Aurora University Student Association (AUSA) Awards

**Meritiorious Faculty Award** — Selected by the AUSA for the faculty member’s contribution to student/campus life.

**Student Advocate of the Year** — Selected by the AUSA for those who have gone above and beyond to advocate for students’ concerns and help empower students to advocate for themselves.

**Senior Award** — Presented to the senior who made the greatest contribution to the class over his or her four years. Seniors nominate and select the winner.

College of Arts and Sciences

**Ethel Tapper Humanities Award** — Presented to a senior majoring in one of the humanities disciplines who demonstrated outstanding academic and creative achievement during his or her academic career at AU. The award is named in honor of Dr. Ethel Tapper who taught mathematics, served as a librarian and library director and was one of our former English professors and English department chair from 1937 to 1970.

**Stanley H. Perry Performing Arts Award** — Presented to a senior involved in the performing arts who has made a substantial contribution to the performing arts during his or her academic career at AU. Dean Perry served as Dean of the College, Professor of History and Professor of Humanities from 1930 to 1965. This award is named after Dean Perry who was associated for many years with theatre at Aurora as a director, actor, teacher and mentor.

**Eleanore and Samuel McFarlane Biology Award** — This award is based on the graduating student’s scholarship, spirit of cooperation in and contribution to the Natural Sciences program and demonstration of the ideals of Aurora University. The award commemorates the lives of Eleanore and Samuel H. McFarlane “who together served Aurora College for a span of 40 years as diligent scholars, enthusiastic teachers and dedicated scientists.”

**Moses Crouse Religion Award** — Presented to an outstanding senior majoring in religion. The award is named after Dr. Moses Crouse, chair of the religion department for more than 30 years, who together with his wife, Dorothy, dedicated their lives to the Aurora College community.

**Kenneth Olenik Social Science Award** — Presented to an outstanding senior majoring in one of the social science disciplines who has positively influenced the campus community through scholarship, and supportive leadership in academics, campus programs and community service. The award is named in honor of Dr. Olenik who taught sociology and social science for more than 30 years at AU prior to his retirement in 1996.

College of Education

**Golden Apple Award** — This award is presented to an outstanding senior in education who has demonstrated exceptional academic achievement, campus leadership, superior interpersonal relationships as well as a caring attitude.

**National Association for Sport and Physical Education Major of the Year** — Recognizes outstanding students majoring in physical education, kinesiology, exercise science and/or sport-related areas at colleges or universities that have professional programs in those areas.

College of Professional Studies

The Dunham School of Business

**Jennifer Worzala Award for Academic Excellence in Business and Leadership** — This award is presented to an outstanding senior accounting or business major who has demonstrated academic excellence, campus leadership and character in pursuit of his or her undergraduate degree. The award is named in memory of Jennifer Worzala who died during her senior year at Aurora University.

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The School of Nursing

Sharon Beverly Award — This award is presented in cooperation with the Delta Phi Alpha Sorority to a senior nursing major who most exemplifies spirit, determination and leadership. Beverly was a nursing major who persisted toward her degree despite the hardship of a full leg amputation due to bone cancer. Tragically, Beverly died before achieving her goal, but left us all with the lingering spirit of who she was and what she achieved.

Gertrude Banaszak Award — This award is given to a registered nurse student who is completing the baccalaureate degree. Banaszak was the Director of the Copley Memorial Hospital School of Nursing, the forerunner to Aurora University’s School of Nursing. This award recognizes commitment to the nursing profession and excellence in the pursuit of higher education.

John Alexander Leadership Award — In 1976, Dr. John Alexander was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Aurora College in recognition of his selfless work to better his community, care for his family and promote the college’s mission. The John Alexander Leadership Award is presented to a senior nursing student who exemplifies the characteristics for which Dr. Alexander is remembered.

The School of Social Work

George Williams Legacy Social Work Award — The social work faculty recognizes an outstanding graduating senior for his or her commitment to the social work profession, academic excellence, personal growth and group/interpersonal skills.

University Awards

The Jim Scott Award — This award is presented on an annual basis to an athletic team that best demonstrates the characteristics that Jim Scott, former head football coach (1985 to 2005) subscribed to during his coaching tenure at AU. Teams are nominated by their head coach based on team success, scholarship, sportsmanship and service.

The John McKee Citizenship Award — Established in 2009 by longtime trustee John F. McKee, this award — one for a student and one for a faculty member — was created to affirm the university’s commitment to the values of integrity, citizenship, continuous learning and excellence. The award reflects McKee’s lifetime commitment to “service before self,” a principle that has guided his work as an AU trustee for 35 years and in his involvement and service throughout the Aurora community.

Gold Ivy Leaf Award — The Gold Ivy Leaf is awarded to graduating seniors who have a minimum of 90 semester hours for a letter grade at Aurora University, and a cumulative grade point average of 3.75 or above.

Spartan Award — Voted on by the faculty, this award is presented to a graduating senior who has a cumulative GPA of 3.50 or above and has made an outstanding contribution to university life in at least two of the following categories: leadership role(s) in a recognized student organization that demonstrates the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in an educational setting; leadership role(s) in a recognized athletic field that serves others in continuous learning and improvement; service to the community indicative of respect, fairness and ethical conduct during his or her four years at Aurora University.

Lincoln Laureate Award — Each year, an outstanding senior from each of the four-year degree-granting institutions of higher learning in Illinois is awarded the Student Lincoln Academy Medallion and thereby becomes a Student Laureate of The Lincoln Academy of Illinois. Student Laureates are honored for their overall excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities.

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