

*Thank you to the sponsors of the 2015 Student Life Awards*



*Thursday, April 16, 2015  
4 o'clock in the afternoon  
Student Union Ballroom*

**Scholarship. Advocacy. Innovation. Service. Pride. Community. Leadership.**



# UConn

STUDENT ACTIVITIES  
LEADERSHIP OFFICE

## MISSION STATEMENT:

*Guided by its core principles, the Leadership Office facilitates educational and experiential initiatives that challenge individuals and organizations to explore, strengthen, and elevate their character, leadership and ability to contribute as global citizens.*

## CORE PRINCIPLES:

*We commit to be:*

- Engaging: interactive programming that provokes critical thinking and action
- Progressive: pushing boundaries in pursuit of continuous growth
- Strategic: intentionally turning big picture concepts into meaningful opportunities
- Authentic: genuine congruence between values and practice
- Unconventional: unafraid to question what is generally used or accepted
- Empowering: guiding our participants in self-actualization

[www.leadership.uconn.edu](http://www.leadership.uconn.edu)

Leadership Office • Division of Student Affairs • University of Connecticut

## Donald L. McCullough Leadership Award

*Established in 1979, in remembrance of the former Director of Student Activities, Don McCullough, the McCullough Leadership award is the University's highest student leadership award. This award recognizes individual student(s) who have made significant contributions to the University community through leadership of, and/or involvement in an initiative(s) that has had University-wide impact and is representative of the highest level of student leadership and involvement.*

### Finalists



#### **Avery Derosiers**

Avery has been an active member of the Women's Center, dedicating her passion to projects such as Girl 2 Girl and the Women's Herstory Month photo-gallery. She has been involved in UConn Empower, traveling to Cameroon and India. Avery also studied abroad in South Africa where she was the Facilitator and Program Director of the Africa Acts Out-Creative Workshop Series. Avery is CFO and member of Horse Lincoln Improv, a UConn student comedy troupe. She has worked with the Hartford Food System Nonprofit as the Farmers Market intern and Youth Educator and is currently the American Association of University Women Student Representative for UConn.



#### **Derek Evans**

Derek currently serves in the Office of Community Outreach as the Director of Campus Wide Initiatives. In this role, Derek has led the MLK Day of Service for the past two years and collaborated with other campus offices on other major projects such as the SuperFlag and the Campus Wide Food Drive. Having represented Community Outreach on the Spring Weekend last year, Derek is currently the co-chair of the Spring Weekend Planning Committee. In addition to his work on campus at the UConn Co-Op Textbook department, Derek has volunteered at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford for over four and a half years.



#### **Sumia Hussain**

Actively engaged with the Asian American Cultural Center, Sumia is a Cultural Center Assistant and leader with the Pan-Asian Council (PAC), advising fifteen student organizations and planning two IMPAACT Conferences. This spring, she coordinated a campus-wide vigil and discussion about Islamophobia after the murder of three Muslim students at UNC-Chapel Hill. During her sophomore year, Sumia founded the synergistic UConn Empower in order to focus on humanitarian projects and host large-scale collaborative fundraisers on campus. She has played an instrumental role in reshaping UConn's Spring Weekend and currently co-chairs the Spring Weekend Planning Committee, focusing on service and collaborations with the Cultural Centers and student organizations.



#### **Andrew Kim**

Andrew, a senior Political Science major, is a proud member of the Leadership Learning Community, serving as a live-in mentor for the past two years. He has been very involved with the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities serving as a First Year Experience Mentor, Teaching Assistant, Learning Community Ambassador and co-facilitating LC Summer student orientation. Andrew has also been a part of multiple organizations and activities such as the Alumni Area Council, Alpha Lambda Delta, the UConn Senate Office, Huskies Helping Ronald McDonald, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and was a member of the 2014 cohort of the Leadership Legacy Experience.

## Emerging Leaders Award

*This award recognizes a student(s) that, despite not holding a visible, established leadership position on campus, has actively demonstrated attributes of an emerging leader through his/her actions and character. The recipient(s) will demonstrate attributes of an emerging leader, poised for significant contribution and accomplishment through their future academic work, community service, organizational leadership, issue advocacy, and/or active participation in a campus-wide initiative. This award was established in 2005 and is sponsored by the UConn Co-op.*

### Finalists



#### **Ana Peralta**

Originally from the Dominican Republic, Ana is actively involved in PRLACC and a member of La Comunidad Intelectual Learning Community. She is also actively engaged with YOUCreate! and has worked on a team aiming to improve transportation for international students, faculty, and staff. She recently joined the MicroFinance Brigade in a trip to Honduras over Spring Break. Ana has been involved in the Leadership Certificate Series, and her academic success has earned her membership in Alpha Lambda Delta - the National First Year Honor Society.



#### **Paris Pruitt**

A first year Molecular Cell Biology major on the Pre-Med track, Paris is pursuing her dream of becoming a cardiac surgeon, and hopes to save lives not only in the operating room but also through educating more people about heart health. During her time with the Student Support Service (SSS) summer program, Paris received the Dr. Maria D. Martinez Outstanding Leadership Award for her exemplary leadership in academics and in the residence hall. Paris is involved with the Minority Pre-Med Society and the Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program.



#### **Cindy Recinos**

Cindy is a second year Digital Media and Design major, and despite not being a member of the fine arts department, she led an Art Renovation project in the Fine Arts building with the UConn Master Planning Committee, Provost Mun Choi and Senator Donald Williams. She is involved in a committee focused on involving the arts in current and future STEM initiatives. As a former member of Innovation House, she is an ambassador for the FYE and Learning Community program and is founding UConn's first Film Club to get student filmmakers involved in national film competitions.

## 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 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

## 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 2015 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 2015 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 Anna Milot, Shari McKusick, Krista O'Brien, Mary Shaw, Karen Provost, Dr. Michael Gilbert, Dr. Christine Wilson and the entire staff in the Leadership Office.

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  
2015 Student Life Awards Committee Chair



## Student Life Awards Selection Committee

Nana Amos, *UNESCO Chair Office*  
Ryan Baldassario, *HESA*  
Victoria Blodgett, *Graduate Research*  
Hadi Bozorgmanesh, *School of Engineering*  
Joe Briody, *Involvement and Leadership Office*  
Kristen Carr, *Involvement Office*  
Jamel Catoe, *Fraternity/Sorority Life*  
Nikki Cole, *Veterans Affairs and Military Programs*  
Miguel Colon, *Community Outreach*  
Cindi Costanzo, *Athletics*  
Matthew Cremins, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Andrea Dennis LaVigne, *UConn Alumni*  
Danielle DeWeese, *Leadership Office*  
Kim Duby, *Student Employment*  
Melissa Foreman, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Cindy Garrison, *Student Employment*  
Anne Gebelein, *Latino Caribbean/Latin American Studies*  
Kristen Glines, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Caroline Green, *Community Standards*  
Alfred Guante, *Visitors Center*  
Fany Hannon, *PRLACC*

Kaitlin Heenehan, *Honors Program*  
Kim Hill, *Community Standards*  
Jennifer Mathieu, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Robert McCarthy, *School of Pharmacy*  
Shari McKusick, *Involvement Office*  
Susie Mitton-Shannon, *Dean of Students Office*  
Jennifer Morenus, *PRLACC*  
Kyle Neary, *Programs Office*  
Krista O'Brien, *Leadership Office*  
David Ouimette, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Doug Pence, *Veterans Affairs and Military Programs*  
Kris Perry, *Veterans Affairs and Military Programs*  
Aaron Plotke, *UConn Student*  
Joanna Rivera-Davis, *Student Support Services*  
Michelle Scali, *Programs Office*  
Garrett Schlichte, *Orientation Services*  
Eric Sirois, *First Year Programs/Learning Communities*  
Ashley Slater, *Student Employment*  
Dana Wilder, *Office of the Vice Provost*  
Nancy Wong, *PRLACC*  
Robery Yanez, *Residential Life*

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.

## International Student Leadership Award

This award recognizes a student(s) 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. This award was established in 2010 and is sponsored by the Global Affairs Office.

### Recipient



#### Xiangzhe (Felix) Yao

Felix, a junior majoring in Management Information Systems, is an international student from China. He is dedicated to supporting Chinese students' transition to UConn through his work as a First Year Experience mentor for a course designed specifically for international students. Felix works one-on-one with the instructor to develop activities that help encourage students' participation in class and on campus. He also serves as an International Orientation advisor and is part of the Business Connections Learning Community.



## Building Community Award

This award honors a student(s) that 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 project should also have been significantly advanced during the past academic year and it should directly enhance the sense of community among various members of the campus community. This award was established in 2005 and is sponsored by the UConn Co-op.

### Finalists



#### Andrew Kim

Andrew, a senior Political Science major, is a proud member of the Leadership Learning Community, serving as a live-in mentor for the past two years. He has been very involved with the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities serving as a First Year Experience Mentor, Teaching Assistant, Learning Community Ambassador and co-facilitating LC Summer student orientation. Andrew has also been a part of multiple organizations and activities such as the Alumni Area Council, Alpha Lambda Delta, the UConn Senate Office, Huskies Helping Ronald McDonald, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and was a member of the 2014 cohort of the Leadership Legacy Experience.



#### Jay Lin

Jay, the face behind "Humans of UConn", was inspired by the diversity of individuals on campus to use his photography skills and celebrate the unique stories of these individuals on Facebook. In the short time since he began the page in February 2014, it has nearly 6,500 followers. Jay has evolved the page to a community collaborative art project where anyone can share stories or images that matter to them. Jay is also a tutor with Student Support Services, a teaching Assistant with the Department of Physiology and Neurobiology, and a facilitator for the Honors INTD Seminar.



#### Carly Zerr

Through her work as a Student Coordinator with Community Outreach's Alternative Breaks, Carly oversees the student Trip Directors and is responsible for facilitating meaningful discussions and trainings. In this work, as well as her role as a Trip Director and Team Leader, Carly's impact extends beyond the UConn campus and into those communities which she and her students serve through their alternative break trips. Additionally, Carly helps to facilitate community building for student organizations through her work as a Four Arrows Facilitator and as an active member of Alpha Epsilon Phi.

## Leadership Certificate Series

We would like to recognize the following students on their completion of the Leadership Certificate Series by participating in and/or facilitating three or more Leadership Certificate Series workshops:

**Gabriella Beaumont-Smith**  
**Makenzie Bernetich**  
**Lindsay Cadwallader**  
**Victor Calle**  
**Suma Chakravadhanula**  
**Anthony Favalora**  
**Joseph Ferraro**  
**Ashley Gravina**  
**Brittany Holliday**  
**Orlando Marin**  
**Lisa Panyanouvong**  
**Chris Rescheberger**  
**Rachel Russell**

The Leadership Office is proud to offer a certificate series on leadership and professional development for our undergraduate students. Each Workshop Series lasts for a semester, and is designed to stand on its own or be combined with other workshops for a more developmental approach. Students who choose to participate in 3 or more of the workshop programs will receive a leadership certification.



## Learning Community Leadership Award

This award recognizes a current Learning Community student(s) that has displayed a significant level of, either formal or informal, leadership within their Learning Community while supporting the overall mission of the Learning Community Program which prides itself in the holistic education of students in an academic environment while supporting significant opportunity for co-curricular engagement. This award was established in 2015 and is sponsored by the Office of First Year Programs and Learning Communities.

### Recipient



#### **Andrew Kim**

Andrew, a senior Political Science major, is a proud member of the Leadership Learning Community, serving as a live-in mentor for the past two years. He has been very involved with the Office of First Year Programs & Learning Communities serving as a First Year Experience Mentor, Teaching Assistant, Learning Community Ambassador and co-facilitating LC Summer student orientation. Andrew has also been a part of multiple organizations and activities such as the Alumni Area Council, Alpha Lambda Delta, the UConn Senate Office, Huskies Helping Ronald McDonald, Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity, and was a member of the 2014 cohort of the Leadership Legacy Experience.

We would like to recognize the following students who have served as the Leadership Office Certificate Series Workshop Facilitators:

**Gabriella Beaumont-Smith**  
**Lindsay Cadwallader**  
**Victor Calle**  
**Elyssa Eisenberg**  
**Ashley Gravina**  
**Meaghan Lynch**  
**Mario Moreno**  
**Lisa Panyanouvong**  
**Chris Rescheberger**  
**Sonali Shah**

## Student Organization Advisor Award

This award honors an advisor(s) of a student organization who has provided outstanding service and advisement to an organization. This award was established prior to 2002 and is sponsored by The Involvement Office and Student Organization Support.

### Recipient



#### **Milagros Marrero-Johnson**

Milagros has served as the School of Social Work Graduate Student Organization (GSO) advisor for the past ten years and has been called the “backbone of the Graduate Student Organization”, which has many sub-organizations, such as the Jewish Student Alliance, Organization of Black Social Work Students, Women's Caucus, and PRIDE. She serves as the editor to the 'Community News', a weekly newsletter which reflects all events and opportunities occurring at the School of Social Work and Greater Hartford Community, and strongly encourages the students' leadership and professional development.



## Outstanding Graduate/Teaching Assistant Award

This award recognizes a Graduate Assistant(s) 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. This award was established prior to 2002 and is sponsored by the Office of Research and Graduate Education.

### Recipient



#### **Ty McNamee**

A second year student in the Higher Education/Student Affairs Master's program, Ty goes above and beyond to help students succeed. In addition to his assistantship in the Center for Career Development where he creates and presents career-related programs and workshops for undergraduate students, Ty also works with the Benton Museum of Art “Bean Team”. Additionally, Ty has volunteered in the Admissions Office, working to assess how the office can better aid and assist the undocumented student population to apply and enroll at UConn. Ty volunteers as a UConn Connects facilitator and mentors undergraduate students interested in higher education through the UConn Student Affairs Association.

## Student Employee of the Year

This award honors the outstanding contributions and achievements of students who work on-campus or earn their work-study off-campus in community service positions at agencies with an established Federal Work-Study contract with the University. This award was established in 2005 and is sponsored by the Office of Scholarships & Student Employment.

### Recipient



#### **Vivian Zhang**

Vivian is a senior in the School of Business and has been a student employee in the Department of Residential Life for the past three years. In her role as lead student employee in the office at Hilltop Apartments, she manages staff members and is responsible for their training and developing, as well as managing time cards. She has been described as the face of the office, a role model and true leader whose dedication, strong work ethic and friendly personality contribute positively to her work environment.



## Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship

This scholarship is named after Matthew Benson Schechter, who earned a Bachelors of Art in English in 1962. It was established in 1969 to recognize a deserving student(s) on the basis of citizenship, need, scholarship, contribution to the University, and contributions to the causes of human rights and human dignity, civil liberties and freedom of thought.

### Recipient



#### **Brittany Carrier**

Brittany has spent her time at UConn serving as a program assistant for LUNAfest and a peer educator for the Violence Against Women Prevention Program. These roles have only added to Brittany's desire to engage others on issues of social justice and improving the overall campus experience for marginalized students. As a representative to the Student Leadership Council overseen by the Vice President of Student Affairs, Brittany has championed the needs of others and advocating for victim/survivors in efforts related to policy, prevention, and advocacy. She has been active with various student organizations, including Horse Lincoln Improv, Revolution Against Rape, and Active Minds.

## 2015 Leadership Legacy Experience Students

The University of Connecticut is proud to recognize the 2015 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.



**Gabe Bachinelo**



**Alyssa Burgos**



**Gaby Castellon**



**Veronica Fields**



**Kamil Jablonowski**



**Emily Kaufman**



**Asiyah Khan**



**Varun Khattar**



**Adam Kuegler**



**Luke LaRosa**



**Sarah Luft**



**Francine Quintino**



**Julian Rose**



**Jessica Stargardter**



# Program of the Year Award

This award recognizes 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. This award was established prior to 2002 and is sponsored by SUBOG (Student Union Board of Governors).

## Recipient

### Asiantation Mentoring Program

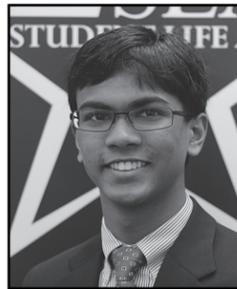
The Asiantation Mentoring Program (AMP) is a peer education program that provides incoming freshman and transfer students with a mentor to ease their transition into UConn, while also providing professional, academic and personal development of their mentors and mentees. AMP is not exclusive to the Asian American community, but there is a focus on Asian American contemporary issues in many of the education based aspects of the program, with the goal to create a community of leaders willing to actively impact societal change.



# First Year Excellence in Innovation Award

First Year Excellence in Innovation Award stems from a university-wide initiative to cultivate talent among first year students. This award recognizes a current first year student(s) that has displayed a significant level of innovation and creativity. This award was established in 2015 and is sponsored by the Office of First Year Programs and Learning Communities.

## Recipient



### Vivek Tedla

Vivek is a first year student in the School of Business majoring in Finance. He is an active member of Innovation House, and has demonstrated outstanding innovation and entrepreneurship through his development of the Charger Buddy, a product that simplifies charging mobile devices at night. He has been recognized as one of America's top five young entrepreneurs in 2014 by the National Federation of Independent Business and is continually working on new ventures. Vivek also runs VRT Studios, his own full service photography studio.

# Edward Victor Gant Scholarship

Established in 1979 and first given in 1987, the scholarship is a gift of the University Of Connecticut Board Of Trustees and the family and friends of Edward V. Gant, former Provost and Professor of Civil Engineering. Edward V. Gant, who also served as the University's acting president for brief periods in the 1960s and '70s, passed away in 1985. The scholarship is granted on the basis of academic excellence, professional potential, dedicated service, and exemplary integrity. The scholarship(s) are awarded to students, graduate and/or undergraduate, who will be continuing their studies at the University of Connecticut next fall.

## Finalists



### Christian Caceres

As a sophomore pre-med student, Christian consistently achieves academic excellence in both his coursework and his research with Dr. Ji-Young Lee. Their research is on the effect of cranberries in high-density lipoprotein metabolism using apoA-I transgenic mice. He is a Rowe Scholar, a member of the honors program, and a dedicated Resident Assistant. He spends time volunteering at both Windham Hospital and Middlesex Hospital and formerly lived in the Leadership Learning Community.



### Paige Collins

A fourth year student working towards a dual degree in Biomedical Engineering and German Studies, Paige is actively involved in the Eurotech program and co-founded the Eurotech Club, of which she will be President next year. She has studied abroad in Heidelberg, Germany where she completed an internship at the renowned Orthopedic Survey Hospital, researching and conducting analysis of knee joint implants. She has been offered an internship with Karl Storz Endoscopy in Massachusetts this summer and will be working on quality control for the premier German-based company.



### Yuri Hosokawa

A practicing clinician for the Department of Athletics, the Director of Social Media and Assistant Director of Education of the Korey Stringer Institute, and a doctoral student, Yuri has actively promoted collaboration, innovative thinking and problem solving in her areas of research and practice. Her area of interest is in the physiological and biochemical stress response in athletes who are exercising in the heat. She was invited to speak at Japan's first symposium on sports safety, and actively collaborates with other professionals to put policies into place to protect young athletes from potentially deadly health issues, including heat stroke.



### Stephanie Vu

A Babbidge, University, and New England Scholar, and member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society, Stephanie is a junior majoring in Physiology and Neurobiology. She is a dedicated Resident Assistant, and volunteers at both Windham Hospital and the Hole in the Wall Game Camp. She has completed summer research internships at both Harvard University and Virginia Tech. Her current research is focused on developing an understanding of the brain's spatial navigation system and its implications in the cognitive decline seen in Alzheimer's disease.



### Boya Yuan

A senior Landscape Architecture (LA) major, Boya will be continuing her education at UConn this fall as a Master's student with a concentration in LA. She has contributed to and created designs for Elizabeth Park, Governor Malloy's residence, and day-lighting Hartford's River for the Recapture project. Boya is involved in the UConn Cities Collaborative, a new initiative of the Office of Public Engagement. She is also a First Year Experience mentor and international student ambassador.

## Willis N. Hawley Service and Leadership Award

Willis N. Hawley, (1875-1898), attended Storrs Agricultural College, beginning in the fall of 1895 and soon after graduating in 1898, he joined the U.S. Army, Company H, Third Connecticut Volunteer Infantry. This award recognizes a student veteran(s) who has made significant contributions to the University community through leadership and service during their tenure as a student. This award was established in 2010 and is sponsored by the Office of Veterans Affairs and Military Programs.

### Recipient



#### Samuel Surowitz

Sam is a student veteran who served in the Army from 2007-2011 and was deployed to Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa. He continues to serve his country through the Army Reserves in addition to balancing his responsibilities as a UConn Student and COO for the Veterans Student Organization (VSO) which has been very active in coordinating events and establishing the organization amongst student veterans at UConn. Additionally, Sam works for the Office of Veterans Affairs & Military Programs, and serves on the Veterans Advisory Council on-campus to ensure that recently discharged veterans transition well into student life.



## Organization Community Service Award

This award honors a Registered Student Organization that has initiated and/or actively engaged in a community service project that offered direct service, as opposed to fundraising or lobbying activities, to a community external to the University. This award was established in 2002 and is sponsored by the Office of Community Outreach.

### Recipient



#### Engineers Without Borders

Engineers Without Borders is a student group that empowers students to become globally conscious leaders by providing experiences working with communities across the globe. A group of motivated students is assembled to design an engineering solution to a community problem and through a series of assessment, implementation and post implementation trips, they continue to strengthen their contact with the communities to insure their design is both sustainable and applicable to the community's need. With projects underway or set to begin in Willimantic, Hartford, Nicaragua, India, Nepal, and the Dominican Republic, Engineers Without Borders uses student ingenuity to provide sustainable engineering-based solutions to communities in need.

## Student Organization Advocacy Award

This award honors a Registered Student Organization for the achievement of a remarkable goal or completion of a major project that significantly impacted students through advocacy or awareness initiatives during the past academic year. This can include, but not be limited to increasing awareness about a particular issue across campus or taking a leadership role in the advancement of an issue or cause on campus. This award was established in 2005 and is sponsored by the Leadership Office.

### Recipient

#### HuskyTHON

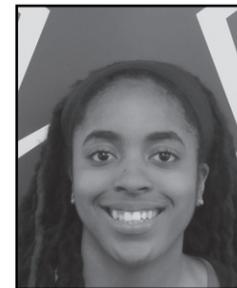
HuskyTHON works tirelessly year round to increase awareness of issues faced by the Connecticut Children's Medical Center. As one of the largest student-run philanthropy efforts in New England, HuskyTHON culminates their efforts in an 18 hour dance marathon fundraiser in March. This event draws in over 2,400 students per year to participate and fundraise. While working to contribute to the support and services offered by the local pediatric hospital, HuskyTHON's Student Management Team and student participants raise money for the center and For The Kids (FTK). This past year, HuskyTHON raised \$560,104.55 to benefit the Connecticut Children's Medical Center.



## Andrea Dennis LaVigne Scholarship for Advancing Diversity

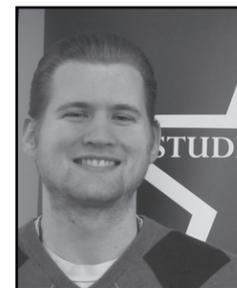
This scholarship was established in 2011, in honor of Trustee Andrea Dennis LaVigne through the gifts of many alumni, trustees and friends. This scholarship recognizes a student(s) who demonstrates a commitment to encouraging and enhancing diversity at the University of Connecticut.

### Finalists



#### Jasmine Alexander-Brookings

An individualized major in Urban Youth Development, Jasmine is passionate about helping at-risk-youth who fall through the cracks of educational and social services. Through her mentoring work at First Star Academy, Jasmine has worked one-on-one with students in the foster care system to help them remain persistent in their educational pursuits. On campus, Jasmine led the planning and coordination of UConn's First Annual Hip Hop Summit, a unique platform for bringing people together to encourage positive creative expression, support honest dialogue on social issues, promote community and bring about awareness among different student groups.



#### Austin Dodd

As a current Resident Assistant for Social Justice Education (RASJE), Austin leads campaigns to spread awareness of issues such as race education and sexual violence prevention on campus. He lives a lifestyle that continually empowers and affirms the human dignity in everyone. Austin currently serves as one of the two students on the Provost's Diversity Task Force and was a key member on this year's planning committee for UConn's MLK Day campus observance. Austin previously lived in the Leadership Learning Community and was a facilitator for the Leadership Certificate Series.



#### Nehan Saleem

Nehan (Maha), who hopes to earn a MD-PhD in the future, is dedicated to creating programs which encourage women of color to explore and be supported within the STEM disciplines. As the recipient of the Ella T. Grasso Leadership in Action Grant, Maha has worked with STEMtistic Women and is currently creating a mentoring program for women of color in the STEM majors at UConn partnering with the Women's Center and the School of Engineering.

## Spirer/Dueker Student Humanitarian Achievement Award

The award was first given in 1994 and was established by Louise and Herbert Spierer and Marilyn Dueker, retired faculty members from the University of Connecticut-Stamford campus. This award honors an undergraduate student(s) for outstanding contributions to public service. Recipient(s) will have demonstrated a concern for others that benefits society and impacts positively on his/her personal and professional life.

### Recipient



#### **Robert Anderson, Jr.**

Majoring in International Development and Human Rights, RJ has explored various issues regarding human rights and has applied his knowledge in settings such as the Dodd Center, the U21 Summer Conference on Human Rights, national conferences on undergraduate research and policy, and even at meditation centers across Southeast Asia. As a staff member in the Rainbow Center, RJ strives to support efforts aimed at increasing inclusion for all gender identities, expressions, and sexualities. A former mentor in Humanities House, RJ was also a member of the 2014 Leadership Legacy Experience Cohort.



## Martha and Albert Cohen Scholarship for Enhancing Community

This scholarship is awarded to an undergraduate student(s) in good standing on the basis of financial need and evidence of a significant active commitment to eliminating bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination and to foster tolerance and understanding among people in the last academic year. This scholarship was established in 1990 and sponsored by Stephen I. Cohen ('65) in honor of his parents Martha and Albert Cohen.

### Recipient



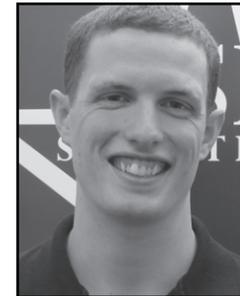
#### **Amanda Simon**

Amanda is the founding member of the oSTEM (Out in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) chapter at UConn which seeks to educate and foster leadership for LGBTQ communities in the STEM fields. Through her participation in the UConn Medical Humanitarian Society, Amanda served the international community while on trips to Guatemala and Costa Rica. Additionally Amanda volunteers at the Branford Community Dining Room and Mansfield Nursing Home. As an Honors student, Amanda currently conducts molecular biology research on campus and hopes to become a physician and make annual trips to underserved populations to help eliminate disparities in global medical care.

## Individual Community Service Award

This award honors a student(s) 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. This award is intended for those engaged in activities that offer direct service, as opposed to fundraising or lobbying activities. Such service(s) should directly benefit a community external to the University and have occurred in the past academic year. This award was established prior to 2005 and is sponsored by the UConn Co-op.

### Finalists



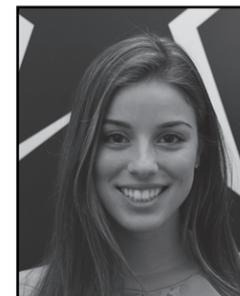
#### **Andrew Klock**

Andrew is a senior studying Urban & Community Studies, President of UConn's Delta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity, an Alternative Break Trip Director with Community Outreach and an active member of the UConn Army ROTC program. As the Training & Operations Officer for the UConn Army ROTC program, Andrew plans statewide training sessions for ROTC programs at various higher education institutions throughout the state. Parlaying his leadership and passion to help others, Andrew will serve as an Active Duty Quartermaster Officer in the US Army following graduation.



#### **Melissa Lovitz**

Melissa has dedicated her time at UConn to service through her multiple leadership roles in the Delta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity, and was a nominee for the Campus Compact Newman Civic Fellows Award. She spent a year in Washington, D.C. working for City Year - furthering her desire to work in urban schools and she will translate that passion into future academic success while pursuing a Masters in Urban Education from Brown University.



#### **Sofia Martone**

Before becoming a student at UConn, Sofia was heavily involved with Best Buddies and worked directly with many individuals with disabilities, all the while working and attending community college. Sofia continued her service commitments to Best Buddies and Relay for Life while in Storrs, and would go on to become involved with Husky-THON and the American Red Cross Club. Within the past year Sofia has gone on two medical/public health Global Brigades to Panama and Ghana where she helped provide free consultations, medications, and health education to patients in rural communities that do not have access to or limited access to medical care.



#### **Danielle Todd**

Danielle is a senior studying Human Development & Family Studies and serves as the Student Leader for the UConn Brooklyn Collaborative, a program that allows UConn students to tutor inmates in the Brooklyn Correctional Institute as they pursue their GED. She has met with the founder of the Petey Greene Foundation which is the National organization that the Brooklyn Collaborative is based on, to bring their resources and support to UConn. Danielle also strives to help undergraduate students on academic probation by serving as a UConn Connects facilitator.

## 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. This award was established prior to 2005 and is sponsored by the UConn Co-op.

### Finalists



#### **Kathleen Connelly**

Kat has worked as a social media intern at University Communications, a photojournalist for Community Outreach, and a social media assistant at the Center for Career Development. Through her work, she promoted the University through social media campaigns involving prospective and current students, such as an #ItsOnUs video to spread awareness of UConn's commitment to the White House initiative. She was a spring break volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, is an active member of Pi Beta Phi and in HuskyTHON.



#### **Andrew Klock**

Andrew is a senior studying Urban & Community Studies, President of UConn's Delta Sigma Chapter of Alpha Phi Omega co-ed service fraternity, an Alternative Break Trip Director with Community Outreach and an active member of the UConn Army ROTC program. As the Training & Operations Officer for the UConn Army ROTC program, Andrew plans statewide training sessions for ROTC programs at various higher education institutions throughout the state. Parlaying his leadership and passion to help others, Andrew will serve as an Active Duty Quartermaster Officer in the US Army following



#### **Patrick Lenehan**

Many UConn community members know Pat as a player on the men's basketball team, and speak to his work ethic and leadership as a factor in last year's national championship. Aside from his accomplishments on the court, he also won the prestigious Goldwater Scholarship for high-achieving students dedicated to STEM research. He spent a summer as a research assistant in the Maternal Fetal Medicine Department at the UConn Health Center, followed by a summer at the Pulmonary Department at the Children's Medical Center.



#### **Jillian McCarthy**

Jillian is a member of the Student Union Board of Governors (SUBOG) and serves as the Special Events chair. She advocates for events to make UConn a more lively and interesting place – placing her passion for the University in the outlet of event planning. Jillian is also a member and captain of the Women's Club Soccer Team which provides her further outlets to showcase her commitment and dedication to representing the best UConn has to offer.

## Organization 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. This award was established prior to 2002 and is sponsored by the Division of Athletics.

### Recipient



#### **UConn Irish**

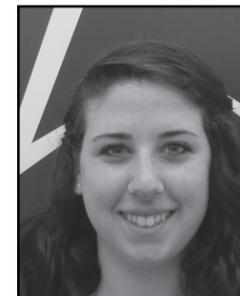
The mission of UConn Irish is to connect students through Irish culture and to share interest, joy, and passion with the campus and community. UConn Irish is comprised of dancers, Irish musicians, cultural enthusiasts, and all those who wish to learn more about Irish culture in a fun and social environment. UConn Irish has become a valued community resource with a focus on using their many performances to share and celebrate Irish culture including International Nite, Kwanzaa Dinner, Cultural Explosion, and Homecoming.



## Somos Huskies Award

This award honors a current UConn student who has advanced the role and contributions of Latinos in society and UConn and/or been actively involved in PRLACC with a commitment to Latino issues through leadership, and service to the community at UConn and beyond. This award was established in 2007 and is sponsored by the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center.

### Recipient



#### **Kayla Kessler**

Kayla is a first year Spanish major with plans to expand her studies to encompass Political Science and Latino Studies. She dedicates her time to empowering Latinos and connecting with the Latino community through her employment at the Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center, leadership in clubs such as Students Without Borders and community service. This past spring, Kayla traveled with a group of UConn students on an Alternate Break Trip to work with people in Florida who are migrant farm workers.