



For Immediate Release

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CONFERENCE USA TRACK & FIELD ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM ANNOUNCED

IRVING, Texas – One graduate student, seven seniors, eight juniors and nine sophomores were named to the 2009 Conference USA Men's and Women's Track and Field All-Academic Teams, as selected by the sports information directors for track and field. Rice placed a league-best 11 members on the team, followed by Tulsa who had five. Houston, Memphis and UAB each had two members apiece while SMU, Southern Miss and UTEP had one. All-Academic Team members hold at least a 3.2 cumulative grade point average and served as a key component to their program's success.

Rice senior **Brett Olson** was named to the All-Academic team for the third-consecutive year as a civil engineering major. The Flower Mound, Texas, native owns a 3.93 GPA and was also named to the C-USA Cross Country All-Academic team for three-straight years. Olson placed in the top-10 in both the 3,000-meter run and the 5,000m at the C-USA Indoor Championships while also taking fifth in the 3,000m steeplechase at the outdoor championships.

Teammate **Phillip Adam** is also a repeat selection. The junior decathlete was a 2008 CoSIDA/ESPN *The Magazine* All-District VI, first team honoree and was named the 2009 Rice University Scholar Athlete for Men's Track and Field. The 2009 C-USA Outdoor decathlon champion currently holds a 3.94 GPA as an economics major.

Five additional Owls were named to the All-Academic men's team in **John Berens, Connor Hayes, William Meyers, Brad Morris** and **Aaron Robson**. Berens owns a perfect 4.00 GPA in biochemistry and cell biology for the Owls and was named the 2009 Hubert E. Bray Scholar Athlete of the Year as a junior. The Omaha, Neb., native is second on the Rice squad in the triple jump and placed seventh at both the outdoor and indoor championship meets.

Sophomores Hayes and Meyers are two-time selections to the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. Hayes, who earned sixth-place finishes in the 110m and 400m hurdles at the 2009 C-USA Outdoor Championships, holds a 3.57 GPA as a philosophy major. Meyers is the Owls' top shot putter, placing fifth at the C-USA Indoors and sixth at the outdoor championship this spring. A native of Sugar Land, Texas, he holds a 3.95 GPA with a mathematical economic analysis major and business minor.

Morris is making his first appearance on the C-USA All-Academic Track & Field Team, but was chosen to the 2008 Cross Country All-Academic Team. Rice's Cross Country Scholar Athlete for 2008 and 2009, Morris is a four-time member of the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. The junior chemistry major holds a 3.62 GPA.

Robson, a senior distance runner and civil engineering major, rounds out the Owls' representation. A native of Edmonton, Alberta, Robson finished third in 5,000m at the C-USA Indoor Championship and seventh in the same event at the outdoor championship.

Houston's **Morgan Floyd** and **Emmanuel Osadebey** join their crosstown counterparts on the C-USA All-Academic squad. Floyd was named the 2008-09 UH Track and Field Male Academic MVP as a psychology major with a 3.23 GPA. The Sherman, Texas, native won gold at the conference indoor championships in the heptathlon and took silver in the decathlon at the outdoor championships as a senior. Osadebey is a two-time recipient of the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll while maintaining a 3.78 GPA as a kinesiology major. The Grapevine, Texas, native set a personal-best in the 400m hurdles with a time of 53.98 at the C-USA Outdoor Championships this spring.

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Tulsa junior **John Beattie** and redshirt sophomore **Mark Davidson** were voted the Outdoor and Indoor Track Athletes of the Year, respectively. Beattie was the 2009 C-USA Outdoor Champion in the 10,000m and Indoor Champion in the 5,000m. He is currently working toward a master's of business administration. Davidson, an exercise sports science major, earned All-America honors during the indoor season with an eighth-place finish in the mile at the NCAA Championships. He was also named the C-USA Male Indoor Track Athlete of the Year and High Scorer of the C-USA Indoor Championships.

UTEP junior **Hans Eriksson** automatically qualified for the 2009 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships with a fourth-place finish at the Midwest Regional. He took silver in the hammer thrown at four of six meets this season, including the 2009 C-USA Championships. The Torsby, Sweden native also place fourth in the 35-lb. weight throw at the C-USA Indoor Championships. Eriksson holds a 3.78 GPA in undergraduate studies.

Darius Anderson of Memphis receives his first all-academic honor. The sophomore physics major carries a 3.46 GPA and was named to the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Honor Roll. The Austin, Texas, native recorded a personal record in the 110m hurdles in the preliminaries of the C-USA Outdoor Championships with a time of 14.46 on his way to a third-place finish and an All-C-USA third team honor.

Tiger teammate **Sivan Aballi** is the only repeat selection on this year's C-USA Women's Track & Field All-Academic Team. The senior shot putter recorded a 13th place finish at the NCAA Mideast Regional and had five NCAA regional qualifying marks in a row. She earned two first-place finishes during the 2009 outdoor season. A native of Holon, Israel, she maintains a 3.71 GPA as a communications major.

Rice, the three-time C-USA Indoor and Outdoor Champions, was represented by a foursome on the women's all-academic team in **Katie Dollinger, Allison Pye, Becky Wade** and **Lennie Waite**. Dollinger and Waite are also three-time C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll selections. Sophomore Pye and Wade were named to the 2008 U.S. Track & Field Cross Country Coaches Association All-Academic Team. Waite is also a two-time recipient of that awards. A native of Austin, Texas, she graduated cum laude from Rice last May and maintains a 3.96 GPA. Wade earned All-America honors this spring in the indoor mile run, and was the C-USA Outdoor Champion in both the 1,500m and 3,000m steeplechase. Waite and Wade qualified for nationals in the 3,000m steeplechase after finishing second and fourth at the NCAA Midwest Regional in Norman, Okla.

The Tulsa trio of junior pole vaulter **Caitlin Clancy** and seniors **April Montgomery** and **Dawn Nagazina** represented the Golden Hurricane. Clancy is a mechanical engineering major at TU with a perfect 4.00 GPA. The Tucson, Ariz., major was named a 2009 Goldwater Scholar, the premier award for recognizing students pursuing careers in the science, mathematics and engineering fields.

Montgomery was a member of the 4x400m relay that finished third at the C-USA Indoor Championship and second at the Outdoor Championships. She also qualified for nationals in the 400m hurdles, after placing fifth at the NCAA Midwest Regional. Nagazina won the C-USA Indoor Championship in the 800m and recorded the fourth-fastest time in school history in that event during the outdoor season.

SMU sophomore **Silje Fjortoft** earns her first selection to the C-USA All-Academic Track & Field Team, but was chosen to the 2008 Cross Country All-Academic Team and was named the 2008 C-USA Cross Country Athlete of the Year. During the track and field season, she won the 5,000m at the C-USA Indoor Championships and placed second in the mile. She also won the steeplechase at the Stanford Invitational and ranks third in the nation in that event entering the NCAA Championships.

Southern Miss senior **Cheris Fletcher** is a four-time C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and Academic Medalist with a 3.85 GPA as an architectural engineering technology major. She recorded the league's fifth-best time in the 400m and anchored the Southern Miss 4x400m relay team.

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UAB sophomores **Stephanie Gammon** and **Nora Mehl** round out the women's all-academic squad. They are both two-time C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and Academic Medal recipients with Gammon maintaining a 3.89 GPA in exercise science and Mehl is a psychology major with a 3.86 GPA. After placing eighth in the 5,000m run at the C-USA Indoor Championships, Gammon earned bronze in the 10,000m at the Outdoor Championship. Mehl was the heptathlon champion at the 2009 C-USA Outdoor Championships.

2009 Conference USA Men's Track and Field All-Academic Team

Name	School	Class	GPA	Major
Morgan Floyd	Houston	Senior	3.23	Psychology
Emmanuel Osadebey	Houston	Junior	3.78	Kinesiology
Darius Anderson	Memphis	Sophomore	3.46	Physics
*Phillip Adam	Rice	Junior	3.94	Economics
John Berens	Rice	Junior	4.00	Biochemistry/Cell Biology
Connor Hayes	Rice	Sophomore	3.57	Philosophy
William Meyers	Rice	Sophomore	3.95	Mathematical Economic Analysis Minor: Business
Brad Morris	Rice	Junior	3.62	Chemistry
*Brett Olson	Rice	Senior	3.93	Civil Engineering
Aaron Robson	Rice	Senior	3.66	Civil Engineering
John Beattie	Tulsa	Junior	3.37	Master's of Business Administration
Mark Davidson	Tulsa	RS-Sophomore	3.44	Exercise Sports Science
Hans Eriksson	UTEP	Junior	3.78	Undergraduate Studies

2009 Conference USA Women's Track and Field All-Academic Team

Name	School	Class	GPA	Major
*Sivan Aballi	Memphis	Senior	3.71	Communications
Katie Dollinger	Rice	Junior	3.80	Mathematical Economic Analysis
Allison Pye	Rice	Sophomore	3.91	Kinesiology/Pre-Med
Becky Wade	Rice	Sophomore	3.94	History/Psychology
Lennie Waite	Rice	Graduate Student	3.96	Economics/Psychology/ Managerial Studies
Silje Fjortoft	SMU	Sophomore	3.88	German
Cheris Fletcher	Southern Miss	Senior	3.85	Architectural Engineering Technology
Caitlin Clancy	Tulsa	Junior	4.00	Mechanical Engineering
April Montgomery	Tulsa	Senior	3.96	Psychology
Dawn Nagazina	Tulsa	Senior	3.87	Chemical Engineering
Stephanie Gammon	UAB	Sophomore	3.89	Exercise Science
Nora Mehl	UAB	RS-Sophomore	3.86	Psychology

**Repeat Selections*