



2011

Torchbearer Recipients (2011)

Nick Averwater

Jenny Bledsoe

Anne Buckle

Elliott Devore

Cory Hipps

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Recipients

Nick Averwater, Jenny Bledsoe, Anne Buckle, Elliott Devore, Cory Hipps, Tommy Jarvis, Micah Johnson, and Carey Smith



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2011 Torchbearer Recipients

Nick Averwater

Nick Averwater is a Chancellor's Honors student in business management from Lakeland. Averwater has served as an Ignite Team Leader, Emerging Leader, All Campus Events director, fraternity president, admissions ambassador, honors peer adviser, and much more. However, his most notable contribution to UT is the work he has done for his honors thesis. Averwater saw a need to further prepare our student leaders to become citizens and leaders of the world. He has devoted much of his senior year to researching, proposing, and enacting a new senior capstone leadership course. He has spent nights and weekends researching literature, documenting leadership trends, drafting a syllabus, and preparing learning outcomes for the course that he will never have a chance to take, but which will surely benefit the students who follow him.



Jenny Bledsoe

Jenny Bledsoe, a native of Selmer, is a Chancellor's Honors student who has received perfect marks in her majors of religious studies and English literature, as well as her minors in Latin and history. Her specialty is medieval Christianity and her honors thesis project highlights the life of St. Margaret of Antioch in late medieval England. This project has led her to conduct field research in England, France, and Italy, and she has presented her research at four scholarly conferences. Along with all of this, Bledsoe is a campus leader. She served as editor-in-chief for The Daily Beacon and is now the editor-in-chief of Pursuit: The Journal of Undergraduate Research. Bledsoe also served as the lead organizer of the inaugural Honors Research Symposium and is leading a joint faculty-student effort to host a 2011 undergraduate conference in medieval and renaissance studies.

Anne Buckle

Anne Buckle, a senior from Fayetteville, Georgia, is a College Scholar and is finishing degrees in music education and international relations. Her passion, poise, and determination are highlighted by her ability to maintain a 4.0 grade point average, even with a stringent academic workload, numerous volunteer activities, and prestigious internships and study abroad programs. Buckle's interests lie in French culture and the United States' efforts in public diplomacy. She interned with the Office of Western European Affairs in Washington, D.C., and was an intern at the U.S. Embassy in Paris. On campus, she works with the Student Alumni Associates and Honors Ambassadors, and serves on the Dean's Student Advisory Council and the Provost's Student Advisory Council. She also volunteers her time as a French tutor for fellow UT students and a violin instructor with the Joy of Music School.



The **Torchbearer** is the highest honor the university gives to its students. The Torchbearer is awarded to seniors who have served their Alma Mater with overall excellence. Recognition as a Torchbearer reminds all students that those who bear the Torch of Enlightenment shadow themselves to give light to others.



2011 Honors

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- [Diversity and Campus Environment Awards](#)
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- [Teaching Awards](#)

Previous Winners

- [2010 Award Recipients](#)
- [2009 Award Recipients](#)
- [2008 Award Recipients](#)
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Elliott Devore

Elliott Devore is a senior in psychology and has been an active campus leader, serving as an orientation leader, resident assistant, and an SGA senator. His service on behalf of the LGBT community highlights the spirit of the Torchbearer Award in "giving light to others." He has recognized his sexual orientation as a strength and by doing so, single-handedly paved the way for new leadership roles on campus. He is a mentor to other students, but also educates all students about the realities of LGBT people's lives. He wrote and proposed a bill to the SGA to create gender-neutral bathrooms on campus; he serves as a volunteer with the LGBT & Ally Resource Center; and he writes columns for The Daily Beacon about LGBT issues. In short, Devore is a tireless advocate for the human dignity of all students, regardless of sexual orientation.

Cory Hipps

Cory Hipps, an enterprise management major from Hermitage, has served the Volunteer community through his work with SGA, the Alpha Kappa Psi business fraternity, and the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, and as a mentor for the Boys & Girls Club. As director of diversity affairs for the SGA and a member of the university's Council for Diversity and Interculturalism, Hipps led a number of programs that promoted civility, minority participation, global learning, and diversity. He also has served as SGA vice president, serving as a positive role model for students on campus. His leadership has motivated students to explore and form their own thoughts about social issues.



Tommy Jervis

Tommy Jervis, a logistics major from Franklin, is a student leader who truly makes a difference, doing everything he can for the betterment of the university. He has lobbied the state legislature for funding, worked tirelessly on behalf of the student body, and helped plan community-building programs through All Campus Events. He has extensive involvement that encompasses student government, social fraternity, student activities, and student alumni, academic, service, and community organizations. Since arriving on campus, Jervis has been involved with the SGA, from a member of Freshman Council to its president, approaching each role with diplomacy, insight, and creativity. Although SGA president is certainly a high-profile position, that's not why Jervis is there. In everything he does, Jervis works behind the scenes, often longer and harder than anyone, but never trying to take the credit.

Micah Johnson

Micah Johnson is a marketing student from Kodak. In her junior year, she served as president of her sorority and, during her senior year, Micah served as Panhellenic president. She oversaw the governance of thirteen Panhellenic chapters consisting of 2,400 women. She also has been a leader in the College of Business Administration's Venture Learning Community and the Senior Gift Campaign and was elected the 2010 Homecoming queen. Micah gives back to the community by working closely with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society and has created three new events to raise money and awareness for the organization since arriving on campus. In 2009, she was selected as a legislative intern for Senator Bob Corker in Washington, D.C., a position which has only further fueled her love for leadership and service.



Carey Smith

Carey Smith is a Chancellor's Honors student majoring in political science from Kingsport. She has served on Mayor Bill Haslam's Student Advisory Board, the Provost's Student Advisory Council, and the Commission for Women. Smith volunteers with the

Ronald McDonald House and has served for five years as a counselor and party politics advisor for the Volunteer Girls State. She was one of five students selected to intern with the state legislature in Nashville last spring. She also worked for the UT Office of State Relations in Nashville, where she found a passion for higher education policy; now, she is devoting her senior thesis to the subject. Most recently, Smith has served as the student representative for the UT Board of Trustees. In this position, she has led a student initiative to support extending the Hope Scholarship to cover summer school tuition.