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Joel Philip Iwaskiewicz, Class of 2010, Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award citation

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Joel Philip Iwaskiewicz

“Joel Iwaskiewicz defines himself not by what he does but by how he does it,” says one student, who goes on to say that “Joel’s résumé is a mile-long list of selflessness.” Let me give you just a couple of examples shared by his peers.

Joel attended and has served on the planning committees for the Tex-Mex Border Ministry and for this year’s Alternative Spring Break Trip to Costa Rica. Another student states, “Joel’s work on the Costa Rica trip was integral to its success. Once on the journey, Joel’s love for (others) poured out, resulting in a plethora of meaningful relationships with the community.”

Joel is a Writing Fellow for the English Department, assisting students with their compositions. It’s said that “The students he tutors think that his peer comments are the least critical but the most helpful.” Now that’s an accomplishment!

Joel has used the arts to demonstrate his caring and love for others. He’s involved with More than Art, a program for the homeless and the former homeless. A student says that “Joel finds great reward in helping the homeless create something they can call their own. Their artwork might be one of the very few items they have, and such an impact is tremendously encouraging.”

Joel also has used music to share himself with others. He was this year’s leader of Woolsocks, Rhodes College’s men’s a cappella group. One student has said, “As a member myself, I will attest that leading this group is no easy task, for not everyone is as focused as others!” In addition, Joel serves as one of the worship leaders in Tuesday Fellowship, and a student said that “Joel always has a huge smile while he sings, showing that he truly loves what he does and loves other people.”

Yet another student said, “Joel’s humble leadership never boasts, but instead he is literally always primed to be an encouraging and empowering character in others’ lives.”

For his genuine care for and his dedication to serving others, it is my pleasure to recognize Joel Iwaskiewicz as the male Algernon Sydney Sullivan award recipient for the class of 2010.

William E. Troutt, President
May 15, 2010