SEVENTH ANNUAL HONORS AWARD CEREMONY
UNIVERSITY HONORS PROGRAM, FEBRUARY 22, 2012

AWARDS AND OTHER RECOGNITION

FACULTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Outstanding Faculty Award
Diane Singerman, SPA

Fall 2011 Honors 101 Faculty
Lilian Baeza-Mendoza, Elizabeth Cohn, John Doolittle, Bryan Fantie, Lauren Feldman, John Hyman, Patrick Thaddeus Jackson, Michael Keynes, Joshua Lansky, Sarah Menke-Fish, Matthew Pascocello, Anthony Quainton, Rachel Louise Snyder, and Jessica Waters.

STAFF AWARD

Outstanding Contribution to the Honors Community
Myle Luong, Senior Application Developer
Enterprise Systems, Office of Information Technology

Help Desk and Tech Support
Customer Services and Support, Office of Information Technology

ALUMNI AWARD

Outstanding Honors Alumnus
Greg Grauman, SOC/SPA ’99

HONORS STUDENT NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS AND FINALISTS

David L. Boren Undergraduate Scholarship
Minjun Chen, Joseph Chmielewski, Jonathan Freimark, Wyatt Gordon, Kara Naseef, Taylor Sutton, Christine Valentine

Critical Language Scholarship
Jaim Coddington, Jeremy Cohen, Maura Farrell, Wyatt Gordon, Grant Livingston, Bryan Yannantuono, Emily Yox

Fulbright-Hays Grant
Jonathan Freimark (recipient)

Fulbright Grant
Alyssa Frederick (semi-finalist), Grant Livingston (semi-finalist), Miranda Schaeffer (semi-finalist), Allison Sylvester (semi-finalist)

Benjamin A. Gilman Scholarship
Jacqueline Baumgartner, Alexandra Langton, Sophia Higgins

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Earnest F. Hollings Undergraduate Scholarship
Tasia Poinsatte, Autumn Rauchwerk

Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowship
Nora Brito

National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Research Fellowship
Andrew Menefee (AU nominee)

Public Policy and International Affairs Fellowship
Nora Brito, Minjun Chen, Maxwell Matite, Jose Morales, Tyler Tillett
Alternates: Melissa Chang, Tonei Glavinic

Rhodes Scholarship
Matthew Makowski (finalist)

Harry S. Truman Scholarship
Nathan Bronstein, Carol Foster (finalists)

STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Honors Freshman
Joseph Gruenbaum, Jonathan Wallen

Outstanding Honors Sophomore
Sarah Floyd, Matthew Lien, Meryl Nolan

Outstanding Honors Junior
Cassandra Baker, Zoe Bollinger, Andrew Menefee, Brian Weinstein, Julia White

Outstanding Honors Senior
Elise Alexander, Alexander Burchfield, Jett Choquette, Jeremy Cohen, Grant Livingston, Benjamin Mainwaring, Steven Moss, Michelle Nadeau, Margaret Palermo, Dhruv Sarin, Miranda Schaeffer, Allison Sylvester

Outstanding Leadership in Honors
Falon Dominguez, William Hea, Ashley Rose Stumbaugh

Outstanding Leadership in the Community
Nora Brito, Meredith Lukow

Honors Scholars and Artists Award
Claire Callahan, Courtney Forbes, Alyssa Frederick, Jonathan Freimark, Russell Gasdia, William Hea, Matthew Makowski, John Stefos

RECOGNITION OF HONORS 101 STUDENT MENTORS AND STUDENT HONORS BOARD

Honors 101 is a peer-mentor orientation program for Honors freshmen. First-year students are divided into small groups and are partnered with faculty and student mentors.

Fall 2011 Honors 101 Co-Chairs and Mentors
Cienna Breen, Alyssa Briggs (co-chair), Robert Coy, Robyn Winz, Emily Fleitz, Hannah Kulakow, Catherine Schweitzer, Matthew Espie, Nick Pilipowskyj, Gabrielle Favorito, Saba Tabriz, Justine Payton, Kristina Hsu, Katie Sullivan, Sarah Pfirman, Rachel White (co-chair), and Erin Wuebbens.

The Student Honors Board represents Honors students and plans events, service projects, and other activities for the entire Honors community.

2011-2012 Student Honors Board

Corinne Abolafia (Secretary), Caitlin Allmaier, Francesca Cameron, Sean Dugdale (Director of Communication), Gabrielle Favorito, Samuel Hagedorn (President), Tyler Jacobs, Katelyn Kawalchuk, Stephanie Pan, Nageen Qasim, Angela Smith (Vice President), Taryn Stansbury, and Kathryn Sullivan (Treasurer).

CITATIONS

STUDENT AWARDS

Outstanding Honors Freshman

*This selective award recognizes Honors freshmen who have a strong academic record and who demonstrate exemplary leadership or service***.**

Joseph Gruenbaum (*International Studies and Economics*) is an AU Global Scholar who has won praise for his probing mind and "superb" skills as a writer. His insightful responses to course readings and critical questions push his classmates and professors to think harder about the material. Outside of the classroom, Joseph writes for *The Eagle* and *AWOL* and is a member of the French Club and Global Scholars Scholarship Improvement Committee.

Jonathan Wallen (*Economics)* is recognized by his professors as a student willing to take intellectual risks who understands material designed for students at higher levels. In his first semester, Jonathan registered for Intermediate Microeconomics, a course with mostly sophomores and juniors. He mastered the material and even worked independently beyond the course curriculum. He now serves as a teaching assistant for the Western Legal Tradition course.

Outstanding Honors Sophomore

This selective award recognizes Honors sophomores who have a strong academic record and who demonstrate exemplary leadership or service.

Sarah Floyd (*Public Communication*) has served as an SOC Student Ambassador, working with prospective students and mentoring first-semester SOC students. Sarah chairs the Committee for Building Community that enhances onnections among SOC students and fosters an inclusive atmosphere within SOC. She also participates in Women's Initiative and AU's Ultimate Frisbee Club. Beyond campus, Sarah interns for D.C. School Reform, where she manages its website and social media presence.

Matthew Lien (*Political Science*) is the president of the AU Chapter of D.C. Students Speak. In this role, he is a strong voting rights advocate for residents of Washington, D.C. With fellow Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars, Matthew is also developing three Clinton Global Initiative University projects. His faculty nominator praises his strong commitment to scholarship and to service.

Meryl Nolan (*Law and Society* and *History*) has been a student research assistant for the Justice Programs office and an undergraduate teaching assistant for JLS Professor Douglas Klusmeyer and his Western Legal Tradition Honors course. In nominating Meryl, faculty and staff alike praise her intelligence and her "remarkable" work ethic, as well as her attention to detail and ability to synthesize material concisely and effectively. They are also impressed by her organizational and leadership skills. These were evident in her work for the JLS Undergraduate Task Force, including her extraordinary coordination of the group's 200-page report. Meryl has served as an intern at the U.S. Department of Commerce. She is also a contributing editor to BleakHouse Publishing and the Director of Academic Affairs for AU's Student Government.

Outstanding Honors Junior

This selective award recognizes Honors juniors who have a strong academic record and who demonstrate exemplary leadership or service.

Cassandra Baker (*Biology*) has worked as a research assistant for CAS Professor Victoria Connaughton, exploring the effects of environmental glucose levels on insulin production and the retina of zebrafish. Cassandra also participated in Harvard's Summer Program in Quantitative Sciences, analyzing the impact of the *Vibrio cholorae* bacterium on vaccination campaigns. She presented her findings to faculty mentors at Harvard's School of Public Health. Cassandra has worked as a Resident Assistant to create a supportive environment for her fellow students and served as an AU Ambassador. She has designed and fitted costumes for numerous shows staged by AU's Department of Performing Arts. She also serves as the Secretary and Hospitality Coordinator for the United Methodist Student Association.

Zoe Bollinger (*International Studies*) is an "inquisitive scholar" and a "natural leader," according to one of her nominators. She co-chaired the SIS Undergraduate Research Symposium and coordinated student speakers at the event. She presented on digital manifestations of polychromic and monochromic cultural time perceptions at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. A member of Phi Beta Kappa, Zoe is pursuing minors in French and Chinese. She studied at Sciences Po in Paris last fall and is now enrolled in a semester-long Mandarin immersion program in Bejing. She was the sole undergraduate representative on the SIS Dean's search committee and made her mark, according to faculty who served with her. She has been Secretary, Vice President, and is now President of the SIS Undergraduate Council. She helped establish *Saturdays at SIS*, arranging monthly presentations with different international student groups within SIS.

Andrew Menefee (*International Studies*) has been praised for his research skills, his sophisticated writing, and the depth and breadth of his knowledge of social movements and minority communities in Latin America and the Deep South. According to one of his professors, he always pursues the most challenging questions and offers valuable insight into whatever he researches. Applying his research skills and experience in community organizing, Andrew is exploring the impact of social stigma and conspiracy theories on the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the Deep South. The AU nominee for this year's National Collegiate Honors Council Portz Research Fellowship hopes to continue his research through patient interviews in Alabama. Andrew has been a volunteer tutor with Community Learners Advancing in Spanish and English (CLASE) and will participate in the AU alternative break to Cuba.

Brian Weinstein (*Physics*) assumes significant and challenging scholarly work and presents the information in "precise, clear, and creative ways," according to his nominator. He is a model to his peers as a committed teaching assistant and weekly tutor in mathematics and physics. Brian collaborated with fellow students to help host the *Science Spooktacular*, a science-themed haunted house staged for local school children, and he supported an exhibit for the *USA Science andEngineering Festival* on the National Mall. Brian's track record as a leader includes experience as a Resident Assistant and as Residence Hall Association Chief of Staff.

Julia White (*International Studies* and *Language and Area Studies*) has been nominated for a Truman Scholarship. She has made important contributions to SIS, including developing programming for students in the International Communication program. Last fall, Julia was chosen as the student representative on the SIS Undergraduate Task Force evaluating the curriculum and undergraduate activities within SIS. Her contributions and commitment won high praise from faculty serving with her. As president of the SIS Undergraduate Council, she has helped to develop new SIS programming and she has impressed faculty and staff by her work ethic and professionalism.

Outstanding Honors Senior

This selective award recognizes Honors seniors who have a strong academic record and who demonstrate exemplary leadership or service.

Elise Alexander (*International Studies* and *Religious Studies*) is a recipient of the 2011 AU Summer Scholars and Artists Fellowship, which she used to conduct research on Protestant groups in the Levant region. In spring 2011, Elise studied abroad in Syria and blogged about her experiences. As violence erupted in Syria, Elise continued to write, as Professor Naomi Baron explains, "with a level of perception and sensitivity I could only imagine from someone twice her age." Elise is a member of Phi Beta Kappa. She has been active in the United Methodist Student Association, including as Vice President and Interfaith Representative. She also participates in Project Nur, a student group committed to cultivating the relationship between Muslims and all communities. Elise is a member of Queers and Allies and has served as an SIS Leadership Gateway Mentor, and as a tutor at the Academic Support Center and for D.C. Reads. She now interns at the Robert F. Kennedy Center for Justice and Human Rights.

Alexander Burchfield (*Philosophy* and *International Studies*) "has the mind of a philosopher and the soul of a poet," according to his faculty nominator. In his Honors capstone, Alex is exploring the intersection of Heidegger and Romanticism. A separate paper he wrote on Heidegger and Rilke was nominated for presentation before the National Conference on Undergraduate Research. Alex is fluent in English and Spanish, and while studying abroad in Berlin, he also audited philosophy classes taught in German. He has played key roles for publications at AU and around D.C. As editor-in-chief of *AWOL*, he helped nearly triple the number of staff for that magazine. He has also served as copy editor of AU's *AmLit* and as an intern and blogger for the *Washington City Paper*.

Jett Choquette (*Public Communication* and *Spanish Studies*) recently completed her Honors capstone, a bilingual communication campaign designed to decrease the high school dropout rate of Latino youth. Her capstone advisor, Professor Gemma Puglisi, says that "Jett's hope is that this campaign could be used immediately and have a huge impact for Latinos in our area." Jett has been a leader in her school. As the Coordinator for the SOC's Ambassador Program, she directs 30 student ambassadors and develops programs to recruit prospective students. Jett has also made important contributions to the Public Relations Student Society of America. She has held several internships, including stints at Voice of America and with Holaciudad.com, for which she worked entirely in Spanish.

Jeremy Cohen (*International Studies* and *Economics*), a recipient of the Critical Language Scholarship, studied in China for nearly a year. He has served as a Co-Chair of the SIS Leadership Gateway program, as President of the SIS Undergraduate Council, as an Honors 101 Mentor, and as an AU Ambassador. Jeremy has also served his peers through the Academic Support Center, where he led review sessions for students taking introductory Economics classes. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and Sigma Iota Rho, Jeremy has held internships at home with the Council on Foreign Relations and abroad, in China, at the Sustainable Technology Development Foundation. He is an editorial reviewer for *Clocks & Clouds*, SPA's undergraduate research journal.

Grant Livingston (*International Studies*) studied as a Boren scholar in China, where he won a Mandarin speech competition, volunteered as an English teacher for migrant children, and served as co-captain of a multinational, non-English-speaking volleyball team. He is now a semi-finalist for a Fulbright grant and has won a Critical Language Scholarship. At AU, Grant distinguished himself as a Mentor in SIS Leadership Gateway, planning multiple outings for his students and making himself available as a teaching assistant. A resident assistant and the founder of the men's club volleyball team, Grant also participated on the Student Honors Board, served in Student Government as a senator for SIS, and interned for a U.S. Congress member.

Benjamin Mainwaring (*Political Science*) is the editor-in-chief of *Clocks & Clouds*, SPA's undergraduate research journal. He was instrumental in re-creating the journal, helping SPA Professor Kimberly Cowell-Meyers to establish a new staff, train a review board, and develop practices and policies. Benjamin has presented research at the annual SPA Undergraduate Research Symposium. He has also conducted research outside of AU, assisting Professor Sean McGraw at the University of Notre Dame on his book, *Democracy's Choices*. Benjamin has served as an intern at the National Endowment for Democracy and as the Chapter Secretary of the American University Student Campaign for Burma. He is also a volunteer mediator for Student Conflict Resolution Services and a member of Delta Phi Epsilon, the foreign-service fraternity.

Steven Moss (*Biochemistry*) will present research at the American Chemical Society conference this summer, funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF). He received a separate NSF grant last summer to pursue research in Thailand. He has also pursued research in Kenya—and at AU, where he received the Schwartz Fellowship for Undergraduate Research from the Chemistry Department and the College Chemistry Achievement Award from the American Chemical Society. A member of Alpha Phi Omega, Steven has also been active in the community as an Honors 101 Mentor, as a group leader in the Freshman Service Experience, and as a D.C. Reads tutor. Steven's Honors capstone—a study of tuberculosis under the direction of his faculty mentor, CAS Professor Monika Konaklieva—will combine his interests in scholarship and service.

Michelle Nadeau (*Physics*) won an undergraduate research fellowship with the National Institute of Standards and Technology. She also held internships with the National Science Foundation, NASA, and the Photonics Program at Boston University. Michelle was a founding officer of the Women in Science Club and President of the AU Society of Physics Students. She has also engaged the AU community as a teaching assistant in the Physics Department and as a tutor at the Academic Support Center. After graduation, she will participate in the U.S. Navy's Nuclear Officer Training Program.

Margaret Palermo (*Theatre* and *Education Studies*) has performed in AU productions of *Nine*, *Titus Andronicus*, *Tommy*, and *Orpheus Descending*. For her part in *Orpheus Descending*, Meg was chosen as an alternate nominee for the Irene Ryan Scholarship, an award that recognizes the country's top student actors. A recipient of the Performing Arts Department's Greenberg Scholarship, Meg has also explored music and drama through essays on humanism in Renaissance Art and on female dramatic heroes. Last year, she combined her interests in music and teaching at Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School, where she served as a student teacher and as the vocal director for a musical, among other roles. A trained soprano, Meg is pursuing a minor in Music Performance.

Dhruv Sarin (*Business Administration*) is the founder of *Know Your Vote*, a non-profit in Mumbai, India, whose mission is to increase awareness and promote informed voting among Indian youth. He is using his Honors capstone to expand the business plan for *Know Your Vote.* Dhruv was also a member of a team that placed first in the Beltway Federal Case Competition. Since coming to AU, he has served as a lab assistant at Kogod, volunteered as a tax-preparer for low-income families in Washington, D.C., and interned each summer in a Mumbai business. Dhruv has also served as an officer in the Undergraduate Business Association and in the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity.

Miranda Schaeffer (*International Studies*) will graduate from AU after only three years. She has become a semi-finalist for a Fulbright grant and has presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, all while fitting in six service-oriented internships. She has served as a research assistant for Professor Maria de Jesus, as president of the Peace and Empowerment Project and as Vice President of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars. While studying abroad in Chile, Miranda served as a translator for the Chilean Fulbright Commission and read books to children through Un Techo para Chile, an organization focused on improving literacy among the poor in Chile. In Washington, Miranda has helped refugees seek employment and has tutored students on-campus and off-campus.

Allison Sylvester (*International Studies* and *Economics*) uses her two majors to explore the forces that shape contemporary Latin America. In her Honors capstone, Allison is using textual analysis and original research to examine how collective memory has changed in Chile since the dictatorship ended there. Her Fulbright application to pursue further research in Chile has passed several stages and is now under country review. Among other topics, Allison has written on Haitian workers in the Dominican sugar industry and on democracy promotion in Venezuela. She is fluent in Spanish, and while studying abroad in Chile, she translated grant applications for the Foundation for Overcoming Poverty. At AU, she volunteered for the Community Learners Advancing in Spanish and English program and the Latin American Student Organization. Allison has also served as a resident assistant, as the senior student assistant at Bender Library, and as an intern for the Child Welfare League of America.

Outstanding Leadership in Honors

This highly selective award recognizes Honors students who have served the Honors community with distinction while maintaining a record of high academic achievement.

Falon Dominguez (*International Studies and Economics*) was selected from a list of talented Honors sophomores to serve as the sophomore representative on the Honors Curriculum Task Force. Falon contributed not just one but two proposals, teaming up with the second student representative to create the second proposal. Her proposals reflected her commitment to empowering students through education, and her contributions kept the task force focused on the aspirations of Honors students. A number of times, the task force looked to Falon for guidance and received it. A Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholar, Falon is coordinating the Frederick Douglass Distinguished Models of Excellence Program to mentor public school students in Washington, D.C. She is a group leader for the Clinton Global Initiative University's "FOTOSynthesis" Project, an effort to establish a photo exchange project linking Washington, D.C., middle schoolers with their counterparts in Mexico.

William Hea (*International Studies*) represented seniors on the Honors Curriculum Task Force and made his mark by being everywhere at once. Always among the first to respond to any request, Will read and commented on every proposal, reorganized the Blackboard site twice, and collaborated on a proposal with Honors sophomore Falon Dominquez that placed student research and service at the fore. Will both held Honors students to a high standard and exemplified the kind of student that the task force wants to cultivate: hardworking, knowledgeable, resourceful, and creative. He is receiving two Honors awards this year: one for his scholarship and the other for his contributions to the work of the Honors Curriculum Task Force.

Ashley Rose Stumbaugh (*Business Administration*) is a Kogod Envoy, the founding Vice President of the Finance Student Management Investment Fund, and the Vice President of Finance for the Professional Women's Association. She served as an Honors Transfer Program Mentor and now chairs the Honors Alumni Mentoring Program and organizes alumni panels. Ashley Rose is a recipient of the Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship, the Luchs Family Scholarship, and the 2011 Student Leadership Award. She has held internships at Columbia Partners in Washington, D.C., and at JP Morgan in New York, where she begins work in May.

Outstanding Leadership in the Community

This highly selective award recognizes Honors students who have served the AU or other communities with distinction while maintaining a record of high academic achievement.

Nora Brito (*International Studies* and *Economics*) leads her peers in community service to enhance communication through open dialogue and shared experience. She served on the Latino and American Student Organization first as a Freshman Representative and later as Community Service Chair. Nora has also held chair positions with the Caribbean Circle and the D.C. Latino Student Partnership. She was a Public Policy and International Affairs fellow at Princeton University, as well as a Pickering Foreign Affairs Undergraduate Scholarship recipient. Nora has interned for the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs at the U.S. Department of State and at the Mission of the Dominican Republic at the UN.

Meredith Lukow (*International Studies* and *Political Science*) provided the structure and logistical support for the SIS Gateway Program for three years, coordinating more than 500 first-year students and some 40 upper-class mentors. She developed an online program to track the activity of these students and mentors and trained new co-chairs for the position to enhance the program's future success. Meredith has interned for Senator Russ Feingold (D-Wisconsin). She serves as President of the AU Unitarian Universalists and has been an Honors 101 Mentor and an AU Ambassador. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa as well as Sigma Iota Rho, the International Studies Honor Society.

Honors Scholars and Artists Award

This highly selective award recognizes the Honors students who have distinguished themselves through a record of high academic achievement and outstanding scholarship or creative work.

Claire Callahan *(Law and Society*) is pursuing research on capital punishment in both French and English. She is certified in French translation and received the Upendra Lal Goswami Memorial Award for her excellence in upper-level French classes. Claire's fluency in French has enabled her to incorporate 18th-century French documents into her research on the death penalty. Claire is also a creative writer, and her short story "Why the Corrida," which connects criminal trials and bullfighting, will be published in the next edition of *BleakHouse Review.* Claire has served as a teaching assistant and guest lecturer for an Honors colloquium. She is a founding member of the Undergraduate Advisory Council for Justice, Law, and Society. In addition, Claire has performed ballet and contemporary dance through the AU Dance Department and AU in Motion.

Courtney Forbes *(Political Science* and *Psychology*) co-authored a presentation that was delivered at the Association for Psychological Science Convention. She was described by CAS Professor Anthony Ahrens as "one of the four best Psychology students" he has taught in his nearly 25 years at AU. Courtney has used her education in Political Science to serve her home state, working as an administrator for the West Virginia Supreme Court of Appeals and as an intern for Senator Jay Rockefeller (D-West Virginia). She has served her peers and the community as a Resident Assistant, as an Honors 101 Mentor, and as a volunteer at a soup kitchen and a local middle school. After graduation, Courtney will join Teach for America.

Alyssa Frederick (*Marine Biology*) has produced publishable research alongside her professor, Kiho Kim. She received a 2011 AU Summer Scholars and Artists Fellowship to travel to with CAS Professor Kiho Kim to Guam, where they studied the impact of nitrogen pollution on the environment. This spring, Alyssa will present her work at a national conference as the lead author and in the coming year will appear as the co-author on a number of other peer-reviewed papers. She interned at the Geophysical Lab at the Carnegie Institution of Washington where she further studied nitrogen pollution with post-doctoral researchers. Alyssa also is a semi-finalist for a Fulbright grant to study at the University of Wellington in New Zealand. She is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and has served as a teaching assistant and Honors 101 Mentor. She has been accepted to a number of doctoral programs and will continue her studies after leaving AU, building upon an impressive body of scholarly achievements.

Jonathan Freimark (*International Studies*) has received a Fulbright-Hays grant, a Boren scholarship, and a Critical Language Scholarship, all of which have funded his studies abroad in China. In the U.S., Jonathan has served as a program assistant at the US-Asia Institute, for which he created briefing books for government officials traveling to China, and as a research assistant for the Political Asylum Research and Documentation Service. A member of Phi Beta Kappa and the 2010-2011 winner of the AU Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year award, Jonathan has also excelled as a member of the AU men's soccer team. He plans to use his minor in Chinese and his experiences abroad in that country to pursue a career in U.S.-Chinese relations.

Russell Gasdia (*History*) distinguishes himself through his interdisciplinary work, which spans history, economics, religion, and political science. He explored the latter two fields in "The Relationship between Religious Tolerance and Political Expediency in the Early Reformed Tradition." As a research assistant to CAS Professor Jeremiah Dittmar, Russell studied print media in Renaissance Europe and presented his findings at the CAS Robin Rafferty Matthias Research Conference. For the past four semesters, Russell has served as a teaching assistant for the Honors section of SPA Professor Douglas Klusmeyer's Western Legal Tradition class. Russell is also a member of Phi Alpha Theta, the American University sailing team, and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

William Hea (*International Studies*) performed a statistical analysis of Al Qaeda recruitment profiles in his Honors capstone. For a course on insurgency and counterinsurgency, he used Google Earth and declassified records to track the flows of transnational fighters. SIS Professor Ben Jensen praised Will's work on that project, describing it as "better than any intelligence product I saw at the highest levels while serving in Afghanistan." Beyond the classroom, Will has served as a project manager and research associate at the Center for Research on Collaboratories and Technology Enhanced Learning Communities, jointly held by SIS and Syracuse University. He has served as an intern at the Transatlantic Policy Network and as a resident assistant. Will is now pursuing his Master of Arts in International Studies at AU. He is receiving two Honors awards this year: one for his scholarship and the other for his contributions to the work of the Honors Curriculum Task Force.

Matthew Makowski (*Biology*) is a finalist for the Rhodes scholarship and a two-time winner of the Patriot League Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. The captain and goalie of the AU men's soccer team, Matthew received a nationally competitive internship at the Penn State College of Medicine last year and served as a teaching assistant for the Introduction to Public Health course at AU. This semester, he is writing his Honors capstone under the direction of CAS Professor David Carlini. Matthew is also pursuing a minor in Literature, and his short fiction has been published in AU's student literary magazine, *AmLit*. He presented at the 2011 CAS Robin Rafferty Matthias Research Conference on his modern-language reinterpretation of the Norse myth of Odin.

John Stefos *(International Studies*) has already produced research that has the potential to affect foreign policy. In his Honors capstone, John uses a sophisticated, mixed methods research approach to analyze humanitarian interventions such as NATO's 2011 campaign in Libya. If John finds that interventions cause surrounding states to increase repression, it may, as his capstone advisor, SIS Professor Ben Jensen, suggests, "call into question the 'responsibility to protect' project driving international intervention and the human security agenda." Minoring in Finance and Arabic Studies, John has played an important and innovative role at Kogod as manager of the school's student investment trust, for which he has coordinated the management of more than $300,000.

ALUMNI AWARD

Outstanding Honors Alumni

This award recognizes an Honors graduate who has achieved distinction in a profession or in service.

Greg Grauman, SOC/SPA, 1999

An Honors student who majored in Public Communication and Political Science, Mr. Grauman has led the admissions team that refined the successful transformation of the student body at American University, including the students who are in Honors. Mr. Grauman and his team managed to accept fewer and higher-quality students into the University while enlarging the student body and making it more diverse and more international. Any one of those accomplishments would be significant but doing them all at once is a marvel. As Sharon Alston, the Vice Provost of Undergraduate Enrollment, observes, "I've never worked with anyone who is more talented and who has so much enthusiasm for the work that they do." While helping increase the quality and diversity of the Honors student population, Mr. Grauman also served on the Honors Curriculum Task Force in the fall, bringing his knowledge of what students are looking for to bear on the question of how best to create an even better Honors program. Mr. Grauman also holds a Master of Education from the University of Notre Dame. He was Director of U.S. Admissions at the American University of Rome and taught in Australia.

STAFF AWARD

Outstanding Contribution to the Honors Community

This award recognizes a member of the AU Community, a group within it , or others whose service to the Honors Program has been exemplary.

Myle Luong, Senior Application Developer
Enterprise Systems, Office of Information Technology

Myle Luong was instrumental in moving the Honors forms system, which until Fall 2011 had been on paper, to the web. By moving these forms online and creating an automated email system for contacting faculty advisors, Ms. Luong removed barriers for students who want to propose a capstone project, apply to join the Honors Program, pursue an Honors supplement, apply for a capstone research grant, or nominate someone for an Honors Award. One student described these online forms as "extremely informative and supportive." The University Honors Program would like to echo that sentiment for the support Ms. Luong has given to Honors staff for the last six months. Beyond creating and revising these forms, she has responded swiftly—including, sometimes, during days off—to troubleshooting requests from students, faculty, and staff.

Ms. Luong has nearly forty years of IT experience at AU. In her current role, she is responsible for present and future implementations of technology solutions to support the needs of the University. A graduate of Tankiang College in Taiwan, Ms. Luong has continued to pursue courses at AU to expand her technical knowledge. Her husband and son are AU alumni, and having worked in OIT since 1973, Ms. Luong describes the AU Community as her "second family." Ms. Luong speaks Vietnamese, French, Chinese, and English. Her extended family lives in France.

STAFF AWARD

Outstanding Contribution to the Honors Community

This award recognizes a member of the AU Community, a group within it, or others whose service to the Honors Program has been exemplary.

Help Desk and Tech Support Team
Customer Services and Support, Office of Information Technology
Under the leadership of Terry Fernandez, Senior Director, IT Customer Support

Everyone in the AU community depends on the Office of Information Technology to get its daily work done, but OIT's professionalism and commitment to service came sharply into focus last year when the Honors Office moved across campus to its new home in Hughes Hall while many were enjoying winter break. The transition was coordinated by IT Customer Support Senior Director Terry Fernandez, Help Desk manager Steve Kelly, Analyst Avenash Nanan, Tech Support Manager Lushantha Silva and their colleagues. They worked diligently and in good humor to reconfigure workstations, to hook up printers and to restore services all in time for the start of the spring 2011 semester. Their accomplishment reflects OIT's adherence to the best practices of IT service management. In the last five years OIT has seen a 76 percent increase in the number of support requests it receives and in the number of devices linking to the AU network infrastructure, so you might expect the quality of customer support to suffer. Yet over the period OIT Customer Support departments actually scored highly, 91-96 percent. The team is impressive for its strong technical knowledge, troubleshooting ability, great work ethic, and deep and enduring commitment to its campus partners.

FACULTY AWARD

Outstanding Faculty Award

This award recognizes a faculty member who has been singled out by students for their challenging Honors courses and their excellence in teaching and whose service to the Honors Program has been exemplary.

Diane Singerman, Associate Professor of Government, SPA

Co-Director and Co-Founder of Middle East Studies @ American University, Professor Singerman has been a constant presence in the Honors Program, teaching several Honors courses, including two colloquia, and leading a Study/Travel course to Cairo. A superlative teacher, Professor Singerman is considered by her students to be one of the most challenging professors they have had and one of the most engaging. As one student explains, Professor Singerman has a "uniquely democratic approach to teaching—seeking input from the students about what types of projects and papers we felt would be more useful and always encouraging us to get creative and think big about our assignments. She also effectively integrated her own research and experience on Egypt into the classroom, adding depth and a personal touch to the content of study." Professor Singerman has been recognized for her teaching before, winning, in 1999, the Center for Teaching Excellence and General Education Program Award for Technology-Enhanced General Education Courses. Holding three degrees from Princeton University, Professor Singerman is the author of Avenues of Participation: Family, Politics, and Networks in Urban Quarters of Cairo (Princeton, 1995) and the editor or co-editor of three other studies, including most recently, Cairo Contested: Governance, Urban Space, and Global Modernity (2009). Last year, she won a quarter-million dollar grant from the Ford Foundation so that she can help create in Egypt "participatory urban management" that will "foster dialogue within the community."

The University Honors Program at American University

Over a half-century old, the University Honors Program invites highly motivated and ambitious first-year and transfer students at American University to enter its program of rigorous academic courses and stimulating co-curricular and living-learning opportunities. Knowing that many students only start to shine after they enter the University, the Honors Program also encourages high- achieving sophomores to apply to the program.

More than 1,100 of the 6,500 undergraduate students at AU are currently in the University Honors Program. Honors students are overrepresented in every field of excellence in the University, becoming leaders in Student Government, occupying other student leadership positions, and winning half of all national awards going to American University students. These awards include Boren Scholarships, Fulbright Grants, Gilman Scholarships, and International Institute for Public Policy Fellowships, Killam Fellowships, Pickering Foreign Affairs Fellowships, Public Policy Fellowships, Charles B. Rangel Fellowships, Harry S. Truman Scholarships, and Udall Scholarships.