

Student Irish Clover Award Submissions

Nominees:

Micah Finley

Mark Metryoos (5)

Michael Murakami (2)

Connor Patrick

Molly Shroeder

Cassie Van Etten

Micah Finley

Senior

For his constant commitment to GreeNDot and promoting training. Micah has demonstrated high involvement in the recruitment process and has helped GreeNDot reach record numbers for students and faculty trained.

Mark Metryoos

Sophomore

Mark has been an incredible role model for me and so many other freshman at my dorm. When I have needed advice for my classes or my workload he has always been there to help me navigate through it. He is the most driven student I have seen on campus and has motivated me to have the same passion as him. I feel like Mark is the clear candidate for the Irish Clover award.

Mark is a leader in the community and is very helpful to those around him. He is very helpful towards his peers and has completed many extracurricular activities. He is honest, bundle, and dedicated to improving and helping the Notre Dame community.

Mark Metrooys is a guy you want to know. Mark will go out of his way to help you whenever he can. Countless times I have walked into the dorm and Mark is talking to somebody new about opportunities either in Mendoza, through clubs, or any type of activity. Many people are not willing to help others out or share opportunities, Mark is the opposite. Mark not only dedicates his all to helping the people around

him, but he also puts them before himself. Mark Metrooys not only helps around the dorm but also applies himself heavily in clubs. Mark is the Vice President of the Black Business Association of Notre Dame. This association which holds mostly underrepresented and low-income black students provides hundreds of opportunities yearly. Mark is at the head of this constantly advertising meetings and opportunities that can be found through the club. I have personally heard Mark trying his hardest to show the opportunities, even to those who at moments are not interested. Not only this, but Mark is also on the executive board for First-Gen Careers. When Mark Metrooys gets the chance to help someone he will always take it. If you are looking for opportunities, ways to get your name out there, and how to get more involved, Mark is the guy to talk to. He will take any chance he can to better us a student body.

Mark is an excellent leader on campus and a huge advocate for those who come from diverse backgrounds. I was born and raised in Mexico and applied to QuestBridge on a whim, not thinking I'd get in. When I did, the program offered me a full ride to attend the University of Notre Dame. When I came to campus I didn't think the kids within QuestBridge would be like me, but interestingly enough a freshman just like me was making everyone feel welcomed on the first day. On a personal level, he offers himself as a friend to lots of people who come from first-generation low-income backgrounds. And on a professional note, he goes even further. I saw that he was highlighted on the First-Gen Careers Newsletter and I've gotten to attend a lot of the events he's hosted. He's brought to campus non-profits that directly offer jobs to students, he's gone to conferences and spoke about the FGLI experience at Notre Dame and learned about ways to support people back on campus, and he has made us all feel more comfortable with the career journey. The executive board for First-Gen Careers has made events for all career paths and its thanks to people like Mark that all this knowledge is out there. I'd also like to add he's sent invites in the QuestBridge group chat about the Financial Literacy club he leads, and although I haven't attended, I've heard about the economic empowerment they're implementing within that club. Mark not only gives back to the FGLI students on campus through career development and mentorship, but he seeks to increase the awareness of struggles for all, while providing information that's pertinent to everyone like how to manage your money. As a Sophomore, it's insane how much he's accomplished and I'm glad he's on our campus. It is without a doubt that he's directly impacted a neglected piece of the campus community, while also looking for ways to find intersectionality between students from all backgrounds. He defines inclusivity but most importantly he defines what it means to be a friend to all.

Mark Metryoos has done an exceptional job of providing service to the student body. From the work he has done with Questbridge to the work he does making FGLI and minority students feel welcome on campus, I cannot think of another person who is as deserving of this award as Mark is. For only being a sophomore, his impact on the student body has been monumental.

Michael Murakami

Senior

Between the Student International Business Council, every branch of student government imaginable, serving as a Teacher's Assistant, training for and financially coordinating the Holy Half, studying for the CPA Exam, and a plethora of other commitments, Michael Murakami wears an innumerable amount of hats. But while his resume is breathtaking, it does not come close to summing up his service to the Notre Dame community. For if I did not have an RA like Mike, I might not be here to tell you about him.

My first weekend at Notre Dame, I was terrified. Feeling social pressure like I never had before, I had way too much to drink, and put myself in real danger. When I was taken back to my dorm, there was Mike. His first priority was not to write me up or to reprimand me. Instead, he supported me, accompanied me, and made sure I got the care I needed. Things like this are part of his job as an RA, but Mike never does the bare minimum; He goes above and beyond, especially when Dunne Hall's residents need him. The weeks that followed my mishap were the most emotionally challenging of my life. I had failed myself and my family, and felt that my journey at Notre Dame would be impossible. But again, there was Mike to let me know that things would be alright. His first interaction with me had been embarrassing and a stain on my character, but from that point on, he never made me feel judged or chastised. Simple interactions like a competitive game of Ping-Pong or a Hall Government Food Challenge are microcosms of his desire to foster relationships with everyone in the dorm.

One exchange which took me by surprise came when Mike said: "Hey, I haven't bought you lunch yet". It is somewhat customary for Dunne RA's to do this for their section's new residents. There was only one problem: "I'm not in your section", I replied. "I know", he said, "Let me know a day that works for you". Mike doesn't see himself as the 1 North RA, and he doesn't check out when he's not on duty. He is everyone's RA, and takes it upon himself to ensure that each of us has a positive Notre Dame experience. Moreover, he is a guiding force in times of need. As I decided what major to declare, I found myself at the threshold of Mike's perpetually open door. He put aside everything he was doing, asked me what I was thinking, showed

me ND GPS, and offered to put me in touch with upperclassmen from all of my considered majors. At that moment, I felt that whatever decision I made, I was supported. The common theme of all interactions with Mike is that he cares. He cares about Dunne Hall and its residents, in both our successes and failures. But most greatly, he cares about the Notre Dame community.

When we receive our acceptance letters to Notre Dame, the first words we read are “Welcome Home”. But a true home does not exist without family. I may be hours away from my family, but I know that here in Dunne Hall, Mike Murakami has my back and wants to help me succeed, and for that I am eternally grateful. For all of his service, I can think of no one more deserving of the Irish Clover Award.

I've heard it said that when Queen Elizabeth walked into a room, everyone there felt that England itself had entered the room. Well, when Michael Murakami walks into a room, I feel that Dunne Hall itself has entered the room. No one has held as many positions in service to the dorm as Mike—our former president, senator, and FYCC representative. But more importantly, no one embodies the spirit and ideals of Notre Dame's dorm life quite as well as Mike. I met Mike as a freshman during Welcome Weekend. As the president of Dunne that year, he was leading our inaugural Hall Gov meeting. I don't recall the content of the meeting, but I remember how I felt: like I had a new home in Dunne. In the past year and a half, I have indeed come to think of Dunne as a home, and part of that is because of Mike's presence. He has a nearly perfect record of attendance at even the most banal of dorm events. His door is consistently open, and even though he is one of the busiest people I know, he is always available to talk. Part of why Mike is so busy is because of his extensive service to the University of Notre Dame. He serves as an RA and TA; he sits on HPC Financial Management board, where he created the Covid Fund budget; he is the Holy Half Financial Comptroller; and he also finds time to serve as an SIBC leader and mentor. Although Mike provides exemplary service in each of these roles, his biggest contribution to our campus community comes from his relationships with those around him. Not many seniors would be willing to spend large chunks of their time forming friendships with freshmen, but Mike has done exactly that all year. When I go to the dining hall, I'd guess that there is about a 50% chance that Mike will be sitting at the Dunne table talking to a gaggle of underclassmen eager to learn something from him. As a result of these conversations, I have been introduced by Mike to various career development opportunities, gained insights into classes he's taken, and been advised which professors to take. Next year, our dorm will have new leaders, and I'm confident that they will serve us well. But no one will quite take the place of Mike. His magnanimity, sense of responsibility, and constant presence have left countless Dunne Sentinels indebted to him. I and a great many others have

benefited from his unwavering commitment to our dorm and to the broader campus community. Notre Dame will be worse off without him next year, but we are better off for the time he's spent here.

Connor Patrick

Senior

Connor has served the student body well in a variety of leadership roles both within and outside of the Student Union. These include — among other roles — stints as a Welcome Weekend volunteer, a member of Dillion Hall Government, a JPW Committee Co-Chair in charge of social media engagement, the founder of the New York Club, a member of his Class Councils, a teaching fellow for the Philosophy Department's God & The Good Life program, and — as a senior — the Club Coordination Council President. He consistently strove to welcome and support members of the undergraduate student body, no matter the positions he held in a given year or semester. In particular, as the CCC President, he worked diligently to fairly allocate club funds during two allocation processes, assisted clubs with their programming efforts, reviewed club funding policies to develop and implement improvements that maximize equitable allocations, and ensured the voices of all student groups were heard in Student Senate. Executing on these responsibilities alone in his final year at Notre Dame makes him deserving of recognition for exemplary service to the student body.

Molly Shroeder

Senior

Molly has served Notre Dame in an abundance of ways, including as Cavanaugh Hall President, a Cavanaugh RA, and a member of Student Government. In addition to her work with ND Listens and other extracurricular endeavors, including ND Dance Co, Molly has continuously made connections with students across backgrounds, subjects, and life stories. Everyone knows Molly, or knows someone who knows her, because of her gracious and extraverted spirit. Molly takes members of our dorm on weekly Grotto trips, sits through multiple meal times at the dining hall to connect with others, and helped lead Cavanaugh Hall to be the Women's Hall of the Year during her time as President. I cannot think of someone more deserving of this award who is truly an Irish Spirit. Next year, Molly will be working with ACE and continuing Notre Dame's mission of providing Catholic quality education to all.

Cassie Van Etten
Senior

As an RA in Howard, she has brought so much light and joy to the community. Hosting programming on the weekends, baking, or starting puzzles in the pond, she is always getting the people of Howard engaged. Her kindness and selflessness when helping residents is unmatched. She is also a great spiritual guide and resource, especially in her admirable role in Folk Choir. She is genuinely so kind and caring, always makes me feel welcome, and is an incredible RA.