

## **2008-2009 GASTELLUM AWARD APPLICATION**

The death of Aaron Gastellum in August of 1997 was a shock to family and friends alike. Aaron was a promising student in the Honors Program and Huxley College. He was a quarter away from graduation and more importantly, on the threshold of a future that would have profited from the concern he brought to the environment.. In the summer before his final quarter at WWU, he was interning for the Environmental Defense Fund developing a computer overlay of all critical resources of thirteen municipalities in upper New York State. He was able to illustrate (through extraction of all municipalities 20 year Comprehensive Plans) that they were competing for the same resources such as roads, water, forested lands, trails and parkland. He uncovered this information and presented it in such a way that illustrated major conflicts brewing between municipalities in the near future. For his work he was offered a permanent job with the Environmental Defense Fund upon completion of his undergraduate program. This was unprecedented, as the Environmental Defense Fund had only hired people with masters degrees up to that point. Aaron was cutting a new path for himself and always felt that hard work paid dividends in many ways.

His commitment was nothing less than a gesture of gratitude for what he felt to be the inherent generosity of a life that had endowed him with an unusual, one would almost say wonderfully immoderate, capacity for making the most of its rich experiences. His contagious open-heartedness was evident to the students he served as an RA, to his professors, to his innumerable acquaintances, and to his close friends. Disparity in age or interests made no difference to Aaron, who had a remarkable knack for being at ease with anyone. His concentrated devotion to the individual moment was both admirable and flattering whatever the activity he happened to be engaged in – whether sailing, teaching children to ski, swing dancing, experimenting with a new dinner recipe, playing cribbage (with good-natured mockery at his opponent's alleged ineptitude), or, not least of all, putting the sun to rest with confidential talk.

### **CRITERIA FOR SELECTION**

**The student must be enrolled at Western during the 2008-2009 academic year as either an undergraduate or graduate student. Preference is given to undergraduate students who are in the Honors Program and Huxley College.**

**The award, to be given in Spring Quarter, consists of a certificate, a paperweight, and a tuition fee waiver award (for the 2008-2009 academic the award is \$1196.00).**

**Criteria of selection include a deep commitment to the solution of environmental problems, a strong sense of service to others (e.g., the community at large or the university community), academic excellence and achievement.**

### **MATERIALS TO BE SUBMITTED BY THE APPLICANT:**

- 1. Statement (1-2 pages) by the student, discussing his or her commitment to the solution of environmental problems.**
- 2. Two letters of recommendation, one from a faculty member and one preferably from a professional in the community, in a position of authority, who can speak to the applicant's experience in environmental issues (or a second faculty member who can do so).**
- 3. An academic paper or project by the student on some environmental issue.**
- 4. Resume**

**DEADLINE: The student should submit the above pack of materials no later than April 15, 2008 to the Honors Program office (College Hall 204), 516 High St., Bellingham, WA 998225-9112.**