

DePauw University



STUDENT AWARDS CONVOCATION 2025



Welcome Address & Presidential Ambassadors

Dr. Lori S. White, President DePauw University

Rector Scholars

Critical Language Scholarship

Dr. Michael Seaman, Associate Professor of Classical Studies

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Dr. Kevin S. Kinney, Professor of Biology

Nelle Barnhart Award

Dr. John Mark Day, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Randal L. Wilson Memorial Union Board Award

Kate McQueen Award

Dorian Shager, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs

Alice G. Ross Senior Award

NCAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award

Stevie Baker-Watson, Associate Vice President for Student Wellness, Theodore

Katula Director of Athletics and Recreational Sports

Staff Member of the Year Award 1

Staff Member of the Year Award 2

Inaugural DePauw Affiliated Staff Member of the Year Award

Ronald Johnson, DSG Executive Vice President

Hanako Goetz, DSG Chief of Staff

Eli Federman, DSG President

Sylva Selleris Award

1867 Award

Dr. Dionne B. Jackson, Vice President for Institutional Equity

Faculty Speaker Award

Dr. John Mark Day, Vice President for Student Affairs & Dean of Students

Ferid Murad Medal

Dr. Dave Berque, Vice President for Academic Affairs

Walker Cup

Dr. Lori S. White, President DePauw University

28 APRIL 2025 · KRESGE · GCPA

7:30 PM - 8:30 PM



Rector Scholars

The Rector Scholarship is DePauw University's oldest and preeminent merit academic award. Since its beginning in 1919 over four thousand graduates have earned Rectors, and many are among DePauw's most distinguished and honored alumni. They are the return on how Edward Rector, himself, described his gifts to the University. They were "investments in humanity, in the men and women who are to carry on the work of our country and the world when you and I are gone."

Critical Language Scholarship

The Critical Language Scholarship provides fully funded immersive summer programs for U.S. undergraduate and graduate students to learn languages of strategic importance to the United States' national security, economic prosperity, and engagement with the world.

Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society

Since its founding in 1776, Phi Beta Kappa celebrates excellence in the liberal arts and sciences and champions freedom of thought. As America's most prestigious academic honor society, Phi Beta Kappa is uniquely equipped to advocate for the value and benefits of liberal arts and sciences education.

Nelle Barnhart Award

For the senior who has made outstanding contributions to the co-curricular life of the student body in support of the academic mission of the University. Given in honor of I. Nelle Barnhart, Associate Dean of Students of DePauw, 1949-1979.

Randal L. Wilson Memorial Union Board Award

For a junior who has made outstanding contributions to campus life. Established by Margaret Hardgrove Wilson ('41) and her husband Robert in memory of their son, who was president of the Union Board.

Kate McQueen Award

For a student who has demonstrated a commitment to economic, environmental, social justice, and/or racial justice and has been an activist, trying to create positive changes for the campus, the Greencastle community, and/or the world.

Alice G. Ross Senior Award

The Alice G. Ross Senior Award is in memory of George A. Ross' mother, a housemother of Kappa Alpha Theta. This is given annually to an outstanding senior woman from Indiana.

NCAC Scholar Athlete of the Year Award

The NCAC Scholar-Athlete of the Year is presented to the student athletes, male and female, who have the highest cumulative grade point average after their 7th semester. The student must have used a season of participation in the year in which they graduate to be eligible for the award.

Staff Member of the Year Award

Selected by members of the Student Government, this award recognizes the significant contributions of a staff member to the life and organizations of students on campus.

Inaugural Depauw Affiliated Staff Member of the Year Award

Selected by members of the Student Government, this award recognizes the significant contributions of a person that enhances the student experience on campus in their role working with an agency affiliated with DePauw.

Faculty Speaker Award

Each year the senior class nominates faculty members to be the speaker at the Opening Convocation for the next incoming class of students. From these nominations, DePauw Student Government selected the faculty member that will welcome the new class of the first year students in fall 2024.

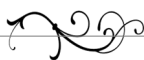
Sylva Selleris Award

The Sylva Selleris Award is conferred upon recipients in the spirit of the "DePauw rebels of 1856," who challenged the University, thereby improving it for subsequent generations of students. Winners embody the ethos of The Senior Class of 1857, who convened in the Sylva Selleris Woods, organized, and advocated for their beliefs. This accolade is bestowed upon a graduating senior who exemplifies the spirit of the DePauw Senior Class of 1857, challenging the University to uphold its ideals and commitments to students, with a particular emphasis on those who have historically been marginalized.

1867 Award

The 1867 Award honors the contributions of a student who has demonstrated a commitment to gender equity on campus. Named for the year that the first five women were admitted to DePauw, this award recognizes the trailblazing efforts of a current student who has worked to foster community, create safe spaces, develop initiatives, or implement systemic change on campus for students who may experience marginalization based on gender. Graduating seniors of any gender identity may be nominated for this award.





Ferid Murad Medal Finalists

The Ferid Murad Medal recognizes the senior who has had the most significant scholarly and/or artistic achievements during his or her time at DePauw. The award is named after DePauw graduate and Nobel laureate Dr. Ferid Murad, class of 1958. In 1998, Dr. Murad received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his discovery of the role of nitric oxide in the cardiovascular system, which led to changes in treatment following a heart attack.

Abigail Fathauer, from Sullivan, Indiana, is an English Literature major with minors in World Literature and Art History. During her time at DePauw, Abigail received the Biggs-Steele College Writing Award in 2021, the DeWitt Wallace-Reader's Digest Print Journalism Award in 2024, and the Gertrude and G.D. Crain Award in 2024. As a freshman and sophomore, Abigail held multiple internship and volunteer positions, including social services work with Thrive West Central in Terre Haute, Indiana, and community planning work with the City of Sullivan, Indiana. In her junior year, Abigail took on the position of Editor in Chief of The DePauw. Over the course of a year, Abigail doubled The DePauw's number of staff and freelance writers and photographers, printed 12 editions of the newspaper numbering 144 pages total, edited 250+ articles, and served as the public face of The DePauw. Her leadership and commitment built off of the work of previous Editors in Chief, bringing The DePauw to its highest level of involvement since before COVID. As a rising senior, Abigail began to explore her passion for library science, securing a 2024 summer internship in DePauw's Archives and Special Collections. There, she processed 50+ document cases worth of archival material and planned, curated, and installed her exhibit "From Asbury to DePauw," which examined the impacts of the Washington C. DePauw gift on the newly named DePauw University. At the same time, Abigail volunteered in DePauw's Art Storage, where she assisted with inventory and curated an exhibit titled "Art as Propaganda." In her final semester at DePauw, Abigail has created unique academic opportunities through independent study, including a study of medieval Celtic literature with Dr. Amity Reading and a course on digital preservation methods with DePauw archivist Bethany Fiechter. She is currently finalizing her senior thesis, which examines the instability of the body as a representation of anxieties surrounding colonial conquest in medieval Welsh literature. In the fall of 2025, Abigail will join Indiana University Bloomington's dual Masters program, where she will pursue a Masters in English Literature with a focus on the medieval period and a Masters in Library Science with a focus on archives.

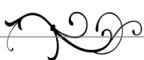
Amalie Vacanti is an Anthropology and Global Health double major at DePauw University. She is the recipient of the Edmond H. & Rosamond B. Spicer Student Award and the Ruth McLeod Award for Cultural Anthropology. Her research to date has been primarily centered on care work and our tangible and intangible avenues to healthcare. During the winter of her junior year, she embarked on an independent study of interstate signage, utilizing photography to document the shifting dialogue around reproduction that was occurring through billboards after the 2022 Supreme Court decision to overturn Roe v. Wade. This work served as the foundation for her anthropology thesis, titled "Highway to a Haven: The Impact of Signage on the I-55/I-57 Abortion Access Route," which she completed in the spring of her junior year. By documenting the access route between Memphis, TN and Carbondale, IL and interviewing travelers, activists, and providers, she evaluated interstates and interstate signage through a reproductive governance framework. Through her analysis, Amalie found that interstate signage is a profound physical indicator of power.

When positioned in the shifting abortion landscape, billboards reflect, reinforce, and reclaim the interstate as a space of political, cultural, and emotional knowledge. She presented her preliminary findings at the Museum of Motherhood: Threads of Connection Conference in March 2024 with support from the Prindle Institute of Ethics's Siegfried Dunlop Fund, and she has since presented the findings from her complete thesis at the Society for Applied Anthropology's 2025 Annual Convening.

Alongside her ethnographic research experience, Amalie further explored her interdisciplinary interests as a Summer Research Fellow for the Classical Studies Department. Amalie, in partnership with Dr. Rebecca Schindler, used photogrammetry and modeling to produce 3D visualizations and animations of the 2023 Trasimeno Regional Archaeology Project's (TRAP) excavation in Castiglione del Lago, Italy. With the goal of preserving the history of the site, documenting the progression of the excavation, and increasing the availability of archaeological knowledge, the 3D and 360 degree visualizations that she produced were presented during the Castiglione del Lago annual press conference and were for use in the TRAP digital museum, proving to be a uniquely accessible way to engage in archaeology for those outside of the field. Amalie also garnered professional research experience in her position as a Research Assistant and subsequent Research Consultant at Consilience Group, LLC, a Memphis-based consulting firm. In these roles, she has assisted organizations across the nation with qualitative and quantitative research initiatives to improve health, education, and criminal justice outcomes. Her work has informed the development and implementation of state-wide technical processes and policies. One of her most recent research projects evaluated the effectiveness of Social Driver of Health screening tools in capturing the lived experiences of families facing high-risk pregnancies. This work was presented at the CityMatCH Leadership & MCH Epidemiology Conference in September 2024 and is under review for publication.

Outside of research, Amalie is a Rector Scholar and a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She is also a member of the American Anthropological Association, the Society for Applied Anthropology, and the Association of Applied Ethics. Amalie has also held several roles in the greater DePauw and Greencastle community. She is currently serving on the board of The Castle, a non-profit based in Putnam County that was founded by Dr. Beth Benedix. During her undergraduate career, Amalie was also a member of the Midwest Doula Research Collective in collaboration with Dr. Angela Castañeda, the Lead Intern for Off-Campus Programming at the Janet Prindle Institute for Ethics, a Resident Assistant, a Presidential Ambassador, and an Admissions Ambassador. Although she is a member of the DePauw Class of 2025, Amalie graduated a semester early with her Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and Global Health, assuming a full-time position at Consilience Group, LLC in January 2025. In her new role as an Analyst, she continues to develop evidence-based, person-centered products to drive systems change for her clients. Amalie plans to continue her studies in graduate school, with the goal of eventually completing doctoral studies in Medical Anthropology.

Nina Shaffer, from Huntley, Illinois, is an Environmental Biology major with a History minor at DePauw University. She is a distinguished member of the Environmental Fellows, Science Research Fellows, and Civic Fellows Programs. She will soon be inducted into Phi Alpha Theta, the national history honor society, in recognition of her outstanding academic performance in historical studies. Throughout her undergraduate career, Nina has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) Outstanding Oral Presentation Award and Travel Award, multiple Dr. Frederick Hendrick Student Travel Awards, and DePauw Student Research and Artistic Grants, which have supported her groundbreaking work in soil and microbial ecology.





Her research was selected for presentation at multiple conferences, including two consecutive presentations at the Ecological Society of America (ESA) Annual Meeting, where she also served as a volunteer, as well as at the Annual Biomedical Research Conference for Minoritized Scientists (ABRCMS) and DePauw University's Annual Poster Sessions. She will also be presenting her research at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research (NCUR) in April, further showcasing her contributions to environmental science on a national stage. As a result of her accomplishments, Nina was selected to present at a DePauw BioHour to expose students to research and internship opportunities. Notably, her research has led to a peer-reviewed publication in *Chemosphere*, underscoring her contributions to the field of environmental biology. Additionally, Nina currently has two manuscripts in progress. Nina's research has been instrumental in advancing knowledge on soil ecotoxicology and microbial adaptation to environmental stressors. In Dr. Akinwale's lab, she has conducted extensive studies on the avoidance behavior of the oribatid mite *Oppia nitens* in response to microplastics, bioplastics, and organic pollutants, contributing valuable insights into how contaminants affect soil ecosystems. She has also analyzed microbial communities from an EPA-designated Superfund (contaminated with hazardous waste) site in Evansville, Indiana, a historically marginalized community disproportionately affected by industrial pollution. Her work utilizing DNA extraction, microbial biomass assessment, carbon/nitrogen ratio evaluation, and metal analysis aims to understand how heavy metal contamination influences soil microbiomes and to inform potential bioremediation strategies. Through this research, Nina has deepened her understanding of environmental justice, recognizing the profound implications of soil pollution on public health and community resilience. Additionally, she explored the toxicological effects of microplastics on zebrafish larvae, analyzing the impacts of varying acute and chronic exposure treatments. She also examined the effect of cadmium toxicity on bacterial community structure and metabolic profiles. Nina is currently investigating the microbiology of caves to determine whether pristine environments harbor antibiotic-resistant bacteria. As a senior research leader in her lab, she mentors junior students, guiding them through advanced laboratory techniques and research design. Beyond her research, Nina has actively worked to create opportunities for students interested in environmental and sustainability careers by founding DePauw's chapter of Plant Futures and serving as president. Under her leadership, the organization has hosted a resume workshop, multiple career panels with sustainability professionals, local farm visits to connect students with sustainable agriculture practices, and a plant-based tailgate to encourage environmentally friendly food choices on campus. Nina also completed a competitive internship at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, where she delivered outreach programs through the Conservancy's mobile STEM classroom, bringing interactive environmental science lessons to marginalized communities that historically have had limited access to STEM education. In addition to her scholarly work, Nina has served as the Director of Diversity and Coordinator of Academic Development for Alpha Phi and is a 4-year student athlete on the Women's Golf team. Nina is thrilled to announce that she will be joining Dr. Jason Unrine's lab at the University of Kentucky as a PhD student in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences. Her research will focus on soil ecotoxicology, furthering her passion for understanding how contaminants impact soil ecosystems and their broader environmental and community health implications. She is particularly excited to continue studying pollution in marginalized communities, where environmental degradation has long been overlooked, and to contribute research that supports remediation efforts and policy change.

WALKER CUP FINALISTS

The Walker Cup is awarded each year to the graduating senior who has done the most for DePauw University during his or her college career. The prize was established in 1926 by a gift from Guy Morrison Walker, Class of 1890, a successful businessman and presidential advisor. Traditionally, the Walker Cup recipient speaks at commencement.

Ashley Long is an Economics major and Political Science minor from Monticello, Illinois. Recognized for her dedication to academic excellence, Ashley has been inducted into Omicron Delta Epsilon, Chi Alpha Sigma, and Order of Omega honors societies. Ashley has a sincere desire to give back to the University. After serving as a first-year mentor for two years, she was selected to be a Peer Mentor for the First-Year Experience Program. Recognizing her passion for fostering an inclusive environment as a mentor, she developed a Rural Student Success Initiative to provide mentorship opportunities for first-year students from rural communities. Ashley also proudly serves as an Admissions Liaison and Management Fellows Ambassador. She utilized her position as Chapter President of Pi Beta Phi to organize the first Fall Festival for the DePauw and Greencastle communities. Recognized as a leader in the Greek community, Ashley was selected to be a rechartering member of the Order of Omega honor society, initiating nearly 100 new members in its first year. Ashley, a dedicated student-athlete, served as a three-time Captain of the NCAA Division III Women's Golf Team. Her teammates twice honored her with the Tiger Spirit Award for demonstrating superior commitment to the team's growth and success. Ashley was also selected as a WGCA All-American Scholar. Upon graduation, Ashley will be joining BMO's Commercial Bank in Chicago, Illinois. She is deeply grateful for the lifelong relationships forged at DePauw and looks forward to giving back as a proud alumna.

Christian Archer is a third generation descendant from the Bahamas and Barbados, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He is the only Africana Studies major in the Class of 2025, coupled with a minor in Sociology and the Management Fellows Program with concentrations in Business, Entrepreneurship and Real Estate. He is a Posse New York Scholar, Presidential Ambassador, Admissions Ambassador, a member of the Housing Renewal Task Force, President of the Association of African American Students, rechartering member and current Brand Manager for the Rho Tau Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated, rechartering member for the Gamma Upsilon Chapter of Order of Omega, the National Pan-Hellenic Council Parliamentarian and Representative for the Community Standards Advisory Board, member of the Diversity Recruitment Advisory Board, Vice President of the newly formed DePauw Real Estate Group, Public Relations Coordinator for Caribbean Students Association, rechartering member and former two-term President of The Elite Precision Step Team, and a 6x Dean's List Recipient. In addition to all of his past and current leadership roles across campus, Christian maintains a full time job as the Executive Assistant Director of Operations at BKLYN Commons, based in Brooklyn, NY. Upon graduation, Christian will continue building his career in the Commercial Real Estate industry and aspires to pursue his MBA and Law Degrees further down the road. Christian is honored and humbled to be recognized as a finalist and is forever grateful for the unforgettable experiences and relationships that have shaped his journey at DePauw and beyond.





Elijah Thomas Federman from Germantown, Tennessee, is an economics major with a minor in accounting and finance. Federman is deeply engaged in student leadership and campus life. He serves as President of DePauw Student Government, where he has launched initiatives to improve student life and build relationships with other universities. He previously served as Executive Vice President and twice as Vice President of Programming. Within the DePauw Consulting Group, Federman served as a Project Manager before becoming a Vice President. Federman has also played both varsity basketball and lacrosse during his time at DePauw. He is a Founding Member of the DePauw Sports Management and Administration Group and has been a member of the DePauw Investment Group and the Diverse Athletes Association. In the Greek community, Federman is a member of Phi Kappa Psi, where he served as Pledge Class President, Recruitment Chair, and Philanthropy Chair. Federman's academic and leadership achievements have earned him membership in Chi Alpha Sigma, Eta Sigma Phi, Order of Omega, and Omicron Delta Epsilon honor societies. He will graduate cum laude, has consistently earned Dean's List honors, has been recognized on the Tiger Pride Honor Roll, and was awarded Academic All-District Honors for lacrosse. He also serves as a Presidential Ambassador and is a member of the Management Fellows Program, where he completed a semester-long internship with LNE Group, a government affairs and consulting firm in Cleveland, Ohio. Federman is honored to be named a finalist for the 2025 Walker Cup.

Paige Burgess is an Instrumental Music Education major and Honor Scholar from Warrenville, Illinois. As a First Year student, Paige Burgess became a DePauw Student Government Senator for the First Year class. In that position, Paige collaborated with the Women's Center and Facilities Management to institute free menstrual products across campus, ensuring that DePauw University always supplies students, faculty, and staff with equitable access to menstrual products. Paige continued their engagement in DePauw Student Government as an Elections Manager, Chief of Staff, and Student Body President. In those roles, Paige advocated for gender-neutral bathrooms across campus, increased equity in the student organization allocations process, and ensured communication between students and administration. Paige Burgess has also served as a member of the ArtWalk Board, assisting in a multidisciplinary, community-wide weekend of arts programming. Paige has served as a First-Year Mentor, Dean's Advisor, Orchestra Production Staff, Admissions Ambassador, and countless other campus roles. Paige Burgess completed their Honor Scholar thesis during the first semester of their senior year, entitled "Tiny Creatures, Big Lessons: Using Music Education and Ecoliteracy to Impact Young Learners"; Perspectives on Bugs and Nature." This thesis combined their love of music, young learners, and bugs to establish a connection between the disciplines and their ability to raise future climate leaders. Paige is a student teacher at Thompson Crossing Elementary School in south Indianapolis, leading kindergarten through third-grade music classes. Upon graduation, Paige will be teaching elementary music professionally, made able to do so by immensely impactful experiences on campus.



A TOAST TO DEPAUW

Vivien Bard '17

To Old De-Pauw we toast to-day and

raise our voices high. We'll hon-or thee and

loy-al be and praise thee to the sky. Let

ev'ry son and daugh-ter stand U-ni-ted e'er for

thee, and hail Old Gold through-out the land; here's

to you, Old De-Pauw.