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***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* Announces 2009 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Finalists**

FAIRFAX, VA - *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education* magazine has announced the male and female finalists of the 2009 Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholar Award. The male and female winners will be announced and profiled in its May 28, 2009 edition.

The male and female finalists are:

Male Finalists

Kenneth Avila	Baseball	Northwestern University
Sam Bradford	Football	University of Oklahoma
Peter Ferrara	Wrestling	University of Virginia
Rickie Fowler	Golf	Oklahoma State University
Damion James	Basketball	University of Texas at Austin
Jamaal Parker	Track & Field	University of Georgia
Rashad James	Tennis	University of Maryland Eastern Shore
Brian Robiskie	Football	Ohio State University
Masumi Turnbull	Soccer	University of Kentucky
Eric Wang	Swimming	New York University

Female Finalists

Shardea Croes	Softball	Slippery Rock University
Lamarra Currie	Track & Field	University of North Carolina - Charlotte
Diane Gu	Swimming	Rice University
Mariko Strickland	Soccer	California State University Long Beach
Azahara Munoz	Golf	Arizona State University
Marcia Newby	Gymnastics	University of Georgia
Yolanda Odenyo	Soccer	Oklahoma State University
Ashley Paris	Basketball	University of Oklahoma
Angela Porshe	Volleyball	Valparaiso University
Destiny Williams	Tennis	North Carolina A&T State University

In 1992, *Black Issues In Higher Education* magazine, now *Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*, established the Sports Scholars Awards to honor undergraduate students of color who exemplify the standards set by tennis great Arthur Ashe Jr.

A scholar and athlete, Ashe sought to expand opportunities for young people. Each year *Diverse* invites every postsecondary institution in the country to participate in this awards program by nominating their outstanding sports scholars. In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must exhibit academic excellence as well as community activism. To be included, students have to compete in an intercollegiate sport; maintain a cumulative grade-point average of at least 3.2; and be active on their campuses or in their communities. This year approximately 600 male and female student-athletes from across the country were nominated.

Last year's male and female winners were Hampton University's Marcus Dixon and University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign's Momei Qu.

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education is the nation's only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit www.diverseeducation.com.

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