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C-USA Softball All-Academic Team Announced Fourteen Student-Athletes Recognized for Excellence on the Field and in Classroom

IRVING, Texas – Fourteen softball student-athletes were named to the 2007 Conference USA All-Academic Team, as announced by the league office today. Marshall led the way with three members on the team, while Houston, Memphis, Tulsa and UCF all placed two members on the inaugural squad. East Carolina, UAB and UTEP each had one member garner academic recognition. To be eligible for the team, student-athletes must have earned a 3.2 cumulative grade point average or better and be a starter or key reserve on their team. Six juniors, five sophomores, two seniors and one graduate student make up the 2007 All-Academic Softball team.

Marshall teammates **Amanda Luers**, **Rachael Schmidt**, and **Rachel Folden** were each named to the all-academic team after a capturing the fifth seed in the 2007 C-USA Softball Championship. Schmidt and Luers hold identical 3.85 GPAs. Schmidt, a sophomore accounting major with a minor in economics, was one of the 18 softball players to be named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll this year. In addition, she was a Commissioner's Academic Medalist this season and has been named to Marshall's Dean's List in each of her first three semesters. Luers is a senior management major with a minor in marketing. She was named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll this year and is the only Marshall softball player to be named a Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medalist two years in a row.

Folden, the league's reigning Player of the Year and 2007 preseason Player of the Year, has a 3.20 GPA in mathematics with a minor in history. The junior was also one of 18 softball players to be named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll this year. She was also a two-time Dean's List honoree. One of the nation's premier power hitters, she leads Conference USA in batting average. Folden also became the school's career home runs leader this season and is currently fifth in Conference USA in career home runs with 32.

Houston's **Katie Bush** and **Jessica Valis** garnered academic recognition after leading their team to the 2007 C-USA Softball regular season title. Bush, a sophomore, holds a 3.87 GPA in kinesiology and exercise science. She earned Conference USA Academic Medal and Academic Honor Roll accolades for the second-straight year and was also named to UH's Dean's List with a 3.80 GPA in the fall. Valis is also a sophomore and has a 3.26 GPA in consumer merchandising and science and was named to the Conference USA Academic Honor Roll for the second consecutive year. She notched UH Dean's List honors with a 3.53 GPA in the fall.

Memphis' two All-Academic selections are **Lindsay Kelso** and **Jenna Kubesch**. Kelso is a junior business accounting major with a 3.87 GPA. She was a first team All-West Region Academic All-American at Phoenix College and was a 2006 Tiger 3.0 Club member. Kelso is also a two-time C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll member. Kubesch graduated in May 2006 with a 3.94 GPA in communications and is completing her second semester in her master's program. She carries a 3.67 GPA in her graduate sport and leisure concentration and was a 2006 CoSIDA Academic District IV First Team selection. Kubesch also is the school's nominee for NCAA Woman of the Year Award.

Third-seeded Tulsa also placed two members on the squad. **Stephanie Chomicki** holds a 3.70 GPA in elementary education and the sophomore has been a member of the Dean's List or Athletic Director's Honor Roll every semester at TU. She is a two-time member of C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. Earlier this season she posted eight consecutive hits, the fourth most in NCAA history. **Sara Dyer** is a junior communications major with a 3.92 GPA. She is a two-time C-USA Academic Medalist and member of Commissioner's Honor Roll. Dyer is also a three-time Dean's List honoree at TU. She leads the nation in doubles and has set school records for RBI in a season and doubles in a season.

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The UCF Golden Knights, who will play host to this week's softball championship, were the fourth team to place two members on the All-Academic team. **Kacie Feaster**, a senior, is a sports and fitness major with a 3.84 GPA. She has been named to the Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll and was a Conference USA Commissioner's Academic Medal Recipient. **Ashley Van Ryn** is a junior and has a 3.91 GPA in hospitality management. She is also a Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll member and a Conference USA Academic Medal recipient. Van Ryn was a UCF Scholar Athlete for in the spring of 2006 and has been a Knights of Honor Award Winner.

Jessica Johnson of No.2 seed East Carolina is the Pirates' lone honoree on the team. Johnson is a sophomore and carries a 3.62 GPA in intended merchandising. She has been named to Dean's List each semester at East Carolina and earned a spot on the C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll twice. Johnson has started every game that she has played. As the Pirates' starting first baseman, she has a fielding percentage of .990 which has helped ECU rank fourth in the nation in that statistic.

Holly Krzan represents UAB on the All-Academic team. Krzan carries a 3.37 GPA in special education and the junior was named to Conference USA Commissioner's Honor Roll three times. She made Dean's List in the fall 2006 and was named UAB's 2007 NSCA All-American Athlete of the Year.

UTEP's junior **Rachael Schaeffer** rounds out the 14-member squad. Schaeffer was a 2007 recipient of the C-USA Commissioner's Academic Medal and was named to the 2007 C-USA Commissioner's Honor Roll. She holds a 3.82 GPA in kinesiology/pre-physical therapy and has played in every Miner games this season.

The 2007 C-USA Softball Championship presented by Coca-Cola gets underway on Thursday, May 10 with four games at the UCF Softball Complex in Orlando, Fla. There will be four more games on Friday, May 11, while the championship game will take place at 3:30 p.m. EST on Saturday, May 12 and will be televised LIVE on CSTV.

2007 C-USA SOFTBALL ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Name	School	Class	GPA	Major
Jessica Johnson	East Carolina	So.	3.62	Intended Merchandising
Katie Bush	Houston	So.	3.87	Kinesiology / Exercise Science
Jessica Valis	Houston	So.	3.26	Consumer Merchandising Science
Rachel Folden	Marshall	Jr.	3.20	Mathematics / History
Rachel Schmidt	Marshall	So.	3.85	Accounting / Economics
Amanda Luers	Marshall	Sr.	3.85	Sport Management / Marketing
Linsday Kelso	Memphis	Jr.	3.87	Business Accounting
Jenna Kubesch	Memphis	Sr.	3.94/3.67	Communications/Sport and Leisure
Stephanie Chomicki	Tulsa	So.	3.70	Elementary Education
Sara Dyer	Tulsa	Jr.	3.92	Communications
Holly Krzan	UAB	Jr.	3.37	Special Education
Kacie Feaster	UCF	Sr.	3.84	Sports and Fitness
Ashley Van Ryn	UCF	Jr.	3.91	Hospitality Management
Rachael Schaeffer	UTEP	Jr.	3.82	Kinesiology/Pre-Physical Therapy