

*Thank you to the sponsors of the  
2018 Student Life Awards*



**Thursday, April 12, 2018 | 4:00 pm | Student Union Ballroom**  
*Scholarship. Advocacy. Innovation. Service. Pride. Community. Leadership.*

**MISSION STATEMENT:**

*Guided by its core principles, Leadership and Organizational Development 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

## 2018 Leadership Legacy Experience Students

*The University of Connecticut is proud to recognize the 2018 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.*



**Xavier Arriaga**



**Lucas Bladen**



**Jenny Blessing**



**Bright Eze**



**Katherine Grant**



**Ciera Hunter**



**Susan Naseri**



**Kelsey Richard**



**Stephen Sam**



**Aziz Sandhu**



**Juan Santiago**



**Mary Szarkowicz**



**Tara Watrous**



## *Stewardship Awards*

**Department of Student Activities  
Leadership & Organizational Support**

**Established in 2010, the Stewardship Awards acknowledge Tier III (Student Fee-Funded) Organizations for success in four areas of organizational stewardship: constituents, members, assets, and administrator relations. Throughout the year, these areas of stewardship are emphasized in training and advisement of these organizations, and within the governance bodies of the groups themselves.**

### *Constituents | Recipient: SUBOG*

This organization has demonstrated a strong level of commitment to and awareness of its constituents through sound understanding of organization accountability. Demonstrations of engagement, interaction, and overall care in the best interests of the student body have been shown through continued efforts this past year. This organization has set the stage for improved constituent relations for both their organization and other fee-funded student leaders in the Triad Leadership Program.

### *Members | Recipient: The Daily Campus*

In keeping with the best traditions of their organization and the University, this group has demonstrated successful stewardship of its members through the excellent recruitment, development, and mentorship of an effective membership base in the organization. By providing adequate support, this organization has helped create a positive and supportive place for involvement for current and future members. This group has demonstrated strong efforts to work collaboratively, professionally, and ethically as an organization.

### *Administrator Relations | Recipient: UConn PIRG*

This organization has displayed excellence in the stewardship of administrator relations during the past year. In collaboration with faculty, staff, and administrators, this organization has developed sound partnerships in order to support the organization's mission and the student body. By working more closely and effectively with administrators at the University, this group has demonstrated how students and administrators can work together in order to achieve a high level of success.

### *Assets | Recipient: WHUS*

This organization has demonstrated outstanding effort in terms of maximizing available assets. By using conscious efforts to use resources in innovative and responsible ways, this organization has learned to balance fiscal responsibility with the needs of the UConn community. This group is an excellent example of how student leaders and fee-funded student organizations can best incorporate their assets to better their successes.

## *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 classes, through research and, equally important, 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 their extraordinary contributions to the University of Connecticut, this community, and their 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

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



### Jennifer Akosa

Jennifer, a senior in the School of Pharmacy, is the president and cofounder of UConn Honors for Diversity and serves as an ambassador for the School of Pharmacy where she travels to New Haven and New Britain in order to attract students to UConn. She is also a UConn Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation Scholar and a UConn Rowe Health Professions Scholar. She has also been involved on campus as a representative in the UConn Honors Student Leader Collective, a member of the UConn LEADERS Track, a member of Alpha Epsilon Phi, a member of the Pharmacy Student Government, and an Alternative Breaks Participant.



### Batouly Camara

A member of the women's basketball team, Batouly transferred to UConn in 2016. In her current role as President of Collective Uplift and as an active member of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), she aims to improve the experiences of student athletes. This past summer, Batouly went to Guinea, West Africa, where she worked to start a nonprofit called Women and Kids Empowerment (WAKE), whose mission is to educate and empower young women through education and sports; she will be speaking about this process in the upcoming TedXUConn event.



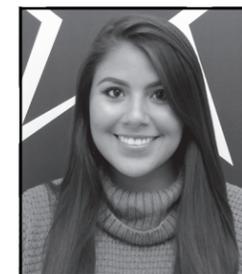
### Elizabeth Charash

Elizabeth, a senior double major in Sociology and History, is passionate about being an activist against gun violence. She founded UConn Against Gun Violence, which works to address issues of gun violence through discussion, campus wide speaker events, and collaboration with local organizations. Through this organization she helped plan a vigil for Las Vegas and a panel on the intersections of race and gun violence. Elizabeth was also a member of the 2017 Leadership Legacy cohort, has received an IDEA grant, and studied abroad in Cape Town, South Africa.



### Omar Taweh

Omar, a junior Physiology and Neurobiology major, currently serves as the Director of Programming for the Residence Hall Association and as Vice President of the Club Track & Field team. He has been heavily involved with Week of Welcome serving as a WOW Leader, WOW captain, and as a Husky Ambassador. Additionally, Omar is involved on campus as a photographer for the Nutmeg Yearbook, a member of the USG Academic Affairs Committee, a founding member of the President's Council for Race and Diversity, and a member of the Student Coalition for Social Justice.



### Irma Valverde

Irma is a senior Political Science major and is active on campus in her role as USG President. Through this role she has spent a great deal of time advocating for student needs; most recently she worked to plan a campus wide rally in response to the proposed budget cuts for UConn. Additionally, she served as a co-chair to the fall Metanoia: Together Confronting Racism. Irma has spent a summer as an orientation leader, is a current member of Alpha Phi, and has served as an FYE mentor. In the future, Irma hopes to go into business management.

# 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 Department of Student Activities.

## Finalists



### Wawa Gatheru

Wawa is a sophomore majoring in Environmental Studies and is as an intern at the Office of Environmental Policy. Wawa serves as the student services chairwoman of the Undergraduate Student Government. In addition, Wawa is a FYE Mentor and volunteer for SOS Food Recovery and Cross Cultural Connections organization. Wawa is the vice-president elect for the Undergraduate Student Government, and a student coordinator in the Husky Nutrition Program.



### Grace Lemire

Grace Lemire is a freshman majoring in Urban & Community Studies and serves on the special event committee of the Student Union Board of Governors. As a member of this organization, Grace has helped plan several student activities on campus, including the Food Truck Festival and Homecoming Weekend. Grace has also participated in service surrounding advocacy for urban issues.



### Kelly McSpiritt

Kelly McSpiritt is a freshman majoring in Sociology and serves as a member of Gamma Sigma Sigma. As a member of this organization, Kelly has demonstrated informal leadership through her active participation in the planning of service projects and social activities. Kelly was a participant on the fall weekend alternative break to Boston focusing on homelessness and also participated in the spring break trip to NYC focusing on gender and sexual identity.



### Brittany Smith

Brittany Smith is a sophomore majoring in Electrical Engineering and serves as a FYE mentor for the WIMSE Learning Community. As a mentor of this learning community she has assisted students with events, and educational services. Brittany is also a Teaching Assistant for the electrical engineering section of Engineering 1166, works as an Ambassador for the School of Engineering, and also works as a tour guide at the Lodewick Visitors Center.

# 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 2018 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 2018 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 Alfredo Ramirez, Andrew Cain, Anna Milot, Shari Latif, Lillian Palacios, Karen Provost, Dr. Michael Gilbert, Dr. Christine Wilson and the entire staff in Leadership & Organizational Development.

Finally, a note of particular thanks to our donors and award sponsors who have so generously supported this program, and more importantly our students. It is only with their support that the Student Life Awards program is able to award \$30,000 in scholarships and aid this year. 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  
Leadership and Organizational Development



## Student Life Awards Selection Committee

Terrence Abney, *Residential Life*

Joe Briody, *Leadership & Org Development*

Kayla Brown, *Leadership & Org Development*

Andrew Cain, *Leadership & Org Development*

Kristen Carr, *Leadership & Org Development*

Jamel Catoe, *Fraternity and Sorority Life*

Alyssa Clift, *Major Events and Programs*

Miguel Colon, *Community Outreach*

Andrea Dennis LaVigne, *Alumni*

Dan Doerr, *Office of the VPSA*

Steve Drasdis, *Club Sports*

Gabrielle Erestain, *Major Events and Programs*

Kathy Fischer, *Women's Center*

Jessica Gramajo, *Leadership & Org Development*

Trisha-Ann Hawthorne, *Athletics*

Kaitlin Heenehan, *Honors Program*

Shari Latif, *Leadership & Org Development*

Kathryn Libal, *School of Social Work*

Jennifer Morenus, *Puerto Rican/Latin American Cultural Center*

Alfredo Ramirez, *Leadership & Org Development*

Sasha Richardson, *Leadership & Org Development*

Eileen Stone, *Wellness & Prevention*

Ashley Vrabely, *Community Standards*

Dana Wilder, *Diversity and Inclusion*

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.



## First Year Excellence in Innovation Award

The 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



#### Carson Stifel

Carson is a first-year Communication major, who plans to complete her degree in three years. In addition to being a member of the Innovation House Learning Community, she also runs a photography business, works as a Communication Specialist for [squared labs], and is preparing for a summer internship with UConn's CCEI. Carson is developing a new company, a revolutionary commercial bakery that aims to fight hunger in America by providing affordable, appealing, and nutrient-dense snacks and desserts. Ultimately, Carson hopes her bakery can contribute to increased equality and opportunity for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



## 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



#### Patrick Greenhalgh

Patrick, currently attending UConn's School of Law, has interned at the Connecticut Supreme Court, the Attorney General's Office, and the State's Attorney Office. Patrick left the Army in 2012 and enrolled at UConn as an undergraduate, graduating with a BA in Political Science in 2016. He joined the U.S. Army Intelligence Corps a week after graduating high school, and served in the War on Terror deploying to Afghanistan, Kuwait, Korea, Spain, and Germany. He is the co-founder and current president of the Veterans and Armed Forces Legal Out Reach (VALOR) Society, and helped establish the Veterans' Benefits Legal Clinic at UConn Law.

## Edward Victor Gant Scholarship Finalists (continued)



#### Undergraduate Nominee: Melinda Gosselin

Melinda, a junior majoring in Natural Resources and the Environment, served as the Chair and Historian of Sigma Alpha, a professional agricultural sorority. She also served as the Vice President of the Agriculture Advocacy Club and the American Fisheries Society-UConn subunit. In addition to being actively involved with a lab on campus where she is researching how fish age by examining their scales, Melinda has held an internship with the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection. Melinda has also served the UConn community through her involvement with Huskython and a recent alternative break trip to Tennessee to address poverty in the area.



#### Undergraduate Nominee: Benjamin Morneault

Benjamin, a junior Management major with an Entrepreneurship concentration, is committed to the business field through his involvement with the Business Management Society where he serves as the President. He has also served as a Management Student Ambassador and a 2018 iQ Student Ambassador. Benjamin is also involved with a biomedical startup with his peers hoping to provide more effective chemotherapeutic solutions to help cancer patients. Benjamin is a proud member of the Beta Gamma Sigma International Business Honor Society, as well as the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and has been selected as a 2016 and 2017 Babbidge Scholar.



## 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 gifts of many alumni, Trustees, and friends.

### Finalists



#### Jennifer Akosa

Jennifer, a senior pharmacy student, is involved with Pharmacy Student Government and is an ambassador for the School of Pharmacy. She is also the founding member of Honors for Diversity, an organization within the Honors community created to promote diversity and unite people of all cultures. Through this, Jennifer has led many efforts on campus to celebrate differences and create community on campus for people with various backgrounds. She truly believes in educating herself and others in efforts to create spaces that truly embrace diversity.



#### Nadejah Green

Nadejah, a junior in the NEAG School of Education, aspires to work in education as a special education teacher. Currently, she serves as a leader in KUBE (Kids and UConn Bridging Education) connecting underprivileged children with higher education opportunities. She is also a chair of the Mixed Heritage program, an initiative focused on encouraging UConn students with mixed racial backgrounds to embrace their identities. Nadejah has demonstrated a passion and a gift of viewing differences in people as something to truly appreciate.

## 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



#### Graduate Nominee: Erica MacDonald

Erica is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, and serves as a Teaching Assistant for a joint human rights and engineering course. As Associate Director of the Humanities House Learning Community, she is responsible for mentoring first year students who are transitioning to the university. Erica is a research assistant on a new business/human rights program initiative where she coordinated an inaugural two day conference. She has also served as the President of Political Science Graduate Student Association.



#### Graduate Nominee: Dana Miranda

Dana is a fourth-year doctoral candidate in the Department of Philosophy. He has received the Crandall-Cordero and Giolas-Harriott Fellowship which recognizes his commitment to enhancing diversity. Dana is the sole graduate student on the President's Committee on Civil Discourse and Dialogue and is also the Graduate Assistant for Public Humanities in the Humanities Institute. He has also served as the President and Senator for the Graduate Students of Color Association, and as a Graduate Initiative Fellow for The Graduate School.



#### Graduate Nominee: Marc Reyes

Marc is a doctoral candidate in the Department of History and an instructor in the Digital Media and Design Department. Marc has been honored with both the Critical Language Scholarship and the Fulbright-Nehru Fellowship. As a student in the Certificate in College Instruction Program, Marc works with mentors to support students by creating an open, engaging, and fun environment for his students that allows for respectful debate and discussion. Marc has also been recognized by national organizations such as the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations and the Organization of American Historians. Marc's approach to research, teaching and university service is grounded in integrity, honesty, and doing what is fair and just.



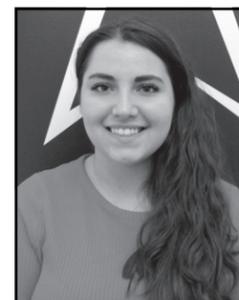
#### Graduate Nominee: Cayla Rodia

Cayla, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Nutritional Sciences is a founding doctoral student in the Kohan lab where she serves as a lab manager, research coordinator, and graduate research assistant. Her work on immunobiology has earned distinctions including being selected for an oral presentation at the nation's largest conference on cardiovascular disease. Her service to the UConn community also extends to the classroom where she teaches two undergraduate laboratories, providing mentorship and fostering excitement in future scientists.

## 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 Department of Student Activities.

### Recipient



#### Juliana Jacoboski

Juliana is a senior pursuing dual degrees in Pathobiology and Spanish, and serves as a Team Captain for the student tour guides at the Lodewick Visitors Center. Through her role, she energetically promotes UConn to prospective students and serves as an example and resource to her colleagues. She is also heavily involved as a Learning Community Ambassador and is a member of the Learning Community Executive Council, helping recruit new students while keeping all current students actively engaged.



## 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 Department of Student Activities.

### Recipient



#### UConn Club Ski Team

The UConn Club Ski Team has qualified for Regional and National Championships during the past three consecutive years and has held the title of the number one club team in the nation. Additionally, the Club Ski Team has recently been awarded the All-American Award, showcasing athletic and academic integrity. This organization embodies husky spirit and pride through competition, sportsmanship, camaraderie, and integrity. As one of the few student-run teams in their division, the team devotes time and energy to managing finances, booking travel arrangements, and performing various administrative tasks while also focusing on practicing and competing.

## 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 Office of Global Affairs.

### Recipient



#### **Alexander Holmgren**

Alexander is a senior studying Political Science and French, with a minor in Molecular & Cellular Biology. He runs Cross Cultural Connections, a program that pairs international students with an American conversation partner to help foster cultural exchange, education, and connection. He also established the International Huskies Writing Assistance organization and serves as a passionate student worker in the Office of Global Affairs.



## 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



#### **Joel Thomas**

Joel Thomas is a junior Finance major and Economics minor who serves as the President of the Learning Community Executive Council. A two-year member of the Business Connections Learning Community, Joel was active in BCLC events and leadership groups, including serving as head of their Finance Committee and as a Bloomberg Administrator. In these roles he developed a Financial Literacy Development Certificate as well as a workshop to increase student engagement with Bloomberg Terminals which allows users to monitor and analyze real-time financial market data.

## 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 Department of Student Activities.

### Finalists



#### **Patrick Kavanaugh**

Patrick is a senior CLAS Entrepreneurship major and a member of the UConn swimming team. He serves as the Community Outreach Coordinator of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), through which he spends significant time on a weekly basis working with children in local schools. Last summer, he volunteered in Panama where he spent time teaching English to elementary school children and helping the local community increase hygiene and anti-pollution efforts. After graduation, he intends to return to Panama for the summer and then hopes to participate in an AmeriCorps program.



#### **Samantha Lohneiss**

Samantha, a sophomore nursing student, serves as the secretary of UConn's campus GIVE (Growth International Volunteer Excursions) organization. As a member and secretary of GIVE, she participated in service trips abroad as well as coordinated day-long opportunities for students in locations such as Boston and Hartford. Samantha's service projects have included organizing a food drive.



## Student Leader of Character Award

This award recognizes individual student(s) who have demonstrated exceptional character in the course of holding a leadership position within the Division of Student Affairs. This award was established in 2017 to provide scholarship support to University students and is sponsored by the J. Peter & Jennifer Natale Student Leader Scholarship.

### Recipient



#### **Seliana Seradieu**

Seliana, a sophomore Biology major, is a first generation college student and currently serves as a Resident Advisor in the Leadership Learning Community. She strives to create an experience for her students that makes them feel that UConn is a "home away from home". She is highly regarded by her students, coworkers, and supervisors who refer to her as trustworthy, positive, and compassionate. In addition to her role as an RA, she has served as a One Summer Assistant, and is involved with HOLDUP, UConn First Generation, and SUBOG.

# 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 Department of Student Activities.

## Finalists



### **Kurt Daigle**

Kurt is a junior majoring in Human Development & Family Studies and serves as a residential floor mentor for the Leadership Learning Community. Through his service as a mentor, Kurt has promoted memorable residential experiences and meaningful programs. It is his hope that through programs like the Leadership Learning Community more students will be more connected to their peers, professional staff, and the greater university.



### **Alyssa Marini**

Alyssa is a senior double majoring in Sociology & English and serves as the facilitator of “Between Women”. Through her service as a facilitator, Alyssa has hosted discussion groups for LGBTQIA+ and women on campus, including those participating in the Sexual Consent 101 workshops. Since becoming a facilitator of Between Women, Alyssa has increased the participation in this organization, while providing support through purposeful, guided discussions that seek to restore, maintain, and enhance the well-being of women.



### **Christopher Tweeddale**

Christopher is a junior majoring in Accounting and serves as the Program Director of Special Olympics. As the director of this organization, Christopher has transformed the program into a single unified committee – with the hope of bringing together UConn and Special Olympics communities. Additionally, last year Christopher started the Smile Mile, to promote the awareness for the R-word and the “Spread the Word to End the Word” campaign.

# Matthew B. Schechter Scholarship

This scholarship is named after Matthew Benson Schechter, who earned a Bachelors of Art in English in 1962 and served as president of the Associated Student Government. 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.

## Recipients



### **Angelica Idrovo**

As an activist and leader with the undocumented rights organizations - CT Students for a Dream (C4D) and the national organization - United We Dream, Angelica has played a critical role in addressing educational equity, comprehensive immigration reform, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), and other social justice issues at UConn and beyond. In 2017, Angelica assumed the role of the statewide Campaign and Community Organizer for C4D’s #AffordToDream campaign, fighting for undocumented students’ equitable access to institutional aid from public higher education institutions in Connecticut. Angelica was also recently featured in Connecticut’s 40 under 40 magazine class of 2018.



### **Chris Stumper**

Through his involvement as a trip director with community outreach, Chris uses his experiences as a Violence Against Women Prevention Program (VAWPP) facilitator to plan activities related to stereotypes, gender expression, intersectionality, and the history of the LGBTQIAA+ Pride movement. In 2017, Chris worked with 12 LGBTQIAA+ students and designed an interactive curriculum to engender cultural competency for an alternative break trip. Chris encouraged and supported his participants’ to engage in the learning process, by researching and presenting on queer history through movements that are often overlooked.



# 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 co-sponsored by the Office of Community Outreach and The Office of Public Engagement.

## Recipient



### **Honors Across State Borders**

Honors Across State Borders is a student-run organization of 54 participants that focuses on the coordination and execution of a yearly alternative spring break trip, a day of service event hosted in the fall semester, large group educational meetings, and additional events throughout the year. This past fall, Honors Across State Borders collaborated with Habitat for Humanity in the greater Springfield, MA, area to refurbish the exterior of the Habitat for Humanity building. This student organization also organized an alternative spring break trip to Tennessee to work with Habitat for Humanity in Williamson-Maury County.

## Outstanding Graduate Assistant of the Year

*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 Graduate School.*

### Recipient



#### **Clémence Lucchini**

Clémence is currently a second year Master's candidate in the Department of Literatures, Cultures, and Languages. She has participated in teaching both elementary and intermediate French courses and in creating original events to help her students learn, including French and Moroccan crepes workshops. Clémence has been thoroughly involved with evaluating a new textbook that is being considered for future use by French students. She also serves as a tutor and an International Outreach Officer, demonstrating further her commitment and contribution to the French language and culture. Clémence is known for having a true talent of sharing knowledge with her students in an engaging and practical way.



## 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



#### **Out to Lunch Lecture Series, UConn Rainbow Center**

The Rainbow Center's Out to Lunch Lecture Series is a weekly academic discussion series that allows attendees to learn about contemporary issues affecting the LGBTQIA+ community. By creating a space that highlights intellectual and advocacy work by members of the LGBTQIA+ community and their allies, Out to Lunch provides educational outreach for the campus community and enhances student experiences and has had an impact on participants and members of the community.

## Student Employee Supervisor of the Year

*This award was established to recognize permanent staff members of UConn who supervise student employees and to acknowledge these staff members and the work they do. This award was established in 2016 and is sponsored by Student Financial Aid Services.*

### Recipient



#### **Thomas Krumel Jr.**

Thomas is a graduate student studying Agricultural and Resource Economics, and he serves as the Leadership Learning Community Graduate Assistant. Thomas has put significant energy into making his learning community a successful one, including rewriting curriculum for the class and dedicating his own free time to the program. Thomas, along with his student employees, has created an environment that students want to be a part of, as evidenced by 70% of his students returning to the Learning Community for their sophomore year. Thomas's student employees talk about his role as not just a supervisor but also as a mentor.



## Student Organization Advisor of the Year

*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 Leadership and Organizational Development.*

### Recipient



#### **Aida Ghiaei**

Aida is the faculty advisor for the Iranian Student Association. Aida shows her dedication to her students by going above and beyond her responsibilities as a student organization advisor. Through meaningful rapport building, sharing campus resources with her students, and recognizing the needs of the community she serves, Aida has supported and encouraged the personal growth and development of her students and the Iranian Student Association as an organization.

## 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 Leadership & Organizational Development.

### Recipient



#### **Revolution Against Rape (RAR)**

Revolution Against Rape (RAR) is an organization that focuses on raising awareness about issues related to sexual assault, while working to eradicate gender based violence on campus and the greater community. This past year, the organization hosted their annual event on campus-- with a new name change. The March to End Victim Blaming is an annual march that concludes with a student speak-out to raise awareness about sexual assault and protest rape culture. By breaking the silence that often surrounds this topic, Revolution Against Rape's March to End Victim Blaming significantly impacted students through advocacy and raising awareness.



## 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 1998 and is sponsored by Student Financial Aid Services.

### Recipient



#### **Drew Monroe**

Drew is a senior in the School of Engineering studying Computer Science & Engineering and Cyber Security. Drew has been a student employee with the Information Security Office (ISO) since his first year at UConn. Drew is now a supervisor of student employees where he is responsible for knowing and understanding all student projects in the department. Drew has taken tremendous initiative and crafted solutions that are widely used by the Security Office and Law Enforcement. Drew has demonstrated interest in cyber security outside of work, including being treasurer of the UConn Cyber Security Club and becoming President of the Computer Science Honors Society, Upsilon Pi Epsilon.

## Protect Our Pack Award

This award recognizes a student(s) whose actions exemplify the bystander intervention concept of Protect Our Pack. By stepping in, either directly or indirectly the student(s) has aided a member of our community who was in a problematic situation which could involve sexual assault, intimate partner violence, stalking, hazing, harassment, a bias related incident, alcohol or other drugs, depression and/or suicide, or many other dangerous or difficult issues. This award was established in 2017 by the Dean of Students Office to recognize students who exhibit actions which clearly help protect our community members.

### Recipient



#### **Emily Napear**

Emily is a senior majoring in Education and is a Resident Assistant (RA) for the Buckley Residence Hall on campus. Through her actions and advocacy, Emily is committed to educating residents on intimate partner violence, suicide prevention, and self-love and care. She has led efforts to create resources such as a "Love Shouldn't Hurt" bulletin board to inform residents on the cycles and different forms of abuse. In all of her roles and responsibilities, Emily has worked to bring awareness to less talked about issues and thus create a space where everyone feels welcomed and protected.



## Spirer/Dueker Student Humanitarian Achievement Award

The award was first given in 1994 and was established by Louise and Herbert Spirer 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 their personal and professional life.

### Recipient



#### **Himaja Nagireddy**

Himaja, a sophomore with a double major in Physiology & Neurobiology and Chemistry, has worked with a migrant farm workers clinic in CT, founded the GenUN student organization which seeks to involve undergraduates in the work of the United Nations, and is registered as a UN online volunteer, mentoring Syrian refugees on language and skills instruction. Himaja is currently establishing a non-profit that will seek to educate children in low-income areas about energy conservation and cost-savings to help prevent evictions and she was selected for an internship at the Unite for Sight organization - which provides eye care in rural communities across the world.



## Cohen Student Leadership Scholarship for Enhancing Community

This scholarship was established in 1990 and sponsored by Stephen I. Cohen ('65') in honor of his parents Martha and Albert Cohen. These scholarships are awarded to undergraduate student members of registered student organizations who have demonstrated a significant and active commitment to eliminating bigotry, prejudice, and discrimination and the fostering of tolerance and understanding among the campus community as a part of their active membership in their student organizations.

### Recipients



#### **Qimei Liu**

Through her work as an advocate for the LGBTQ+ community, May is committed to educating others of the issues and needs surrounding underrepresented students of color who are Asian and gender nonconforming. An international student from China, May developed workshops, activities, and discussions around the intersectionality of marginalized identities, sexual orientation, gender identity, and overcoming obstacles and barriers within various cultural societies. May is also involved with the Asian American Cultural Center, is a mentor in the "Kids and UConn Bridging Education" organization, and serves as vice-president for the Queer, Straight and Asian club.



#### **Karen Martinez**

As the only Latina member on an all-Black/African-American stepping team, the UConn All Stars, Karen has embraced this form of expression by learning about the stepping cultural roots of Africa and other Black communities. This year, Karen held an event in the African American Cultural Center titled "Respect the Step: A Conversation about Step Sisters and Why It Completely Dropped the Ball". During this event, Karen led an open discussion about the intersections of race, sororities and cultural appropriation and was able to engage with her peers on topics surrounding micro-aggressions and the importance of learning about other communities.

### Recipients continued



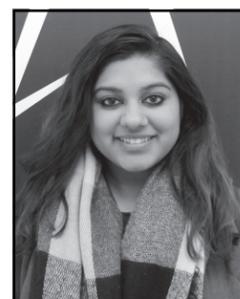
#### **Khang Nguyen**

Through his work as an event coordinator and treasurer for the World Club at the Hartford campus, Khang is committed to promoting events addressing diversity and the importance of learning about and understanding other cultures through community involvement. Khang organizes events to promote equality, such as International Women's Day, and promotes awareness of various cultures and traditions through events, such as the Lunar New Year celebration. Khang participates in the campus community by serving as a husky ambassador- he has also served our country as a member of the U.S. Army.



#### **Erica Petropoulos**

As a senior majoring in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Erica serves as president of the student organization Revolution Against Rape (RAR), where she raises awareness about sexual violence and works to eradicate gender-based violence on campus and in the greater community. Erica organizes and leads several educational awareness activities and fundraising events, such as the March to End Victim Blaming, which aims to end attitudes and beliefs that contribute to rape culture. Erica facilitates consent workshops at local high schools and also interns at Planned Parenthood.



#### **Aziz Sandhu**

Aziz is an active participant in the UConn Sikh Student Association and is also a leader in the alternative breaks program of Community Outreach and as a teaching assistant in First-Year Programs. It is through these leadership positions that Aziz has been able to share her culture and background with a broader group of students – helping to break down stereotypes and educate others about the Sikh community and its beliefs. Aziz has also been involved as a mentor as a Hayley Petit Injury and Violence Prevention Fellow at Connecticut Children's Medical Center. Through her community involvement, Aziz encourages her peers to be self-reflective and engage in empathy and understanding, rather than assumption and judgment.



#### **Sarina Shafiyani-Rad**

As president of the Iranian Student Association, Sarina has played a critical role in presenting a positive perspective of her culture and country on campus and addressing negative stereotypes present in society. Sarina planned and organized the Iranian New Year celebration, attended by hundreds of UConn students who ate, danced, and learned about Iranian culture. When the Muslim ban occurred last year, Sarina recognized the pain and difficulty members of her community were facing, and invited state senators to speak at the Iranian New Year event as a way to show support for the members of the Iranian society and its larger community.



#### **Ryan Trager**

As president of Alpha Epsilon Pi, the only Jewish fraternity on campus, Ryan is committed to raising awareness about the acceptance and understanding of Judaism. Ryan has promoted Jewish events through Hillel and Chabad to celebrate the Jewish culture and to promote the values and ideals of the organization and Judaism as a whole. Ryan has co-sponsored events including the Chabad-AEPi Purim Carnival, and hopes to continue promoting national events, such as Holocaust Remembrance Programs.