



Notes from the Sidelines

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'Perfect 5', 12 others named '08 NSAD awardees

Talk about being perfect. Five UML student-athletes registered a perfect 4.0 GPA for Fall 2007 semester to lead this year's National Student-Athlete Day Recognition awardees.

Ice Hockey's Frank Stegnar, men's soccer's Michael Clem, women's track's Jenna Banks and Jennifer Carr, and softball's Hanna May got A's in all their classes last semester.

The National Student-Athlete Day Recognition Award is given every spring to the student-athlete from each team who acquired the highest GPA during the fall semester.

Other NSAD recipients include baseball's Luke Wallace (3.433), women's basketball's Liron Asher (3.833), men's basketball's Ali Kanaan (3.5), women's cross country's Sarah

Brassard (3.725), men's cross country's Jeremiah Karanja (3.594), field hockey's Melissa Seeley (3.673), golf's



Tom Thiesing (3.020), women's soccer's Elizabeth Garlo (3.914), softball's Julie Brodie (3.925), men's track's Bryan Koenig (3.880) and Nicholas John (3.756), and volleyball's Nicole Rondeau (3.925).

A luncheon to formally recognize

the 2008 honorees on April 11 will be held at 205 Coburn Hall in South Campus, where they will be joined by teammates, coaches, athletic officials, and faculty members.

Stegnar (Management), Clem (Exercise Physiology), and Banks (Nursing) are all current sophomores while May (Exercise Physiology) and Carr (Mechanical Engineering) are both freshmen.

National Student-Athlete Day was established in 1987 by the National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS) and Northeastern University's Center for the Study of Sport in the Society.

Adopted by the NCAA in 1994, NSAD is considered "one of America's strongest endeavors to increase the positive virtues of sport and the recognition of student-athletes nationwide."

Wangia, Clay Orlando-bound

Men's soccer Jamie Wangia and field hockey's Molly Clay will be representing UML student-athletes in the NCAA National Student-Athlete Leadership Development Conference in Orlando, Florida on May 25-29.

Wangia, a junior forward from Kenya, and Clay, a sophomore midfielder from Rockport, will join a delegation of 700 student-athletes who selected around the country across three NCAA divisions.

Created in 1996 by the NCAA Foundation, then-NCAA Foundation Leadership

Conference aims to provide diverse group of nation's premier student-athletes a chance to actively participate in discussion of issues affecting them on their campuses and immediate communities.

Also, the conference will give student-athletes the opportunity to enhance their leadership, communication, decision-making, and problem-solving skills.

Recently, baseball's Graeme Clohosey and women's soccer's Natalia Mendoza attended the NCAA Northeast Region Leadership Conference.



UMass Lowell student-athletes take time out to participate in the Annual Bowl-A-Thon Fundraiser sponsored by the Kids in Disability Sports, Inc. (K.I.D.S.) last Sunday, March 30, 2008.

Student Athletes' Corner (This is open to all UML student athletes who want to write about any topic. For more info, contact Joan Lehoullier.)

Leadership Academy

By Natalia Mendoza

(Ed's Note: The author, a junior forward of the women's soccer team, shares her experience at the 2008 NCAA Division II Student-Athlete Leadership Academy she attended last month in Philadelphia and discusses what she intends to do as a student-athlete leader.)



Leaders are made, not born." Some people may believe that a person must be born with certain qualities that enable them to be natural leaders. However, the academy proved that it does not matter what qualities you were or were not born with, anyone can learn how to become an effective leader. Working with the staff at the Leadership Academy, we found out what leadership qualities we had as individuals, and learned how to use them to work together with our teammates and coaches to improve our teams. The skills we learned would be beneficial to anyone, even if they do not yet hold leadership positions. They taught us the best way for us to lead, using the qualities we already had. Anybody can do it, all they need is the proper training.

Another thing I found interesting about the conference was that although we all participate in division II sports, we don't exactly now what that means. Athletes don't play division II because they can't play division I: they chose division II. Division II wants to separate itself from Divisions I and III in the NCAA because it wants people to know that athletes choose Division II for a reason: because it stands for something. Division II is in the process of re-inventing itself. It came up with the slogan "I Chose Division II" and the symbol of the hexagon. The hexagon stands for the six sides of Division II: Sportsmanship, Balance, Learning, Service, Passion, and Resourcefulness. These six attributes mold Division II and make it a division that athletes want to be a part of.

While at the Leadership Academy, we got together with the members of our school to identify issues on our campus that we wanted to resolve. One main concern for us was the separation between the different sports team. The baseball team trains on east campus, while softball is on south. Track spends much of its winter season training in Boston, while the hockey team is at the Tsongas arena. We realized that there is never really a chance for all the student-athletes to meet and get to know each other. Because athletics is such a huge part of our University, we want to all our student-athletes involved, not only with their own sports, but also with the whole athletic community. We believe that if there were a way for everyone to

get to know each other, it would increase the support at our games, build new friendships, and build a strong athletic community. What we propose is The Riverhawk Challenge. The Riverhawk Challenge will take place the first weekend we return to school in the fall. It will consist of food, competitive games, and a place for all of us to get to know each other. Coaches, administrator, trainers, and student-athletes will get a chance to interact in a more casual, non-stressful setting. It will be a cook-out that takes place at Cushing field. We will eat, split our teams up, and get ready to compete in games such as the relay tricycle races, dodge ball, and many more. We plan to make this an annual event so that every year the new students will be properly welcomed to UMass Lowell Athletics.

The Leadership Academy helped me understand what type of leader I am, and how to work with different types of people to be as effective as possible. I met many student-athletes from different schools in my conference that I still keep in touch with today. It also allowed me to work with Joan and Graeme to come up with ways to better improve our campus. Overall, it was a great experience that helped me learn many things about myself, and what it means to be a leader. I would strongly recommend all student-athletes to apply because it was a great opportunity, and I am glad I had the chance to experience it.

Are you looking for an internship, co-op, or a full-time job after graduation?

Don't miss the opportunity to meet employers representing a variety of industries!

2008 Summer & Beyond: Jobs & Internships Career Fair

When: April 16, 2008 (1:00PM - 4:00PM)

Where: Campus Recreation Center

Full Description:

The Summer & Beyond Career Fair is where you need to be on April 16th.

A wide variety of employers will be at the Recreation Center to discuss their organizations' opportunities and your interests. Want to make the most of this event? Participate in UMass Lowell's SIX DAYS THAT MAY CHANGE YOUR LIFE program. Feb 27, Mar 12, April 1, 2, 9 and 16 are the days; check out our website <http://career.uml.edu> for details!!!

Blue Fan Group Games

Baseball, Le Lacheur Park

Thursday, April 3
3:30 PM... vs So. CT

Thursday, April 10
7 PM...vs Franklin Pierce

Thursday, April 24
7 PM...vs Bryant

Softball, River View Field

Thursday, April 17
3 PM...vs Bryant

Track and Field, Cushing Field

Saturday, April 12,
All Day, George Davis Invitational

"Every day the word gift is used to define talent, ability, and performance. Being gifted has an even deeper meaning, a meaning that isn't always measured in points per game or win/loss records – it's measured by heart, effort, and desire." –

Alan Cohen

Important Dates to Remember

April 11 — National Student-Athlete Day Luncheon

April 14 — **Priority Registration for Student-Athletes**

April 21 — Patriots' Day (No classes)

April 23 — Wednesday (Friday class schedule)

April 25 — University Day, no classes

May 13 — Athletic Awards Night, Costello Athletic Center

May 16 — Spring Exams Begin

May 31 — Commencement (Congratulations Seniors)