Harrison Aslesen Nominee Statement

1. Scholarship: University of St. Thomas Dean’s List – Spring 2012, Spring 2013
2. Leadership: University of St. Thomas Dining Services – Summit Marketplace Student Manager
3. Campus Involvement: University of St. Thomas Clubs & Activities – Summit Singers, Eastern European Club, USTCRs, AMA
4. iHeartMedia – Promotions Assistant/ Intern Manager
5. University of St. Thomas – Regular Involvement in Campus Activities

Testimonials

Some students tend to stick with a teacher, even after several semesters or years have passed. A random thought, a specific assignment, or a reading will bring them to mind, sparking fond memories of their curiosity or passion about the topic. For me, Harrison Aslesen is a student who has been impossible to forget. His intellectual curiosity, personal character, and genuine love of learning were obvious to me from his earliest days at the University of St. Thomas, and these qualities have continued to motivate Harry throughout his college experience. Today, these qualities are officially being recognized through his nomination for the Tommie Award.

I first met Harry during his freshman year in my ENGL 121. Although he has since described himself as a “scared freshman,” he demonstrated early on that he was willing to take risks and challenge himself, despite being new to the college environment. From the first day, he was an avid and vocal participant in class discussion, and always came to class prepared with questions and insights from the reading. His leadership in class discussions contributed positively to student learning and inspired his classmates to speak up and share their own ideas. Harry’s interest and passion for course material was also shown in his writing. His essays often went above and beyond, tackling challenging topics and showing a willingness to take creative risks in order to fully express and develop his ideas.

Harrison continued to grow as a thinker, writer, and leader during the second semester of his freshman year in my ENGL 203 course. Although the workload and writing assignments were much more challenging, Harry excelled, demonstrating the kind of active, engaged participation that was so evident in ENGL 121. Harry’s hard work and strong academic performance positioned him fourth in the course overall — no mean feat, considering he was a freshman in a course that included mostly sophomores, juniors, and seniors. His in-class presentation, which examined several films and written texts in tandem, was one of the best in the class, and highlighted his excellent critical thinking and communication skills.

Today, Harry continues to demonstrate scholarship, leadership, and campus involvement at the University of St. Thomas, maintaining a solid GPA while managing extracurricular activities and part-time employment both on and off
campus. He is a hard worker, a caring friend, a strong student, and a genuinely thoughtful, kind person. He clearly exhibits an approach to learning, leadership, and personal character that reflects our university’s values. Frankly, I can’t think of a better candidate for the Tommie award than Harry.

- Heather McNiel, Former Professor

This is my personal reference for Harry Aslesen. Harry has worked as a student manager at Summit Marketplace since January 2013. As Harry’s supervisor I have found him to be courteous and helpful to everyone he encounters. Whether he’s stranded in an elevator with nine other people on the way to the Javier Colon concert, or staying an extra shift to make sure the Steubenville customers are taken care of.

He’s very contentious with his work duties, especially considering his other jobs and responsibilities. Harry is a very well rounded individual participating in as many campus activities he can, while maintaining a 3.22 GPA. As a student manager Harry exhibits great patience and thoroughness instructing other student employee’s in the Summit Marketplace operations. Harry’s hard work at iHeartMedia promoted him from an intern to a regular part-time employee. Some of the duties at iHeartMedia include, planning events, updating online content, and supervising interns at events.

That being said, I personally believe that he is qualified in the fields of academics, leadership and campus involvement for the 2015 Tommie of the Year Award.

- Barbara Lundell, Supervisor

When I think of the message of the St. Thomas mission statement, I can think of no one who better embodies it than Harrison Aslesen. Harry is beacon of light on campus; his kindness, diligence, passion, empathy, and optimism have made him a well-recognized and well-loved face around St. Thomas. Harry is successful in academics, leadership, and campus involvement, because he does all tasks- whether it’s a group project or a late shift at the Summit Marketplace- with great love.

I first met Harry during my sophomore year at March Through the Arches. I still remember the way that he made me, and all others around him, feel special, wanted, and valued. Harry has this ability to make everyone feel important; he takes the time to talk to everyone, and his primary concern is always to ensure that those around him are happy. He holds the door. He gives guest swipes to strangers. He calls his friends frequently just to remind them that they are special and that he cares about them.

It’s impressive that Harry finds so much time to dedicate to others when he is
so busy himself. One glance at his resume shows that he puts many hours into work and internships. He is a student manager at the Summit Marketplace, and also manages over 40 interns as a promotion’s assistant for KDWB. Harry told me once that he wakes up excited to go work every day. I think this accurately depicts his enthusiasm for life and his endless optimism. He is able to find the good in any situation, whether it be in working a twelve-hour shift, or in giving friends pep talks to get them through tough days. He is passionate about his schoolwork, and can often be found in the Anderson Student Center putting finishing touches on group projects or perfecting his papers. He is able to find joy in his work, and succeeds in academics because he embraces every project as something new and exciting.

And Harry is resilient. After a long day of classes, interning, and a shift at the Marketplace, Harry still makes himself available to talk to any friend or acquaintance who needs him. His smile is indefatigable, and he is energetic toward his future. For Harry, each day is a gift, and he has a desire to share how beautiful life is with all those around him. He never works for reward or recognition, but rather to do what is right. I am confident that he is going to be a successful employee after graduation because of his work ethic, his responsibility, and his eagerness to do his best, and I know he will also be a valuable community leader wherever he goes, because of his unfailing charisma, kindness, and altruism. The world needs more Harry’s. I feel honored to have a friend like Harry, and, if I could choose anyone to represent my school, it would undoubtedly be him. Harry embodies Mother Teresa’s ideal of doing small things with great love, and his kindness, hard work, and zeal for life are contagious. I know he is headed for greatness, and that in all things, he will continue to advance the common good.

- Shannon Kelly, Friend