Nomination for Donn D’Alessio Award

Nominee: Jill Baumgartner

I would like to enthusiastically nominate Jill Baumgartner to receive the 2010 Donn D’Alessio Student Award. Jill has been a notable presence in the department for several years and has been nominated for this award at least on two other occasions. While she has not been as visibly active in recent years due to her time abroad in China (working on her dissertation) and recent pregnancy/baby, she has helped shaped the department and program in numerous ways. For example, she saw a need in our department to expand the global health dialogue and helped create Global Chat -- which exists to this day. In her capacity as TA, she not only helped students learn the material, but also fostered their passion for the population health field. In addition, more than once she has been a student host/volunteer for Welcome Day or the New Student Orientation. Finally, she also has served the role as mentor to other students and been a frequent information resource to them.

Above all this, it is simply Jill’s way of being that has contributed to the department, the program, and student body. She provides a refreshing inspiration to others about how not to let what seems challenging stop you from moving forward with your goals and how to do it with a wonderful sense of humor. Jill has had more than one obstacle to hurdle in her road to graduation, but she has taken each one in stride and literally will laugh harder than anyone else as she tells you the story of each one. In these ways, she has contributed to the friendly, fun, and accessible atmosphere of the department and truly been a role model to others.

There is no doubt that Jill has a bright future ahead of her and will be missed when she graduates. She has gained the respect and friendship of many students in the department and we all will feel the loss of her intelligence, focus, and good humor. However, we know she will be an excellent representative for the department and its students. Thus, it for all these reasons that this nomination is enthusiastically submitted for Jill Baumgartner to receive the 2010 Donn D’Alessio Student Award since it is so well deserved.