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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## 2014 Fall Middle Atlantic Conference Scholar-Athletes



### Men's Cross Country - Chris Garrity (Widener)

Chris Garrity (Glenolden, Pa.) led No. 18 Widener to its first-ever NCAA Championship where it finished 20th in the country. Garrity finished sixth overall at the NCAA Mideast Regional to qualify as an individual for the NCAA Championship. Since the Pride finished second at the Mideast Regional, the entire team went on the nationals. Garrity took third at the Middle Atlantic Conference Championship to earn his fourth-straight All-MAC honors. The senior had previously won the event in 2013. He was the 2013 MAC Runner of the Year and the 2011 MAC Rookie of the Year.

Garrity is a finance major with an anticipated graduation date in the spring of 2015. He holds a 3.88 grade-point average and was named to the Men's Cross Country Academic All-MAC team in 2013 and 2014 (2013 was first year of award). The senior is also a four-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient. He was recently named to the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Team for a fourth-straight season.



### Women's Cross Country - Josey Rupert (Eastern)

Josey Rupert (Shickshinny, Pa.) became the first-ever Eastern cross country runner--male or female--to win the Middle Atlantic Conference Cross Country Individual Championship in 2014. Rupert was named the 2014 MAC Runner of the Year and to the All-MAC First Team for a second-straight year. She was named USTFCCA All-Mideast Region for a second-straight season. The senior finished 20th overall at the 2014 NCAA Mideast Region, coming up just short of a trip to nationals.

Rupert is an exercise science major with an anticipated graduation date in the spring of 2015. She holds a 3.83 grade-point average and was named to the Women's Cross Country Academic All-MAC Team for a second-straight year. The senior is also a three-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient. Rupert was recently named to the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Team.



### **Field Hockey - Becky Ely (Messiah)**

Becky Ely (Newtown, Pa.) helped lead Messiah to the NCAA Tournament for a 14th-straight season where it finished in the second round. The Falcons also captured their eighth-straight Commonwealth Conference Championship to earn the NCAA automatic qualifier. The senior defender was named to the All-Commonwealth Conference First Team for a third-straight season. She was named the Commonwealth Conference Rookie of the Year in 2011. Ely was named to the NFHCA All-South Atlantic Region Team for the second-straight season.

Ely is a mathematics major with a teaching certification and is expected to graduate in the spring of 2015. She holds a 3.77 grade-point average and was named to the Field Hockey Academic All-MAC Team in 2013 and 2014 (first two years of the accolade). Ely is also a four-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient.

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### **Football - Michael Bennett (Widener)**

Michael Bennett (Maple Glen, Pa.) led the conference with 21 punts inside the 20-yard line. He finished the season with a six-game streak of at least two punts pinned inside the 20-yard line. The senior was part of a Widener team that won its 20th Middle Atlantic Conference Championship and captured its 12th undefeated regular-season. In the conference championship-clinching win over Delaware Valley, Bennett put five punts inside the 20-yard line. Bennett was named All-MAC Honorable Mention in 2014.

Bennett is a business major and is expected to graduate in the spring of 2015. He holds a 3.91 grade-point average and was named to the 2014 Football Academic All-MAC Team. He was also named to the Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll. Bennett was named to the CoSIDA / Capital One Academic All-America Second Team, and he was also named to the CoSIDA / Capital One Academic All-District First Team. He was recently named to the Philadelphia Inquirer Academic All-Area Team.

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### **Men's Soccer - Josh Wollaston (Alvernia)**

Josh Wollaston (Middletown, Del.) was named to the All-Commonwealth Conference First Team as a midfielder in 2014. It is the senior's second-straight All-Commonwealth Conference honor, as he was named to the second team in 2013. He led the Crusaders in goals (7), assists (8), points (22) and game-winning goals (3). Wollaston contributed to 50 victories over a four-year span for the Crusaders, including three seasons with at least 11 or more wins. He was recently named to the ECAC Division III South All-Star Second Team.

Wollaston is an accounting major and is expected to graduate in the spring of 2015. He holds a 3.77 grade-point average and was named to the Men's Soccer Academic All-MAC Team in 2014. The senior is also a three-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient. Wollaston was named to the NSCAA College Division Scholar All-East Region Honorable Mention list.



### **Women's Soccer - Megan Mahoney (Misericordia)**

Megan Mahoney (Poughkeepsie, N.Y.) led Misericordia to its third-straight Freedom Conference Championship and its fourth-straight trip to the NCAA Tournament. Mahoney led the conference in goals (21), assists (14) and points (56), and was second with five game-winning goals. She was named to the 2014 NSCAA All-America Second Team and the NSCAA All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team. Mahoney was also named to the NSCAA All-America Second Team in 2013. She is a two-time Freedom Conference Offensive Player of the Year and All-Freedom Conference First Team selection at forward. In just two seasons at Misericordia, she holds the school's single-season records in goals, assists and points and ranks second in career assists and fourth in career points.

Mahoney is majoring in physical therapy in the doctorate program with an anticipated graduation date of December 2017. She holds a perfect 4.0 grade-point average with two-years left in the program as she finishes her collegiate soccer career. She is a two-time Women's Soccer Academic All-MAC selection, and a two-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient. Mahoney was named to the 2014 CoSIDA / Capital One Academic All-America First Team and to the CoSIDA / Capital One Academic All-District First Team.



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### **Volleyball - Samantha Perillo (Stevenson)**

Samantha Perillo (Wilmington, Del.) led Stevenson to a third-straight Commonwealth Conference Championship and a fourth consecutive appearance to the NCAA Tournament. Perillo was named the Commonwealth Conference Tournament Most Valuable Player and was also the Commonwealth Conference Player of the Year. The senior is a three-time All-Commonwealth Conference First Team selection at libero. Perillo led the conference with 782 digs, and ranked 12th in Division III with 6.11 digs per set. She is a three-time AVCA All-American. She was recently named the ECAC Division III South Defensive Player of the Year.

Perillo was a business communications major and recently graduated cum laude on Dec. 15, 2014. She earned a 3.52 grade-point average and was a two-time Volleyball Academic All-MAC award winner. She was a three-time Fall MAC Academic Honor Roll recipient. Perillo was named to the CoSIDA / Capital One All-District First Team.