SIXTH ANNUAL HONORS AWARD CEREMONY

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Honors Professor of the Year, 2010-2011

Ambassador Anthony Quainton, School of International Service

Fall 2010 Honors 101 Faculty

David Bosco, Fiona Brideoake, Frank DuBois,
Lauren Feldman, John Hyman, Benjamin Jensen,
Patrick Joyner, Joshua Lansky, Vandana Mathur,
Sarah Menke-Fish, Anthony Quainton, Roberta Rubenstein, Adam Tamashasky, Cynthia Bair Van Dam, Jessica Waters.

STAFF AWARD

Outstanding Contribution to the Honors Community

Adegboyega Adenekan, Project Coordinator, Office of University Architect, and the campus-wide team involved in the creation of the new Honors Program Center, Hughes Hall

Delmi Quintanilla, Housekeeper, Aramark
Maria Sanchez, Housekeeping Manager, Aramark

ALUMNI AWARD

Outstanding Honors Alumna

SPA Professor Jessica Waters, SPA/CAS ’98, WCL ’03

HONORS STUDENT NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND FINALISTS

2010 Harry S. Truman Scholarship

Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener; Finalists: Lauren Barr, Emily Pfefer

2010 NSEP/David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship

Kaitlyn Coogan, Amber Jolla, Malina Keutel, Grant Livingston; Alternate: Andrew Daly

2010 Killam Fellowship

Christopher Chevallier, Emily Phillips, Martin Ziech

2010 Morris K. Udall Scholarship

Alexander Thorp

STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Honors Freshman
Stephen Fredericks, Jenny Wu

Outstanding Honors Sophomore
Wyatt Gordon, Jose Morales, Terri Poxon-Pearson

Outstanding Honors Junior
Philip Cardarella, Christine Dolendo, Matthew Makowski,
Miranda Schaeffer

Outstanding Honors Senior
Lauren Anderson, Alexander Priest, Cassandra Ricketts, Günperi Sisman, Karun Tilak

Outstanding Leadership in the Honors Community
Ayal Chen-Zion, Emily Pfefer, Dylan Vogt

Honors Scholar Award
Shirin Karimi, David Menasche, Christopher Miller, Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener

STUDENT RECOGNITION

Fall 2010 Honors 101 Mentors
Kirsten Ashbaugh, Noah Benjamin, Avram Billig,
Rebecca Borton, Todd Carney, Minjun Chen, Michelle Cogut, Eileen Falk, Emily Fleitz, Courtney Forbes, Nora Gibson, Maddy Gregory, Sarah Hofgesang, Meredith Hollingsworth, Sara Jacobs, Kerianne Lartz, Medha Marsten, Jessica Micciolo, Emma Morgan, Pamela Oliver, Carrie Pfaff, Autumn Rauchwerk, Ida Rosenthal, John Scianimanico, Alex Severin, Jennifer Storozum, Dan White, Rachel White, Robyn Winz, Jaclyn Yeary.

2010 - 2011 Student Honors Board
Corinne Abolafia, Caitlin Allmaier, Ayal Chen-Zion
(President), Eileen Falk, Sam Hagedorn (Treasurer),
Katie Kawalchuk (Vice President), Emily Pfefer, Angela Smith
(Director of Communications), Dylan Vogt, Rachel White, Jenny Wu.

2007- 2011 Outstanding Service as Honors Student Staff Assistant
Kate Lindsey

SIXTH ANNUAL HONORS AWARD CEREMONY

UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM

FACULTY AWARD

Honors Professor of the Year, 2010-2011

Professor Anthony Quainton
Distinguished Diplomat in Residence, School of International Service
Co-Director, Center for North American Studies, American University

The University Honors Program is delighted to name School of International Service Professor Anthony Quainton as "Honors Professor of the Year for 2010-2011" for his record of exceptional service to and teaching in the Honors community. Ambassador Quainton is highly committed to his Honors students. He has served as an active faculty mentor in the Honors 101 freshman orientation program and as a dedicated Capstone advisor and charismatic Honors Colloquium professor. Students find him engaging and supportive in and beyond his classroom. He goes far beyond his duties in his effort to aid and encourage students who seek his assistance. For the faculty standard he sets, we salute Ambassador Quainton with the distinction of Honors Professor of the Year.

Ambassador Quainton, Distinguished Diplomat-in-Residence in the School of International Service, has served as ambassador to the Central African Republic, Nicaragua, Kuwait and Peru. His Honors Colloquium, "Peru: Where Two Worlds Meet," has twice been coupled with Honors Study/Travel trips to Peru, the most recent last month. In addition to teaching other Honors courses and Honors colloquia, Ambassador Quainton is in the process of developing an Honors Colloquium for the fall looking back on 9/11 after a decade. Ambassador Quainton is that "ideal citizen" of any organization that he joins. He is never too busy to advise an Honors student, give a "Tea Talk" or present a "mock class" to prospective Honors students and their families. The University Honors Program takes great pride and pleasure in its association with and in honoring Ambassador Quainton, a highly valued and distinguished member of our Honors Community.

STAFF AWARDS

Outstanding Contribution to the Honors Community

Adegboyega Adenekan, Project Coordinator, Office of University Architect

Creating a welcoming community is a high priority to the University Honors Program and, in pursuing this all-important mission, Honors has a great partner in Adegboyega Adenekan. As Project Coordinator for the Office of University Architect, Ade has worked, with the aid of his excellent team, to help us make the dream of a Hughes Hall Honors Living/Learning Center a reality. As Honors gave up its sunny well-established home in Hurst Hall on the quad for a move to a dark hallway in a residence hall, we had some concerns. It was hard to imagine how this space would ever be the new home for Honors. As Project Manager for the new Center, Ade met with us, heard our concerns and somehow was able to transform our needs into this open, light, welcoming space that we now occupy in Hughes Hall. Beyond his vision and imagination, Ade had the determination and skill to navigate through all the "bumps in the road" and to work with his dedicated team to make all of the pieces fit together.

Ade's great work on this project reflects his experience and training. Graduating with a Master of Science in Architecture from the University of Ife, Nigeria in 1990, Ade lived and worked in England for a few years, acquiring additional training in his field. Moving to the United States in 2000, he joined AU's Office of University Architect in 2002. An architect with associate status of the American Institute of Architects, Ade has been a part of AU's efforts in planning and upgrading campus facilities and has collaborated on several projects, including the remodeled executive office suites at 3201 New Mexico Avenue, the interior design of the new Davenport Lounge, and the adaptation of Buckminster Fuller's Dymaxion map on the exterior of the new School of International Service building.

In presenting this award, Honors would also like to recognize Ade's key partners in the overall project, including University Architect Gerard Gager, Assistant University Architect Michael Purcell, Construction Coordinator Adesanmi Fajemisin and student Ximena

Escobar, all from AU's Office of the University Architect. We also would like to acknowledge with Ade the great support he received from the following individuals and units: *Facilities Management*: George Merchant and Sam Yankson, among others; *Housing and Dining*: Jason Autry, Sophia Benedicktus, Paul Brown, Chris Moody, and Rick Treter; and *OIT*: Stephen Kelly, Avenash Nanan and colleagues. It is with great pleasure that we recognize Ade for his "Outstanding Contribution to the University Honors Community," and his campus partners, in helping us imagine and create this new functional and attractive center for our University Honors Program.

Delmi Quintanilla, Aramark Housekeeper
Maria Sanchez, Aramark Housekeeping Manager

For an Honors Community, it is critical to have a place to serve as the home of the University Honors Program. This "home away from home" for our Honors students needs to be inviting and tidy. During the last decade, that home was our Honors Center in Hurst Hall and veteran Aramark Housekeeper Delmi Quintanilla, fully supported by her supervisor Maria Sanchez, performed a critical function in making sure that the 206 suite in Hurst Hall would look and feel in a way that always allowed us to welcome students warmly.

Delmi is responsible for the daytime maintenance of the entire Hurst building – classrooms, office suites, stairs and stairwells, lavatories, and laboratories. Anyone who has ever visited Hurst can immediately appreciate the challenge it might be keeping this, our oldest of campus buildings, looking its best. But making Hurst Hall and the Honors Center shine is just what Delmi managed to do – and so well – day in and day out, and always with remarkable cheerfulness. Whether handling routine chores or meeting Honors' special requests on high-volume visitor days, whatever needed doing, Delmi was always ready and willing to help. A native of El Salvador, Delmi arrived at AU in 1990 and ever since has been a credit to her employer, according to Aramark Housekeeping Manager Maria Sanchez. "Delmi is a model worker who is very responsible and rarely takes a day off," Maria says. "She sees her job broadly and when something needs doing, she addresses it immediately. She is proactive and professional in all that she does." She is noted for her quiet manner, but her regard and respect for others speak loudly about her character and essence of her work. "Delmi is very fond of people" and helping people is her mission. She sees herself as a part of the AU team. Indeed she truly is.

Since her arrival at AU in 2006, Maria Sanchez has been busy managing the maintenance of AU's academic buildings and the work of 27 housekeepers, including honoree Delmi Quintanilla. She also substitutes wherever and whenever she is needed on campus. Maria also is originally from El Salvador and clearly shares with Delmi the same sense of responsibility and tremendous work ethic, and connection to the AU community. "I feel part of the AU family, so much so that I really want to come into work each and every day," she says. Like Delmi, Maria is dedicated to excellence and committed to delivering the best service possible, and sees a direct connection between her work and the overall success of AU in attracting students to this institution. This was apparent in all she did, along with Delmi, to make our Hurst Honors Center a "home away from home" for our students.

It is with great pleasure that we recognize two special women, Delmi Quintanilla and Maria Sanchez, for their outstanding contributions to the University Honors Community.

ALUMNI AWARD

Outstanding Honors Alumna

Professor Jessica Waters, SPA/CAS, 1998; WCL 2003

The University Honors Program takes great pride and pleasure in recognizing Jessica Waters, who graduated from AU in 1998 *summa cum laude* and with University Honors, with a double major in Women Studies and Communication, Law, Economics and Government. She also received her Juris Doctorate from the Washington College of Law *summa cum laude* in 2003.

When Jessica Waters joined the SPA faculty as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice, Law and Society she quickly became known for her rigorous and enthusiastic teaching, as evidenced by extraordinary teaching evaluations. Before long she was identified by Honors students as "one of their own" and she has been increasingly asked to serve as an Honors Capstone Advisor. In addition to her continued scholarship and exceptional teaching, Professor Waters serves as the coach for the Mock Trial Team and has developed a course dedicated to Mock Trials. She has mentored many Honors students through successful Mock Trial competitions.

Prior to joining the AU faculty, Professor Waters was a litigator at WilmerHale, where she specialized in criminal defense and reproductive rights cases, and also clerked for the Honorable Emmet Sullivan on the Washington, D.C., District Court.

For her dedication, skill and caring for Honors students and the Honors Community, we honor Jessica Waters with the 2011 Outstanding Honors Alumni Award.

STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Honors Freshman

Stephen Fredericks *(International Studies)* has been at AU only a short time, but is off to a fantastic start. Stephen distinguished himself in the classroom by achieving a 4.0 GPA last fall. In addition to his academic pursuits, he is a contributing writer for the Eagle and AmWord. Stephen also has a strong commitment to the community, reflected in his membership in and work with AU's Philosophical Society and American University Queers and Allies. Honors is pleased to recognize Stephen Fredericks with an Outstanding Honors Freshman Award.

Jenny Wu *(Biology)* stands out in both her contributions to the Honors community and in her academic work at AU. Elected as one of three freshman members to the Student Honors Board, Jenny served as a co-chair for the highly successful Brain Bowl event, and she is always being ready to volunteer her assistance when needed. She is a member of the AU Chorus and volunteers with DC Reads, and worked as a research assistant on an anti-cancer lab alongside a Chemistry professor at AU. On top of her activities, she achieved a 4.0 GPA last fall. Honors is proud to recognize Jenny Wu as an Outstanding Honors Freshman.

Outstanding Honors Sophomore

Wyatt Gordon *(International Studies*), a Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange participant prior to AU, has successfully continued to explore international diplomacy interests. Wyatt enrolled in local university courses in Malang, Indonesia, in summer 2010, as a recipient of a Critical Language Scholarship. This experience led to his presentations at Yale University's Conference on Indonesian Studies and the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Returning to Washington, D.C. last August, he has been working part time at the U.S. Department of State Bureau of Diplomatic Security, where he deepens his understanding of U.S. diplomatic relations. He maintains a cumulative 3.96 GPA, earning Dean's List honors each semester, while being actively involved on AU's volleyball, cricket and crew teams, as well as with the German Club. Wyatt has demonstrated leadership in his role as the Black Student Alliance's Intercultural Liaison and as founder of AU's Bike Club. Honors is pleased to present Wyatt Gordon with an Outstanding Honors Sophomore Award in recognition of his exceptional academic achievement and leadership.

Jose Morales *(Political Science*) maintains a remarkably strong GPA while demonstrating outstanding leadership. His Academic Advisor nominating Jose for the award describes him as a "very bright, dedicated, hard-working student" and no doubt it is these qualities that have helped him earn Dean's List honors in each of his three semesters at AU. Pursuing an Undergraduate Certificate in SPA's Advanced Leadership Studies, Jose has directed a social action play and assisted his Human Rights Issue Group, partnering with area community service organizations to compile a resources directory. Active in Student Government, initially as Freshman Class President and currently as Director of Outreach and Recruitment, Jose has also held positions in Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. He has also found time to take part in theatre and musical performance groups, the AU Players and On a Sensual Note. Given such academic success and involvement and engagement on campus, Honors is pleased to select Jose Morale as an Outstanding Honors Sophomore.

Terri Poxon-Pearson *(Physics and Political Science)* is outstanding – in and out of the classroom. In her brief time at AU, Terri has earned the high regard of her professors who find her to be a dedicated, insightful and amicable student, lab assistant and teaching assistant. According to her faculty member nominator, as a student, Terry "engages with the material at the highest level and is thorough and prepared." As an assistant, she "combines the highest standards of quality and professionalism with good-natured cheer." Along with earning Dean's List honors each semester at AU, Terri has contributed to AU's presentation at the Science and Engineering Festival Exposition on the National Mall and serves as the Internal Communications Officer in the new AU student organization, Women in Science. She is also president of AU's highly competitive Club Field Hockey Team and an active member of the Episcopal campus ministry. Honors acknowledges Terri's academic and leadership excellence by presenting her with an Outstanding Honors Sophomore Award.

Outstanding Honors Junior

Philip Cardarella *(Political Science)* is to be commended for balancing academic excellence and service to community. While maintaining a nearly perfect GPA, Philip has been highly active on campus. He has served as fundraising chair and treasurer of the SPA Leadership Steering Committee and is Chief of Staff for AU Student Government. Involved in Model United Nations activities since winning the Kansas City Outstanding Model UN Student Award, Phil has been chair of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee of AU's Model United Nations Conference for two years. He founded and directs Just Justice, an AU awareness campaign to address partisan corruption in the U.S. Department of Justice during the Bush administration. Phil Cardarella is indeed an Outstanding Honors Junior.

Christine Dolendo *(Public Communication)* excels as a scholar and stands out as a leader at AU. Also a Biochemistry minor, Christine aims for medical school after graduation. Toward that goal, she has volunteered as a research assistant at the Center for Molecular Physiology of Children's National Hospital Center and Washington Hospital Center Emergency Room. She is founder and president of Hand-In-Hand, Inc., which provides a variety of medical and humanitarian services to those in need in the Philippines, an Academic Support Center supplemental instruction leader for General Chemistry, tutor for communication and science courses and contributor to AU's science magazine *Catalyst*. She is also founder and president of the Philippine Student Association. Honors is pleased and proud to recognize Christine Dolendo as an Outstanding Honors Junior for her scholastic success and community and professional efforts.

Matthew Makowski *(Biology)*, says the faculty member who nominated him for recognition, is a "renaissance man," making his mark at AU in a variety of ways. Matthew has excelled academically (3.92 GPA) and in his role as a research assistant searching for gene analogs in two species, A. mellifera and A. pisum. He presented his findings at the Robyn Mathias Student Research Conference. A member of the Pre-Health Society, Matthew plans to attend medical school. He earned third place in the "Writer as Witness" writing contest and had his short fiction published in the campus *AmLit* literary magazine (spring 2009 and 2010 issues). A stand-out student-athlete, Matthew has been named "Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year" (fall 2010) and "Men's Soccer Patriot League Rookie of the Year" (fall 2008). A role model for his teammates and fellow Honors students, Matthew Makowski is truly an Outstanding Honors Junior.

Miranda Schaeffer *(International Studies)* is exemplary not only for her 3.98 GPA, but for success in making connections between classroom concepts and the outside world. Miranda has researched a range of topics, from U.S. education policy to the impact of international organizations on Chilean child labor. She has tutored through DC Reads and Community Leaders Advancing in Spanish and English (CLASE) and serves as the president of AU's Peace and Empowerment Project, which aims to improve the lives of women and children in developing countries. Miranda won an honorable mention in the AU Library's 2010 competition for Best Undergraduate Research Paper and will present at the 2011 National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Miranda Schaeffer is highly worthy of recognition as an Outstanding Honors Junior.

Outstanding Honors Senior

Lauren Anderson *(Journalism)* has proven herself an exceptional student and community member. Lauren has been highly dedicated in her role as the SOC Ambassador Coordinator. She has organized committees to plan events for current SOC students, connected with SOC alumni on behalf of the student body, developed a mentor program for first-year SOC students, and developed a blog and web profiles for prospective students. She chose to "give back" to the Honors community by serving as a fall 2008 Honors 101 mentor. Putting her education to good use, Lauren has already secured employment after her May graduation with a PR firm where she interned as a sophomore. Honors congratulates Lauren Anderson on her accomplishments and proudly names her an Outstanding Honors Senior.

Alexander Priest *(Business Administration and Public Communication)* is a dedicated and charismatic student who is emphatically leaving his mark at AU. Alex has been a leader in a variety of student organizations including the Student Honors Board, Pep Band, Alpha Kappa Psi, and Public Relations Student Society of America. Recently, he started a new campus group, the Social Media Club, which is host of workshops, a panel on social media in the classroom at the Ann Ferren Teaching Conference, and April conference on the use of social media in education. Along with maintaining a top GPA (3.96), Alex has contributed to the research projects of Kogod marketing faculty and has been asked to give guest lectures in AU courses. Lauded by his professors for his "motivation, integrity, and extraordinary performance," Alex Priest is an Outstanding Honors Senior.

Cassandra Ricketts *(Biochemistry)* has been a top student throughout her years at AU, maintaining a 3.9 GPA, and a model of service to others. Cassandra demonstrates the academic dedication to pursue her career goal – becoming an orthopedic surgeon. Beyond the classroom, she has been team captain for the AU volleyball team and honored as the "2010 Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year" for Volleyball. As a volleyball team member, she volunteered at the National Women and Sports Day at AU, encouraging and inspiring young girls to become involved in athletics and academics. A member of the Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society since 2007, Cassandra has participated in the Breast Cancer Walk, AIDS fundraiser and Relay for Life. Cassandra Ricketts is highly deserving of the title "Outstanding Honors Senior."

Günperi Sisman *(International Studies)* is an remarkable student and leader committed to academic rigor and international service, as reflected in her activities at AU and beyond. President of the Sigma Iota Rho, the honors society for international studies, Gunperi has served as a University College program associate and student body representative, and as AU International Student and Scholar Services international student advisor. She presented at the 2008 SIS Annual Undergraduate Research Symposium, moderated a panel of undergraduate presenters at the 2009 conference, and served as 2010 conference program chair. She has been an intern at AU's Peacebuilding and Development Institute and a legal research intern in the office of the President of North Cyprus, as well as legal researcher the Cyprus Human Rights Foundation. An associate editor at the Journal of International Relations, she is also a Turkish translator for the nonprofit TED. For the quality and breadth of her accomplishments, Honors takes great pleasure in recognizing Gunperi Sisman, truly an Outstanding Honors Senior.

Karun Tilak *(Economics and International Studies)* is an exemplary student, earning a perfect GPA (4.0), while challenging himself with the most difficult Honors courses. Karun spent a full year at the London School of Economics, where he took courses in advanced economic and international relations and achieved grades that were "first class" – at the very top at this prestigious institution. A recipient of a U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship for study in Amman, Jordan, Karun spent nearly three months learning intensive Arabic and engaging in cultural events. He also presented a paper on regional trade agreements at the SIS Undergraduate Research Symposium. Quite active on campus, he served as vice president and chairman of the International Affairs Committee, and comptroller of the School of International Service Council. Karun's current challenge: deciding whether to attend Columbia, Harvard or Yale Law School, which have all accepted this gifted young man. It is with great pleasure that Honors names Karun Tilak as an "Outstanding Honors Senior."

Outstanding Leadership in the Honors Community

Ayal Chen-Zion *(Mathematics and Economics)* has been a member of the Student Honors Board (SHB) for the past three years, twice chairing the annual Variety Show, and now serving as the group's president. With Ayal's leadership, SHB has emerged and flourished as an independent body, enhanced its working relationship with the Honors Program and its students, and sponsored many successful events this year. Ayal also serves as deputy director of academic affairs for Student Government and is a student representative on AU's Hillel Governing Board. He has interned at Morgan Stanley Smith Barney, U.S. Department of Agriculture and Sage Policy Group, Inc., and now works as a research assistant in Kogod's Department of Management. He has participated in the Kogod Case Competition and at the Deloitte "Battle of the Beltway" Case Competition and this weekend, he will present his Capstone research at the Eastern Economic Association Conference. By his work with Honors and beyond, Ayal Chen-Zion has demonstrated that he is an exemplary leader and the University Honors Program is proud to recognize him for his contributions.

Emily Pfefer *(Political Science and Communication, Legal Institutions, Economics and Government)* is an outstanding Honors student in all respects. Emily has served as the community service chair on the Student Honors Board (SHB) for three years, and this academic year is coordinating SHB's volunteer efforts at the Women's Collective and for the AIDS Walk. A co-chair for SHB's fall 2010 Brain Bowl, she also served as a liaison between SHB and the MacFarland Middle School library, the recipient of the 2010 SHB Thanksgiving dinner proceeds. She is also a Truman Scholarship finalist and a Public Policy Fellow for the American Association of University Women. Beyond her deep commitment to community service and political activism, Emily has maintained a perfect 4.0 GPA. Emily Pfefer is an inspirational leader who carries herself with dignity, strength and poise. Honors is grateful for her service and delighted to present Emily with this well-deserved recognition.

Dylan Vogt *(Accounting)* joined the Honors program as a transfer to the university in fall 2009 and within a year was instrumental in the development of an improved Honors Transfer Mentor Program. The success of this year's programming is due in large part to Dylan's profound initiative, dedication and charisma. Dylan brainstormed program ideas, presented a proposal to Honors directors, saw the events through their planning and implementation, and continues to follow up with program participants. Dylan volunteers

his time outside of organized events to meet with both fall and spring transfer students and do his part to ensure their comfortable transition to Washington, D.C., AU and the Honors Community. He is an active member of the Student Honors Board and a passionate student eager to enhance the academic and social experiences of others. The Honors Program gives this award to Dylan in appreciation and recognition of his excellent leadership contributions to the program.

Honors Scholar Award

Shirin Karimi *(Literature*) is an exemplary senior, ambitiously pursuing academic and professional greatness in both the arts and sciences. Her academic success is evident through her selection for the Alpha Lambda Delta Honors Society, the Victor Hassine Memorial Scholarship and Tacenda Literary Short Story Award for her story, "The Desperation Diaries," published as the lead story in *BleakHouse Review*, to name just a few of her achievements. Shirin has volunteered at the Pediatric Oncology clinic of the Lombardi Cancer Center of Georgetown University Hospital. She balances academics and service with her roles as consulting editor of BleakHouse Publishing, co- editor of AU's *Catalyst c*cience magazine, and editor-in-chief and contributor to *Tacenda* literary magazine. Drawing inspiration from her volunteer work with cancer patients and her study of the writings and reflections of prison inmates, Shirin has produced a book of poems entitled, *Enclosures: Reflections for the Prison Cell and the Hospital Bed*, earning her praise as "a brave new voice in medical poetry" from Dr. Christine Montross, author of *Body of Work: Reflection on Mortality from the Anatomy Lab.* Shirin's extraordinary accomplishments and dedication make her a worthy recipient of the Honors Scholar Award.

David Menasche *(Mathematics and Economics and Physics*) is truly an Honors Scholar. David has conducted significant research beyond the classroom and presented three independent projects at the Robyn Rafferty Mathias Research Conference, one of which won best poster in the natural sciences. He will present two more projects this spring. David has worked as a Research Assistant at NASA Goddard Spaceflight Center, as part of AU's Space Grant Consortium. At NASA, he built and serviced solid state and fiber optic laser systems. He has also won a nationally competitive scholarship through the German Academic Exchange (DAAD-RISE program) and studied acoustical scattering in Berlin. David will pursue doctoral studies in the fall, in hopes of launching as career in applied physics. Beyond studies and involvement as a General Education Faculty Assistance Program teaching assistant of Physics, David has a record of service as a four-year starter for the AU Rugby Football Club (AURFC), an assistant editorial page editor at *The Eagle*, president of the Society of Physics Students and AURFC, and as an Honors 101 mentor and Student Honors Board member. Honors commends David for his extraordinary scholarship and excellence as an AU student.

Chris Miller *(Law and Society and Political Science*) is an ambitious senior with laudable academic and professional accomplishments. He is praised by his nominating professor as "an intelligent, energetic, and passionate advocate of justice." On target to graduate summa cum laude, Chris will pursue a law degree at Georgetown University Law Center. He has experience in legal research and appellate work through legal research positions with the DC Public Defender Service and Boies, Schiller, and Flexner, LLP, and volunteer service with the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project. Chris has recently co-authored a law review article arguing against life without parole sentences as applied to juveniles, to be published this fall in the University of Maryland *Journal of Race, Religion, Gender and Class*. Chris works as a contributing editor for *BleakHouse Review* and *Tacenda* literary magazine. He has published original poems, and also selected and introduced the poems contained in the anthology, *A Zoo near You*, authoring an introductory essay, "Forgotten Soul." Chris has received several awards, including the prestigious Victor Hassine Memorial Scholarship and an AU Trailblazer Award. Honors Program is pleased and proud to name Chris Miller an "Honors Scholar."

Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener *(Advanced Leadership Studies and Political Science*) is an outstanding Honors scholar as reflected in her tremendous record of academic accomplishments. A 2007 Toyota Community Scholar and a Robert C. Byrd Scholar, Kelsy was named a Truman Scholar in 2010. She won the "Best Poster" award at the AU School of Public Affairs Research Symposium and presented original research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research and Eastern Communication Association Undergraduate Scholars Conference. At the latter, her paper was rated among the top four of more than 125 submissions. Kelsey has served as Student Government's director of student health and services and is the founder and president of *Minds over Meters*, a diabetes advocacy organization at AU. For all she has achieved, Kelsey Stefanik-Sidener is highly deserving of the title, "Outstanding Honors Scholar."