

## **Irish Clover Award Submissions**

(sorted alphabetically)

### **Elizabeth Boyle**

Political Science/Peace Studies, Breen-Phillips, Student Body President

*Elizabeth Boyle has spent every day of her time here at ND in service of the Student Body.*

*From her work with Know Your IX in helping educate students on their Title IX rights to her continuing work on sexual assault prevention in the Student Government Department of Gender Relations, she has worked tirelessly to serve the population of survivors at Notre Dame. In her office as Student Body President, Elizabeth has worked to make the Student Government an open, welcoming, and accessible resource for students. By championing the new Department of Student Empowerment and by fiercely representing the voices of students to the Administration, she has truly served as a servant leader. She and Patrick made sure that they showed up to as many student events as possible; she and I actually met at the GALA awards dinner in the Spring of 2019. Her commitment to being present and her allyship to the LGBTQ+ community are indicative of a deeper, abiding pledge to serve the Student Body each and every day.*

### **Elly Brenner**

Assistant Provost for Academic Advising, Office of the Provost

*Elly goes above and beyond to make sure every student that comes to her is in the best position to succeed. Personally, I would not be where I am today in my ND career without her help, and I am sure the same is true for many others. I remember meeting with her in her office before Thanksgiving Break and asking her what she was doing for the break. She told me she was having a group of ND students over to her house to have Thanksgiving dinner with her and her family. This kind of genuine compassion, love, and caring attitude is exactly what she shows everyone that crosses her path. I have never heard bad things about her, and I don't think I ever will. A pros and cons list would show only pros, for I have nothing but great things to say about her. She is, hands down, one of the best members of faculty at Notre Dame, and I hope to see her move up the ranks in years to come. With Mrs. Brenner in a bigger lead role, Notre Dame will be in better standings than ever before.*

### **Pam Butler**

Associate Director of Gender Studies; Director of Undergraduate Studies; Faculty Fellow, Center for Social Concerns

*Dr. Butler along with the entire Gender Studies department goes above and beyond in their service to students. They have emailed us after the coronavirus news offering support through the funding that they have in the department to help accommodate students to online classes. Even before this, Dr. Butler is always willing to listen and engage with students to discuss course texts and ideas and support students' passions. They are well-deserving of this award.*

### **Dinuka Cooray**

Gender Studies and Pre-Health, Welsh Fam/ now off-campus, Co-President of American Medical Women's Assoc.; President of Feminist ND; Secretary of South Asian Student Association; Senior Editor of Her Campus Notre Dame

*I'm nominating myself, if that is allowed. One of my favorite parts about Notre Dame is the extracurricular organizations that I have been able to become a part of and eventually gain leadership positions in. I have been very involved with student organizations in the past 4 years because they add richness to my life as*

*a student and I love the service, education, and advocacy that becomes possible when students come together.*

### **Cathy David**

None, None, ILI Fellow

*Cathy David is so amazing. She is literally one of the kindest people I have ever met. And she preaches her kindness. She may or may not deserve this award in your opinion, but she most definitely deserves and award.*

### **Dean Demetri**

Political Science, Knott, President of AFCI

*Runs the Adopt a Family Christmas Initiative which is an under represented club on campus of about 100 active members raising and spending close to \$15,000 a year for families in need in the South Bend area. Students meet the families, shop for, and wrap presents for the families then deliver them to spread Christmas cheer. If nothing else, I hope that the Student Union can further recognize the club for the amazing work they do for these people who truly need it.*

### **Addison Greer Donaher**

College of Arts and Letters, Cav

*Member of the community who embodies the Notre Dame Spirit. While actively involving her friends in game day activities to leading the Irish Dance team to consecutive championship wins in Ireland this girl never stops. Every activities fair she engages her friends running their respective booths to be happy and make every new student feel welcome. She takes that attitude through the school year and has done so since her first year on campus. Some recognition for the pride in the school and her majorly under-recognized work for making this campus a better place.*

### **Halena Hadi**

Econ, Ryan, Judicial Council

*I don't think most people realize how much of herself Halena puts into everything that she does. At the price of her own sleep (and perhaps sanity at times) she did everything she could to be the best head of Judicial Counsel there could be.) As someone not involved in student government, yet around her in other settings, I feel as though I have a unique POV to say just how much she cares and executes what needs to get done in serving our community! Outside of her official role, she is a fantastic friend and always there to talk to. Therefore, not only does she contribute to the "official community" that is student government and their roles, but is a great member of the school and a role model for everyone else around her. After all, the greatest service you can give a community is being whole-heartedly invested in it and doing all the little things even when no one may see them.*

### **Samuel Jackson**

FTT, Keough, Senior & leprechaun

*Sam as a person is always there to brighten anyone's day. He is very outgoing, charismatic, genuine, and acknowledges/validates everyone, so friends and strangers alike have gotten to experience his charm. As leprechaun, he entertained & led us through Irish wins and losses, never losing his pep or dedication to the position. As an artist, he leaves us with his play, "The Tea on ND," which carries a very strong & important social message. He has served not in the sense of "volunteer community service hours," but rather by being a ray of sunshine under ND's permacloud.*

## **Noelle Johnson**

Theology and Physics, Lewis, President of ND Right to Life

*Noelle has been president of ND Right to Life and has done a great job of leading the group in its activities.*

## **Karen Kennedy**

Director of Student Centers, Activities and Events

*To begin, Karen has sacrificed so much of her personal time that could have better been spent with family, to assist students and ensure the smooth operation of undergraduate student government and student life, in all aspects. From her previous role as the Director of Housing to her current role as advisor to the Student Senate, FCC, Executive Cabinet, and numerous other organizations, Karen has been involved in almost every conversation regarding student life. And in every matter, she always considers the needs of every student involved. Steadfast, detailed, and caring, she is a fantastic advisor who is knowledgeable of the Student Union Constitution and mindful of every possible outcome to a situation. An amazing resource to student government, she is an amazing role model as well.*

## **Marya Lieberman**

Professor, Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry

*Dr. Lieberman is committed to student success in the classroom. Beyond teaching, Dr. Lieberman's research is committed to developing better methods of detection that are accessible to the target community. Within South Bend, in particular, Dr. Lieberman is active in neighborhood associations, town halls, and other civically-engaged activities to pave a pathway forward for better methods of lead detection, remediation, and/or abatement, rather than using children as canaries in the coal mine (i.e. waiting for an elevated blood lead level test, when the damage done is irreversible).*

## **Patrick McGuire**

Economics and Sociology, Siegfried, Student Body Vice President

- 1) Patrick has tirelessly worked for the student body his entire term. He was very often found in the Student Government office at all hours of the night and was especially diligent during the election season. While running Student Senate, he was incredibly dedicated to his duties and ran each meeting with an emphasis on treating one another with respect. He always has a kind word to say to everyone he interacts with; there's a reason it takes him two hours to make it out of LaFun at any time of day since he has to say hi to everyone he sees. I could not be prouder to have worked beside him for the past year. I have never once see him turn to negativity, even during the most difficult of circumstances. He is an exemplary student, leader, and person. No one is more deserving of this award.*
- 2) Patrick McGuire has truly poured himself into the role of Student Body Vice President, spending countless hours, day in and day out to serve the Student Body. In pursuit of fulfilling the requirements of the office, he has dedicated his time to chairing the Senate and working tirelessly to prepare for each meeting. Additionally, he has stretched himself by heading the legislature and also aiding President Boyle in the executive branch. On many nights he did not leave the office until 3 or 4 in the morning, if at all. Despite the immense amounts of pressure placed on him in this role, Pat has remained a charitable, welcoming, and warm presence on campus to all who cross his path. He and Elizabeth made sure that they showed up to as many student events as possible; he and I actually met at the GALA awards dinner in the Spring of 2019. His commitment to being present and his allyship to the LGBTQ+ community are indicative of a deeper pledge to serve the Student Body each and every day.*

- 3) *Of all Student Union positions, Student Body Vice-President is arguably the most demanding. It is the only office that demands a strong presence and involvement in every branch of student government. The Student Body Vice-President is recognized university-wide for their executive position and role in programming, but also serves as Chairperson of the Student Senate, and maintains an active role in the election proceedings handled by the Judicial Council. Patrick McGuire has handled this office and all its accompanying responsibilities with grace and diplomacy. To this office, he has brought compassion and openness, truly delivering on his and Elizabeth's campaign platform of "Empowerment." He has sacrificed countless hours for the betterment of the Student Union and student body and has done so graciously, out of love for Notre Dame and her community. Through conflicts, disputes, and attacks, he has never sacrificed the friendly disposition he is so well known for. Always prudent and diligent, he has given his full attention to every matter raised before him. I don't think it is a stretch to say that Patrick McGuire is perhaps one of the most well-known names on campus. And not without merit. Patrick is truly one of the kindest, most genuine people I have ever met. His service is not limited to the role of Vice-President, but extends far beyond what I could write -- to his role as a TA, as a leader in his dorm, to his research on campus, to his work and service off-campus. Patrick is a student leader through and through, representative of what Notre Dame stands for and the character Notre Dame aspires to cultivate in students. This community is truly better for having him.*

### **Dr. Nancy Michael**

Neuroscience and Behavior

*Nancy Michael joined Notre Dame faculty five years ago, when students and South Bend community members will testify that she "hit the ground running." During her first year, Dr. Michael developed a neuroscience curriculum that incorporated community-based learning and the scientific data on brain development. In this course, students were designated translators of science, with a responsibility to teach and inform South Bend community members the reality of developmental neuroscience, the impact of early childhood development and the importance of parental and primary care. Five years later, Dr. Michael continues to gather students and community members together in a semester-long project which culminates in a teach-back session. This session occurs immediately before Christmas break, and promotes conversation about social justice, prejudice, early childhood development and parenting, in light of scientific data. Dr. Michael challenges her students to align their values and behaviors, invoking the pillars Catholic Social Teaching as principles that many Notre Dame affiliates uphold, but do not always act upon.*

*Dr. Michael's dedication to pedagogy is motivated by her genuine care for her students. Encouraging students to come to her outside of office hours, she listens with open ears and an open heart to the everyday concerns of her students. Her care for her students goes beyond expectations for an advisor or counselor. In all of my four years at Notre Dame, Dr. Michael remains the only professor to have looked me in the eyes and ask, "Are you ok?" As students, we are often made aware of the busy schedules of our professors, but Dr. Michael has never hesitated to take time for a student in need. Her diligent work, outstanding projects, and exemplary teaching are supplemented by her genuine personality and kindness towards all.*

### **Maggie Reisel**

Political Science, Badin Hall President

*Maggie is the epitome of a Notre Dame student. Not only is she kind, outgoing, inclusive, caring, extremely intelligent, and dedicated ( I could go on), but the energy she has as a person is contagious. Maggie, as a junior, is the vice-president of the club volleyball team, where she is one of my role models. Sharing the same position (setter), she showed me how to lead a team and at the same time have fun. Her energy on the court is unmatched; she made practices exciting. She is also the president of Badin Hall where she is dedicated to the women of her dorm and helps make their hall more of a community and a family. She also helps with the Badin Breakdown to help charity. Badin is so lucky to have such a leader. She is also dedicated and involved in her major. On top of all of this, Maggie is one of the largest Notre Dame fans I know!*

### **Devon Sanchez-Ossorio**

Assistant Director for Events and Services; Student Advisor to Judicial Council and Senior Class Council  
*In all earnestness, I could not have asked for a better advisor this past year. Through a tiring and demanding elections process, Devon remained calm and collected and was always honest and straightforward regarding the possible outcomes. Despite manning other affairs and student groups within SAO, he was always available to deal with unexpected difficulties and brainstorm solutions, even when called at 1am. Generous with his time and knowledge, he would never hesitate to find a time to meet when needed. Extremely knowledgeable of, and passionate about constitutional code and conduct, he was always extremely helpful and perhaps one of the best people to talk through potential solutions with. Extremely outgoing and talkative, Devon made even the most mundane or monotonous meetings/processes somewhat entertaining and was always enthusiastic about tackling problems head on.*

### **Laksumi Sivanandan**

Political Science and American Studies, Farley Hall, Notre Dame Class of 2020 Vice President  
*I first met Laksumi on move-in day our freshman year (2016)- she was a cheery girl who lived down the hall from me in Farley. As I got to know Laksumi, I saw how her positive spirit brought our dorm's section together for events and bonding. I always looked forward to visiting her quad, and our joke was that I would walk in there whenever I made a snack so that I didn't have to eat alone. As silly as that may seem, Laksumi's welcoming personality and levelheadedness was very comforting as I adapted to the college lifestyle. In her involvement with Student Council, Laksumi discovered her passion for bringing people together. In weekly lunches sophomore year, I listened to her ideas on how to make our class better, to get people more involved. I was impressed by her dedication to student unity. As happens junior year, student unity in the Class of 2020 was complicated by some students going abroad. As an Architecture major myself, it was hard not to feel distanced from my friends back home at Notre Dame. One day in the Fall, Laksumi reached out to tell me about the letter-writing event she had overseen for students on campus to write to their traveling friends. She asked if I could receive the letters in Rome and distribute accordingly. I was happy to do so, and even happier to see the looks on everyone's faces when they arrived. The thoughtfulness and effects of this event alone signify Laksumi's exemplary service to the ND student population (but her work hardly ends there). Senior year (in addition to her Vice President position, many Senior Sundays, and a very successful 100 Days Dance), Laksumi stepped up as an Off Campus Commissioner for Farley Hall, mostly to spearhead communications between a new rector and those of us no longer living in the dorm. She also developed a funny-and-philanthropic habit of making casseroles and banana bread for whoever had had a hard week. I was lucky to meet a lot of wonderful people from our Class at these Friday casserole nights- Laksumi always invited a random group of people she knew from this or that, and we all left as friends by the end of the night*

*I've yet to mention the many grocery runs Laksumi picked me up for this year (I don't have a car or live near a store) and how she is the best supporter: a few weeks ago we went to the last men's basketball game to celebrate our manager-friend Molly's senior night, and Laksumi cheered while holding a cut-out head of Molly the entire time.*

*Now, student unity is again complicated because of the Coronavirus, and I can see the effects of Laksumi's community-building efforts on the Class of 2020. People are forming Facebook groups for communication, having "Zoom dates" and interacting in all sorts of creative ways, and I can't help but credit that to the many events Laksumi and all of Student Council helped to host. And of course, she was among the first to reach out to see where I am and how I am doing in light of the sad news we will be completing the semester remotely.*

*Laksumi would be honored to receive the Irish Clover Award, and is so deserving of it! Please consider her as a recipient for this term.*

## **Kelli Smith**

FTT and Political Science, Badin, former editor-in-chief of The Observer

*Kelli Smith is an exemplar of student leadership and service to the community.*

*For the majority of her senior year, Kelli served as the editor-in-chief of The Observer — a thankless, but vital job. Each and every day, Kelli was motivated by one, deeply held belief: that the student body and the larger Notre Dame community is privy to far more information than they have, that it is The Observer's duty to report the truth and give it to the individuals that truth impacts the most — the students.*

*Throughout the year, Kelli carried on throughout threats of legal action, intimidation from the Main Building, harassment from students, and even an illicit breach of The Observer's website. Many nights, she stayed up until the paper went to print — anywhere from 2 to 4 a.m. — to be a final set of eyes on the paper. The credibility of the paper was paramount to Kelli. Any typo could call into question the veracity of the institution as a whole, and she fought endlessly against cries of "Fake News" or bias. Every decision she made was careful and thoughtful.*

*Kelli worked tirelessly to earn the trust of the community, find new ways to bring the content to the community through social media and newsletters, and try different ways of reporting on the community, from podcasts to videos. She instituted the role of Talent and Inclusion Manager to work towards increased diversity among the staff, and to better the reporting of diverse groups on campus. The Investigations Unit was initiated under her leadership, allowing a group of reporters to dive deep into one topic — this year, they looked at mental health resources and the experience of Native American students on campus, to name a few.*

*Kelli was an incredible leader and accomplished so much. With more than 100 students working under her, she was able to create a community driven by the same motivation: to provide the Notre Dame community with information they need and deserve to know.*

*Even now, just three weeks into her retirement from the position, Kelli is working behind the scenes to write social media posts and finish writing a few articles because she doesn't want anyone on the staff to feel overwhelmed.*

*Kelli is an example to the community as someone driven by values of honesty and transparency. She believes that the community can only become better by thoroughly investigating its darkest corners — and if that isn't service, what is?*