



2024 Collegiate Award Winners Announced

May 13, 2024 - The United States Fencing Coaches Association is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023-24 Collegiate awards. Representing men's and women's programs, the USFCA presents overall National Collegiate awards and Division III awards. A nationwide vote of USFCA member fencing programs determined all awards.

In addition to the Collegiate Award winners, the USFCA presents two different recognition awards. The Community Service Recognition Award recognizes those collegiate members who demonstrated a strong commitment to serving their communities. The Excellence in Communications Recognition Award recognizes those who provided strong communications support and/or press coverage of NCAA fencing. Those who are being recognized this year are included in this announcement.

National Collegiate Award Winners

National Collegiate Men's Team Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Daria Schneider, Harvard University

Assistant Coach of the Year: Matt Zich, Brandeis University

Epee Athlete of the Year: Henry Lawson, Harvard University

Foil Athlete of the Year: Bryce Louie, University of Pennsylvania

Sabre Athlete of the Year: Antonio Escueta, Brandeis University

Epee Newcomer of the Year: Henry Lawson, Harvard University

Foil Newcomer of the Year: Samarth Kumbla, Columbia University

Sabre Newcomer of the Year: Luca Fioretto, Ohio State University

National Collegiate Women's Team Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Daria Schneider, Harvard University

Assistant Coach of the Year: Matt Zich, Brandeis University

Epee Athlete of the Year: Emily Vermeule, Harvard University

Foil Athlete of the Year: Jessica Guo, Harvard University

Sabre Athlete of the Year: Maggie Shealy, Brandeis University

Epee Newcomer of the Year: Christina Watrall, US Air Force Academy

Foil Newcomer of the Year: Jessica Guo, Harvard University

Sabre Newcomer of the Year: Lauren Johnson, Temple University

Division III Award Winners

Division III Men's Team Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Ben Bratton, New York University

Assistant Coach of the Year: Matt Zich, Brandeis University

Epee Athlete of the Year: Jorge Gana, Johns Hopkins University

Foil Athlete of the Year: Alan Zheng, Johns Hopkins University

Sabre Athlete of the Year: Antonio Escueta, Brandeis University

Epee Newcomer of the Year: Ayan Bhatnagar, Johns Hopkins University and Ethan Insler, Johns Hopkins University

Foil Newcomer of the Year: Adam Wong, New York University

Sabre Newcomer of the Year: Leonid Kotov, Johns Hopkins University

Division III Women's Team Award Winners

Coach of the Year: Elif Soyer Sachs, Brandeis University

Assistant Coach of the Year: Matt Zich, Brandeis University

Epee Athlete of the Year: Maggie Zhu, Denison University and Diya Kulkarni, Johns Hopkins University

Foil Athlete of the Year: Lal Ertun, Denison University

Sabre Athlete of the Year: Maggie Shealy, Brandeis University

Epee Newcomer of the Year: Alisha Li, Wellesley College

Foil Newcomer of the Year: Phoebe Li, Wellesley College

Sabre Newcomer of the Year: Victoria Li, Johns Hopkins University

Community Service Recognition Awards

The USFCA is pleased to recognize the following individual for their community service work during the 2023-24 season: Kyra Wu of University of California, San Diego Read below to learn more about the work done by these teams and individuals.

Kyra Wu, UCSD

Kyra volunteered this year to organize all our community service activities. She put together a plan and contacted all relevant individuals and organizations to make it happen. The plan includes:

San Diego Food Bank - Our role is to support the logistics of food distribution.

Home Start - Support the logistics of their main annual fundraiser event. Home Start is a non-profit focused on preventing child abuse.

Health Fair at a local YMCA - Partnering with a local doctor we are starting to support a Health Fair hosted at a local YMCA. This is an ideal activity for many of our team members looking into the medical field.

Excellence in Communications Recognition Awards

The USFCA is pleased to recognize the following individual for their work in Athletics Communications and press coverage of the sport during the 2032-24 season: Ryan Haley of Northwestern University. Read below to learn more about the work done by Ryan.

Ryan Haley, Northwestern University

Since taking the reins of the Fencing Team's Sports Communications in January 2023, Ryan has been incredibly proactive in helping Northwestern Fencing improve its digital imprint. From helping us resolve roster bio issues to correcting our record book and ensuring all meets are accurately recorded.

With Ryan's help, our social media presence has vastly improved, leading to better recruiting opportunities for our program. This is also due to Ryan's proactive approach to scheduling media days and ensuring that we have proper video and photography coverage.

In addition to helping with on-site media and communications coverage, Ryan also helps facilitate off-site photography coverage for key meets. Ryan's willingness to learn, collaborate, and involve himself in a sport that isn't easy to understand makes him an excellent candidate for this recognition.