Student and Faculty Awards

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Centennial Commencement 2006

Trustees' Award

Presented to the student whose positive contributions to University life and whose academic accomplishments exemplify the highest level of achievement attainable for an undergraduate.

Rima Abdelkader, New York City
BBA, marketing; minor in political science
As a member of the Pforzheimer Honor's College, Abdelkader graduates with a plethora of prestigious awards. She has achieved the Dean's List every year. She received the New York State Assembly Certificate of Merit and the Women's Press Club Award. And she was appointed to Council for American Students in International Negotiation Delegate to the United Nations. Through her years at Pace, Abdelkader has been very involved in different facets of the University: among many things, she joined the Project Pericles Leadership Program, became the managing editor for The Scribe, and served as president and adviser to the Arab Student Association. Abdelkader was also very diligent in gaining as much career experience as possible: she served as a production intern for CNN, was a freelance journalist for O'Dwyer's PR Daily, was affiliated with Arab and Middle Eastern Journalists Association, and served as an intern for NBC Television's Research Department. After graduation, Abdelkader plans to pursue a career in the field of media and political science.

Rosanna Capalbo, Westchester
BA, political science; minor in history and in business
During her time at Pace, Capalbo has made important contributions the University: she was executive board member of the Model United Nations team; she was a founding member of Pace University's CHILD Project: (Cause, Hope, Inspire, Life, Dreams); and she worked on the USA-UNICEF Project (United Nations Children's Fund). True to the Pace ideal of civic engagement, Capalbo worked with A New Millennium: Children in Africa Program and fundraiser. She successfully raised $1500 for the Heifer International, an organization committed to sustainable development strategies in underdeveloped nations, and she received a Certificate of Appreciation for this effort. She also volunteered at movie night for "Kids with Cameras," "Pajamas for Peace" during Peace Week, and the Hurricane Katrina Car Wash Fundraiser, in which she successfully raised $710. A member of the Alpha Chi National Honor Society, the Golden Key International Honors Society, the Pi Gamma Mu honor society for Social Sciences, Capalbo is also a member of the Pforzheimer Honors College. For excelling in scholarship, class discussion, research, and general performance in a baccalaureate program, she is also receiving the Scholastic Achievement Award this year. Capalbo plans to attend Columbia University's Teachers College this fall.

Anthony Vinci, New York City
BBA/MBA, public accounting and finance management
While at Pace, Vinci was always very involved in University societies. He served as president, executive adviser, and treasurer of Beta Alpha Psi, the Iota Lambda Chapter. He was also a Graduate Accounting Research assistant for the Lubin School of Business, a member and adviser of the Budget Allocation Committee, chairperson to the Lubin Graduate Society Fundraising Committee, and a peer tutor in accounting for Pace's tutorial services. Vinci also proved to be an asset to the local community by participating in the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program for Beta Alpha Psi, Meals of Heels, and the Central Park Cleanup with Ernst & Young as well as by marching in the Making Strides against Breast Cancer Walk and in March of Dimes: Walk America. Vinci has also prepared himself for the future by interning for several recognized organizations such as serving as an audit intern of Ernst & Young LLP, an accounting intern for White & Case LLP, and a forensic accounting intern for the New York for the County District Attorney's Office. As a result of his hard work, Vinci has received many accolades; he has been on the Dean's List, was a member Golden Key International Honour Society, and received Pace University President's Scholarship Award. Vinci intends to prepare for the CPA exam and

begin working at Ernst & Young LLP in the fall as a staff auditor in the financial services sector. He would like to pursue forensic accounting/fraud investigations or branch out into corporate finance.

Community Service Award

Presented to the undergraduate student whose active contributions to the life of the University community and to the endeavors of our neighbors in the surrounding community most admirably embody an appreciation for the value of social responsibility.

Kelly E. Herbert, New York City

BA, psychology and English language and literature (concentration in cultural studies); minor in women's and gender studies

Herbert, a member of the Pforzheimer's Honor's College, graduates summa cum laude. She has garnered many awards and accolades: the Dyson College Senior Award for Excellence in Psychology, Pace University President's Scholarships, National Dean's List for First Honors, and a Dyson College of Arts and Sciences Academic Scholarship. She has had her poetry and short fiction published in the campus literary magazine Aphros for three consecutive years. Herbert has also made the best of her University years by becoming involved in various campus activities and positions, such as serving as an orientation leader, at theatre productions, and as a student assistant in the Counseling Center. Herbert as also been a an active member of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Community Center by volunteering for Youth Enrichment Services, for the LGBT Community Center, and for the Kenmore Methodist Church as a children's group instructor. She intends to pursue a doctorate in counseling or clinical psychology in New York City and maintain a focus on gender and multicultural Issues in research, counseling, and academia.

Biljana Trivic, Westchester

BBA/MBA, public accounting; minor in law

Trivic has truly exemplified the Pace ideal of community service during her time here. She was a resident assistant, a UNV 101 Peer Mentor, Resident Hall Association treasurer, a financial and activities fee council member of the Student Development and Campus Activities, and member of the Accounting Society. Trivic volunteered at the Pleasantville Cottage School and Children's Village, was a weekly tutor for Pleasantville Cottage School (PCS), successfully organized a toy drive for 80 children for the AIDS-Related Community Service Program. A member of the Pforzheimer Honors College, Trivic is also a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society, the Golden Key Honor Society, and the Lubin Leaders and Scholars Program. For her work, she has received the Center for Applied Ethics Award, the Center for Community Outreach Award, the Lubin School of Business Junior Recognition Award, Resident Assistant of the Month and of the Year, and an Excellence in Accounting Scholarship. Trivic has been on the Dean's List for eight semesters. She has tutored in Accounting Lab Tutor, worked as a graduate assistant and an aide for Document Services, and interned for KPMG, LLP. Trivic will begin working full-time for PPMG this fall.

Henry Birnbaum Endowed Scholastic Achievement Award

Presented to a full-time undergraduate or graduate student on the New York City campus who has demonstrated outstanding academic achievement.

George Balboa III, New York City

BA, history; minor in Middle Eastern Studies and psychology

Professor Joan Roland, who has taught George Balboa calls him "a wonderful student, a professor's delight. Roland consulted with Balboa on the capstone senior thesis he is writing on American foreign policy in Lebanon in l958. What impresses Roland most is his insistence on using substantial primary material. He has used vacation times to travel to Washington and Maryland to familiarize himself with archives there and will use his spring break to work in them. In his time at Pace, Balboa has made important contributions. In his freshman year, he wrote a memoir for Professor William Sievert called Stripped Youth; this led to the construction of a Learning Community that Balboa helped develop called "Intoxications: Altered States and Inspirations," which has since been offered several times. During the year 2003–2004 academic year, he sustained some several losses in his personal and missed about six weeks of school. Nevertheless, he managed to maintain a 3.8 average. In the spring of 2005, he joined the Pace University Model United Nations team and was elected president at the end of the semester. As head delegate he lead the Model UN class at Pace. His research skills and eloquence garnered him an outstanding delegate award at the Tri-State Conference. He has led the team through several conferences. Balboa is also a member of Psi Chi, the national Honor Society in Psychology, Alpha Chi

National Honor Society, and Golden Key International Honor Society. His career plans are to become a college professor in American history. Balboa hopes to work during his first year after graduation to save money for graduate school and possibly do an internship. He already has a number of graduate programs in mind.

Project Pericles Leadership Certificate Award

Presented to students who have completed the rigorously structured certificate program, which challenges them to demonstrate leadership in civic engagement. The hard work and creativity of these students has made a significant contribution toward advancing Pace University's mission to educate for citizenship and social responsibility.

Rima Abdelkader, New York City
BBA, marketing; minor in political science

Robert D. Brown III, Westchester
BA, environmental studies

Dane T. Disimino, Westchester
BBA, business management

Dena M. Ghobashy, Westchester
BA, political science

Cuauhtemoc Che Cruz Castillo, New York City
BA. history

Angela M. Stangenberg, New York City
BA, sociology/anthropology

Samia Zaky, Westchester
BA, English and communications

Academic Leadership Award

Presented to the student who best exemplifies academic citizenship through the integration of academic achievement and leadership to serve as a role model for other students through the Center for Academic Excellence.

Marina Slavina, New York City
BBA, finance; minor in economics

Scholastic Achievement Award

Presented to students excelling in scholarship, effectiveness in class discussion, research, and general performance in a baccalaureate program.

Rosanna Capalbo, Westchester
BA, political science; minor in business and in history

Brian C. DeOliveira, Westchester
BS, computer science

Tabitha Estrellado, New York City
BS, computer science; minor in mathematics and in music

Violet M. Fitzpatrick, New York City
BS, RN; minor in women's and gender studies

Christopher J. Frain, Westchester
BA, adolescent education (mathematics)

Gabriel Goris, New York City

BA, childhood education

Kim L. Madden, New York City
BBA, finance

Dyana Messina, New York City
BA/MS, English and publishing

Korki Miller, Westchester
BS, chemistry

Amy Priputen, Westchester
BS, RN

Cesare Ricchezza, Westchester
BBA, public accounting

Emily H. Taeler, Westchester
BS, RN4

Jane W. Thornquist, Westchester
BS, RN4

Lien F. Wong, New York City
BA, sociology/anthropology; minor in communication studies

Outstanding Student of the Year

Presented in recognition of scholarship and exceptional dedication to the ideals of their school.

Carl Edward Abrams, Westchester
DPS, computing studies

Patricia Brogan, Westchester
MS, counseling

Merediyh L. Capraro, Westchester
MS, computer science

Patricia A. Constantine, New York City
MS, case management

Claudia Goicochea, New York City
MA, psychology

Michelle Guttman, New York City
PsyD, school/clinical psychology

Carol B. Hafer, New York City
MSEd, childhood education

Rui Jin, New York City
MBA, management

Richa Katyal, New York City
MS, information systems

Erin Labitzke, New York City
MS, forensic science

Andrea Lacourciere, Westchester

MS, family nurse practitioner

Jeannette Marie Sanderson, Westchester
MST, adolescent education

Deepika Singh, Westchester
MPA, nonprofit management

Biljana Trivic, Westchester
MBA, accounting

School of Law Faculty Award and Valedictorian

Presented to the student with the highest academic achievement.

Nicholas Maurice Menasche, JD
Class valedictorian Menasche made the Dean's List every semester. The recipient of a Law Trustee Scholarship, he was executive promotions editor for Pace Law Review, in charge of organizing symposia, and interned for the Hon. Sonia Sotomayor, United States Court of Appeals, Second Circuit. After taking the bar examination this summer, he will begin working at Shearman & Sterling LLP, an international corporate law firm headquartered in New York City. While he does not have a specific concentration, he will be practicing in litigation.

School of Law Dean's Award

Presented to the day and evening division graduates of the Class of 2005 who have made the most outstanding contributions to the School of Law.

Nicole E. Feit, JD, day division
Feit was editor-in-chief of the Pace International Law Review as well as the president of the International Law Society and chairperson for the International Criminal Moot Court Competition. She was also a recipient of the Westchester Women's Bar Association Foundation Award. She is a member of the Pace Executive Moot Court Board.

Joshua Bar Lipsman, MD, JD, evening division
Lipsman received his MD degree from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx and an MPH degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Public Health. He is board certified in family medicine and in public health and general preventive medicine. Currently the Westchester County Health Commissioner, Lipsman says, "Despite all those things I've achieved and accomplished in my first career. I feel as if Pace has flipped a switch for whatever the next stage will be," he said. "I'm looking forward to whatever I will be able to do in the future to integrate a legal career into my medical, public health, government, and public service career."

Kenan Award for Teaching Excellence

Presented to faculty by their colleagues in recognition of classroom performance, understanding of students, high standards of intellectual integrity, and ability to serve as an inspiration.

Saul S. LeVine, JD, New York City
Professor of Legal Studies and Taxation
Saul LeVine has dedicated himself to students throughout his career as a professor and adviser. He has been teaching since 1966 and full time at Pace since 1979. He received his AB from City College in 1956 and JD from Syracuse University in 1959. He is a member of the American Business Law Association, New York County Lawyers Association and many others, and in 2004 he served as the national senior editor for the Northeast Journal of Legal Studies in Business. Professor LeVine has been a consultant in connection with all areas of law and taxation for many years, and served for the last year as the chair of the New York Faculty Council as well as the Lubin Faculty Council. He has been an owner and operator of real property for more than 45 years and has taught all levels of business law, taxation, and real estate law at Pace University.

Betty M. Torrance, PhD, Pleasantville
Professor of Modern Languages and Cultures

Professor Torrance received her bachelor's degree from Pomona College in California, her master's from Columbia University, and her doctorate from the City University of New York. She began her teaching career at Good Counsel College in White Plains 40 years ago and while there she inspired by the motto Boni Consilii: wise, or good, counsel. Professor Torrance merged that motto with Pace's motto of Opportunitas and, she says, it gave her a means grow as a person and as a professor. When she came to Pace University in 1966, she says, it provided the chance to work in a large urban/suburban setting, with all the challenges and opportunities that such an institution provides. During her years here she says she has been able to expand her knowledge as well as provide leadership in areas that were significant. Professor Torrance has served as chair of the Modern Languages and Cultures Department in Pleasantville, faculty coordinator for diversity, chair of Faculty Council in Westchester, and Director of International Programs for the Dyson College of Arts and Sciences. Over the last 19 years, she has taken groups of students and faculty members to destinations including South and Central America and Spain. Two years ago, when stepping down from the position of chair of Faculty Council, Professor Torrance wrote a short farewell. It began: "The people of Pace are the power of Pace."

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