

Nicole Catalfamo

Embrace *UT PROSIM* as a way of life (November 11, 2011)



For Nicole Catalfamo from Ashburn, Va., a senior majoring in accounting and information systems in the Pamplin College of Business and philosophy in the College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, service to others is energizing. In her philosophy, there are many ways to serve people, and any act can be turned into an act of service. "People have different gifts which allow them to excel in different areas," she said. "Learning what your strengths are and how to maximize them in a way that benefits the people around you is the most rewarding and fulfilling approach to life."

Catalfamo's commitment to service is linked with her involvement in the Newman Catholic Community at Virginia Tech. "Newman has offered me opportunities to grow in ways I had never imagined, through participating in alternative spring break trips, outreach to the local community, learning about my strengths, learning how to collaborate with others, and developing an understanding of servant leadership and myself as a leader," she said. She serves on Newman's leadership council, as justice and peace minister, and, in 2011, she led a team of students on Newman's very successful spring break service trip to Flint, Michigan. Now, as Newman's alternative spring break coordinator, Catalfamo oversees logistics, funding, and the selection and preparation of leaders for eight mission trips this year.

Her double major in accounting and information systems and philosophy come together in her service work. She is also donor coordinator for the American Red Cross, and a Relay for Life accounting committee member. "My outreach experiences have

transformed my perception of service from performing acts of kindness to developing mutual, lasting relationships with other individuals. I understand service now as a lifestyle," Catalfamo said. "The most important aspect of service is building relationships with people and impacting them in unexpected ways."

Her nominator wrote, "Nicole displays a degree of responsibility, maturity, and ethical orientation that, in my experience with undergraduates, is almost unique."

For her strong sense of responsibility towards others and her resolute commitment to service, Nicole Catalfamo was presented the Aspire! Award for *Ut Prosim* (That I May Serve).