

Dads Association
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
1401 W. Green St., 227 Illini Union
Urbana, IL 61801

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CONTACT: Becki Galardy
Parent Programs Office
217-333-7063 or galardy@illinois.edu

Dads Association Recognizes Certificate of Merit Recipients

URBANA –The Dads Association at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will recognize their annual Certificate of Merit Award at their annual Dads Weekend Banquet on Friday, November 13, 2009. The Certificate of Merit recognizes a student, a faculty member, a staff member and a registered student organization for their contributions to the improvement of the University and the community. Recipients receive an engraved mantle clock and a cash award. There were no faculty recipients this year. The 2009 recipients are:

Outstanding Staff Member

Ms. Meghan Smith is an Information Technology Support Specialist in the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) Library, Information and Alumni Center. Meghan provides critical hardware and software support; is in charge of the inventory system for the multi-lab computing facility; monitors and schedules use of individual instructional labs for classes and other events; and provides hardware, software and audio-visual support for the conferences spaces in the ACES Library, Information and Alumni Center.

In her nomination, Jeana McAllister, describes Meghan as “an excellent colleague who is willing to go the extra mile.” Meghan goes above and beyond her assigned duties, identifying new areas where she can make positive contributions to the college and the campus. She recently developed more efficient web pages for her unit, and developed a process that has decrease power usage in the computer labs. She also developed a web tutorial for a new program that allows users to remotely access software, and even created flyers to announce the service. The Dads Association is honored to present Meghan Smith with the Certificate of Merit Award for Outstanding Staff for her dedication to excellence and commitment to innovation.

Outstanding Registered Student Organization

The oldest and largest freshman honor society, **Phi Eta Sigma** (PES) was founded at the University of Illinois on March 22, 1923. The society now has more than 353 chapters throughout the United States and more than 900,000 inducted members. Phi Eta Sigma provides an opportunity for freshmen to get involved and gain experience while benefiting the community on campus, locally and internationally. Members often develop friendships that last throughout their undergraduate studies and continue beyond graduation.

PES is a leader in philanthropic giving, having raised more than \$6,900 for Relay for Life this past spring. Members serve the Swann Center in Champaign and the Women in Transition Shelter. PES has made contributions to libraries in Africa, provided school supplies in Argentina, as well as to many schools in the local community. This past year, PES has expanded their off-campus tutoring to include Urbana Middle School, New Hope Academy and Garden Hills Elementary School. The tutoring has been appraised at tens of thousands of dollars, and the tutors have been given credit for raising the test scores of students. PES recognizes the importance of giving back to campus, offering free peer to peer tutoring-via both group and private sessions.

Outstanding Student

Michael Long is a senior in plant biotechnology and molecular biology and plans to pursue a career in pharmacy. He is employed in the ACES computer labs where he provides composed, helpful assistance to faculty, staff and students. Michael's attention to detail and commitment to quality service has provided valuable contributions to the lab, including a simple, logical solution to a printing problem. Even though his job can be hectic and frustrating, Michael always manages to calm things down and find a solution to the problem at hand. His nominator, Jeana McAllister, describes him as "an extremely hard worker who never shirks a task or tries to avoid one. He is an excellent worker, a fine student, and a caring individual."

His service work, including membership on the ACES Library Board of Trustees and street cleanup duty with his fraternity, has a positive impact on the quality of life that Illinois students experience. In addition to receiving the Dads Association Certificate of Merit, Michael

has received the following: Dean's List, Cargill Community Scholarship Program, Paul K. Bresee Scholarship, Alpha Lambda Delta National Honorary Fraternity, Phi Eta Sigma National Honorary Fraternity and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars.

The Dads Association at the University at Urbana-Champaign, established in 1923, is believed to be one of the nation's longest-serving parent organizations. The Association supports programs, services and activities that promote the health, safety and well-being of the University community and serves as the parent liaison to the campus.

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