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***The University of Arizona Intercollegiate Athletics***

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**Myths and Facts  
Intercollegiate Athletics  
(ICA)**

***ARIZONA ATHLETICS***<sup>TM</sup>

Last update August 2009

# INTERCOLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

## MYTHS

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## **Myth: Athletics is Primarily Funded by the State and University**

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- Since 2004-05 ICA has been responsible for 100% of its operational budget. Revenue sources include: ticket sales, television revenues, concessions, donations and post-season bowls and tournaments. (The Arizona Board of Regents grants 315 tuition waivers to student-athletes at Arizona and ASU annually).

This self-sufficiency is a result of the following:

- Effective July 1, 2003 athletics no longer receives an annual \$1.2 million allocation of state-appropriated monies, and
- ICA agreed to help fund the new Student Union facility by giving back to the University its annual registration fee allocation of \$495,000. The annual allocation to the Athletics Department was reduced by \$100,000 per year, starting with the 1999-2000 fiscal year. By June 30, 2004 the Athletics Department no longer received any allocations from registration fees. In those five years, Athletics gave back to the University \$1,495,000. Thereafter, the Student Union will benefit in the amount of \$495,000 per year.

## Myth: Athletics Is The University's "Cash Cow"

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- ICA is proud of the fiscal responsibility its staff has shown. ICA has exercised fiscal responsibility and has never been a "Cash Cow." (Note: Approximately 80% of Division 1A programs are now operating in the "red", which indicates that Arizona Athletics has displayed a high degree of fiscal restraint and managerial expertise to remain in the black.)
- ICA has had a positive year-end fund balance since fiscal year 1985. Since then ICA has maintained on average, a \$500,000 fund balance to safeguard against revenue shortfalls (e.g. gate receipts). Reserves in excess of \$500,000 have been used primarily to fund capital projects (e.g. gymnastics facility).
- The department dropped four sports in 1981. In 1984 the Athletics Department eliminated 9 positions, reduced 2 FTE's and dropped a sport to stabilize the budget. Since 2003, ICA has eliminated 31 positions through lay off and attrition. In 2004-05 the athletic department eliminated 16 positions in order to rein in expenditures. Currently, there is an ongoing comprehensive program review designed to safeguard fiscal stability for the future.

## Myth: University Funds are Used for ICA Capital Projects

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- During the past 18 years more than \$60 million in capital improvements have been completed by ICA with self-generated funds. This includes the expansion and renovation of the gymnastics facility and Hillenbrand Aquatics and new Jefferson gymnasium that was completed in the fall of 2008. Athletics has not received any State-appropriated funds for capital improvements since McKale Center was built in 1972.
  - Example: All funds required for the Jefferson Gymnasium, diving well, gymnastics gymnasium and pool expansions, and promenade were donated to Athletics from the private sector.

## **Myth: Athletics Does Not Pay For Its Scholarship Costs (Grants-in-Aid)**

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- ICA receives 315 tuition waivers from the Arizona Board of Regents; however, approximately \$3.6 million, or 8%, of its 2009-10 budget will be expended by ICA towards student/athlete financial aid. These dollars are used for room, board, books and benefit on-campus units (i.e. Housing, Student Union Food Services and Bookstore).
- Moreover, the State provides the University (not ICA) an annual allocation per FTE student of approximately \$8,000 so the 315 student-athletes who receive tuition waivers bring approximately \$2.5 million annually to the University.

## Myth: Millions Are Made Through Participation in Bowl Games And Post-Season Tournaments

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- The University does not receive a full financial payout when participating in a football bowl game. Instead, all bowl revenues are split equally among the Pac-10 institutions after expenses.
- The Athletics Department broke even from its 2008 participation in the Las Vegas Bowl.
- In 2008-09 fiscal year, the Athletics Department received \$2.5 million from funds generated by the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. This NCAA allocation was based on the following elements:
  - Pac-10 participation share from the NCAA Tournament (averaged over 6 years).
  - Number of institutional grants-in-aid.
  - Academic Program enhancement funds.
  - Number of institutionally sponsored sports.
  - Special Assistance Fund - distributed directly to student-athletes in need.
  - Student-Athlete Special Opportunity Fund – distributed to student-athletes.

## Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems

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- The Athletics Department is held responsible to as many or more agencies and regulations than any other unit on campus:
  - ICA is governed by the rules and regulations of the:
    - Arizona Board of Regents
    - University
    - Pac-10 Conference
    - National Collegiate Athletics Association (NCAA)
  - ICA is required to provide the NCAA with an annual revenue and expense audit conducted by an outside firm.
  - Every 10 years the athletic department is required to go through a NCAA Self-Study review, completed by members outside of ICA. The review determines ICA's certification status with the NCAA. The UA completed the first and second rounds of the NCAA certification in 1997 and 2007 was fully certified in all areas (Governance & Compliance, Academic Integrity and Equity).

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## Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems (continued)

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- Every three years the NCAA requires that a group external to the University of Arizona audit the ICA Compliance Department.
  - Every three years the NCAA requires that a group external to ICA perform a thorough review of the CATS Academic program.
  - Every year the Department of Athletics reports academic, budget and student-athlete welfare issues to the Arizona Board of Regents.
  - The University Intercollegiate Athletics Committee (ICAC), comprised of faculty, community representatives and the ASUA president, are appointed by and responsible to the President and regularly monitor academic performance, student-athletes welfare issues and ICA policies.
- ICA staff provides annual reports to the faculty and is available for any inquiries.

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## Myth: Athletics Covers Up Its Problems (continued)

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- ICA programs are exposed daily to the media and are under constant scrutiny.
- ICA is held accountable annually for the Academic Progress Rate (APR), a key NCAA measure that identifies high & low academic performing teams. Low performing teams may be penalized through loss of scholarships and post-season ineligibility.
- ICA has met with the University's Committee of Eleven, a group of general faculty members elected by faculty and student delegates from ASUA and the Graduate Student Council, on numerous occasions.

## **Myth: University Rules Do Not Apply To Student-Athletes**

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- Student-athletes are held to the same UA admission requirements as the general student body.
- Student-athletes must also meet additional requirements prescribed by the NCAA for initial (test scores, core classes and core GPA) and continuing eligibility certification (progress toward degree, etc).
- Academics certification for athletics eligibility is performed by University personnel outside of ICA (i.e., the Office of the Registrar and the Faculty Athletics Representative).
- Continuing eligibility rules for student-athletes involve:
  - University rules
  - Arizona Board of Regents rules including GPA requirements and
  - NCAA rules (governed by status in school: progress toward degree; 40%/ 60% / 80% rule; GPA Requirements; 75% -25% academic year vs. summer school rule and must meet minimum hour requirements)

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## Myth: University Rules Do Not Apply To Student-Athletes (continued)

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- Student-athletes must also adhere to:
  - University Code of Conduct
  - Intercollegiate Athletics Code of Conduct
  - C.A.T.S. Academics Accountability System
  - NCAA Code of Ethics
  - Drug Testing Policy
  - State and Federal Laws
  - Specific Team Rules
- The C.A.T.S. Academics Program stopped reporting to ICA in March 2006 and has since reported to the Vice President of Student Affairs within the Provost's Office. C.A.T.S. Academics oversees counseling, advising, student academic support including the Student-Athletes Invested in Learning program (SAIL) and monitoring of NCAA eligibility.

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## Myth: Student-Athletes Are Dumb Jocks

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- In 13 out of the past 16 years, student-athletes have graduated at an equal or higher rate when compared to the general student body (the highest student-athlete graduation rate recorded in the last 5 years was 65% in 2004 as compared to the general student rate of 55%).
- The most recent Persistence Graduation Rate (excluding those who left in good standing) shows a 89% overall student-athlete graduation rate (78% for men and 97% for women). Nine teams have a 100% persistence graduation rate.
- More than 78% of the student-athletes who exhausted their eligibility graduated in 2008-09.
- In the 2008-09 academic year, 16 student-athletes achieved a 4.0 GPA and 198 (39%) achieved a 3.0 or higher GPA.
- Ten ICA teams had a 2.8 or higher combined GPA for the 2008-09 year.
- The highest GPA in 2008-09 for a men's team was 2.857 (men's golf) and for a women's team was 3.312 (women's tennis).

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## **Myth: Student-Athletes Are Dumb Jocks (continued)**

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### ***National Awards and Scholarships earned by UA student-athletes:***

- CoSIDA Academic All-Americans (80)
- Pac-10 Conference Postgraduate Scholarships since 2000 (39)
- Pac-10 Leadership Awards, which began in 2002 (4)
- NCAA Postgraduate Scholarships (since its inception in 2002) (2)
- Pac-10 Postgraduate Scholarship (began in 2007) (1)
- Pac-10 Scholar-Athlete of the Year (5)
- Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars (3)
- National Football Foundation Hampshire Honor Society (2)
- Academic All-American Hall of Fame (1)
- Flinn Scholar (1)
- National Football Foundation Scholar-Athlete (2)
- Burger King Scholar-Athlete (1)
- Woody Hayes Scholar-Athlete (1)
- NCAA Woman of the Year (since its inception in 1991) (2)
- NCAA Athlete of the Year (1)
- Pac-10 Sportsmanship Award (1)
- NCAA Walter Byers Scholarship (1)
- Pac-10 Woman of the Year (2)
- Freeman Medal (6)
- Robie Medal (2),

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## FACTS

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## **Fact: Athletics Gives Back**

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- ICA gives back to the campus and the community in a variety of ways. Some of the major contributions are:
  - Student Fees totaling \$1,495,000, from fiscal year 1999-00 through 2003-04 were given back to the University to help finance the new Student Union. Thereafter, the Student Union receives \$495,000 per year that once went to athletics.
  - In the last 14 years, ICA has given approximately \$2.4 million to the UA marching band (\$80,000 annually), and pays all expenses for Bowls and post-season band travel. The \$2.4 million includes \$90,000 for new equipment.
  - ICA offers faculty/staff season tickets at a 15% discount off regular price. Discounted value exceeds \$250,000 annually.

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## Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

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- UA students receive discounted ticket prices (from 60% to 80% off the regular price) for football and men's basketball and free admission to all other sporting events. Discounted value, including waived priority amounts exceeds \$2.5 million per year.
- In 2008-09, 370 student-athletes and 30 UA cheerleaders and mascots participated in community service/philanthropic endeavors reaching more than 80,000 individuals.
- ICA donates more than \$20,000 of ICA resources annually toward Run'N'Roll and Red-Blue Wildchair Basketball Exhibition Disability Resources fundraisers.
- ICA supports UA Student spirit groups (i.e., cheerleaders, mascots, etc.) - \$40,000 per year.
- Faculty Fellows support - \$5,000 per year.
- Alumni Homecoming function - \$5,000 per year.

Continued...  
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## Fact: Athletics Gives Back (continued)

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- ICA employs UA students (non-athletes) in part-time positions that are paid wages in excess of \$550,000 per year.
- ICA gives the Student Union \$325,000 per year in trademarks and licensing fees.
- ICA staff and student-athletes donate time and effort to many Tucson charities and organizations.
- In 2008-09, ICA supported more than 250 local non-profits and charities with donations.
- Nearly 1,000 individuals participated in ICA facility tours, many middle school age or younger.

## Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country

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- The Arizona Wildcats have won 20 National Team Championships and 119 Conference Team Championships (45 of which are Pac-10 Championships).
- Arizona Wildcats have won 135 Individual National Championships.
- UA Athletics has been ranked as a top 10 program in the Director's Cup nine times and has finished as high as 4<sup>th</sup>.
- More than 120 Arizona student-athletes have competed in the Olympics, with six receiving medals in the 2008 Beijing Games.
- More than 100 former student-athletes are currently playing sports professionally in the NFL, NBA, MLB, PGA, LPGA, WNBA.

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Last update August 2009

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## **Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country (continued)**

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- Since 1994, eight female student-athletes have received twelve Honda Awards. The Honda Award is the nation's most prestigious award honoring amateur female student-athletes.
- Since 1994, The University of Arizona has had two student-athletes named the NCAA Woman of the Year. UA Swimmer Whitney Myers was the most recent recipient in 2007.
- Arizona has had 35 different student-athletes receive 59 National Player of the Year awards in various sports (multiple student-athletes received more than one national award). Most recently, Antoine Cason won the 2007 Jim Thorpe Award, awarded annually to the top defensive back in the nation.

## **Fact: ICA is One of the Top Programs in the Country (continued)**

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- The national Life Skills Program offered by the NCAA and the Division IA Athletics Director's Association was modeled after ICA's C.A.T.S. Program (Commitment to an Athletes Total Success).
  - In 1999, the CATS program received an award from the Division 1A Athletics Directors Association as one of the top Life Skills programs in the nation.
  - The STEP UP! Program, which focuses on interdisciplinary bystander intervention for student-athletes, was developed by our C.A.T.S. Life Skills Director, and has been adopted by the NCAA for use by member institutions. In addition, it is being used here at the University of Arizona by other student organizations as well as other universities across the nation.
- Eighty (80) student-athletes have earned the prestigious honor of Academic All-America.

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