

NSIC Announces 2012 Britton and Kelly Award Recipients

Burnsville, Minn. — The Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) has announced Augustana College's Cody Lensing as the 2012 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award winner and Minnesota State University, Mankato's Kendra Huettl as the 2012 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award recipient. The Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence, in its 28th year, recognizes the NSIC's top male student-athlete, while the Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award, in its 27th year, is presented to the NSIC's top female student-athlete.

The Britton Award was created in 1985 in honor of Dr. William Britton, a longtime faculty representative at Bemidji State University. The Kelly Award is named in honor of Willis R. Kelly, an associate professor of physical education at the University of Minnesota, Morris. A member of the NSIC Hall of Fame, Kelly also coordinated the Minnesota-Morris Physical Education Department from 1970-87. She became the first director of women's intercollegiate athletics at Minnesota-Morris in 1976 and was later promoted to athletic director for the whole department. Kelly passed away in 1988.

The member institutions of the NSIC nominate one male and one female student-athlete for the Britton and Kelly Awards. The nominees must meet the following criteria: a grade point average of 3.5 or better (on a 4.0 scale); evidence of academic excellence beyond the minimum grade point average (scholarship prizes and other academic recognition), evidence of participation in the life of the institution, and evidence of participation in at least two-thirds of the varsity events of the individual's primary sport. The award is voted on by the NSIC Faculty Athletic Representatives.

The 27 student-athletes nominated for the NSIC's two most prestigious awards will also be honored as NSIC Male and Female Honor Student-Athletes of the Year at their respective institutions. Lensing and Huettl will be recognized Wednesday, July 11 at the 2012 NSIC Hall of Fame Banquet at the Best Western Kelly Inn and Convention Center in St. Cloud, Minn. Lensing and Huettl will each receive a \$2,500 post-graduate scholarship.

2012 Dr. William Britton Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence Cody Lensing, Augustana College - Wrestling



Cody Lensing, a native of Mounds View, Minn., is a senior majoring in biochemistry and minoring in philosophy at Augustana College. The Totino-Grace High School graduate holds a 3.96 GPA as he wrestled at 125 pounds for the Vikings. He is the second student-athlete from Augustana College to earn the Britton Award after Matt Braithwaite earned the award in 2011.

Lensing was a 2012 NCAA Elite 89 winner at the Division II Wrestling Championships, joining Braithwaite as the only Viking athletes to earn the award. The Elite 89 is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 89 championships. He was also a two-time Academic All-American, a four-time NSIC All-Academic team member and a seven-time Dean's List honoree. He was also presented with the prestigious Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award from the NSIC as well.

On campus Lensing was a member of the Phi Sigma Tau (Philosophy Honor Society); Beta Beta Beta (National Biological Honor Society); the Augustana Outdoor Club; the Philosophy Club; Student Members of the American Chemical Society (SMACS) and was a chemistry and biology lab assistant and tutor.

On the mat, Lensing was a 2012 NCAA All-American and a NSIC All-Conference Second Team member. Lensing entered the 2012 NCAA Wrestling Championship 20-5 and unranked. He won his way to the 125 pound championship match as he defeated three nationally ranked wrestlers, including a pin of third-ranked Kenny Trumbetta (Seton Hill, Pa.) in the quarterfinals. Lensing lost to Kyle McCrite (Grand Canyon, Ariz.) 3-9 in the finals as he earned All-American honors for the first time. He finished his career with a 69-25 record at Augustana.

In the course of his research experiences at Augustana College and Sanford Research, Lensing developed the desire to lead a research team working to help humanity by advancing and creating treatments for human diseases. He has yet to determine if he wants to pursue this aspiration into industry solely as a researcher or in academia as a professor and researcher. Lensing will be attending the University of Minnesota this fall working toward his Ph.D. in medicinal chemistry. He also intends to use his philosophy training to be a voice in philosophical and ethical discussions which surround the pharmaceutical industry.

In his spare time, Lensing has helped the Women's Historical Club with repairing their facilities; volunteered at Sanford Children's Hospital as a pediatrics companion; tutored at inner city elementary schools in Minneapolis; helped younger wrestlers at various levels including working at high school and elementary camps and Sanford's Legends camp; and has helped to set up and participated in charity fundraiser races for causes such as Walk to End Alzheimer's, the Women's Shelters, and American Lung Association.

In addition to his athletic, academic, and volunteer activities, Lensing also participated in the Grandma's Marathon; the Liberty Half Ironman Triathlon in Independence, Minn.; Ice Dive to support the American Lung Association; and has worked as a researcher on potential anti-cancer drugs.

2012 Willis R. Kelly Scholar-Athlete Award for Academic Excellence Kendra Huettl, Minnesota State University, Mankato - Softball



Kendra Huettl, a native of North Mankato, Minn., is a senior majoring in nursing at Minnesota State University, Mankato. The Mankato West High School grad holds a 3.99 grade point average while competing in softball for the Mavericks. She is the first student-athlete from Minnesota State University, Mankato to earn the Kelly Award.

Huettl was a 2011 NCAA Elite 89 winner at the Division II Softball Championships the first Maverick athlete to earn the award. The Elite 89 is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's 89 championships. She was named to the Capital One Third Team Academic All-American in 2011 and the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-American Scholar-Athlete from 2008-2011. She also earned the DII Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement Award in 2011.

Huettl has made the dean's list every semester eligible and has made the NSIC All-Academic team the three years she was eligible. She was presented with the Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award from the NSIC as well. She graduated from MSU Summa Cum Laude in fall of 2011 and passed the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX) to become a registered nurse this spring.

Huettl has compiled an impressive list of extracurricular activities to enhance her undergraduate experience. She is a Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society Member; a Golden Key International Honor Society Member; an Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society Member; a MSU Student Nurse Association (SNA) Member and a Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) Member. She has organized the Salvation Army Sharing Tree Project the United Way's Books for Kid's Campaign the past two years with the softball team. She is also involved with the MSU Make-A-Wish Initiative Fundraiser and has worked as a youth softball camp instructor along with various other campus activities.

Huettl has also excelled athletically for the Mavericks. Huettl is a five-time NSIC Pitcher of the Week, a second team All-NSIC selection as a junior and has pitched two career no-hitters. She recorded a career-high 20 strikeouts in a 2-1 ten inning victory over Minnesota Duluth earlier this season. She is MSU's all-time leader in strikeouts (over 650) and sits second in career wins with 79. She also ranks in the top-ten in school history in appearances, starts, shutouts, complete games, innings pitched and saves.

Outside of school related activities, Huettl held a part time position at Mankato Family YMCA; was a homecare nursing assistant for a local elderly couple; volunteered at the community-wide H1N1 Immunization Clinic and at the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life Fundraiser. She will begin a position as a registered nurse in the operating room at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato this summer. She plans to pursue further nursing education as either a nurse practitioner or nursing anesthetist after completing the required 24-months of hands-on experience.





2011-12 NSIC Men's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

Cody Lensing	Augustana College	Senior	Wrestling	Mounds View, Minn.	Totino-Grace HS
Lance Rongstad	Bemidji State University	Senior	Football / Basketball	Eleva, Wis.	Eleva-Strum Central HS
Bryan Lippincott	Concordia University, St. Paul	Senior	Baseball	Des Moines, Iowa	Johnston HS
Brady Martin	University of Mary	Senior	Football	Aurora, Colo.	Cherokee Trail HS
Matthew Venaas	University of Minnesota Duluth	Senior	Cross Country/Track and Field	Eau Claire, Wis.	Eau Claire North HS
Stephen Kirschbaum	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Senior	Men's Basketball	Sheldon, Iowa	Sheldon Community HS
Alex Novak	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Junior	Men's Basketball	Oxford, Iowa	Clear Creek Amana HS
Lincoln Smith	Northern State University	Senior	Football	Philip, S.D.	Philip HS
Adam Thygesen	Southwest Minnesota State University	Senior	Baseball	Red Wing, Minn.	Red Wing HS
Matt Theis	St. Cloud State University	Senior	Football	Eden Valley, Minn.	Eden Valley Watkins HS
Casey Popenfoose	Upper Iowa University	Senior	Football	Huntley, Ill.	Huntley HS
Jacob Ritzdorf	Wayne State College	Senior	Baseball	Elkhorn, Neb.	Elkhorn HS
Lucas Wolf	Winona State University	Senior	Football	Elmwood Wis.	Elmwood HS

2011-12 NSIC Women's Honor Student-Athlete Award Winners

LeAnn Severson	Augustana College	Senior	Track & Field	Brandon, S.D.	Brandon Valley HS
Brianna Duff	Bemidji State University	Senior	Soccer	Ramsey, Minn.	Anoka HS
Ellie Duffy	Concordia University, St Paul	Senior	Volleyball	Fridley, Minn.	Totino Grace HS
Brianna Thomas	University of Mary	Senior	Tennis	Minot, N.D.	Our Redeemers Christian HS
Megan Eul	University of Minnesota, Crookston	Senior	Basketball	Rosemount, Minn.	Rosemount HS
Allison Fanta	University of Minnesota Duluth	Senior	Volleyball	Hillsboro, Wis.	Hillsboro, HS
Kendra Huettl	Minnesota State University, Mankato	Senior	Softball	North Mankato, Minn.	Mankato West HS
Heidi Lensing	Minnesota State University Moorhead	Junior	Volleyball	Belgrade, Minn.	Begrade-Brooten-Elrosa HS
Michelle Monroe	Northern State University	Senior	Cross Country	Pierre, S.D.	T.F. Riggs HS
Kelly Fitzgerald	Southwest Minnesota State University	Senior	Soccer	Marshalltown, Iowa	Marshalltown HS
Rebecca Kitzman	St. Cloud State University	Senior	Track & Field / Basketball	Verona, Wis.	Verona HS
McKenzie Holthaus	Upper Iowa University	Senior	Golf	Onalaska, Wis.	Onalaska HS
Mindy Moody	Wayne State College	Senior	Volleyball	Sioux City, Iowa	Bishop Heelan HS
Michelle McDonald	Winona State University	Senior	Basketball	Johnsburg, Ill.	Johnsburg HS

Annual Britton Award Recipients

2012 - Cody Lensing, Augustana College
 2011 - Matt Braithwaite, Augustana College
 2010 - Marcus Greatens, Winona State
 2009 - Kirk Ingram, Concordia-St. Paul
 2008 - Tyler Fischer, Southwest Minn. State
 2007 - Tyler Fischer, Southwest Minn. State
 2006 - Dusty Smith, Wayne State
 2005 - Brett Watson, Wayne State
 2004 - Baron Blanchard, Northern State
 2003 - Tucker Willard, Northern State
 2002 - Steven Brandt, Minn.-Crookston
 2001 - Mike May, Bemidji State
 2000 - Adam Vossen, MSU Moorhead
 1999 - Bart Johnson, MSU Moorhead
 1998 - Stephen Blackmarr, Minn. Duluth
 1997 - Jesse Beckermann, Minn. Duluth
 1996 - Lance Luitjens, Northern State
 1995 - Nate Gruber, Winona State
 1994 - Jeff Engbrecht, Winona State
 1993 - Jay Kusler, Northern State
 1992 - Jeff Welder, MSU Moorhead
 1991 - Scott Colbeck, Minn.-Morris
 1990 - Dwight Hager, Bemidji State
 1989 - Bruce Saugstad, Southwest State
 1988 - Tom Aney, Minn. Duluth
 1987 - Dale Harper, Bemidji State
 1986 - Jeff Kretchman, Northern State
 1985 - James Scott Bestul, Winona State

Annual Kelly Award Recipients

2012 - Kendra Huettl, Minnesota State
 2011 - Rebecca Anderson, Minnesota Duluth
 2010 - Lauren Brown, Winona State
 2009 - Mary Slinger, Concordia-St. Paul
 2008 - Kallie Tellefsen, Winona State
 2007 - Jessica Trautwein, MSU Moorhead
 2006 - Kathryn Kramer, Winona State
 2005 - Lindsay Hartmann, MSU Moorhead
 2004 - Kristin Peterson, Northern State
 2003 - Karen Darveaux, Winona State
 2002 - Christy Kubat, Southwest State
 2001 - Angela Swanson, Minn.-Crookston
 2000 - Abby Stritesky, Bemidji State
 1999 - Janelle Gibbs, Southwest State
 1998 - Betsy Pachal, Minn. Duluth
 1997 - Mollie Odell, Northern State
 1996 - Paige Karno, Southwest State
 1995 - Katy Pivec, Southwest State
 1994 - Amy Tenute, MSU Moorhead
 1993 - Amy Erickson, Minn. Duluth
 1992 - Kristin Nelson, Minn. Duluth
 1991 - Jayne Dusich, Bemidji State
 1990 - Mary Kortan, Northern State
 1989 - Shauna Wendland, Southwest State
 1988 - Tara Haiskanen, Minn. Duluth
 1987 - Teresa Greenwood, MSU Moorhead
 1986 - Lisa Muehlbauer, Minn. Duluth

