

Outstanding Student Awards

2008-09

First Year Nominees:

Jennifer Armstrong
Milan Chatterjee
Miyeko Inafuku
Merrick Hiton
Lalo Pacheco
Kari Storslett

Winners:

Our first winner of Distinguished First-Year Student is involved in the Pioneer Leadership Program, Delta Sigma Pi Business Fraternity, DU Community Leaders Corps, and is a Puksta and DU Chancellor's Scholar. This nominee also cofounded the DU Social Business Project and served on the planning committee for Denver Immersion 2009. Please congratulate **Jennifer Armstrong** as a Distinguished First Year Student for 2008-2009.

The second recipient of the Distinguished First-Year Student Award is in the University Honors Program at DU and is a 2-time Hornbeck Scholar for 4.0 GPA. He has served as First Year Senator on the AUSA Senate and recently won re-election to a position as Second Year Senator for the coming year. Outside of DU this nominee also volunteers his time with Colorado Legal Services assisting clients in need of Pro Bono legal assistance. Please congratulate **Milan Chatterjee** as a Distinguished First Year Student for 2008-2009.

Our third recipient of the Distinguished First-Year Student Award is also in the University Honors Program as well as being an outstanding student athlete at DU. This nominee balances a rigorous athletic training schedule with a challenging academic program in Electrical Engineering – both of which she excels in – and is also in the Environmental Awareness Living and Learning Community, and a member of the Society of Women Engineers. For her outstanding performance in academics and on the soccer field, we would like to congratulate **Kari Storslett** as a Distinguished First Year Student for 2008-09.

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The winner of the Outstanding First Year Student has been very active since arriving on campus. This nominee's resume clearly shows their commitment to DU and the local community over the past year. In addition to serving as a Community Organizer and Mentor to local high school students, this student is also an active member of the Social Justice Living and Learning Committee, the Latino Student Alliance AND Black Student Alliance, and served as a Student Coordinator for this year's Project Homeless Connect. The nominator for this student also recognized their "deep commitment to education." Please join me in congratulating **Lalo Pacheco** as the Outstanding First Year Student for 2008-2009.

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Sophomore Nominees:

Christopher Fettig

Hannah Goedert

Erin Hough

Cameron Lewis

Ericca McCutcheon

Aron Palma

Ella Peterson

Kacie Wikierak

Winners:

Our first winner of Distinguished Sophomore student is a member of the Pioneer Leadership Program, the DU Rotaract Club, and the Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. This year she served as a client services volunteer for Project Homeless Connect as well as a mentor to students at South High School. Her nominator said that “In my eight years at DU, I can honestly say that she has been one of the top most dedicated students I have seen working to succeed in academics and her community. Please congratulate **Hannah Goedert** as a Distinguished Sophomore Student for 2008-2009.

Our second Distinguished Sophomore student has been active at DU since first arriving on campus. In addition to being a Student Senator on AUSA Senate in both her first and second years, this student has also been actively involved with DUPB, as a member of the Traditions Committee and this year’s Winter Carnival Director, as well as serving as the Diversity Committee Chairperson for the Center for Multicultural Excellence. Please congratulate **Ericca McCutcheon** as a Distinguished Sophomore Student for 2008-2009.

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Our third Distinguished Sophomore Student is recognized for academic and athletic achievement at DU as well as a commitment to service in the local community. In addition to working toward a double major, this student has also been active in the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, as Treasurer and Chair of Community Service, and has been selected to represent DU at the NCAA Leadership Conference. When she is not on the volleyball court or in class, she also participates in DU's Conversation Partners program, teaching English to adults and students, and volunteers as a volleyball coach for young people in the Denver area. She is also a regular volunteer for the annual Project Homeless Connect. Please congratulate **Kacie Wikierak** as a Distinguished Sophomore Student for 2008-09.

The winner of the Outstanding Sophomore Student is very involved as a leader at DU. The nominator for this student said "He is one of those students who you will probably always remember, outstanding, humble, and passionately invested in his campus and community experience as an undergraduate." Examples of this student's involvement and academic commitment include: Puksta, Hornbeck, and Bryn Sara Linkow Scholar, Secretary of the Black Student Alliance, Member of the Engaged Community Initiative, and Organizer for Denver Immersion Week 2009. Off-campus, he also works with the Colorado Progressive Coalition in a project helping young men in the Denver Public School system create digital stories about their lives. Congratulations to **Cameron Lewis** for being selected as the 2008-2009 Outstanding Sophomore Student.

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Junior Nominees:

Lalu Abebe
Robert Cambria
Danielle Chandler
D.J. Close
Shelby Flora
Colleen Hall
Janeth Niebla
Antoine Perretta
Tyler Ruegsegger
David Simson
Christopher Turner
Ally Veneris

Winners:

The first recipient of the Distinguished Junior Student Award goes to a student who defines involvement at DU. In addition to being a Puksta Scholar and a Rotarian Leadership Scholar, this student is a member of the Pioneer Leadership Program, Sigma Chi Fraternity, and is a Discoveries Orientation Leader. He has also served as the Greek Council V.P. of Community Service and Philanthropy and is working to change the culture around community service and philanthropy within the entire Greek Community at DU. Please congratulate **D.J. Close** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Junior Student.

Our next recipient of the Distinguished Junior Student Award is incredibly involved throughout campus and in the local community. On campus, she is a member of the DU Community of Excellence and Pi Lambda Chi Latina Sorority Incorporated, a leader in the Engaged Community Initiative, a student group that grew out of the Community Leader Corps run by the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning, and Vice President of the DU Latino Student Alliance. Off-campus, she is a Board Member and Organizing Leader of Metro Organizations for People. Please join me in congratulating **Janeth Niebla** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Junior Student.

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The third recipient of the Distinguished Junior Student Award is a member of the DU Men's Tennis Team who maintains a 4.0 GPA as an International Business major. In addition to his academic and athletic achievements, he also serves as Chair of the Internal Affairs Committee for the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and is a member of the DU Pioneer Mentor Program. His nominator wrote, "Whether it is tennis, school, or his relationships, he does everything well. He is very disciplined and focused, and I have been able to witness, this year, how his hard work pays off. His teammates respect him as their leader, and they feed off his energy and work ethic." Please join me in congratulating **David Simson** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Junior Student.

The next recipient of the Distinguished Junior Student Award is making strong contributions to the DU community through activities sure to have a lasting impact. In addition to serving as a Resident Assistant on campus, he is also a Morgridge Community Scholar making significant strides in the area of Queer Issues at DU. He has helped create proposals for policies on Gender Neutral Housing and Restrooms and has been instrumental in the development of a Queer Studies Program through the Gender and Women's Studies department of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences. He is also secretary of the Undergraduate Women's Council and serves as an advocate for the Sexual Assault Survivors Advocate Network at DU. Please join me in congratulating **Christopher Turner** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Junior Student.

The final recipient of the Distinguished Junior Student Award is a Puksta and Chancellor's Scholar and a member of the Pioneer Leadership Program. She is a Discoveries Orientation Leader and has been the Director of Operations for the DUPB Traditions Committee since returning from her study abroad program this winter. In addition, she serves as a mentor to students at South High School and is a Study Abroad and International Service Learning Peer Advisor. Nominated by a fellow student, her nominator wrote, "In general, she personally thrives by extending herself to the campus and local communities with hopes of transforming each situation and leaving it better than she found it." Please

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join me in congratulating **Ally Veneris** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Junior Student.

The 2008-2009 Outstanding Junior Student Award has been involved all across campus. She has an impressive resume of service to DU over her past three years and upon returning from a study abroad program this winter she jumped right back into those activities without missing a beat. In addition to being in the Pioneer Leadership Program, Mortar Board, Golden Key, and Psi Chi National Honor Societies, and an El Pomar Scholar, her numerous activities include membership in Campus Crusade for Christ, Pioneer Partners (a tutoring program with local elementary and middle school students), and volunteering at the Anchor Center for Blind Children. She is also the Philanthropy Chair of her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, as well as a member of the Executive Board of Up 'Til Dawn, both of which work to raise funds for St. Jude's Children's Hospital. As if that wasn't enough, she has also continued her work with the B.F.F. Club, a mentoring program she founded for middle school girls at the Highline Academy that is designed to "build strong girls through the body, mind and heart." Please join me in congratulating **Danielle Chandler**, the 2008-2009 Outstanding Junior Student.

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Senior Nominees:

Charla Agnoletti
Sara Castellanos
Rachel Coughlin
Douglas Finn
Allison Heller
Monica Kumar
Jason Lundberg
Mary Jean O'Malley
Kyle Reppert
Kim Roesch
Scott Schwartz
Daliah Singer

Winners:

Our first Distinguished Senior Student Award goes to a Puksta Scholar with a 3.85 GPA in her double major of Sociology and Spanish. She is Co-Founder of the Engaged Community Initiative and is involved with the Community Connect Program at Manual High School. Her nominator said, "Through her unique collaborative leadership style, she has engaged students across campus in dialoguing about issues they see in the community and acting to address them." We are proud to award **Charla Agnoletti** a 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior Award.

Our next Distinguished Senior Student Award recipient is a highly motivated and active student on campus. This year in addition to serving as Vice President of Public Relations for her sorority, Delta Delta Delta, she also led the All Undergraduate Student Association Senate as President. Faced with a variety of opportunities and challenges in this position, her nominator wrote, "She brought messages to the students, which they did not really want to hear, with the greatest integrity. The message was likely at personal odds with her own opinion, yet she was able to deliver the message without compromising her values." The Denver Magazine also featured this student as "One to Watch" in their Spring 2009 issue. Graduating with a 3.84 GPA in Business Administration, we are proud to award **Monica Kumar** a 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior Award.

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Our next recipient of the 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior Award goes to a student who has certainly made a mark on the University of Denver. A member of the Pioneer Leadership Program, a member of Beta Alpha Psi, a founding member of one of the best known student organizations on campus, the DU Grilling Society, an AUSA Senator and Chair of the Finance Committee, and President of the DU Programming Board, this student has had a very busy senior year! In addition to these activities he was also instrumental in planning the First Annual Crimson and Gold Global Gala during the winter quarter and he is practically bursting with Pioneer Pride!! This student also serves as the DU Student Organizations Comptroller and will graduate with a 3.83 GPA in Accounting. Please join me in congratulating **Jason Lundberg** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior.

The next recipient of a Distinguished Senior Student Award has been very active in the local community as well as on campus. A Puksta, Chancellor's and Morgridge Community Scholar, this student has worked tirelessly on a project aimed at helping women make the transition from community living in a shelter environment to independent living. She also coordinated and participated in the Denver Immersion program at DU and has been a member of the Pioneer Leadership Program. In addition, she is Co-President of the DU Volunteers, a member of the DU Cheer Team, and a Bonfils Blood Drive coordinator. Graduating with a 3.92 GPA in Psychology, please join me in congratulating **Kimberly Roesch** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior.

Our final recipient of the 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior Award goes to a student who has participated in a variety of activities in her time at DU. Most recently, she has been involved with DU's Habitat for Humanity Project, been a member of the Student Media Board and served as Captain of the Club Volleyball team. Over the past year, she has also done an excellent job as Editor in Chief of DU's student newspaper, the Clarion. She has been on the Dean's list since entering DU and will graduate with a 3.96 GPA in Journalism Studies. Please congratulate **Daliah Singer** as a 2008-2009 Distinguished Senior.

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Finally, the Outstanding Senior Student award is proudly presented to a student whose involvement and service at DU has been truly exceptional. The faculty member who nominated this student had this to say, “She has not only excelled during her four years at DU but has been one of the most actively engaged students I have had the pleasure to meet.” She has received multiple scholarships from her major departments during her time at DU and is both a Daniels Fund and a Chancellor’s Scholar. Combining her majors in Political Science and Journalism Studies, during the 2008 Presidential Election, she was a regular contributor to the Clarion. For the past year she has served as AHUM Senator and the Chair of the AUSA Senate’s Sustainability Council. If you have heard of Recycle-mania or the Bike Share program that will start next year, then you know her work! In addition, she has volunteered countless hours to Project Homeless Connect and at local schools and homeless shelters, and has been involved in the Clinton Global Initiative University, a community service and leadership conference where she focused on Energy and Climate Change. She will graduate with a cumulative GPA of 3.8. **Mary Jean O’Malley**, “M.J.” to everyone who knows her, you are truly an Outstanding Senior Student! Congratulations!