

Liberal studies major one of five in nation to earn ALD scholarship

Liberal studies major Danielle O'Reilly '18 is one of only five students nationwide to receive a \$6,000 Trow Scholarship from the Alpha Lambda Delta (ALD) National First Year Student Honor Society.

[ALD's](#) mission is to encourage superior academic achievement among college students in their first year, to promote intelligent living and a continued high standard of learning, and to assist students in recognizing and developing meaningful goals for their roles in society. Trow Scholarships are presented to outstanding sophomores, to be used in their junior year. Thirty-six scholarships are awarded annually, ranging from \$1,000 to \$6,000.

Danielle, a member of [Dominican's Honors Program](#) and the junior class rep on the Honors Board, was the University's 2015-2016 ALD president. She currently serves as ALD senior advisor.

Danielle entered [Dominican's School of Education and Counseling Psychology](#) in 2014 after graduating with honors from nearby Novato High School.

"I always knew that I wanted to be a teacher, so I wanted to go to a school with a strong teaching program," she says. "Growing up, most of my teachers in elementary school and high school had earned either their degree or their credential from Dominican. These were great teachers, so I knew Dominican had prepared them well. Dominican came highly recommended."

But what truly helped her finalize the decision was the ability to earn both a BA in Liberal Studies and MS in Education degree, as well as two credentials (multiple subject and education specialist) in only five years. Elsewhere this would have taken her seven years.

In addition to her work in the Honors Program and ALD, Danielle was a participant and on-site coordinator for [LeaderShape](#) through Dominican's [Institute for Leadership for Leadership Studies](#). She is a 2016 peer mentor and recently co-founded Dominican Penguins for Peace, a student group focused on increasing awareness of dating abuse and sexual assault. This work allows her to continue the work she started as a high school volunteer with Marin's Center for Domestic Peace.

"Danielle has a quiet fire about her," says Christina Mayes, first-year advisor at Dominican. "She possesses a passion to serve the campus and local communities. To observe Danielle's emerging leadership is a true gift."

Danielle recently served as a delegate to [College Debate 2016](#), a national initiative created by Dominican to empower young voters to identify political issues that matter to their generation and engage peers in the presidential election.

October 3, 2016