



SLA
STUDENT LIFE AWARDS
2013



**University of
Connecticut**
The Division of Student Affairs
One Division. Multiple Services. Students First.

*Thursday, April 18, 2013
4 o'clock in the afternoon
Student Union Ballroom*

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

U N I V E R S I T Y O F C O N N E C T I C U T



Oak Leadership
Agenda

EXPLORE

ENGAGE

ELEVATE

The Division of Student Affairs offers a comprehensive, unique, an “cuttingedge” approach to the leadership development of its students. The OAK Leadership Adgenda 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 Adgenda 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 Learning Community

ENGAGE

...focusing on the development and application of student leadership skills within academic disciplines and co-curricular activities.

- FUTURE Leaders
- Emotionally Intelligent Leadership Series
- HOLDUP!
- Student Leadership Challenge

ELEVATE

...providing opportunities to reflect on students’ experiences, refine skills, and mentor younger students while preparing for leadership beyond the university.

- Leadership Legacy Experience
- Impact Delta

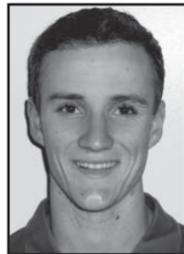
www.leadership.uconn.edu

Office of Leadership Programs • Division of Student Affairs • University of Connecticut



2013 Leadership Legacy Experience Students

The University of Connecticut is proud to recognize the 2013 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.



Andy Bilich



Emily Block



Michael Chiluisa



O'Rayne Clarke



Yomarie Diaz



Krisela Karaja



Justis Lopez



Julianne Norton



Smit Patel



Jamille Rancourt



Mary (Molly) Rockett



Monica Smith



Brandi Stenglein



Rachel Stewart



Dean Walston

Welcome!

A Letter from the President

Dear Friends,

Part of the thrill of being involved in higher education is the fact that, as professors and administrators, we are able to watch students flourish on this campus in your classes, through research and, as importantly, through service and campus activities.

It is the students who make our campus vibrant and rewarding and truly give life to our mission as a university. It is so fitting that our student leaders be recognized for your extraordinary contributions to the University of Connecticut, this community and your fellow students.

I feel a great deal of pride in knowing that today's campus leaders – the people making exceptional contributions to UConn and to the lives of others – will undoubtedly go on to do the same for this state, our nation and the world in the years to come.

Please accept my congratulations and best wishes to all those nominated for today's awards. You deserve the recognition.

Sincerely,

Susan Herbst
President
University of Connecticut

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Donald L. McCullough Leadership Award

This award recognizes an individual student who has made significant contributions to the University community through leadership and service during their tenure as a student. This award is in memory of Donald L. McCullough, Director of Student Activities – 1979 and was established by his wife Verna and family.

Finalists



Paul Bloom

Since his start at UConn, Paul has been an actively engaged student leader touching many areas of UConn student life. He serves as the current Vice President for Policy on the Student Union Board of Governors, working actively on sustainability efforts in the Union and enhancing the building for all UConn students to enjoy. In addition to this, Paul works as the head coach of the Men's Crew Club Sports team. Paul also co-founded the FIJI fraternity which is now well established and active on campus, and served as the director-general of UConn's Model United Nations 2011-2012 conference. Through his involvement on campus, Paul demonstrates his passion and pride for the university and his dedication to his peers.



Shelby Flynn

Shelby has been involved with Community Outreach since her first semester here. As a freshman, she became involved in Jumpstart, a language and literacy program dedicated to helping underprivileged preschool aged children learn to read. After quickly realizing how passionate she was about education, Shelby became a Jumpstart Team leader her sophomore year. She continued to share her Community Outreach experience when she joined the Delta Zeta on-campus sorority, and helped to plan the sorority's annual philanthropy event. Shelby has also served on several alternative break trips, and currently works as a student program director for the America Reads program as well. Shelby's tireless dedication to service and education has strongly benefitted the UCONN campus and greater community.



Jigish Patel

During his first year, Jigish served as the President of the Associated Student Government of the Hartford campus, where he advocated for the needs of the student body and planned educational events. Jigish completed an internship with the CT Secretary of State and has presented to UConn Dining Services on his research investigating the role of genetically modified food. Since his move to the Storrs campus in 2011, he has assumed multiple leadership positions within the Undergraduate Student Government, working to improve internal processes and the external presence of USG. After previously working as Speaker of the Senate, Jigish currently serves as the Student Body Vice President, where he tirelessly advocates for the student body.



Claire Simonich

While pursuing dual degrees in finance and political science, as well as a minor in economics, Claire was one of the first UConn students invited to participate in the 'Special Program in Law', and worked with a professor on a SHARE-funded research project that examined workplace discrimination in the courts. She went on to form her own project, focusing on gender inequity in the workplace, which then turned into her Honors Thesis. Claire currently works as the Assistant Program Director for Cross Cultural Connections, a program that assists English-language learners, and as a student leader in UNICEF and UNESCO. Her ambition and willingness to work hard has served the UConn community and will continue to benefit those around her in the future.



Timothy Wylie

From the start of his UConn career, Tim has been dedicated to assisting others. In his sophomore year, Tim worked as a First Year Experience Mentor and became involved in the UConn Connects program, which provides mentors to UConn students struggling with academics. Since then, he has been selected as a Master Coach and Executive Master Coach for Connects, helping to shape a 14-week curriculum and learning objectives for the program. In addition, Tim is a participant in the Men's Project, an initiative targeting college men that is dedicated to preventing and discussing sexual assault. Tim also finds time to play on the UConn Club Soccer team – this past year as the team's starting goalie. Clearly, he is a highly involved student and has been influential in engaging the students around him in the issues he is passionate about.

Emerging Leader Award

This award recognizes an individual student who, 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



Tajhanique Copeland

As a member of the CT Army National Guard, the Army ROTC, and the Society for Human Resource Management Mentor Program, Tajhanique not only demonstrates service to the nation but to the UCONN community. Her involvement does not stop here, she is currently the Student Financial Specialist in the Student Activities Business Office, but will soon be promoted to Student Accountant III, a position that requires strong work ethic and demands an empathic knowledge of accountability and confidentiality. Tajhanique is also involved in HuskyTHON, GUARD Dogs, and the SUBOG Concert Committee.



Katherine Foster

Now a Political Science major, Katie began her UConn career in the WiMSE community and continues to serve in leadership roles with WiMSE. She serves as an FYE Mentor to first-year WiMSE students and has organized several events including a “Faculty Tea,” where students had the opportunity to talk informally with Professor Hendrikus Van Der Hulst about language and mind. She also organized a regular support program, “Snack and Study”, to support students in mathematics and chemistry. She is currently interning in Congressman John B. Larson’s office in Washington, D.C., and upon her return to UConn in April, hopes to become a Residential Assistant for the WiMSE learning community for the upcoming year.



Shantel Honeyghan

Shantel serves as an advisor in the Student Support Services program, where she works to increase the enrollment, retention, and graduation of first-generation, low-income, and/or underrepresented students at UConn. She was selected by the Office of Undergraduate Admissions to be one of two student keynote speakers at the Fall 2012 Open House, where she spoke to a crowd of approximately 8,000 prospective students and their families. Shantel is involved with Kids and UConn Bridging Education (KUBE) as a mentor and the African American Cultural Center as a mentor and discussion panelist.



Leon Peschel

Leon is a member of the Special Program in Law, a highly selective honors program that offers one-on-one support for those planning on attending Law School after graduation. Leon is a quiet leader and offers thoughtful and perceptive questions that propel discussions forward. He is recognized among peers for his gentle, persistent advocacy for ethical and moral action. When politics are discussed, which can obviously become a very heated discussion, Leon is one of the first to bring the talk back to the issues and not attacks on character. In addition to the Special Program in Law and Honors Program, Leon is also a member of the Men’s Crew team.

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 2013 University of Connecticut Student Life Awards – recognizing outstanding contributions to and leadership of the University community! 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 atmosphere 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 2013 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 Emily Beaulieu, Gina Croteau, Anna Milot, Theresa Kelly, Carina Koerfer, Lillian Palacios, Dr. John Saddlemire, 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
Associate Director of Involvement and Leadership Programs
University of Connecticut
2013 Student Life Awards Committee Chair



Student Life Awards Selection Committee

Kathy Andrade, *Student Activities Programs Office*
Melissa Arroyo, *Student Activities Programs Office*
Brigid Belko, *EcoHouse*
Joe Briody, *Student Activities Involvement & Leadership*
Kristen Carr, *Student Activities Involvement Office*
Jamel Catoe, *Fraternity/Sorority Life*
Cindi Costanzo, *Recreational Services*
Andrea Dennis LaVigne, *UConn Alumni*
Jeremy DiGorio, *Student Activities Leadership Programs*
Kate Durant, *Student Activities Club Sports*
Kevin Evringham, *Veterans Services*
Kevin Fahey, *Office of the VSPA*

Kathy Fischer, *Women’s Center*
Rebecca Gates, *Honors Program*
Bill Hickman, *Rainbow Center*
Kim Hill, *Community Standards*
Allison Hopkins, *Student Activities Leadership Programs*
Theresa Kelly, *Student Activities Involvement & Leadership*
Krista Muise, *Student Activities Leadership Programs*
Allison O’Field, *First Year Programs & Learning Communities*
Stephen Pelletier, *Student Activities Community Outreach*
John Sears, *Residential Life*
Dana Wilder, *Office of the Vice Provost*
Rez Wilson, *Student Activities Community Outreach*

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.

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 Department of Student Activities is the proud sponsor of the Husky Pride Award.

Recipient



Nutmeg Yearbook

As a Tier III organization, The Nutmeg Yearbook works to compile a chronological depiction of the major events of the academic year at the University of Connecticut to be sent to the graduating class. The Nutmeg Yearbook represents the motto “Students Today, Huskies Forever”, and by the effort of just 15 members, the yearbook will now be in color. The yearbook exhibits a lasting sense of Husky Pride as it serves as a reminder to each graduating student where they came from and that no matter where they go upon graduation, UConn will always be a part of them and has a lasting impact on their lives.



Martha and Albert Cohen Scholarship for Enhancing Community

This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student who has demonstrated a significant active commitment to eliminating bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination and whose actions have fostered tolerance and understanding among people. This scholarship was established and sponsored by Stephen I. Cohen ('65) in honor of his parents Martha and Albert Cohen.

Recipient



Brandi Stenglein

After studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa her sophomore year and dedicating her summers to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp - a camp that offers terminally sick children a respite from their illnesses - Brandi has distinguished herself at the University as someone who has an incredible passion to help those in need. Her career aspirations as an elementary math educator also target those most in need—children without access to education and those marginalized by traditional teaching methods and curriculum. Brandi has volunteered at the Windham Heights Afterschool program, the Holy Family Homeless shelter, and is currently a member of the 2013 Leadership Legacy Experience.

Building Community Award

This award honors a student who has 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



Gabriel Castro

Gabe has introduced his commitment to community through one simple idea that has now begun to spread like wildfire. He created a web video series titled “UConn Survival Guide” to assist freshman in their transition to college life and deal with common issues. These videos have become so popular that they are currently being used in many INTD classes to help aid in class discussions and lecture topics. In addition, Gabe works as a UConn Connects Facilitator, where he serves as a coach and mentor for students looking to raise their GPA, learn study-skills and note-taking techniques. Gabe plans to further his video series in the fall with the hope of furthering the positive impact they will have on the UConn Community.



Leah DeLorenzo

As an active member in several UCONN organizations, Leah is an involved leader. She is the upcoming president of Beta Alpha Psi, current President of the Accounting Society, serves as an integral member of the Probation Committee Review Board, and is President of her residence hall. Along with these impressive leadership positions, Leah also gives back to her community by mentoring incoming freshman and sophomores in the School of Business on how to become top job candidates. In her many leadership roles, she has been able to help her fellow students discover the many opportunities they have in the field of work they have chosen, and it is clear that she will continue to have a positive impact on the UConn Community.



Kayla Johnson

Kayla began her UConn career in the Bridge Program, an introductory Engineering program designed to acclimate incoming freshman to the field. Since then, she has continued her involvement in the program to become a Bridge tutor and mentor, as well as a representative of Bridge at Open House events, working to recruit new engineering students. As a founding member and current Vice President of the Engineering Ambassadors Program, she furthers her involvement with engineering by helping expose K-12 students to STEM fields while also developing ambassadors into professional engineers. This semester, Kayla also served as the captain of the UConn Late Night program. Taking on this responsibility allowed Kayla to prove her strong leadership skills and commitment to University Programs that benefit the well-being of students.



Devin Samuels

As the founding member of Poetic Release, a student-run creative writing group, Devin has inspired and encouraged students to explore, express, and to critique themselves and their world through art. Since beginning this journey in the second semester of his freshman year, Poetic Release has continued to reach new levels of impact in the community. Poetic Release has and continues to open barriers of expression for students who previously felt alienated in the UConn community, and under Devin's Presidency, the group is now reaching out to off-campus venues and competing in poetry slams against other Universities. A former member of the Leadership Learning Community, Devin currently works as the program curator and primary mentor for Humanities House, an interdisciplinary liberal arts learning community.



Elise Yonika

Elise started her UConn career as a member on the concert committee of the Student Undergraduate Board of Governors (SUBOG) and has since been named Vice President of Programming on the executive council. In this role, she helped organize the Block Party and the Hip Hop Comedy Jam, the two major Week of Welcome events for incoming freshmen. In addition to this, she is co-chair for the 2013 Spring Weekend Advisory Committee, a team that has developed the idea of a “New Spring Weekend” which brought UConn Tier II and III organizations together with community based organizations to revitalize this campus experience. Along with these leadership positions, Elise is also an active member of the Suicide Prevention Week Committee and the Student Union Marketing Committee.

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.

Finalists



Andrew Brown

Andrew has been passionate about his major in Soil Science from the very beginning of his career at UConn. He has been a member of the EcoHouse Living and Learning community since the Fall of 2012, where he shares his enthusiasm for the natural world with other students and often leads biweekly outreach sessions. He now lives at the Spring Valley Student Farm, where he started and maintains several projects and has been an essential leader in the management of crops in an ecologically sound manner. Andrew has also worked as a field and lab technician in the Plant Science Department, has conducted the All-America Selection trials at the UConn Plant Science Research Farm, and worked as a full-time student intern for the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Sciences.



Carl D'Oleo-Lundgren

Since arriving at UConn, Carl's interest in public service has led him to his work as an intern in the Town Manager's office at the Mansfield town hall, membership on the Executive Board of the Downtown Partnership, and a student ambassador for human rights with UNESCO. Carl also served as the Director of the Environmental Programme for the 2012 Model United Nations conference, leading his team and facilitating a debate involving 30 people. Carl was a part of the 2012 Leadership Legacy Experience, a highly selective program for the University's most exceptional student leaders. Carl has also spent considerable time abroad, learning multiple different languages, and volunteering with the Community Solutions organization in Guatemala.



Rory Geyer

Rory is a diligent student who is wholeheartedly committed to his goals as well as to the betterment of his peers. In addition to being a member of the Honors Program here at UConn, Rory was selected as a University Scholar. He currently works as a peer ambassador for the Office of Undergraduate Research, and does research in two UConn labs as part of his chosen career path to becoming a physician-scientist. Rory has been nominated for the nationally competitive Goldwater scholarship and has established himself as a thoughtful and dedicated leader at UConn through his mentorship of younger students in the research field.



Brandi Stenglein

After studying abroad in Cape Town, South Africa her sophomore year and dedicating her summers to the Hole in the Wall Gang Camp - a camp that offers terminally sick children a respite from their illnesses - Brandi has distinguished herself at the University as someone who has an incredible passion to help those in need. Her career aspirations as an elementary math educator also target those most in need—children without access to education and those marginalized by traditional teaching methods and curriculum. Brandi has volunteered at the Windham Heights Afterschool program, the Holy Family Homeless shelter, and is currently a member of the 2013 Leadership Legacy Experience.

Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship

This award is made annually to a deserving student on the basis of citizenship, scholarship, contribution to the University, and contributions to the causes of human rights and human dignity, civil liberties and freedom of thought. The family and friends of Matthew B. Schechter established this scholarship in 1969.

Recipient



Carl D'Oleo-Lundgren

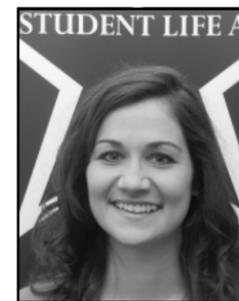
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Outstanding Graduate / Teaching Assistant Award

This award recognizes a Graduate Assistant who goes 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 Department of Student Activities is the proud sponsor of the Outstanding GA/TA Award.

Recipient



Katie Michel

Katie works as the First Year Programs Peer Education Coordinator and despite also being a full time graduate student, Katie is always willing to go the extra mile for her coworkers and peers. She is an advisor for an honors society for first year students as well as a sorority, and can be seen helping out with Husky Haulers, student orientation sessions, and various learning community events. Katie is passionate about international education and has put time into additional discussions with students, encouraging them to study abroad and participate in other enrichment programs. Katie's dedication to her job and strong relationships that she has formed with her students makes her a truly outstanding UConn graduate assistant.

Spirer-Dueker Student Humanitarian Achievement Award

This award honors an undergraduate student on a University of Connecticut campus for outstanding contributions to public service. The award was established by Louise and Herbert Spierer and Marilyn Dueker, retired faculty members from the University of Connecticut-Stamford campus.

Recipient



Kylie Angell

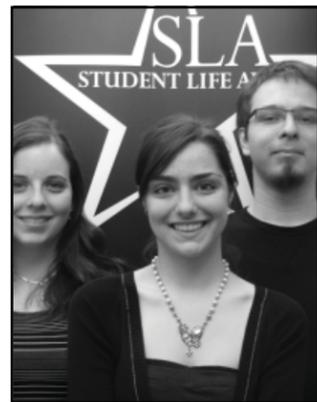
Kylie is a co-founder of the Revolution Against Rape (RAR) and UConn's March to End Victim Blaming. Last month, Kylie travelled to Vassar College and gave a two-day workshop on sexual consent and activism on campus. In addition to sexual violence prevention, Kylie also advocates for women with postpartum depression, and became a postpartum doula to provide support to this vulnerable population. Following graduation, she will be leading education groups in New Mexico for a group of homeless Hispanic women on general pregnancy support and postpartum expectations.



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 Department of Student Activities is the proud sponsor of the Student Organization Advocacy Award.

Recipient



Bioethics Club at UConn

The Bioethics Club works to increase the visibility of the field of bioethics, both on campus and off. Their on-campus accomplishments include the organization of a bioethics film series and several collaborative efforts with other student organizations to bring speakers to UConn. Off campus, the group works hard to connect with other undergraduate bioethics groups at the UConn Health Center as well as Yale. The Bioethics Club is currently working on publishing the first issue of an undergraduate bioethics journal that has received submissions from all over the world, and is the first peer-reviewed undergraduate journal at UConn.

Student Organization Advisor Award

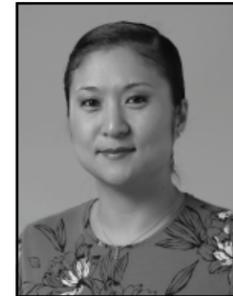
This award recognizes an advisor of a student organization who has provided outstanding service and advisement to an organization. The Department of Student Activities is the proud sponsor of the Student Organization Advisor Award.

Finalists



Becca Herman

Becca serves as the primary advisor to the Undergraduate Student Government, and multiple other Tier III organizations, as well as the program coordinator for the TRIAD leadership program. Becca is much more than just an advisor to the students who have had the pleasure of working with her – she is able to not only offer organizational advice, but personal support and encouragement. She goes above and beyond her advising responsibilities by not only fostering true student leaders, but individuals who truly care about the well-being and stewardship of others.



Jennifer Morenus

Outside of her work in the Puerto Rican Latin American Center, Jen is currently the advisor for B.A.I.L.E. (Bringing Awareness Into Latino Ethnicities). She strives to be the best resource she can for the students, academically and otherwise, while still giving them the freedom and independence they need to achieve the organization's goals. In her years at UConn, Jen has always been an avid supporter of the student body and has actively involved herself in the events and organizations run by the students. She supports the students in any way she can and for many of them, has been an integral part of their success at UConn. Jen's dedication to and pride in her students makes her a treasured student organization advisor.

Individual Community Service Award

This award recognizes a student who 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



Michael Anctil

As President of the Business Connections Learning Community and the Alternative Break Trip Director, Mike recently planned an alternative spring break trip to Macon, GA for 25 BCLC participants, coordinating all of the logistical details and successfully navigating through several obstacles to make the trip a successful and affordable experience for his peers. He recently studied abroad in Munich and Prague, is involved in a Boston Alumni Mentor program and has participated in the Discovery Leadership Program.



Peter Gaibrois

Peter has spent his time at UConn volunteering in various roles through the Community Outreach office. He has served as a participant in Campus Connections, a team leader for Alternative Spring Break trips to NYC, Florida, Alabama, and Mississippi, as well as the program director of Generations Connect. He is currently the chair of the Community Outreach executive board, as well as the program coordinator of Health and Human Services, where he oversees, trains, and supports a team of 15 student leaders. Peter is known for his open, caring approach and willingness to counsel those around him.



Tommy Lee

Tommy is an active leader on campus; he is a Resident Assistant who works to create an inclusive living environment by promoting diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice. He has served as a facilitator in the Violence Against Women Prevention Program, and has also become involved with the Greeks Against Sexual Assault. In addition to these prevention programs, Tommy is also an active member of the Asian American Cultural Center. Beginning as a staff member his freshman year, he won the Asiantation Mentoring Program Mentee of the Year award, and additionally helped create Shaping Healthy Asian American Relationship Experiences, a series of events that promote a safe environment for students to discuss sexual health and relationships.



Nordia Meggie

Nordia is committed to improving the lives of disadvantaged Hartford youth through her work as the Coordinator and Facilitator for the Pipeline Connect Program at UConn. The Pipeline Connect Program matches high school age youth from Hartford with UConn student mentors and is designed to inspire students to graduate high school and continue on to college. She presents workshops, organizes volunteers, and acts as a liaison between the various organizations and offices involved in this work. Nordia is also involved in several other on-campus groups, including the UConn SEALS program, the African American Cultural Center, the Freedom Gospel Choir, and the Successful Student Panel.

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 Division of Athletics is the proud sponsor of the Program of the Year Award.

Recipient



College Democrats

In the midst of the 2012 election season, the College Democrats at UConn held a non-partisan political engagement conference to connect more students to their elected officials and to the electoral process. Titled "What Should I Do and Why Should I Care? A Roadmap to Political Engagement", the conference was focused specifically on providing UConn students with the knowledge and tools they need to become engaged in politics as young people. Participants were addressed by keynote speakers including Governor Dannel Malloy and Secretary of State Denise Merrill, and then had the opportunity to attend workshops on various political topics.



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 Division of Athletics is the proud sponsor of the Organization Community Service Award.

Recipient



Kids & UConn Bridging Education (KUBE)

KUBE is a mentoring program that pairs UConn students with middle school students and arranges for them to meet once a month. The program gives middle school students the chance to participate in activities that work on literacy, social skills, and educational aspirations, as well as to form a bond with their college mentors. Mentees work on things like self-reflection through writing and go on field trips that expand their knowledge and allow them to explore new topics. KUBE has directly benefitted hundreds of students, academically and otherwise, and will continue to grow and help even more students in the future.

International Student Leadership Award

This award recognizes an individual student who has actively engaged in activities that foster the integration of international students and their experiences and cultures into the campus community in a visible and meaningful way. The Department of Student Activities is a proud sponsor of the International Student Leadership Award.

Recipient



Jaclyn Getonga

Jaclyn “Gina” Getonga has exemplified the leadership excellence through the ground up creation of the International Student Organization (ISO), which works to unite people of different ethnicities, backgrounds, and methods of communication so that they may tolerate and appreciate one another. She also organized the first Husky World Cup Soccer challenge with over 200 participants and spectators. Additionally, Gina also works as an FYE mentor, helping both international and American students in the classroom as part of her belief that we live in a global village.



Andrea Dennis LaVigne Scholarship for Advancing Diversity

This award recognizes a student who demonstrates a commitment to encouraging and enhancing diversity at UConn. This scholarship was established in honor of former Trustee Andrea Dennis LaVigne through the gifts of many alumni, Trustees and friends.

Finalists



Tommy Lee

Tommy is an active leader on campus; he is a Resident Assistant that works to create an inclusive living environment by promoting diversity, multiculturalism, and social justice. He has served as a facilitator in the Violence Against Women Prevention Program, and has also become involved with the Greeks Against Sexual Assault. In addition to these prevention programs, Tommy is also an active member of the Asian American Cultural Center. Beginning as a staff member his freshman year, he won the Asiantation Mentoring Program Mentee of the Year award, and additionally helped create Shaping Healthy Asian American Relationship Experiences, a series of events that promote a safe environment for students to discuss sexual health and relationships.



Colin Walters

As a Music Education major, Colin has shown his passion for diversity through his leadership experiences in promoting New Orleans style music and culture. He helped found the UConn Funky Dawgz Brass Band, an ensemble that works to promote New Orleans culture through musical performance. Not only do the Funky Dawgz work with students on the UConn Campus, but they also work with elementary schools and middle schools across the state. Additionally, Colin is the co-founder to the UConn Jazz society, which seeks to create and foster a vibrant jazz community at UConn and explore an original American art form through discussion sections, composition workshops and of course, frequent jam sessions.



Willis N. Hawley Service and Leadership Award

This award recognizes an individual student veterans who has made significant contributions to the University community through leadership and service during their tenure as a student. The Department of Student Activities is the proud sponsor of The Hawley Service and Leadership Award.

Recipient



Michael Brosnan

Michael’s dedication to the Veteran Students Organization has led him to become an effective and influential veteran leader on campus. When veteran benefits were delayed last semester, he was in contact with the Federal Senator’s Offices, senate oversight committee office, National Guard Armory in Hartford, the UConn Bursar’s office, and the Financial Aid office in order to address these issues and concerns. He serves as the President of the Veteran Students Organization and continues to advocate for veterans issues at UConn on a daily basis.



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



Michael Daniels

Michael proves his loyalty through his drive to make the University of Connecticut a steeple of excellence. He serves as the Chairman of the External Affairs Committee for the Undergraduate Student Government and as such, is responsible for connecting with local, state, and national legislators to advance the cause of UConn students and the University as a whole. He recently gave remarks at a press conference regarding the integral importance of Governor Malloy’s Next Generation Connecticut initiative. He recently was elected as Undergraduate Student Trustee for 2013-14, and is committed to learning the issues surrounding the University. Somehow amidst all of these leadership positions, Michael finds time to be one of the most dedicated UConn basketball fans.



John Arthur Dearborn

John exhibits Husky pride in many ways - he is the guy you always see at basketball games wearing the blue and white face paint and wig to match—but he is also an active member and one of the organizers of Honors Initiatives for Prospective Students. John exhibits his commitment to UConn through his sincerity and willingness to share stories of experiences and successes that express his pride. As part of this group, he works to arrange Honors Open House events and “meet and greets” to convey to prospective students his love and dedication to UCONN. He is also a Peer Allies Through Honors Mentor, where he helps first-year Honors students with their adjustment to college. Even when studying abroad in London and interning in Washington, D.C., he has been conscious of representing UConn in the most positive way.

