

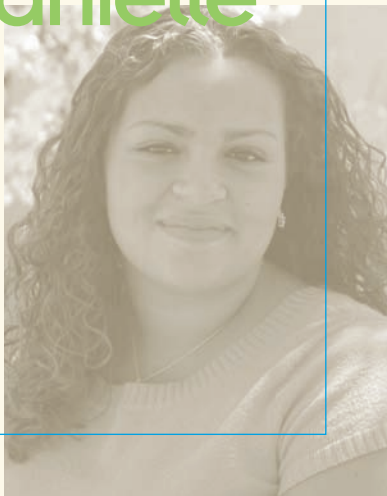


Each year, the Canisius College Alumni Association bestows its Distinguished Senior Award. Recipients of this award set themselves apart through leadership roles and college involvement. The selection committee includes members of the college's Alumni Board of Directors, and the offices of Alumni Relations, Student Activities and Student Development. Selections are based upon nomination letters from faculty, administrators and staff within the college, as well as academic standings and personal essays written by the nominees.

The recipients of the 2006 Distinguished Senior Award are: **Danielle V. Esposito '06** and **Nicholas L. Tober '06**.

Outstanding seniors

Danielle



Danielle V. Esposito '06 happily remembers her excitement when she received a Canisius College Urban Leadership Learning Communities Scholarship.

"I was away when the letter came, so my mom read it to me over the phone," recalls Esposito. "I couldn't believe that I was going to Canisius on a full scholarship!"

Esposito is modest. She achieved a high level of academic success at Sacred Heart Academy and demonstrated leadership through her involvement in extra-curricular activities and service work – all attributes of a Learning Communities scholar.

In May, Esposito received her bachelor's degree and joined the ranks of the college's more than 50 Learning Communities alumni. The psychology major, with a concentration in

animal behavior, says Canisius exceeded anything she imagined.

"Canisius provided me with academically challenging courses, travel opportunities, outlets for service and many extracurricular activities," says Esposito, who immersed herself in all of it.

A Learning Communities class representative and member of the college's Latin American Students and Friends (LASAF) organization, Esposito became the first chair of the newly-formed Diversity Committee for the Undergraduate Student Association (USA), during her junior year. In that position, she represented more than 15 cultural organizations on campus. Her impact was so positive that she served a second term as chair during her senior year.

"It was a challenging position, and Danielle did a fantastic job of coordinating events and activities that promoted diversity across the campus," says Brian P. Smith, director of Campus Programming and Leadership Development. "Through her work as diversity chair, I watched her mature into a confident, student leader."

But Esposito didn't limit herself to student clubs. She worked as a teaching assistant in the Philosophy and English departments and volunteered as a tutor in the Academic Development Center. Esposito also took advantage of several travel opportunities at Canisius. She studied in England through the English Department's Literary London Program and 'down under' at the University of the Sunshine Coast in Australia.

Esposito was inducted into the Di Gamma Honor Society in 2004 for her passionate commitment to service work. She traveled to Phelps,

WV, as part of Campus Ministry's Alternative Spring Break, to help build a home for Habitat for Humanity. Esposito also participated in Campus Ministry's winter service week in the Bronx where she organized activities for an after-school program at the Mercy Center.

"Danielle is motivated by the best spiritual, religious and human values," says Rev. John P. Bucki, S.J., director of Campus Ministry. "She is very dedicated to putting her beliefs into practice through service to others and the world."

There is no better example of this than Campus Ministry's newest service trip to Kingston, Jamaica, which Esposito co-founded and coordinated. Esposito knew of the needs in Kingston because she traveled there during a high school service trip and never forgot the plight of the elderly and orphans she met there.

Through her experiences at Canisius, Esposito says she determined her passions in life;

devotion to service and love of education are at the top of the list.

Esposito will spend next year studying at Fordham University and teaching at Brooklyn Jesuit Prep as a graduate assistant. She then plans to complete her master's degree in environmental education at the Florida Institute of Technology.

True to the goal of the Learning Communities Program, which is to educate young men and women to become leaders in the Buffalo community, Esposito plans to return to work in the city of Buffalo.

"I would love to work at the Buffalo Zoo and develop educational programs there," she says.

Whatever path Esposito takes, she is prepared.

"Because I leave Canisius with experiences and a way to live my life, I know that no matter what decision I make or project I become involved in, it will be done with pride and grace."



One visit and **Nicholas L. Tober '06** knew that Canisius College was a good fit for him.

"The tour guide was very personable and I really loved the campus," he recalls. "I felt an instant connection with Canisius."

Eager to meet new people, during his first semester Tober pledged for Alpha Kappa Psi, the business fraternity. Not only was the management/marketing major introduced to a new network of friends, he also became a management/marketing organizer of several fraternity events. That, he says, set the pace for all his leadership roles at Canisius.

Throughout his four years on campus, Tober served as the president of Alpha Kappa Psi, class representative of the Honors Council, a student representative for the

Finance Committee and secretary and treasurer of the French Club. He also swam on the college's Division I men's swim team.

Committed to providing potential Canisius students "with the same welcoming experience he had while touring the college," Tober served as a Canisius Ambassador and was named to the Ambassador Tour Guide Advisory Board.

Tober was as a member of Mu Kappa Tau, the national marketing honor society and vice president of communication for the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM).

He says, "Living the Jesuit mission of men and women for others helps form who you are."

Tober participated in an Alternative Spring Break trip to Detroit, MI. He helped spruce up neighboring homes and businesses during Canisius Community Days. He volunteered at the Friends of the Night People soup kitchen and with From Canisius with Love, a donation program for nursing home residents. His efforts earned him induction into the college's DiGamma Honor Society, for which he served as vice president.

But Tober says it was his involvement on the SIFE Team (Students in Free Enterprise) that provided the best experience of his college career. SIFE teams create economic

opportunities in their communities by organizing outreach projects that teach market economics, entrepreneurship, personal financial success skills and business ethics. Tober was vice president of the college's SIFE Team and under his leadership the college was awarded a first runner-up trophy at the USA Regional Competition in Philadelphia, PA.

"No student was more involved in our team or more entrepreneurial with respect to creating and implementing projects than Nick," says Patricia A. Hutton, PhD, professor of economics/finance and faculty advisor to SIFE.

It was Hutton who advised Tober on the subject of his honors thesis: leadership.

"She suggested I choose a topic that meant something to me and would be useful in the future," explains Tober. "I learned that just because you attend Canisius, it doesn't automatically make you a leader. Leadership comes with being involved."

Tober will continue his involvement with Canisius. He is enrolled in the college's MBA Program, and currently serving as SIFE's co-president and external sales manager for Quad Gear, the team's newest business that sells customized apparel and promotional items.