

## **Emery/Weiner Alum Joel Croft Honored With Inaugural Stuart Dow Innovative Leadership Award**

The Emery/Weiner School is proud to honor distinguished alumni Joel Croft with the inaugural Stuart Dow Innovative Leadership Award. The award, named in honor of founding Head of School Stuart Dow, is presented to an EWS graduate who has extended the mission of the school through their own personal growth while exhibiting a sincere commitment to the Jewish community and Tikkun Olam, improving the world in which we live.

“I cannot imagine a more deserving inaugural winner than Joel Croft,” Dow said. “Since entering college, Joel has not only continued to excel in his entrepreneurial and technology ventures, but more importantly, he has continued to demonstrate his trademark qualities of leadership and activism – helping make American University better for all students, just as he did for Emery/Weiner. I’m awfully proud of Joel and congratulate him and his family.”

Mr. Croft, a graduate of the 2006 Emery/Weiner Upper School class, will graduate this year from American University’s Kogod School of Business. His numerous academic achievements include but are not limited to receiving the Luch’s Family Scholarship Award from the Kogod School of Business for outstanding leadership and academic achievement, as well as gaining recommendation from faculty and senior staff members to speak at his upcoming college graduation.

His endeavors, however, stem well beyond the classroom. Mr. Croft is the owner and developer of Abroad Circle, an online community for students studying abroad, in which they can connect and share experiences. In addition, Mr. Croft in 2009 developed a member management system for his business-oriented organization (Alpha Kappa Psi), which enabled the organization to better keep track of finances and member dues.

“Joel represents everything that is good about the next generation of Jewish community leaders,” said Dr. David A. Portnoy, Head of School for Emery/Weiner. “Coming from an outstanding family, Joel is a terrific student, a devoted community servant, and an all-around mentsch. Both his future, and the future of the American Jewish Community, are bright indeed.”

Mr. Croft will be presented with the first-ever Stuart Dow Innovative Leadership Award at the EWS Upper School commencement ceremony on June 6.