

SUNY Oneonta

The Best and Brightest...Fall 2010

Christopher Aucoin, Geology and Anthropology.....nominated by Keith A. Brunstad

Christopher held an internship in the Archeology Department at the New York State Museum in Albany. He has been active in the Anthropology Club and the Geology Club and as a peer tutor. He is a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon National Honor Society in Earth Sciences, and a student member of the Geological Society of America, Society of Sedimentary Geology, Paleontological Research Institute and Dinosaur State Park, American Institute of Professional Geologists, and American Association of Petroleum Geologists.

Heather Bailey, Political Science.....nominated by Janet E. Day

Heather has been a presenter, discussant and session chair at two Annual Undergraduate Political Science Conferences held at SUNY Oneonta. She received the 2010 Goodrich Critical Essay Award from the SUNY Oneonta English Department. She is a member of Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, has been active in the French Club, Brothers and Sisters in Christ, Democracy Matters and the Political Science Club and she has served as a tutor for the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment.

Ann Bischoff, Psychology.....nominated by Cynthia Miller

Ann has been a member of the Women's Rugby Team for three years and currently serves as its president. Ann was a participant in the Relay for Life in spring 2010. She also planned two "Prom Dress Rugby Charity Games" to raise money for the Haiti Relief Fund in spring 2010, and collected canned goods to support the Food versus Fuel project in fall 2010.

Erin Burke, Dietetics.....nominated by Helen E. Battisti

Erin is a member of the college's cheerleading team and the Food and Nutrition Association. She participates in the cheerleading team's clinic, teaching cheering and dancing for girls age 5 to 12. Erin volunteers at PACE Central New York in North Syracuse, a day center for older men and women, where she works with the staff and dietitians to improve clients' nutritional intake.

Romina Camussi, Professional Accounting..... nominated by Howard Buchan

Romina is the recipient of the Scott Jenkins Minority Honor Scholarship. She is an active member of the Accounting Society and currently serves as its treasurer. Romina is the administrative assistant on the Executive Board of the International Students Organization and currently serves as the organization's treasurer.

Emily Carroll, Childhood Education (1-6) and Earth Science.....nominated by Leslie Hasbargen and Barbara Felter

Emily has been a member of the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee and the President's Council on Diversity for the past two years. She is a member of the Environmental Initiative, which worked on hurricane relief in Texas. Emily was program director for a nature and recreation camp for underprivileged children, ages 5-12. This past summer, she was a baseball instructor for the Oneonta Youth Baseball summer program.

Elizabeth Chase, Child and Family Studies..... nominated by Theresa Russo

Elizabeth is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa Leadership Honor Society, Omicron Delta Kappa honor society, and Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society in Human Ecology. She serves the campus community through her involvement in residence hall government and committee service.

Fan Chao Chen, Human Ecology and Professional Accounting....nominated by Magdalena Lorenz

Fan Chao is the recipient of the Dewar Scholarship. She has served as the president on the Executive Board of the International Students' Organization. She is also an active member of the Accounting Society and the Fashion Society. Fan Cao has been a math tutor for the Oneonta Job Corps Center and has served as a volunteer for AmeriCorps in Oneonta.

Sin Ting Chiu, Chemistry and Economics..... nominated by Hua Zhong
Sin Ting is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society and the recipient of the Oneonta Auxiliary Services International Scholarship. She has served as a peer academic tutor and is active in the Economics Club, the Finance Club, the Chemistry Club and the International Student Organization. She has performed in the EXPO as a team member of the Music World Percussion ensemble for the local community.

Nina Cicoria, Adolescence Education: Social Studies nominated by Roger Hecht
Nina is a non-traditional student who is an independent business woman who is active in the Oneonta community. She also is a substitute public school teacher. She has been an advisor to student clubs at Oneonta High School.

Karen Cutler, Dietetics.....nominated by Erik Schlimmer
Karen has volunteered with the Southern Tier AIDS Program by participating in the AIDS Ride for Life for the last six years. She served as a team leader for two years and co-captain for two years for the Ride. She is doing research to call greater public attention to the problem of food insecurity in the U.S. Karen is a member the Omicron Delta Kappa honor society and the Human Ecology Department's honor society, Phi Epsilon Omicron.

Michele Daly, Biologynominated by William J. Pietrafesa
Michele is a Biology major and a member of the Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society, Theta Nu Chapter. She is an academic team member, and she has served as a volunteer in the biology lab, for Invasive Species Control, and the Alcohol and Drug Abuse Council of Orange County.

Ayla Engelhart, Political Science.....nominated by William Wilkerson
Ayla is a member of Phi Sigma Alpha, Tau Phi Chapter, and the Political Science Department Honors Society. She is a member of the planning committee for the SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Political Science Conference. She is a resident advisor in MacDuff Hall and is active in the Political Science Club and College Democrats. She has been volunteering in the Oneonta community on a reelection campaign. She also served on the College's Alcohol and Other Drugs Committee.

Evan Englander, Mass Communications.....nominated by Timothy Welch
Evan has been a fixture on Dean's List and has been inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society, the Order of Omega, and Phi Eta Sigma National Freshman Honor Society. He is a teaching assistant for audio production. He is the vice president of central affairs in the Student Association, a DJ on WONY, and the correspondence secretary for the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity. He volunteers as a tour guide.

Jonathan Gibbs, Business Economics.....nominated by Lisa Flynn
Jon Gibbs has been on the Dean's List many times. He has volunteered as a tutor for accounting, economics, finance, marketing, and statistics classes. He was the Littell Hall president during his freshman year and he is a resident advisor. He has been on various intramural teams. He is an Eagle Scout and provides various community service activities through the Boy Scouts of America.

Sarah Gravelin, Business Economics.....nominated by Dona Siregar
Sarah is the recipient of several scholarships for academic achievement. She presented a project at the spring 2010 Student Research Day, and is active in the Business Economics Club, and the Catskill Valley Wind Ensemble. She has interned at Opportunities for Otsego and served as a tutor for Center for Academic Development and Enrichment.

Stephanie Griffith, Sociology and Child and Family Studies..... nominated by Brenda L. Seery
Stephanie is active in the Order of Omega and Phi Upsilon Omicron honor societies. She is a member of Pi Delta Chi sorority serving as the community service representative. She serves as student coordinator for the Center for Social Responsibility. She has volunteered at Into the Streets, Saturday's Bread and Breast Cancer Awareness Walk and the "Home Away from Home" project through Phi Upsilon Omicron, which makes cards for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and US soldiers stationed abroad,.

Lucas Hall, Childhood Education (1-6)..... nominated by Alison Black, JoAnne Murphy and Cynthia Hall

Lucas is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society, Chi Alpha Epsilon Honor Society, and Omicron Delta Kappa Honor Society. He was awarded the Emerald Key from Chi Alpha Epsilon. He is involved with intramurals and has served as the captain of various teams. He mentors freshmen through the College Assistance Migrant Program. He has completed over 700 hours of community service through the Center for Social Responsibility and Community and received a Seva Award this fall. He volunteered as a judge for the Region 3 Odyssey of the Mind competition. He has also volunteered for Habitat for Humanity.

Brittany Higgins, Psychology and Child and Family Studies.....nominated by Jacinta Brennan

Brittany was awarded the Susan Sutton Smith Award and has been on Dean's list or Provost's list every semester since enrolling at SUNY Oneonta. She is a tutor for Center for Academic Development and Enrichment and a note taker for Student Disability Services. She is currently doing research on gender stereotypes with Dr. Christie in the Psychology Department. She is a member of Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Psi Chi Honor Society for Psychology and the Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society for Human Ecology. She has volunteered through the Center for Social Responsibility and Community, most recently at Dragon Days, a program for autistic children sponsored by the Parent Resource Network.

Kyle Hill, Dietetics and Political Science..... nominated by Oscar Oberkircher

Kyle has been inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa National Honor Society, the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, and the National Residence Hall Honorary. He has been heavily involved with student government since arriving at the College. He has been a student senator, the director of external affairs and is currently serving as the executive vice president for the Student Association. He serves as SUNY Oneonta's representative to the SUNY Student Assembly. Kyle is currently serving on the Provost Search Committee. His community service work has involved the Boys and Girls Club of America.

Loreal Hiscock, Mass Communications.....nominated by Jon Arakaki

Loreal is a member of Lambda Pi Eta National Communication Honor Society. Through her membership in this honor society, she has volunteered to teach media literacy to students at Oneonta High School. She is a teaching assistant for Understanding Mass Communications. She completed an internship with WKTU in Utica. She is a member of the Communication Arts Society and a member of the Wire, the television production club.

Emily J. Hunter, History.....nominated by Matthew Hendley and Thomas Beal

Emily received the Oneonta Auxiliary Services Merit scholarship as a freshmen and sophomore, the Clark Foundation Scholarship, and the Jacob H. Schaeffer History Award. She is a member of the History Club, Spanish Club and the History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta. Emily has volunteered in her community at both the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership Afterschool Program and the Farmer's Museum.

Samantha Kamp, Biology and Chemistry..... nominated by Terry L. Helser

Samantha is a member of Beta Beta Beta National Biological Honor Society and Phi Eta Sigma National Freshman Honor Society. She has been engaged in research in "green chemistry" with Dr. Jacqueline Bennett and was a counselor for the Preparation, Recruitment, Retention and Excellence in the Physical Sciences summer science camp, where she worked with high school students making hovercrafts, boats, and rockets. She serves as a peer tutor and a note taker for Center for Academic Development and Enrichment and is an active member of the fencing club and the chemistry club.

Eian Kantor, Philosophy..... nominated by Michael P. Koch

Eian is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Freshman National Honor Society. He has been involved in the SUNY Oneonta Philosophy Conference as a committee member, discussant coordinator, session chair and presenter of "How Should I Live." He has served as a residence hall night host, student worker in Acquisitions and Special Collections at Milne Library, and as an AmeriCorps environmental service worker, completing 300 Hours of Service.

Julie Koster, Adolescence Education: English and English.....nominated by Zanna McKay

Julie is a co-founder of the SUNY Oneonta Social Justice Club. She presented at the New Critics Conference spring 2010 and facilitated presentations at the New York State English Council Conference. She volunteers and works with students from the Oneonta Job Corps Center and is a member of the Mentor Community. She volunteers at her church in the children's choir and education, and organized and ran a successful book drive donating over 250 books to the Job Corps library.

Kelly Kugler, Business Economics.....nominated by Huimin Xu

Kelly is the OnMark vice president of communications and was one of 20 students selected to attend the American Marketing Association National Conference. She participates in fundraising and community service events. She is active in the Student Fashion Society, participates in intramural volleyball and intramural softball, and serves as an academic team member for Wilber hall.

Nicholas Lange, Biology..... nominated by Iain Byrne

Nicholas is a candidate for the Rhodes Scholar program. He is a member of Chi Alpha Sigma, National College Athlete Honor Society, and has been named to the SUNYAC Commissioners List. He is a member of the men's soccer team and has been the team Student Athlete Advisory Committee advisor. He has volunteered in the community with the SUNYAC Leaf Raking Project, the Migrant Workers Christmas Project, the Thanksgiving Basket Program, and the spring soccer camp.

Conor Leahy, Mass Communications.....nominated by Erin Foley-Reynolds

Conor serves as a teaching assistant for Communication Arts 241. He started the Men's Volleyball Club, currently serving as president and he helped to create the Badminton Club. He has been active in the Media Arts Society and the Ultimate Frisbee Team, and has helped with various events including volleyball tournaments, basketball games, concerts, and Relay for Life.

Melanie Levine, Mass Communications and Computer Art.....nominated by Eileen McClafferty and Nancy Burnett

Melanie is an executive board member of the student magazine, Art & Scope, and has worked as a copy-editor for the State Times. She serves as an academic team member for Blodgett Hall and as a tutor for the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment, and is involved with the college's television station, The Wire. She is an active volunteer including Second Chance Prom and the Muscular Dystrophy Telethon.

Michelle Linder, Chemistry.....nominated by Joseph Chiang

Michele is a member of the Building a Legacy of Outstanding New Developments and Excellence in Science research group, under the direction of Dr. Jacqueline Bennett, helping to develop a "green chemistry" project that is now part of the organic teaching laboratories. She presented a poster at the American Chemical Society's national conference in San Francisco in March 2010 and was selected along with fellow students to represent the best of undergraduate research at SUNY Oneonta in Albany in April. She is president of the Oneontan yearbook, and has served as a peer tutor through Center for Academic Development and Enrichment.

Rachel Linehan, Adolescence Education: Mathematics and Mathematics..... nominated by Angeliki Kazas-Pontisakos

Rachel has served as a technology assistant for the Technology Instruction Program for Students, and she serves as a tutor for Center for Academic Development and Enrichment and Preparation, Recruitment, Retention and Excellence in the Physical Sciences tutor for the Physics Department. She participated in the Best Practices in Teaching and Counseling Conference and the Harvey Delaney Leadership Institute, and is active in the Intramural Program at SUNY Oneonta. She is a member of the Sanford Society, the department club for Mathematics, Computer Science and Statistics.

Lyndsey Maslyn, Human Ecology.....nominated by Katherine Angell

Lyndsey is on the executive board of Beta Omicron Chapter of Phi Upsilon Omicron National Honor Society for Human Ecology. She is a member of the Marketing Club and the Student Fashion Society, and has participated in the Annual Fashion Show as model, designer, and publicity coordinator. She has volunteered for freshman Move-In Day, Open House events, as tour guide for prospective students and, with Phi Upsilon Omicron, participated in "Bright Nights", assisting homeless in Oneonta with food, clothing and household goods.

Rachel A. Moskal, Dietetics.....nominated by Erik Lind
Rachel is a member of the Food and Nutrition Association, American Dietetics Association, and the New York State Dietetic Association. She participated in the spring 2010 Harvey Delaney Leadership Institute. She diligently serves as the statistician for both the men's and women's basketball teams as well as personally assisting the head coaches as needed. She volunteers at the Otsego Manor interacting with residents and staff.

Valerie Niggemeier, Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Human Ecology.....nominated by Rosemarie Avanzato
Valerie has served as a Teaching Assistant twice for Consumer Resource Management and she was a co-presenter at the New York State Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Educators Conference in Kingston, New York. She has been the vice president of the Knit-Wits, a knitting club on campus. This past summer, Valerie attended the National American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences Conference in Cleveland, Ohio.

Alicia Pucci, Adolescence Education: Earth Science and Earth Science.....nominated by Paul J. Bischoff
Alicia is a member Phi Eta Sigma and Sigma Gamma Epsilon honor societies, the Geological Society of America, the Student Advisory Council, and the Geology Club. She serves as fundraising coordinator for the Meteorology Club and she has volunteered for Science Dedication Day and the Oneonta Job Corps Center. Alicia has also proven herself an outstanding teacher.

Samantha Ruppenthal, Communication Studies.....nominated by Arthur F. Dauria
Samantha has been a member of the women's soccer team and was named to the SUNY Athletic Conference All Academic Team. She is treasurer of Lambda Pi Eta, Communication Arts Honor Society and heads the committee for The Media Literacy Project for Lambda Pi Eta, which works with Oneonta High School to teach students how to be media critics. She is a teaching assistant and has volunteered with American Heart Walk/Run, SUNY Athletic Conference leaf raking, Girl Scout Day, and Munchkin Camp.

William Sacco, Earth Science and History.....nominated by Todd D. Ellis
William is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Chi Alpha Sigma, Phi Alpha Theta honor societies. He is active on the men's tennis team, National Residence Hall Honorary, and is president of Student Athlete Advisory Committee. He is a member of the Mentor Community and, with the Geography Club, he traveled to New Orleans to help rebuild houses. He has volunteered for Relay For Life and the "Souper Bowl."

Michael Salerno, Physics.....nominated by Daniel Mahar
Michael is a member of the men's lacrosse team. He received the Physics Department's Wang scholarship and the Oneonta Auxiliary Services Merit scholarship. He serves as a mentor for student athletes. His volunteer experience includes work with Angel Tree, Thanksgiving Basket programs, and Open House events.

Jennifer Sanders, Sociology.....nominated by Monica Grau
Jennifer is an Educational Opportunity Program mentor, a very influential peer for the First Year Experience office, and a resident advisor for Hulbert Hall. She has worked as an orientation leader and she is a member of AALANA, the Alcohol and Other Drug Committee, Saint Jude's Giants, Students for Global Education, and Students of Color Coalition.

Shulamit Shechter, Dietetics.....nominated by Mary Ann Dowdell
Shulamit was awarded an Academic Competitive Grant. She is a member of the Food and Nutrition Association, and has helped organize and conduct a food drive on campus for a local food pantry. She collaborated with two other students to provide nutrition tips weekly on WZOZ, planned and taught a nutrition class for a local second grade class, and is currently helping to provide students, faculty and staff free body composition analysis.

Stephanie Spielberger, Psychology.....nominated by Kenneth S. Walters
Stephanie is a research assistant in her department. She tutors in psychology and math, is vice president of Psi Chi, International Honor Society for Psychology, and is a member of the Psychology Club. She is an intern at Springbrook and has volunteered at Riverside Elementary School, Bugbee Daycare Center, Habitat for Humanity, and various soup kitchens.

Andrew Turner, Business Economics.....nominated by Michael McAvoy
Andrew is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, and a recipient of the Susan Sutton Smith Student Award. He has been the recipient of the Division of Economics and Business Endowed Scholarship, the Betty Godley Memorial Scholarship, and the Frances E. Rowe Scholarship. He is an active member of the Economics Club, and he attended the recent Alumni Association event in New York City. During the fall 2009, Andrew served in his community as a peer tutor for Morris Central Schools through the Creating Rural Opportunities Partnership program.

Zishan Wariach, Business Economics and Economics.....nominated by William P. O’Dea
Zishan is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa National Leadership Honor Society and the recipient of the Susan Sutton Smith Award. He has participated on the Fed Challenge Team, and has served as an orientation leader for the Office of International Education and a tutor for Center for Academic Development and Enrichment. He is a member and officer in the International Student Organization, the Indian Cultural Club, and the Economics Club. In his spare time, he plays intramural soccer.

Michele Wood, Food Service and Restaurant Administration..... nominated by David Jurasinski
Michele is an executive board member of the Young Republicans Club. She also is a member of St. Jude’s Giants, the Human Ecology Club and the Biology Club. She has helped with the 5K race to raise money for St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

Lauren Zendarski, Dietetics.....nominated by Allan Green
Lauren is a member of Food and Nutrition Association and Phi Upsilon Omicron Honor Society in Human Ecology. She has volunteered as a camp counselor and for the Boys and Girls Club. She has served as role model and counselor for children ages 7 - 12, promoted healthy lifestyles through physical activity, and is a part time volunteer nutritionist for the Women, Infants, and Children Program.