

Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award

Faculty/Staff/Administrator

Section 1. The Irish Clover Award.

(a) The Irish Clover Award is given to two outstanding members of the Notre Dame community for exemplary service to the student body. Each year, one recipient shall be a student or alumnus, and the other shall be faculty, staff, or an administrator.

(b) The Irish Clover Award given to faculty, staff, or an administrator shall be named the Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award, in honor of Student Government Secretary Nancy J. Walsh.

(c) The Student Senate shall choose the recipients of the Irish Clover Award each term.

Nominations were provided via the GoogleForm sent to the undergraduate student body. The nominees are listed below in alphabetical order of last name.

2024 Nominees:

Andrew Bartolini
John Behrens
Michael Deike
Marcus Freeman
DeeAnne Goodenough
Jodene Morrell
Anthony Polotto
Diana Salgado Huicochea
Devon Sanchez-Ossorio
Matt Sparks
Forrest Spence

Andrew Bartolini

He is incredibly dedicated to imparting the knowledge and skills of Engineering to first-year students. It makes the environment both intellectually challenging and easy to get excited about the work. Overall, his effort and commitment to us as people and as students is frankly remarkable.

John Behrens

Consistently willing to help, provide feedback and guidance, and go above and beyond for the student. Reaches out and is always willing to talk and is consistently a useful resource for any student. Always acts with open arms and contributes incredible knowledge and insight. Offers an incredibly inspiring plethora of coursework that stimulates the mind and student brain. Consistently looking for ways to help students and set them up for future success.

Michael Deike

He has helped me in a few classes, primarily working on my economics thesis.

Marcus Freeman

He is often present at meaningful events to the student body, especially hockey, basketball, and lacrosse games. He is a great representation of Notre Dame to the world.

DeeAnne Goodenough

As a student advisor and lab professor, she is always available to help and guide students in the Biochemistry department. She is supportive and encouraging.

Jodene Morrell

Prof. Morrell is always there for her students, both in small, supportive ways, as well as helping us to serve others.

Anthony Polotto

From my experience working with several administrators on several topics of improvement upon the student body, none has helped me more than Anthony Polotto. I admit that I can be quite biased given that he is my go-to guy for everything, but he truly has helped me in more ways than anyone can imagine.

When I was in his Moreau course, Mr. Polotto decided that he did not want the Moreau course to be a forced discussion about vague questions, but rather that the class could encompass “seeing what Notre Dame is.” As a result, he showed us various places that we would not have otherwise seen – such as the construction in Alumni Hall and the top of the Basilica – in order for us to gain an experience into what Notre Dame is and what it stands

for. I will always be thankful for a great Moreau course, in which I personally enjoyed being a part of and regrettably could not find a spot for his second seminar.

Fast-forward to my time in the Student Union, as someone who has written several Resolutions and worked with many administrators, Mr. Polotto is without question the best one to work with. Every time I email him regarding some issue that I may have, he always replies as fast as possible. In the drainage issue between Dillon and Alumni, it was not a question whether to investigate the problem or not; it was a matter of getting it done. Mr. Polotto was crucial in ensuring that the drainage issue outside of Dillon and Alumni was repaired by the summer of 2023. Additionally, in several puddles formed during heavy rain that I believe form complications for the undergraduate student body, Mr. Polotto is quick to reply and provide updates that the Office of Facilities Design and Operations is doing.

Furthermore, Mr. Polotto has connected me with several administrators on several issues. One could even make the argument that he is the go-to guy to contacting administrators. He first connected me with Bruce Harrison, Chief of the Notre Dame Fire Department, to discuss the fire alarm system in Dillon Hall, and the reasons they were constantly going off. This eventually led to the fire alarm system in Dillon Hall to getting fixed. He also connected me and Maria Bueno with Julie Boynton, Director of Interior Architecture, for the absence of Johnson Family Hall in the North Dining Hall (NDH) wall, which led to a resolution regarding the continual update of the NDH wall, as well as the aforementioned dorm's absence in the Track Center of the Smith Center, yet to be discussed at the time of writing. In essence, Mr. Polotto has been crucial in continually improving the conditions of the undergraduate students.

I fully endorse Mr. Anthony Polotto for the Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award.

Diana Salgado Huicochea

Diana has put in an immense amount of effort and time into helping improve the Multicultural Ministries at Campus Ministry. She has created various cultural/faith events and safe spaces for Asian, Black, and Hispanic/Latino students that did not used to exist before. Additionally, she has advocated for more support in the other ministries such as interfaith communities and international students, allowing for change in the structure of Campus Ministry's faculty positions to best serve the Notre Dame students' needs. Diana has also helped put together and lead a committee to plan the missions and strategies for the Multicultural Ministries for the next three years. Furthermore, she has prioritized listening to students' needs through listening sessions to figure out what steps are necessary to make Campus Ministry the place where multicultural students can feel they can turn to for support, community, and faith.

Devon Sanchez-Ossorio

The 2023-2024 Judicial Council Officers are excited to nominate Devon Sanchez-Ossorio for the Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award. Throughout his ten years of exemplary service to this University and its students, Devon has consistently distinguished himself as a dedicated and thoughtful pillar of support to countless facets of the Notre Dame community, spending his time helping to build a better and more informed Student Union; empowering and advising hundreds of student leaders; and working to serve the Notre Dame student body to build community, compassion, and a distinctly positive culture.

Devon joined the Notre Dame family in 2014, initially serving as General Manager of Legends for facilities and programs. Aside from his responsibilities at Legends—where Devon diligently helped build a warm and inviting atmosphere for all guests—Devon also worked as the advisor to the Senior Class Council, assisting with programming activities and ensuring their leadership was consistent and informed. Additionally, he assisted Residence Halls, clubs, and other student organizations with their programming needs, focusing especially on developing strong ties between the Student Union Board and other student organizations and campus departments, ultimately enhancing program planning and fostering a stronger sense of community among Notre Dame students.

After switching roles in 2016 to serve as an Assistant Director of the Student Activities Office, Devon began as Judicial Council advisor—the role in which we’ve seen Devon’s impressive commitment—working alongside numerous administrations to enhance the Judicial Council, Student Union, and Notre Dame student body at large. Though we may view this work as immense and impressive, even we must be reminded that Devon’s service to the Student Union has been inspired by his continued efforts to ensure a strong and enriching Notre Dame student experience: Devon has ensured a strongly operational and well-programmed Duncan Student Center; a vibrant Library Lawn; forward-looking programming across the greater campus; and has helped to coordinate large programming events, including DomerFest, Junior Parents Weekend, the Shamrock Leadership series, and Senior Week. Devon’s dedication to the service of others is further apparent in his continued support and membership within the Military and Veteran Undergraduate and Community Work Group where he tirelessly pushes to further the experience of our Military and Veteran students on campus.

Considering only his capacity as Judicial Council advisor, Devon has advised numerous projects that have had far-reaching and tremendous impacts on the entire student body. He has played integral roles in ensuring the efficient and faithful administration of numerous elections, including those administered during the turbulent COVID-19 pandemic, the unexpected 2022 snow day, and the gradual election administration transition to NDCentral. Devon has consistently and reliably provided invaluable insight into the history and intent of the Constitution, whose rules affect a tremendous number of students now and in the future, and has aided in the successful execution of the Peer Advocate program that

allows students going through the Office of Community Standards conduct process with an additional resource for support. Devon's constitutional knowledge has aided all of our work within the Judicial Council; we know we may always, without fail, turn to Devon for wise and impartial advice.

We are confident that anyone who has worked within the Judicial Council can, and will, attest to Devon's selflessness and willingness to accommodate the needs of students. Advisor to the Judicial Council is an extremely thankless job; Devon has been asked to sacrifice hundreds of hours of personal time to attend numerous meetings, often occurring with less than a few hour's notice and lasting into the early morning hours, beyond any time he would be reasonably expected to be available. Few other University administrators must be expected to be available on such short notice, so quickly, and at such inconvenient times. During his time advising the Judicial Council, Devon has willingly surrendered countless hours late into the night throughout the past eight years assisting the Judicial Council, Student Union leaders, and other candidates in ensuring clean and transparent elections; the preservation of ethical behavior; and the development of a positive and healthy work culture.

The fact that the Student Union and the Judicial Council have continued to operate so seamlessly—despite eight years of differing judicial leaders—is a testament to Devon's unyielding resolve and absolute indispensability to this organization and therefore, to the Student Body. Devon embodies servant leadership, eagerly and willingly surrendering himself to the service of others with no expectation or thought of reward or gratitude.

As Devon completes his final year as the Advisor to the Judicial Council, we would like to commemorate his years of service and dedication to the Notre Dame student body. Our nomination is presented with unwavering confidence that Devon is deserving of this award. Devon has given so much of himself to service, and we feel strongly that he deserves our utmost gratitude. It is with sincerest appreciation that the Judicial Council Officers humbly request that the Student Senate consider Devon Sanchez-Ossorio to be this year's award recipient of the Nancy J. Walsh Irish Clover Award.

Matt Sparks

Consistently shows up for each and every kid. Takes a chance on those who may not display extremely promising signs of success, but works to develop them to the best of their ability. Shows consistent empathy and persistence to each and every student. Goes above and beyond to go beyond what is asked and touch the needs of each and every student. Has a great head on his shoulders and is able to make good judgements when things get difficult. Always there for the student and is really one of a kind.

Forrest Spence

A professor, a friend, a hero Forrest Spence.