Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Alex Funches

Recognized for embracing and utilizing academic support services from the moment of arrival to Cal as a transfer student. Alex has approached campus services with a positive attitude, and has engaged in support beyond the Athletic Study Center. He has regularly attended professor office hours with a proactive mindset and tapped into major department resources to help him achieve academic success and craft a major concentration area that fits his intellectual interests. In pursuit of his own growth he has been praised by staff for promoting and leading study groups sessions.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Alex Netherda

Recognized for channeling impactful leadership traits into the team environment, invigorating peers to pursue passion with purpose. Alex has a highly contagious positive attitude that is backed up with a steadfast work ethic - on the field, in the classroom, and beyond campus borders. He has been praised by both academic and athletic staff for having a resilient, versatile, and tactical vision when approaching daily tasks and goals. As an entrepreneur, Alex has started up his own shoe design operation, Noble Kicks Inc., striving for greater creative ingenuity within merchandising.
Alonso Vera

Recognized for building a meaningful game plan for success that empowers him to maximize on his personal and professional interests. Alonso came into Cal demonstrating tremendous passion for the field of engineering, and set his mind on finding resources to help him thrive. He has never shied away from rigorous courses in the STEM field, even though they are outside of his current major. He has incredible resilience and a persistent work ethic, always keeping his eyes on possibilities for growth while developing close friendships with engineering faculty who have mentored him on pursuing a relevant graduate degree in the future.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Chase Garbers

Recognized for cultivating a brand of leadership that embraces consciousness of self, others, and context within the academic, athletic, and professional space. Chase has been praised for being tremendously proactive in utilizing resources, recognizing that the pursuit of excellence is contagious given the various athletic duties on his plate. He has intentionally created purposeful academic study groups for many of his classes. Beyond campus borders, he has extended his leadership skills as a strategic Sales Analyst Intern and impactful Youth Football Coach.
Recognized for sustaining a growth mindset within the academic and athletic space via perseverance and resilience, staying focused on the bigger picture while tending to details. Cameron is an incredibly hungry yet humble young man when it comes to success, and it clearly shows in his daily work ethic. Regardless of life’s setbacks and obstacles, he challenges himself to perform at the highest level by maximizing on resources that are in place to support his growth as a scholar and athlete. His noticeable demeanor in the classroom and on the field is truly impactful and contagious!
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Gabe Cherry

Recognized for crafting a meaningful and pertinent curriculum path that embraces his creative mindset as an aspiring Graphic Designer, Manga Artist, Screenplay Writer, and Web Designer. Gabe is an incredibly gifted individual who utilizes ingenious skills to enhance his own lived experience, while bringing out the best in others within different visionary contexts. Beyond academic and athletic commitments, he has played a prominent role as a contributor with Virtual Enterprises International, Inc., the Cal Black Student-Athlete Association, and Toys for Tots.
Recognized for investing in the cerebral and corporeal aspects of football with a driven and disciplined mindset for growth. Hiroaki has consistently thrived in both academics and athletics by stepping beyond his comfort zone and accepting each life challenge as a new learning opportunity. In his unique transition from the video room to the field, he has been praised by the coaching staff for having a ‘want-to’ attitude, a high level of intelligence with regard to putting the playbook into practice, and a hunger to compete by demanding others to step up their game.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Jaylinn Hawkins

Recognized for mentoring freshman peers during their early transition to the university in Summer 2018. Jaylinn served as a Peer Advisor for the Freshman Scholar-Athlete Transition Seminar, assisting the lead facilitators in carrying out the weekly curriculum. He mindfully engaged students in discussions with a focus on - clarifying aspects of identity formation beyond school and sport; applying transferable leadership skills via various contexts; and heightening the value of individual lived experience within a collective (academic and athletic) setting for meaningful engagement.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Jake Tonges

Recognized for demonstrating substantial growth in academic skills via inquiry in sessions with teammates and fellow peers. Asking for clarification has not only allowed Jake to fully understand the material, but greatly benefits his peers who have similar questions but do not feel comfortable vocalizing their thoughts. Jake shows tremendous dedication to learning by independently working on practice problems in order to gain a complete understanding of the material and then encouraging meaningful discussion with peers to address any questions. He serves as an advocate for his fellow teammates, taking a proactive approach in planning study sessions while being considerate of schedules.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Matt Horwitz

Recognized for initiating an effective game plan for success in pursuit of applying to the Haas School of Business. Matt takes great pride in setting the academic bar high for himself and seeking relevant campus resources to supplement his progress. He realizes that his intellectual growth is dependent upon numerous factors within and beyond the classroom. By taking a well-thought-out approach to preparing in advance, he is already putting into practice the Haas leadership principles focused on innovation, collaboration, curiosity, and stewardship.
Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Michael Saffell

Recognized for approaching tasks and obstacles with a positive attitude and a proactive mindset, advocating for his own academic needs as well as the needs of his teammates and those around him. Michael has been praised by academic staff for taking purposeful initiative in attending required study sessions and organizing study circles on his own with teammates and peers. He has devoted meaningful time to enhancing his knowledge and skill set as an impactful leader, both on and off the field, maintaining the Berkeley standard of excellence as an engaged scholar and team captain.
Recognized for embodying a wide array of interests and truly embracing the world as an opportunity for continuous growth and service. Steven is highly motivated, incredibly hard-working, and strategically self-reliant, operating fearlessly with the heavy demands of academics and football. He is currently in the process of completing two graduate degree programs - one in the Cultural Studies of Sport in Education and the other in Public Health. Beyond his dedication in the classroom and on the field, he has served as a Graduate Student Assistant for both the Student Athlete Advisory Committee and the Student Athlete Business Network.