

LEADERSHIP PROFILE

06' Nikola Juris

Madison House – Program Director, Massanutten Adaptive Snow Sports

Community Service is commonplace amongst U.Va fourth year students. We all understand the value of using our resources to better the lives of others. Annually, the graduating class recognizes one such student who personifies the spirit of selfless service in our class. I am pleased to announce that Nikola Juris is this year's Community Service Award recipient.



Nikola preparing for Independence Cup

To say that Nikola devoted her extra curricular hours to community service would be an understatement. In her first year Nikola began volunteering at the Virginia Institute of Autism, which is an organization located in Charlottesville, providing resources and education for families. Now Nikola is the outgoing president Special Friends, a UVA CIO working with the Virginia Institute of Autism to organize volunteers, run an annual 5k to benefit the Institute, do recording for the Blind & Dyslexic, and help with Special Olympics. She is also an avid skier and thus became also one of the two outgoing program directors for Adaptive ski program which helps people with special needs enjoy downhill skiing.



Mark, Nikola & James – Independence Cup Awards Ceremony



Nikola receiving her award at UVA Graduation

Nikola's service began to become integrated with her life and passions. This is the life of a servant. It transcends an involvement with an organization or a weekly or hourly commitment. It is an approach to life. If we did want to talk about hourly commitments we could talk about the countless hours she puts in as the Justice and Peace Chair of Catholic student ministries, and as one of the three vice chairs of Sustained dialogue, or the 600 plus hours she volunteers each year as a Volunteer Emergency Medical Technician (that's 12 hours a week- consistently). But instead we are thankful that Nikola saw service as a way of life. We are blessed by her presence, and it is with such great pleasure that the Class of 2007 presents Nikola Juris with this year's Community Service Award.

*Presented by David Coles
Class of 2007*



Fan support!