and friends of Edward V. Gant in 1979 and was first awarded in 1987. The scholarship recognizes academic excellence, professional potential, dedicated service, and exemplary integrity.

The late Edward V. Gant, a former provost who served as the University's acting president for brief periods in the 1960s and 1970s, was once described as smart, kind, and considerate. Gant has been recognized as someone who wore many hats in his tenure at UConn. In addition to serving as acting president three times, Gant was acting dean and then assistant dean of the School of Engineering, but he is perhaps most remembered as UConn's provost and a professor of civil engineering, a role he enjoyed during his 43 years with the University. Edward Gant passed away in 1985.

## Finalists



### **James Bosse**

This year, James applied to the UConn Graduate School to earn his doctorate in Material Science Engineering (MSE). In May, James will graduate with the highest grade point average in his major while simultaneously earning the outstanding senior award from the School of Engineering. He has been a tutor for the Materials Advantage Student Chapter and has been the Scholarship and Tutoring Chair for Materials Advantage. He has co-authored four publications and was the lead author and presenter at two national conferences in his discipline. James was also named the lead tutor for the School of Engineering's student tutoring services.



### **Shelbi Cole**

Shelbi is a second year doctoral student in the Educational Psychology department, focusing on gifted and talented education. Shelbi is considered a leader in her field, consistently demonstrating an ability to balance home life and work. Shelbi balances the demands of parenting while attending school full-time, and working 20 hours per week as a graduate researcher. Shelbi has also served as a reviewer/consultant for various math curriculum development companies around the country.



### **Joseph Fournier**

Joseph, majoring in Chemistry, has worked extensively with the Undergraduate Research Apprenticeship Program. His projects have included studying molecular structures, measuring minute chemical changes, and performing complex calculations relating to chemical interactions. In the future, he plans to add a minor in physics and math as well. He was honored as a Goldwater Scholar and serves on Professor Bohn's microwave spectroscopy research group. Joseph also participates in many community activities and is an Eagle Scout.



### **Smriti Prabhakar**

Smriti is a doctoral student in Management in the School of Business. As such, she is responsible for teaching classes in which she spends a great deal of time and energy putting together lectures, online discussions, and presentations. Her teaching style has been described by her students as special, caring, and influential. Finally, Smriti has also made several presentations to the Academy of Management and the Strategic Management Society.



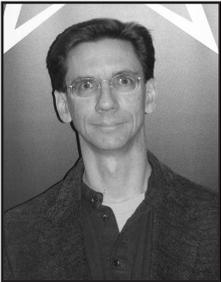
### **Elisabeth Werling**

Elisabeth, a student majoring in Special Education, is a student-employee at the Center for Disabilities and has worked her way up to being a Disability Services Assistant, working as a paraprofessional. Elisabeth was nominated to be a Fellow with the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators and was the only University of Connecticut student selected to participate in the organization's summer leadership institute at the University of Redlands. She has been inducted into many prestigious groups on and off campus, including the highly selective Leadership Legacy Experience, and was also recognized as a New England Scholar.

## *Student Organization Advisor of the Year Award*

*This award recognizes an advisor of a student organization who has provided outstanding service and advisement to an organization. The Division of Student Affairs is the proud sponsor of the Student Organization Advisor Award.*

### *Finalists*



#### ***Dr. George Gibson***

Dr. Gibson has been a strong advocate of student activities for nearly 15 years. In the past, he has advised the Ninjistu Club, the Electronic Collective, and the Tap Club. He is the current advisor of the Ballroom Dance Team, a role he has had for the past six years. This particular group has approximately 300 members and like many organizations on campus, faces the challenges of scarce resources. Dr. Gibson has been a strong advocate in the search for more meeting space for the Ballroom Dance team and other student organizations.



#### ***Chelsea Rayome***

Chelsea, a graduate student in the Higher Education Student Affairs program, is one of the advisors for the first year honor society, Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD), one of the largest and most active student organizations on campus. As advisor to ALD, Chelsea has helped sharpen the scope of the organization and has provided important insight and support to this quickly expanding student group. Chelsea is also the Peer Education Coordinator in the First Year Programs Office and works with students and staff in over 30 peer education programs across campus.



## *Student Multicultural Award*

*First given in 1997, this award recognizes individual students who have contributed to encouraging and enhancing the diversity of any aspect of the University Community at the Storrs Campus. The Office of Diversity and Equity is the proud sponsor of the Student Multicultural Award.*

### *Finalists*



#### ***Kristine Din***

Kristine, majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology, is an active member of the Philippine American Association of Connecticut, a Youth Dance Troupe member, and has served annually as a counselor at Camp Mabuhay, a culture camp for families who have adopted children of Philippine heritage. She's also been heavily involved with the Big Brother/Big Sister mentoring program where she is now a team leader for the group. She is a part of a trio of coordinators for the Asianation Mentoring Program and assists the related interdepartmental leadership class. Kristine has been repeatedly elected as the President of the Filipino American Students Association and this past January she devoted her time to helping hurricane victims of Galveston, Texas.



#### ***Shabista Ramanand***

With a major in Allied Health Sciences, Shabista has been involved in many community service activities including the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the Kwazulu-Natal Network on Violence Against Women, as well as AIDS organizations such as Hillcrest AIDS Center and the African National Congress of South America. She is currently the first undergraduate chair of the 100 years of Women Scholarship committee and is a board member on the Women's Center Advisory Board. She has continuously participated in the Women's Studies Conference and has served as a liaison for the UConn Honors Study Abroad Program. Shabista is currently serving as the coordinator of a social activism project as well.



## *Individual Husky Pride Award*

*This award honors an individual for outstanding external representation of the pride and spirit associated with being a part of the University of Connecticut. The UConn Co-op is the proud sponsor of the Individual Husky Pride Award.*

### *Finalists*



#### ***Eric Bouchard***

Eric, an Economics majors, is the Sports Promotion Chairperson for the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG), and works to recruit and retain members for the Sports Promotion Committee. He hosted the first ever College of Liberal Arts and Sciences quad tailgate before the Huskies' home football game against Baylor. He coordinated the Husky Road Show and has coordinated the transportation of over 8,000 students to UConn football games. Eric also participated in the planning for the March Madness events for our men's and women's basketball teams.



#### ***Linda Drozdowicz***

Majoring in Molecular and Cell Biology, Linda is part of the Honors Program and chair of its Academic Committee. Additionally, Linda was admitted to the Combined Program in Medicine after her freshman year and was recognized as an Emerging Leader that year. Linda was also selected as a 2008 member of the Leadership Legacy Experience. She has done volunteer work at the Migrant Farm Workers' Clinic, serves as the Assistant Musical Director of the a cappella group Rubyfruit, and is the co-founder of the Pre-Medical Society on campus.



#### ***Benjamin Gruenbaum***

Majoring in Psychology, Benjamin has been a Community Assistant since 2006. He has helped to lead such programs as the Jewish Students Association's Freshman Outreach Program and a Gift for Life bone marrow drive. He won the UConn Video Commercial Competition in 2007, and is a supplemental instruction leader for a general psychology class. Benjamin has tutored for the Counseling Program for Intercollegiate Athletes (CPIA) and has been an Undergraduate Teaching Assistant for an interdepartmental class. He was also a part of the First Year Experience program as a mentor, the executive board at Hillel, the UConn Pre-Medical Society, Phi Beta Kappa, and Golden Key.



#### ***Mary Santella***

Mary, majoring in Accounting, has been described as a "traditions keeper" at the University and works as an Alumni Relations Coordinator as part of the Student Alumni Association. She was instrumental in putting the lyrics to the University's fight song on the jumbo screens in Gampel and the XL Center during basketball games. Mary also volunteers at the Husky Pride Tent before every football game and is a member of the Student Union Board of Governors, Beta Alpha Psi and the Accounting Society.

# *Individual Community Service Award*

*This award honors a student that has initiated and/or actively engaged in a community service project(s). The project may be a single event or a series of activities. The UConn Co-op is the proud sponsor of the Individual Community Service Award.*

## *Finalists*



### ***Valen Diaz***

With an individualized major, Valen is a member of the Honors Council and Chair of the Community Service Committee. She helped organize an alternative spring break trip to Mississippi last year and assisted with another trip to New Orleans this year. She is involved in the Honors Council Relay for Life Committee and has coordinated another community service day. Valen, a University Leadership Legacy Student, has also volunteered at Generations Family Health Center, worked with high school students in Hartford, and spent time in the Dominican Republic on a UConn service learning trip.



### ***Devorah Donnell***

Devorah is the founding President of the UConn Pre-Med Society and is a Biological Sciences major. During her time as president, she was instrumental in bringing fifteen well known speakers to campus for lectures. Devorah is known to her peers as a true leader and someone who helps others attain their full leadership potential. She volunteers every week at the Migrant Farm Workers' Clinic, and this year she served as the Pre-Medical Society President-Emeritus and Community Service Chair. Devorah also helped develop the UConn En Pointe Ballet Club.



### ***Samantha Grayeck***

Samantha, a Communication Sciences major, has been a Community Assistant in North Campus for the past three years. She has worked at Head Start in Vernon and is a Program Director for Jumpstart, overseeing over 40 Jumpstart volunteers. Samantha is also the current president of the Ambassadors in the Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Services (AOD).



### ***Melissa Marsh***

Melissa, an Accounting major, is a Student Engagement Ambassador in the Department of Student Activities. She also has participated in the Community Outreach Conversation Partners Program and has been the Program Director for the middle school mentoring program at Horace Porter School. Melissa has also worked extensively with Give Kids the World, an organization that gives the families of children with life threatening illnesses a free visit to the attractions in central Florida.

# *Building Community Award*

*This award honors students that have initiated and/or actively engaged in an activity that has significantly contributed to the sense of community on campus. This project may be a single event or series of activities. The UConn Co-op is a proud sponsor of the Building Community Award.*

## *Finalists*



### ***Jonathan Schreiber***

Jonathan, a Community Assistant majoring in English and Political Science, has been responsible for the planning and production of many organized events on campus such as the Fall Favorites Desserts Spectacular and a lecture with Professor Ronald Mallet titled “Time Traveler.” He is the captain of the Men’s and Co-Recreational Intramural Basketball teams and is a member of the Law and Business Society, the Writing and Literature Club, and the Honors Program. Jonathan is also a New England Scholar, a Babbidge Scholar, and a finalist for the Stallman Scholarship.



### ***Eric Weinstein***

Majoring in Political Science, Eric is an active member of the Alpha Epsilon Pi fraternity and serves as the Inter-Fraternity Council (IFC) President, this year setting a goal to increase participation within the fraternal community. He was responsible for creating new programs and initiatives to attract students. Last fall, Eric created two more leadership positions to help with event programming. Because of his leadership, IFC received the Council Management Award at the Northeast Greek Leadership Association’s Annual Conference – the first time UConn IFC has been recognized in this manner.

## *Emerging Leaders Award*

*This award recognizes individual student(s) that, despite not holding a visible, established leadership position on campus, nonetheless has actively demonstrated attributes of a leader through his/her actions and character. The UConn Co-op is the proud sponsor of the Emerging Leaders Award.*

### *Finalists*



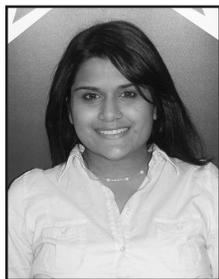
#### **Jennifer Chevinsky**

Jennifer, an individualized major, is the founder of the Debate Team and co-founder of the Philosophy Club on campus. The Debate Team is a member of the American Parliamentary Debate Association, which also consists of schools such as Harvard, Yale, Stanford, and UPenn, as well as many other private institutions. In fact, the UConn Debate Team is one of the few public universities that participate in this organization. Jennifer has also served as a First Year Experience mentor.



#### **Ronald Liu**

Ronald, a Marketing major, started his UConn career as an event coordinator of the first Asian-interest fraternity in the state, Pi Delta Psi. He is president of the Chinese Undergraduate Students Association and helped plan the first annual Styles of Asia fashion show. He is involved with the Asian American Students Association as co-political chair and is the current treasurer of Pi Delta Psi. Ronald is also a mentor with Killingly UConn Bridging Education and the Asiantation Mentoring programs.



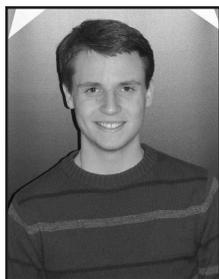
#### **Hema Mistry**

Hema is a transfer student from the Stamford campus, majoring in Finance. She is a representative on the Dean of Students Community Standards Peer Review Board, a Peer Leadership Instructor, and a Student Engagement Ambassador in the Department of Student Activities. She enjoys volunteer work and has volunteered for Relay for Life and worked with middle school students at the Yerwood Center in Stamford. She was Treasurer of the Student Government while at Stamford and also found time to institute a yearly winter formal dance at the Stamford Campus.



#### **Laura Osborne**

Majoring in Marketing, Laura is involved with Kappa Alpha Theta as the Alumnae Relations/Foundation Liaison and is also a member of GAMMA (Greeks Advocating Mature Management of Alcohol). Next fall, Laura will be the Vice President of Programming on the Student Union Board of Governors' (SUBOG) Executive Committee. She has also volunteered for Husky Reads, chaired the Homecoming Committee, and the SUBOG Major Weekends Committee.



#### **Stephen Pelletier**

Stephen is a first year student, majoring in Political Science and living in the Leadership Learning Community. Last semester he worked with Congressman Joe Courtney and his campaign. This spring he was selected as a member for Husky Outreach for Leadership Development, Understanding, and Pride! (HOLDUP!), a leadership development initiative serving high school students. Stephen is a member of the College Democrats, Amnesty International, and started the UConn Youth in Politics organization. He also volunteers at a local elementary school.

## *Donald L. McCullough Leadership Award*

*The Donald L. McCullough Award was established in 1979 honoring the memory of Don McCullough and to recognize his many contributions to the University, while at the same time, honoring students who have made significant contributions to the University community through their leadership skills and service to student organizations and University groups.*

*Donald L. McCullough was the Director of the Office of Student Activities at the University of Connecticut at the time of his death in June, 1979. Don's sincerity, integrity and perception caused many individuals and student organizations to seek his guidance and support. He was known for his professional leadership at the University; and through his involvement in professional associations he gained a national reputation.*

### *Finalists*



#### ***Bryan Banville***

Bryan, majoring in Physiology and Neurobiology, was a member of the 2008 Leadership Legacy cohort and is the Chair and Alternative Spring Break Coordinator on the Community Outreach Executive Board. This past March he led the University's first trip to South Dakota to raise awareness of Native American culture. Bryan is also the President of the a cappella group Extreme Measures. Through Extreme Measures, he has provided service to causes such as Relay for Life, Shriners Hospital, and Habitat for Humanity. Bryan also works as a driver for Community Outreach.



#### ***Devorah Donnell***

Devorah is the founding President of the UConn Pre-Med Society and is a Biological Sciences major. During her time as president, she was instrumental in bringing fifteen well known speakers to campus for lectures. Devorah is known to her peers as a true leader and someone who helps others attain their full leadership potential. She volunteers every week at the Migrant Farm Workers' Clinic, and this year she served as the Pre-Medical Society President-Emeritus and Community Service Chair. Devorah also helped develop the UConn En Pointe Ballet Club.



#### ***Christopher Ferraro***

Christopher, a History major, has been a Community Assistant in the Towers Residence Complex for many years. His former and current supervisors hold Christopher in high regard describing him as extremely responsible, reliable, and a pleasure to work with. This past year, Christopher also served as a Peer Leadership Instructor working with fellow student leaders to facilitate a Leadership Seminar for first and second year students. Chris has also served as the Undergraduate Student Government Senator representing the students who live in Towers.



#### ***Charlayne McStay***

Charlayne, a Chemistry and Human Rights major, is an active leader on campus. In addition to being an Honors student, Charlayne is a member of the Global Leadership Commission, a Leadership Legacy Student, an International Orientation Leader, a Husky Ambassador Program Coordinator, and has done extensive research in the field of chemistry. In August, Charlayne will begin her graduate work at the University of Connecticut School of Medicine.



#### ***Shahista Ramanand***

With a major in Allied Health Sciences, Shahista has been involved in many community service activities including the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund, the Kwazulu-Natal Network on Violence Against Women, as well as AIDS organizations such as Hillcrest AIDS Center and the African National Congress of South America. She is currently the first undergraduate chair of the 100 years of Women Scholarship committee and is a board member on the Women's Center Advisory Board. She has continuously participated in the Women's Studies Conference and has served as a liaison for the UConn Honors Study Abroad Program. Shahista is currently serving as the coordinator of a social activism project as well.

# 2009 Leadership Legacy Experience Students

The University of Connecticut is proud to recognize the 2009 Legacy Students as part of the Student Life Awards Program. They represent a rich diversity of leadership experiences, personal accomplishments, and academic excellence. The Leadership Legacy Experience was established to recognize and invite some of the University's most exceptional student leaders to participate in a year-long leadership enhancement experience that builds on their legacy as University leaders, and helps prepare them for a life of commitment and contribution beyond graduation.



*Chelsea Ambrozaitis*  
Human Development & Family Studies  
Woodstock, CT



*Joseph Antelmi*  
Economics/Psychology  
Suffield, CT



*Garrett Cottrell*  
Political Science  
Saratoga Springs, NY



*Valen Diaz*  
Individualized Major  
Oxford, CT



*Phil Gorecki*  
Molecular & Cell Biology/Economics  
New Britain, CT



*Brandon Luna*  
Sports Management  
Manchester, CT



*Leah McDermott*  
Psychology  
Middletown, CT



*Sarah Melchior*  
English/Philosophy  
Nowrich, CT



*Caitlin Partyka*  
Allied Health  
Mansfield, CT



*Gregory Petropoulos*  
Physics  
Southington, CT



*Wenhui Sun*  
Individualized Major  
Southbury, CT



*Yoo Mii Thompson*  
International Business  
Avon, CT



*Akina Warner*  
Physiology and Neurobiology  
Queens Village, NY



*Elisabeth Werling*  
Special Education  
Avon, CT



Oak Leadership  
*Agenda*

**EXPLORE**

**ENGAGE**

**ELEVATE**

*The Division of Student Affairs offers a comprehensive, unique, and “cutting edge” approach to the leadership development of its students. The OAK Leadership Agenda reflects the Areas of Emphasis identified in the University’s Academic Plan, seeks to integrate itself into the University’s academic programs and services, and prepares students to be engaged, forward thinking, and global citizens.*

The components of the OAK Leadership Agenda are grouped into three primary areas:

**EXPLORE**

*...providing students with opportunities to explore campus-wide leadership and introduce them to the basic concepts and principles of leadership.*

- DISCOVERY Leadership Series
- Leadership Seminars
- Leadership Learning Community

**ENGAGE**

*...focusing on the development and application of student leadership skills within academic disciplines and co-curricular activities, Oak provides more advanced skill development and expanded exploration of leadership theories.*

- FUTURE Leaders
- Engaged Leaders Series\*
- HOLDUP!
- Student Trustee Account Leadership Training

**ELEVATE**

*...students are provided with opportunities to reflect on their experiences, refine their skills, and mentor younger students while preparing them for leadership beyond the university.*

- Peer Leadership Instructors
- Leadership Legacy Experience
- Omicron Delta Kappa\*
- Senior Year Leadership Experience\*

\*Note: Some components are still under development.

[www.leadership.uconn.edu](http://www.leadership.uconn.edu)  
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The Department of Student Activities



University of  
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**The Division of Student Affairs**

*One Division. Multiple Services. Students First.*

*Sponsored by the Office of Leadership Programs, Department of Student Activities*