

PIONEER AWARDS

2008-09

Nominees

Students:

Charla Agnoletti
Annelise Bailly
John Buchar
Adam Cole
Douglas Finn
Melissa Hermosillo
Jessica Hunter
Hannah Katz
Monica Kumar
Matt Lane
Jessica Lopez
Jason Lundberg
Kim Roesch
Caitlin Shea

Staff:

Frank Coyne
Ron Grahame



Winners:

Our first recipient is a staff member who has been an active member of the DU community for 20+ years. He has been a true student advocate. He has been a coach, a van driver, a fan and confidant, a mentor and a teacher. In a time when actions speak louder than words, this man is a true pioneer. Please join me in recognizing the amazing commitment of **Mr. Ron Grahame**

Our second staff award winner is a person who has a true love of students. His nominating letter states "In many ways, he is the heart and soul of our office...he has cultivated deep and meaningful relationships with a host of DU students, faculty, staff and community partners." Please recognize **Frank Coyne** for all he has done for the University of Denver in his 8 years of service.

PIONEER AWARDS

2008-09

Our first student recipient is an all around Pioneer. Her nominating letter states “As an athlete, this person has excelled, earning multiple All-American rankings and being part of two National Champion Ski Teams.” A second nominating letter states “She has embraced the challenge at every step and has been an outstanding representative of the university. “ Tonight we celebrate the commitment of **Annelise Bailly** to The University of Denver.

Our next recipient is a young woman who is active in a variety of campus leadership positions. From president of her sorority, to being actively involved in her major, she is a well-rounded, hard working student. Her letter states “Having served on 15+ various campus boards, teams and committees is enough to prove that she is a leader, but personally I view this student as the most influential peer leader to touch my life so far. Please join me in recognizing **Caitlin Shea** as a Pioneer in and out of class.

It is always powerful when a student nominates another for the Pioneer Award. This young man has been described by her peers as “one of the most influential and dedicated leaders on campus.” He has held numerous leadership positions in various student groups. His nominating letter states “Although he may be leaving our campus in June, his pioneering spirit will remain in the both the campus traditions he strengthened and also his fellow pioneers.” We congratulate **Matt Lane** for being a Pioneer in big and small ways.

Our next recipient is a woman who became involved early and did not stop. As a first year student she immediately became involved with Pioneer Leadership Program. She is a leader on campus and in the community. I know this nominator well and she writes “This year she has leveraged her lessons at DU to continue her legacy outside PLP, as an admissions fellow. This not only continues Pioneer spirit off campus, but also engages current students to engage in their communities on campus for the greater good. “ Congratulations to **Jess Hunter**.

PIONEER AWARDS

2008-09

Our next recipient has raised the bar for an entire community. Her nominating letter states “As immediate past president of the Panhellenic Council, she has made great strides to empower and support the women in the Greek community. She is not afraid to challenge the status quo and to stand up for what she believes to be right. She has been instrumental in creating change within the Greek community through greater accountability, an increased commitment to multiculturalism, and greater communication with the administration.” We would like to recognize **Hannah Katz** for all she has done for DU and the Greek community.

This young man “clearly demonstrates every value, skill and quality which DU would expect from a Pioneer,” his nominating letter starts. He is one of the students responsible for the “grilling” culture around campus. There is rarely a campus wide event where you don’t see the Grilling Society. That is the cumulative responsibility of this man. He became involved early on and as a senior is one of the most involved students at DU whether it be as President of DUPB, a student senator or hard at work as the Student Comptroller. He did all of this and maintained a 3.83 GPA. Please join me in congratulating **Jason Lundberg**.

Being a Pioneer means being on the cutting edge of your field... or sport. This next recipient has been heralded by the NCAA for his efforts. His letter includes this statement “Double gold medalist in the giant slalom and slalom, becoming only the 4th athlete in NCAA history to win both events at the same championship.” Not only is his individual performance impressive, it was his run that “sealed the victory for the Pioneers who were trailing until he crossed the finish line. For his exceptional talent and the legacy he leaves at DU we honor **John Buchar**.

Giving back to the community has been this person’s mantra since coming to DU. She has been committed to helping high school students have every opportunity for success. Her nominating letter states “With what seems like never ending energy, she displays an unfailing interest in people around her and brings a positive energy to every situation. She is determined and ambitious in achieving her goals, yet humble in recognizing that all her accomplishments are possible only through her relationships with others.” For all she has done please join me in recognizing **Charla Agnoletti**.

PIONEER AWARDS

2008-09

Our next recipient has been committed to not only DU but to the greater DU community since her first year. As a first year student she immediately became involved in “coaching DPS student to indentify issues that matter to them and work for change in their community.” As she grew so did her commitment, she has been a Puksta Scholar, and most recently became a Morgridge Community scholar. Her letter states “She has impacted the students she works with both here at DU and in the community in profound ways. She is a dedicated, passionate and energized campus community leader.” Please join me in recognizing **Kim Roesch**.

Our final recipient has also been a leader since her first days on campus. Her letter states “Oh the places she’ll go! She has been a true pioneer since arriving on campus, and will continue as one, likely for a lifetime: student leader, campus citizen, world citizen.” She has been featured as one to watch by the DU magazine. Her letter states that, “it is less about her leadership experience, which is substantial, and more about her inner strength which garners the respect of others at all levels,” peers, faculty, and trustees.” In her role as AUSA President, an office that hasn’t been occupied by a woman in 8 years, she is the representation of the undergraduates to the community. And she has done a great job! It would take the rest of the evening to list the many accomplishments of my co-host and for all of that we honor **Monica Kumar**, for her commitment to DU.

A big part of the campus community at the University of Denver is its student organizations. This year we wanted to honor groups that had a sustained commitment to the undergraduate students and whose pioneering efforts have made the community better for them being here. The nominating letter for this group states “In the bigger picture of a PIONEER, this group fits every dimension. The founders of this group realized that food is a catalyst to community and campus spirit. Further they knew they wanted to serve others by putting any excess funds into charity events. There we have it: the public good. So Hip Hip Hooray for the DU Grilling society!” Please join me in recognizing Jason Lundberg, Nick Phelps, Matt Lane, Jase Roberts and Jordan Hahn, and the **DU Grilling Society** for their positive impact on the DU Community.