

SUNY Oneonta

The Best and Brightest Spring 2011

Rilwan Ameen, Mass Communications.....nominated by Michele Daly

Rilwan is an academic team member for Littell Hall, a peer tutor for the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment, and an African American·Latino·Asian·Native American mentor. He is a member of Chi Alpha Epsilon, Order of Omega, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies and received the Scott Jenkins Diversity Honors Education Scholarship and the Student Association Dana Lynne Moore Memorial Scholarship. He served as the Students of Color Coalition events coordinator, College Union Activities Council lecture chair, and he has volunteered for Center for Social Responsibility events including Sleepout for the Homeless and Into the Streets.

Christina Arriaga, Criminal Justice and Psychology.....nominated by Kerry Klug

Christina serves as a resident advisor in Denison Hall. Her residence hall program entitled "Get a Clue About Addictions!" won the National Residence Hall Honorary Award for Best Educational Program in October 2010. She has served on the Alcohol and Other Drug committee, and provides her residence hall with information and safety tips regarding student consumption of alcohol and drug use. Her bulletin boards and flyers posted throughout Denison Hall inform, enlighten and educate students on the dangers of using alcohol and drugs.

Olivia Avanzato, Communication Studies.....nominated by Arthur Dauria

Olivia is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta Communication Studies Honor Society. She is co-founder and promotions chair of SUCO Designs, a student consulting business, and received the Clark Foundation, Potter Foundation, and United University Professionals scholarships. She is active in The Wire student video production club, Terpsichorean Dance Company, and has performed with Mask and Hammer in "Sweet Charity" and completed an Internship at Central New York Radio Group. She has been a dance instructor for the Oneonta Dance Center and has volunteered for a media literacy program and as a camp counselor for the City of Oneonta Recreation Department.

Christopher Berkley, Communication Studies.....nominated by Joshua Frye

Christopher is a teaching assistant for the mountain biking class and maintains and repairs the Physical Education Department's bicycle fleet. He is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta Communications Studies Honor Society. He has served as president of the mountain biking club and received on its behalf a \$500 trail building grant from the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA). He is currently working with IMBA to develop the first college chapter of the National Mountain Bike Patrol. He is a member of the Oneonta Auxiliary Services College Camp Advisory Committee and the College Camp Forest Stewardship Plan sub-committee. Chris has done service to the greater Oneonta community with his periodic river and trail pick-up, cleaning, and organizing.

Victoria Bondi, Dietetics.....nominated by Helen Battisti

Victoria is a member of the Phi Epsilon Omicron Human Ecology Honor Society. She serves as a note taker and tutor for the college and is involved in the planning of events for peer education in health and wellness for Choosing Healthier Options in the College Environment Successfully (CHOICES.) She is the vice president of the National Residence Hall Honorary, where she helps with the initiation and induction process and campus and community service events. She participates in the Resident Student Organization and Hall Government and attended the North East Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) Conference in November 2010. She has volunteered as a junior counselor in the Dover Day Camp in Dover Plain, New York for the past two years.

Matthew Brandi, Sociology and Political Science.....nominated by Gina Keel

Matthew developed a research paper entitled "The Case for Municipal Solid Waste Management Reform," which he presented at the SUNY Oneonta Undergraduate Political Science Conference in March 2010 and at the New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference. He is working on a SUNY Oneonta Research Grant and fellowship to conduct a study on "Social Capital in Online Social Networks." He is a member of the College Democrats and the Sociology Club. He completed internships and volunteer activities at the Delaware County Democratic Committee, Arcuri for Congress, Warren County Youth Court, Gillibrand campaign in Otsego County, and Habitat for Humanity.

Allison Clearwater, Dietetics.....nominated by Cynthia Weigel

Allison is a member of the Drag'n Rolls Drumline, playing bass and other instruments, and serving as its public relations representative. She is a member of the Food and Nutrition Association. She volunteers for various fundraisers and recently helped decorate and deliver cheesecakes for Valentine's Day. She is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron Human Ecology Honor Society, where she helped decorate bags for overseas service men and women. She has participated in Relay for Life and Pay it Forward.

Ashley Clemens, Childhood Education (1-6).....nominated by Zanna McKay

Ashley is co-founder and current president of the Summit Seekers for Social Justice Club and a member of the Mentor Community. She presented at the Multicultural Leadership Conference on campus and the "Growing up Bilingual" Oneonta Schools Workshop Conference. She volunteers at the Unadilla Valley after school program, Oneonta Job Corps Center and the Newman Club Haunted House for Hunger. She was active in the fall 2010 Emerging Leaders, a member of the Multicultural Student Council, and a Diversity Peer Educator. She has organized book drives for the Oneonta Job Corps Center and fundraising for a school in Africa.

AnneMarie Cucci, Family and Consumer Sciences Education and Human Ecology.....nominated by Angie Eichler

AnneMarie is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma, Phi Upsilon Omicron, Order of Omega, and Omicron Delta Kappa honor societies, and the National Residence Hall Honorary. She received the Susan Sutton Smith Award for Academic Excellence, and won the Catskill Scholarship. She was on the Northeast Affiliate of College and University Residence Halls (NEACURH) regional conference staff, is a member of the Oneonta Future Alumni Network and the Association of Secondary Educators (ASE). She serves as an Inter-Greek Council senator and sorority recruitment chair, and is the chair of the newly re-formed Panhellenic Council. She has been an orientation leader and volunteer for Relay for Life, Into the Streets, the Greek Halloween Carnival and the Robynwood nursing home.

Karen Cutler, Dietetics.....nominated by Mary Ann Dowdell

Karen is doing research to call greater public attention to the problem of food insecurity in the U.S. This semester she is doing a service learning project with St. Mary's Food Pantry to provide education for pantry users. She is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Epsilon Omicron honor societies. She has volunteered with the Southern Tier AIDS Program, participating in the AIDS Ride for Life for the past six years. She served as a team leader for two years and as co-captain for two years for the AIDS ride. Karen is involved in service projects through her membership in the Phi Epsilon Omicron honor society, each semester selecting a service project to pursue in the Oneonta community.

Olivia Dunn, English and Anthropology.....nominated by Tracy Betsinger, Sallie Han and Pamela Flinton

Olivia is a member of Sigma Tau Delta English honor society and Phi Eta Sigma Freshman honor society. She serves as a teaching assistant for Human Skeletal Anatomy and has participated in intramural softball, soccer, and indoor soccer. As an academic team member she hosted office hours and designed and implemented academically geared programs for 200 students. As an Academic Advisement assistant, she advises over 100 students, offering weekly office hours. She contributed to the development of an online orientation program for incoming students. At Milne Library, she works as a library page, providing customer service and helping to maintain the library's holdings. She has been a camp counselor for the Boys and Girls Club of Orange County and a volunteer at the Cragmoor Free Library and Relay for Life.

Olga Generalova, Professional Accounting..... nominated by Magdalena Lorenz

Olga was awarded the Alumni Scholarship, Kathryn McGrath Scholarship and the Oneonta Auxiliary Services International Scholarship. She is a member of the Economics Club, Marketing Club, English Club and Accounting Society. In addition to her involvement in academic clubs, she has joined the International Students Organization, Ski Club and Oneonta Future Alumni Network. She works as a night host at Hulbert Hall and tutors Russian.

Roselind Hallinan, Business Economics.....nominated by Hua Zhong

Roselind a member of the Pre-Law Society and the Marketing Club, serves as a resident advisor, and is a gold level in Leadership Education and Development (LEAD) at Oneonta. She Interned at the Ulster County District Attorney's Office, and is a production manager at New Art International in Woodstock. She volunteers through the Center for Social Responsibility and Community and FAMILY of Woodstock. She received the Jean London Scholarship and the Peg Crawley Scholarship, and the Congressional Award, which honors outstanding and invaluable service to the community.

Laura Hoch, Political Science and Spanish.....nominated by Richard Barberio

Laura is a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha national honor society for political science. She is the vice president of the Political Science Club and is part of its recruitment committee. She serves as the co-chair of the Political Science Undergraduate Conference and last year served on the steering committee of the conference. Laura was selected to be part of the Model UN team representing Moldova. Laura served on the steering committee for the 2011 Pancakes for Parkinson's event and worked on the voting drive in fall 2010.

David Laureano, Professional Accounting.....nominated by Lisa Flynn

David is a member of the Order of Omega national Greek honor society. He has received the Richard Siegfried Student Award and the Dr. Ignatius Ts'ao Scholarship. He serves as a member of the Student Advisory Council of the Division of Economics & Business, which provides input to the associate dean on important issues impacting the division. He is the Career Development e-board chair of OnMark, and he participates in the Accounting Society, Economics Club, and Hillel. He has volunteered in Relay for Life, Into the Streets, and the Kidney Walk, is involved in Habitat for Humanity, and he tutors students in accounting through the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment.

Melanie Levine, Mass Communications and Computer Art.....nominated by Kate Simeon and Jared Stanley

Melanie was awarded the Student Association Scholarship, the Michelle Julien Award for Achievement in Journalism and Writing, and the Todd Grayson Memorial Award for Achievement in the Literary Arts, and was the first place winner of the SUNY Oneonta Admissions Film Contest. She is an academic team member and serves as a peer tutor for the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment. She is editor in chief of Art & Scope, and a member of The Wire. She interned with Drake Media Incorporated. She has volunteered to keep time and tally scores at the Big O Poetry Slams, designed t-shirt graphics for various organizations on campus, and filmed archival recording of the play *Bus Stop* for the Theatre Department.

Danielle Matthews, Adolescence Education: English and English.....nominated by Kjersti VanSlyke-Briggs

Danielle presented at the Best Practices in Teaching and Counseling Conference at SUNY Oneonta and the annual New York State English Council conference in Albany. She received the Dorothy A. Wemple Scholarship. She is a member of Oneonta State Cheerleading and through this organization has participated in Girl Scouts Women in Sports, organized youth cheerleading clinics, and participated in Green Dragon Week. She has served as public relations chair for the Association of Secondary Educators. She volunteers as a junior advisor for Pop Warner and Recreational Cheerleading Programs in her home town, is a note taker for the Student Disability Center, a peer tutor for the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment, and an alternative education tutor at Oneonta Job Corps Center. She has participated in the Kidney Walk, Heart Walk, Pit Run, and Relay for Life.

Dustin McCall, Chemistry.....nominated by Trudy Thomas-Smith

Dustin's work within the Department of Chemistry is often chosen as a model for others to follow evidenced by the fact that he has research experience with Cornell University's Biomass Conversion project. Dustin's engagement as a member of the SUNY Oneonta community shows through his service as a peer tutor and through informal activities. Dustin volunteers at the Onondaga Community College Children's Learning Center and his local library.

Helen Mullen, Dietetics.....nominated by Oscar Oberkircher

Helen is vice president of the Food and Nutrition Association and participates in Nutrition for Performance, working with student athletes and the athletics director to modify and improve athletic and academic performance through balanced nutrition. She is a resident advisor and has served as an orientation leader, director of public relations and communications for the Student Association, and a Student Association senator. She is a student volunteer with Food and Nutrition at Lennox Hill Hospital in New York, and she is active in community involvement with Center Street School, Relay for Life, Into the Streets, and residence hall government.

Carolyn Nasr, Adolescence Education: Chemistry and Chemistry.....nominated by Jacqueline Bennett

Carolyn is a member of Dr. Jacqueline Bennett's research group. She received a Presidential Scholarship. She has served as a tutor at the Oneonta Job Corps Center and is an active member of the cross country and track and field teams. She was an All-Academic All-American in 2010. She volunteers at the Pit Run, assists with park maintenance at Fortin Park, and has participated in the SUNYAC leaf raking project.

Cynthia Northrop, Psychology.....nominated by Cynthia Miller

Cynthia serves as a teaching assistant for the Psychology of Women class and she has taken a great deal of independent responsibility for several components of the course, including moderating the discussion forum. She has served as chaperone for CUAC sponsored trips and she assisted in the implementation of the Homecoming Weekend and Holiday craft fairs held on campus each year.

Alison Occhiogrosso, Adolescence Education: Spanish and Spanish.....nominated by Dennis Banks

Alison is the secretary of the Phi Sigma Iota foreign languages honor society and the college's Honor's Program. As a resident advisor in Denison Hall, she maintains communication with residents, plans programs and manages student hosts. She is active in the Association of Secondary Educators, Oneonta Future Alumni Network, and hall government, and assisted at the education open house as a tour guide, speaker, and helper. She helped plan and facilitate the ESL Bilingual Education Conference October 2010. She serves as a tutor for the Educational Opportunity Program.

Lauren Penso, Human Ecology.....nominated by Yun-Jung Choi

Lauren is a teaching assistant for Fashion Marketing. She is a member of the Phi Upsilon Omicron national honor society in human ecology and Phi Eta Sigma freshman honor society. She is active in the Student Fashion Society, Marketing Club, and American Marketing Association. She volunteers for Student Disability Services, the Lord's Table, and Relay for Life.

John Rosano, Professional Accounting.....nominated by Michael Krause

John works as a peer tutor through the Center for Academic Development and Enrichment. He was selected to be a group leader for a semester project in ACCT 312, which is featured in the Economics and Business Division's self-study document submitted for AACSB accreditation. John has also taken on a leadership role in the Accounting Club. He participated in tennis his freshman year, and currently pursues interests in soccer and the ski club. He volunteers at his hometown church with preschool and kindergarten children.

Emily Shannon, Professional Accounting and Human Ecology.....nominated by Howard Buchan

Emily is an outstanding scholar athlete who was recognized as a SUNYAC Chancellor Athlete and was named to the SUNYAC Commissioner's List and the All-Academic Team. She received the President's Scholarship and is a member of the Phi Epsilon Omicron human ecology honor society. She has been the captain of the tennis team for three years and has participated in the Captain's Leadership Program. She is an active participant in the Student Fashion Society. She has participated in service activities including Into the Streets, Saturday's Bread, community leaf raking, and a fund raiser for a local fire department.

Leann Shaw, Communication Arts.....nominated by Theron Verdon

Leann is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta honor society of the National Communication Association and was nominated SUNYAC All-Academic Athlete spring 2008. She serves as a teaching assistant for Conflict Management, and previously for Introduction to Communication Studies. She has participated on the women's tennis team and the City of Oneonta Recreational Tennis Program. She is the Lambda Pi Eta alumni chair and has volunteered at fundraisers and various events with Lambda Pi Eta. She studied abroad in London spring semester 2010.

Rebecca Shea, Adolescence Education: Physics and Physics.....nominated by Karen Munson

Rebecca is a member of the Sigma Pi Sigma national physics honor society and received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Physics, the Presidential Scholarship and the New York State Math and Science Teaching Incentive Grant. She has been a tutor for the Educational Opportunity Program and a research assistant. She has served as a library assistant at the Sidney Memorial Public Library, a peer tutor at the Unatego Central School, a Relay for Life team leader, an attendant at the Science Discovery Center at SUNY Oneonta, an Admissions assistant, and a Preparation, Recruitment, Retention and Excellence in the Physical Sciences (PR²PS) summer science camp counselor.

Andrew Turner, Business Economics and 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 was awarded the Division of Economics and Business Endowed Scholarship, the Betty Godley Memorial Scholarship, and the Frances E. Rowe Scholarship. During the fall 2010 semester he participated in the Federal Reserve Challenge in New York City. He is a member of the Student Advisory Council and the Economics Club and participated in the Backpacks to Briefcases career development event. He served as a peer tutor for Morris Central Schools through the CROP program. He interned for the Vermont Lake Monsters, a minor league baseball team located in Burlington, Vermont, and at the Otsego County Chamber of Commerce.

Danielle Valenchis, Communication Studies.....nominated by Jon Arakaki

Danielle is a member of the Lambda Pi Eta national communication honor society. She is a teaching assistant in Understanding Mass Communication and in Gender Communication. She served as a student member of the Vice-President for Finance and Administration Search Committee. She contributed to the creation of a new college mission statement with the Strategic Planning and Resource Council. She is a member of the National Residence Hall Honorary, completed the Leadership Institute program, and served as an Admissions assistant, campus tour guide, Admissions student blogger, and concessions chair of Hope for the Holidays charity event.

Nicholas Walion, Psychology.....nominated by Charlene Christie

Nicholas has served as a teaching assistant for two courses and is an officer for the Gender Equality and Rights Society. He has been involved in psychological research on normative behavior in online settings, supervised Dr. Charlene Christie. He serves as a resident advisor in Wilber Hall and is an active member of the Resident Student Organization, the Psychology Club, Choosing Healthier Options in the College Environment Successfully (CHOICES), and hall government. He has served as an intern in the Counseling, Health, and Wellness Center, as a tour guide for the Admissions Office, and volunteers for community groups through his work with the Psychology Club.

Curtis Walker, Meteorology.....nominated by Jerome Blechman

Curtis is a protégé in the Significant Opportunities in Atmospheric Research and Science (SOARS) program, a program of the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, headquartered in Boulder, Colorado. One of only 20 students selected nationwide to be protégés, Curtis works with researchers at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. As an academic team member (ATM), he is responsible for advising 200 students in his residence hall and he designed and updates the ATM website. He is a member of the Sigma Gamma Epsilon earth science honor society and Phi Eta Sigma honor society. He worked as a Summer Enrichment Teaching Assistant for St. John's Preparatory High School, Astoria, New York, and he is an active member of the Meteorology Club.

Amanda Willsey, Professional Accounting.....nominated by Donald Trippeer

Amanda is a member of the Student Advisory Council for the Division of Economics and Business and the Accounting Society, and she is the 2011 winner of the New York State Economics Association Award for Outstanding Student Paper. She participated in the 2010 Fed Challenge Competition as a member of the SUNY Oneonta team, which placed third. She participated in events for the Kevin J. Belrose Memorial Scholarship Foundation and the One of Our Own Cancer Walk, and she serves as a peer tutor.

Mitchell Wohl, Computer Science.....nominated by Sen Zhang

Mitchell is a member of the Phi Eta Sigma honor society and was named to the SUNYAC All-Academic Team and the SUNYAC Commissioner's List. He serves as a teaching assistant for an entry level programming class and he has completed an internship with a local web design company. He is a communication coordinator for the Zombie Defense Corps, and actively participates in the Computer Programmers United (CPU) club and the Sanford Society club. He is a member of the men's swimming team and the Frisbee club team. When he is at home, he volunteers in a local rehabilitation center.

Michele Wood, Food Service and Restaurant Administration.....nominated by David Jurasinski

Michele is active with St. Jude's Giants, the Human Ecology Club, Biology Club, and Young Republican's Club where she serves as vice president. Michele volunteers with Oneonta Relay for Life, the Children's Club in Oneonta, and Saturday's Bread. During the spring 2011 semester Michele accepted a Student Lab Assistant position within the Food Service and Restaurant Administration department.