



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DECEMBER 10, 2008

Contact: Media Relations (214-774-1300)

Conference USA Cross Country All-Academic Team Announced

IRVING, Texas- Five male athletes and a total of 11 female student-athletes have been named to the Conference USA Cross Country All-Academic Team as announced by the league office Tuesday and voted on by the league's sports information directors for cross country. The all-academic team consists of student-athletes who have earned a 3.2 cumulative grade point average or better. In addition to the five female student-athletes on the first team, six female student-athletes have been named to the second team.

Rice senior **Brett Olson** receives his third consecutive all-academic honor as a civil engineering major with a 3.96 GPA. Olson finished 18th at the C-USA Championship to earn third team All-C-USA and placed 75th at the South Central Regional where the Owls finished 5th out of 17 teams.

Brad Morris of Rice was the second owl to cross the finish line at the South Central Regional where he placed 29th. The junior is a chemistry major with a 3.667 GPA .

All-Americans **Japheth Ng'ojoy** of UTEP and **John Beattie** of Tulsa earn their first All-Academic Team honor. Ng'ojoy is a biology major with a minor in chemistry and owns a 3.32 GPA. The senior was the top C-USA finisher at the NCAA Championships where he placed 27th overall in the 10K race with a time of 30:03.3.

Beattie captured numerous awards this season as he became the first male cross country All-American in school history, won the male C-USA individual title, and was named to the All-Midwest Team with his fourth-place finish in 31:20.3. The Southampton, England native is currently working towards a Master's in Business Administration and has a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Rounding out the men's side is UTEP senior **Patrick Mutai**. Mutai was a consistent top-three finisher for the Miners through the season and earned C-USA First Team and All-Mountain Team accolades. The Eldoret, Kenya native currently holds a 3.23 GPA as a nursing major with a minor in biology.

On the women's side, **Emily Malinowski** of Memphis also receives her third straight all-academic honor. The senior has maintained a 3.867 GPA as a biology major and led the Tigers in each of their meets this season.

All-C-USA first teamer **Lennie Waite** of Rice was also named to the all-academic team. In her tenure at Rice, Waite has been a member of the women's soccer team, indoor and outdoor track and field teams and has been one of the Owls' top runners this season. The Austin, Texas native earned All-C-USA first team and All-South Central team honors as a psychology major with a 3.84 GPA.

Kathleen Clark of Marshall was named to the All-Academic Team with a perfect 4.0 GPA in marketing while also leading the Thundering Herd in five of the six meets she competed in this season.

Junior **Dawn Nagazina** of Tulsa earns first-team accolades after being named to the All-C-USA third team and being the lone Golden Hurricane to represent Tulsa at the Midwest Regional. The Edmonton, Alberta native has a 3.87 GPA while majoring in chemical engineering.

Rounding out the women's first team is UAB sophomore **Stephanie Gammon**. Gammon earned All-C-USA third team and All-South team accolades as the Blazers' top finisher in every meet this season. The Jackson, Mich., native set personal bests in the 4K (14:41.55), 5K (17:28.27) and 6K run (21:35.21). Gammon owns a 3.96 GPA as a health sciences major.

Due to the large number of nominations submitted to the conference office on the women's side, a second team was created to honor the efforts of those individuals who continue to excel in and outside the classroom.

Second team honors went to SMU teammates **Silje Fjortoft** and **Jessa Simmons**, Rice sophomore **Allison Pye** and Tulsa senior **Alex Becker**. Rounding out the last two slots on the roster were UCF teammates **Alison Palmer** and **Ocean Cohen**.

2008 C-USA Cross Country Men's All-Academic Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Brad Morris	Rice	Jr.	3.67	Chemistry	Peachtree City, Ga.
*Brett Olson	Rice	Sr.	3.96	Civil Engineering	Flower Mound, Texas
John Beattie	Tulsa	Jr.	4.00	MBA	Southampton, England
Patrick Mutai	UTEP	Sr.	3.23	Nursing (Minor: Biology)	Eldoret, Kenya
Japheth Ng'ojoy	UTEP	Sr.	3.32	Biology (Minor: Chemistry)	Kapsabet, Kenya

2008 C-USA Cross Country Women's All-Academic Team

First Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Kathleen Clark	Marshall	So.	4.00	Marketing	Twinsburg, Ohio
*Emily Malinowski	Memphis	Sr.	3.87	Biology	Slingerlands, N.Y.
Lennie Waite	Rice	Sr.	3.84	Psychology	Austin, Texas
Dawn Nagazina	Tulsa	Jr.	3.87	Chemical Engineering	Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
Stephanie Gammon	UAB	So.	3.96	Health Sciences	Central, S.C.

Second Team

<u>Name</u>	<u>School</u>	<u>Cl.</u>	<u>GPA</u>	<u>Major</u>	<u>Hometown</u>
Allison Pye	Rice	So.	3.99	Undeclared	Houston, Texas
Silje Fjortoft	SMU	So.	3.88	Undecided	Orsta, Norway
Jessa Simmons	SMU	Sr.	3.42	Mathematics	Portland, Texas
*Alex Becker	Tulsa	Sr.	3.62	Elementary Education	Guelph, Ontario, Canada
Allison Palmer	UCF	Sr.	3.52	Mathematics Education (Minor: Math & Spanish)	Oviedo, Fla.
Ocean Cohen	UCF	So.	3.62	Biology	Sarasota, Fla.

*Repeat Selection