

## Algernon Sydney Sullivan – Recipient #2

Nominated for his selflessness, thoughtfulness, respectfulness, diligence, enthusiasm and pleasant nature as well as his high spiritual and academic standards, our second recipient has set himself apart from his peers in many ways.

Comfortable both in the spotlight and behind the scenes, this recipient worked hard to make others comfortable in any situation. As mentioned in his nomination, he came to a professor about a classmate struggling in the classroom. As that professor shared, “he was truly concerned about this student and together we came up with a plan to boost all of the students’ confidence about their work. He wanted to help only because he cared.”

As a teacher’s assistant for classes, this award winner followed the Algernon philosophy of “habitually going outside the narrow circle of self-interest” and expended his energies in the service of others. Knowing that the students were struggling, he made himself available to help them with their work. According to the nomination, “He helped them make their work presentable. I know that he worked with one of these students for three hours a week before his own Honors thesis was due, and I can think of no better example of a person giving selflessly of their time and energy in the service of others. No matter how much work he has on his plate, he always makes time for his fellow students.”

This recipient also thrived in the spotlight of the weekly Writers' Forum, serving as host and revitalizing the energy of this special St. Andrews activity. He spearheaded the effort to add a musical element with opening acts at the weekly gatherings, which grew to standing room only crowds during his tenure as host.

His work in the creative writing department also allows for him to display his nobility of character. While he did not win this year's Alan Bunn Memorial Chapbook competition, "he was quick to congratulate the winners. In fact, he was the first person to buy their chapbooks when they were published. It is this kind of behavior that sets him apart from his peers time and again."

Doing what he does, not to make friends or impress people, is just another way this nominee demonstrates his selflessness and his respect for all. He is one who personifies the phrase, "plays well with others."

It is my pleasure to ask a marshal to escort Donald Ian Burkett to the platform to receive the 2008 Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award.