University of Maine 2016-17
Student-Athlete Academic Highlights

For the 14th consecutive year, Maine’s America East “All Sport” GPA exceeded a 3.0 average, posting a 3.13 for the 2016-17 year. The Academic Cup, established by the America East Board of Directors in 1995, is presented to the institution whose student-athletes post the highest GPA’s during the academic year. Maine won the cup in both 2004 and 2007.

Over one-half (~63%) of the UMaine student-athletes, and for the 13th consecutive year, were recognized for their success in the classroom at the 28th annual University of Maine Scholar-Athlete Recognition Awards ceremony. Of the 273 recognized, 191 students were named UMaine Scholar-Athletes for achieving a 3.0 or better GPA for the 2016 calendar year and/or maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA. In addition, 82 first-year athletes were honored as *Rising Stars* for earning a 3.0 or better GPA in their first semester at UMaine. 3785 medals have been awarded since 1989. The event was sponsored by the University of Maine Foundation, ‘M’ Club, UMaine Alumni Association and University Credit Union.

72 Student-Athletes graduated in 2016-17 including those anticipated in August and December 2017.

Based on the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR), 11 of Maine’s 17 teams were at or above the national average for multi-year rates in their respective sports, 12 of 17 teams met or exceeded the multiyear APR of all Division I public institutions. This is the 12th year, and since the inception of the APR, that no UMaine teams were subject to NCAA penalties for poor academic performance.

Maine had a student-athlete Graduation Success Rate of 87% compared to 86% nationally and a student-athlete Federal Graduation Rate of 62% compared to 55% of all UMaine students. Both rates based on the latest cohort (2009-10) for SA’s receiving an athletic scholarship in their first semester at Maine. The GSR includes incoming and outgoing transfer data and is improved by those who left Maine eligible. (The report for the 2010-11 cohort should be released in November 2017.)

The Black Bears had 14 of 17 teams with a GPA of 3.0 or better for the 2016-17 year. All Women’s teams achieved the mark: Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving and Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field. Men’s teams included: Cross Country, Ice Hockey, Swimming & Diving and Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field.

The NCAA honored the Women’s Cross Country team with public recognition for their latest multi-year Academic Progress Rate scores. This team posted multi-year APR scores that were in the top 10% of all teams in their sport. This marks the 12th consecutive year that the Women’s Cross Country team has posted a perfect score of 1000, every year of the awards existence. Maine is just 1 of 93 teams, out of the more than 6000 teams across all NCAA Division I sports, to achieve this standard. The APR provides a look at a team’s academic success by tracking academic progress of each student-athlete. The APR measures eligibility, retention and graduation in the calculation.

Two of the five UMaine 2017 graduates honored as “Outstanding Graduating International Students of the Year” were student-athletes. The College of Natural Sciences, Forestry & Agriculture recognized Basketball guard, Sigi Koizar (Biology / Vienna, Austria) and the College of Education and Human Development recognized Track and Field sprinter, Jake Osborne, (Kinesiology & Physical Education – Exercise Science / Burlington, Ontario). Kayla Marquis (Greenbush, ME) was named the Outstanding Senior in the Chemical and Biological Engineering department.

Latin Honors were given to 27 graduating student-athletes: Summa cum laude (3.7 GPA or higher) to Sigrid Koizar – Women’s Basketball, Jake Osborne – Men’s Track & Field, Jessica Vallotton – Women’s Ice Hockey, Cecelia McEachern – Women’s Swimming & Diving and Tiana Bibb, Eve Boissonneault, Sage Duguay and Kayla Marquis – Women’s Track & Field. Magna cum laude (3.5 GPA) to Austin Brown and Michael Supp – Football, Eric Schrurhamer – Men’s Ice Hockey, Emilie Brigham – Women’s Ice Hockey, Chloe Douglass, Rachel Harvey and Nicole Misner – Softball, Kailey Dowd – Women’s Swimming & Diving and Teal Jackson and Amanda Shuman – Women’s Track & Field. Cum laude (3.3 GPA) honors were earned by: Kurt Massey – Football, Ben Hebert – Men’s Swimming & Diving, Lucas Bourget and Levi Frye – Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field, Sheraton Jones – Women’s Basketball, Anna Wright – Women’s Ice Hockey, Madeleine Moore – Softball and Alexa Frame – Women’s Track & Field.
Congratulations to the Softball team and Head Coach Mike Coutts for achieving a team GPA of 3.43 in 2016-17, the highest year end GPA of all Maine teams.

The softball team also posted their highest team semester GPA’s in 29 years of tracking these marks with a 3.45 in Fall 2016.

For the third year in a row, Women’s Basketball led its sport with the highest 2016-17 America East GPA among conference schools with a 3.37. Also in the conference, 2nd place rankings were held by Softball with 3.41 and Women’s Swimming & Diving with a 3.25.

“Team Maine 2016” honors were presented to the top sophomore, junior or senior of each team achieving the highest GPA for their team during the 2016 calendar year: Caleb Kerbs – Baseball, Garvey Melmed (2nd year) – Men’s Basketball, Sigrid Koizar (3rd year) – Women’s Basketball, Jesse Orach (3rd year) – Men’s Cross Country & Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, Daniel Lesko – Men’s Cross Country, Hope Gardner-Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field, Emma Cochran – Field Hockey, Sam Lenson – Football, Sam Becker – Men’s Ice Hockey, Lydia Murray – Women’s Ice Hockey, Vivien Biel and Kendra Ridley (2nd year) – Soccer, Chloe Douglass and Ashley Tinsman – Softball, Spencer Lindsley – Men's Swimming & Diving, Cecelia McEachern – Women's Swimming & Diving, Brianna DeGone and Lucia Guarnieri – Women’s Track & Field, and Lauren Nightingale - Cheering.

2016-17 America East All-Academic Team selections represent the top student-athletes in their respective sport for the conference. Honored for Men’s teams were Caleb Kerbs – Baseball, Ryan Bernstein – Basketball, Daniel Lesko – Cross Country, Joshua Horne – Cross Country and 2-time selection for Indoor Track & Field, Jesse Orach – 3rd-time honors for Cross Country along with Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field and Jake Osborne – Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. Women’s honors were presented to 3-time selection Sigi Koizar – Basketball, Casey Crowley and 2-time selection Sydney Veljacic – Field Hockey, Erika Leonard - 3rd-time honors – Softball, Vivien Biel and Kendra Ridley – Soccer, 2-time honors for Emily Borger, Victoria Kingston, Cecelia McEachern and 1st time for Shayla Rose Kleisinger – Women’s Swimming & Diving, Lucia Guarnieri – Indoor Track & Field and Taylor Lenentine - Outdoor Track & Field.

76% of Maine’s Fall sport student-athletes were named to the America East Fall Academic Honor Roll for achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 61 student-athletes named were from Field Hockey (15), Women’s Cross Country (18), Soccer (18), and Men’s Cross Country (10). 34 of the 61 were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Maine tied for the second highest percentage of student-athletes on the fall honor roll in the conference and has been first 8 of the last 11 years.

64% of Maine’s Winter/Spring sport student-athletes were named to the America East Winter/Spring Academic Honor Roll for achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 140 student-athletes named were from Baseball (12), Men’s and Women’s Basketball (8 & 9 respectively), Softball (15), Women’s Swimming (23) and Men’s & Women’s Track & Field (31 & 42 respectively). 73 of the 140 were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The women's swimming & diving team led all swim conference member schools with 79% of its roster earning honor roll selections.

Six students were named America East Presidential Student-Athletes for compiling a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher as an undergraduate and graduating in May 2017: From Men’s Track & Field, with a 3.99 GPA, Jake Osborne – (Kinesiology & Physical Education / Burlington, ON), from Field Hockey with a 3.77 GPA, Sydney Veljacic (Accounting and Management / Coquitlam, BC), from Women’s Basketball with a 3.97 GPA, Sigi Koizar (Biology / Vienna, Austria), from Women’s Swimming & Diving with a 3.76 GPA, Cecelia
McEachern (Civil Engineering / Ellsworth, ME) and from Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field with a 3.80 GPA Eve Boissonnea (Kinesiology & Physical Education / Sudbury, ON) and with a 3.91 GPA Kayla Marquis (Bioengineering / Greenbush, ME)

Football linebacker Austin Brown (Finance / Easton, PA) was named a finalist for the **CAA Football Student-Athlete of the Year**.

Forward Mitchell Fossier (New Media / Alpharetta, GA) was named to the seven-man **Hockey East Academic All-Star team**, honoring the conference’s top grade point average by position.

**Hockey East All-Academic Team** selections included 16 women from Maine for achieving a 3.0 or better GPA in both Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. Third-time selections were presented to Emilie Brigham, Victoria Hummel and Morgan Sakundiak. Second-time honors were presented to Mariah Fujimagari, Carly Jackson, Lydia Murray, Brooke Stacey, Catherine Tufts and Anna Wright. First-time honors went to Jillian Flynn, Jessica Jacques, Brittany Kucera, Mikayla Rogers, Sierra Semmel and Tereza Vanisova. Senior Jessica Vallotton (Civil Engineering / Glenboro, MB) was named a “**Hockey East Distinguished Scholar**” for posting a 3.0 or better in each semester over her four collegiate years.

Maine had 16 Men’s Ice Hockey student-athletes named to the **Hockey East Conference All-Academic Team** for earning above a 3.0 GPA in both the Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 semesters. Second-time honorees were Sam Becker, Stephen Cochrane and Cedric Lacroix. First-time honors were given to Tim Doherty, Mitchell Fossier, Oliver Herner, Panagiotis Housakos, Robert McGovern, Keith Muehlbauer, Steven Mundinger, Jake Pappalardo, Chase Pearson, Daniel Perez, David Pieper and Brendan Robbins. Senior Eric Schurhamer (Finance and Management / St. Paul, MN) was one of seven student-athletes to be named a “**Hockey East Distinguished Scholar**” for achieving a 3.0 or better GPA in each semester over his four years at Maine.

For the 13th consecutive year, the Field Hockey team was one of the 76 teams honored with the **ZAG Field Hockey/NFHCA Division I National Academic Team Award** for posting a 3.0 or higher GPA in Fall 2016 (3.41). For maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher, the individuals named to **ZAG’s/NFHCA National Academic Squad** were four-time recipient Sydney Veljacic, third-time honoree Madison Cummings, second-time honors for Casey Crowley, Adriana Martineau, Ella Moskey and Elizabeth Riedl, while first-time honors went to Morgan Anson, Emily Corbett, Riley Field, Emily Hindle, Brianna Rickey and Lilla Tilton-Flood.

The **U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association** (USTFCCCA) awarded the 2016-17 All-Academic honors to the Women’s team for posting a 3.240 GPA and to the Men’s team for earning a 3.054 GPA.

The Women’s Soccer team will receive the 2016 **National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award** for posting an impressive 3.22 team GPA for 16-17 year.

Football offensive lineman Max Andrews (Elementary Education / Holden, ME) received the **Woody Carville Student-Athlete Achievement Award** at the team’s annual banquet.
Soccer midfielder Kendra Ridley (Nursing / Ottawa, ON) was only one of four UMaine students to receive the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture Highest-Ranking Junior Award with a 4.0 grade point average to date.

Basketball guard Garvey Melmed (Mechanical Engineering / Old Town, ME) was named to the National Association of Basketball Coaches Honors Court for 2016-17 with a 3.968 GPA.

On behalf of the University of Maine’s Margaret Chase Smith Center, junior softball player Julianna Ferguson (Sociology / Sandwich, MA) was selected from a highly competitive pool of applicants to participate in the 2017 Maine National Education for Women (NEW) Leadership Summer Institute. The institute is designed to educate, empower and encourage undergraduate college women to become politically active and take on leadership roles.

Swimmers Victoria Kingston (Accounting / Bradford, ON) and Benjamin Hebert (Engineering Physics / South Berwick, ME) received the Palmer Plaque for Academic Excellence at the team’s annual banquet.

Maine Athletics had representatives selected to all four of the University of Maine’s all-inclusive and prestigious honor societies, representing the top 1% of their respective classes. From Swimming & Diving, Victoria Kingston (Accounting / Port Severn, ON) and Mariya Pominova (Management & Honors / Bedford, MA) were named to the “All Maine Women” Honor Society, recognizing the outstanding women of the rising senior class who exhibit leadership, scholarship and service to the University and campus community. Men’s freestyle swimmer, Kevin Clyne (Marine Science / Salem, MA) was named to the “Senior Skulls” Honor Society as one of twelve male rising seniors who exhibit strong moral character, outstanding school spirit, leadership, strong academic achievement, and ability to serve as role model for underclassmen. Rising Sophomores from the Women’s Basketball team, Isabel Hernandez-Pepe (International Affairs / Rome, Italy) and Swimmers, Alexandria Bromley (Food Science & Human Nutrition and Honors / Voorhees, NJ) and Annalise McCurdy (Food Science & Human Nutrition / Lawrence, KS) were inducted to the “Sophomore Eagles” for scholarship, leadership, character, friendship and dignity - the five points of the Sophomore Eagles' symbolic blue star. Men’s freestyle swimmer, Alexander Watson (Mechanical Engineering / Brimfield, MA) was inducted to the “Sophomore Owls” Honor Society, dedicated to community service at UMaine and in surrounding communities, to aid first-year men in the adaptation process to the University of Maine and to promote and exemplify excellent citizenship and University spirit on campus.

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic accolades were given to men’s javelin thrower Kelby Mace (Civil Engineering/Readfield, ME) with a 3.43 GPA and with a 3.30 GPA, hammer thrower Rachael Bergeron (Bioengineering/Waterville, ME). Recipients must have compiled a 3.25 cumulative GPA and have participated in the NCAA Championships. Mace placed 42nd at the NCAA East Regional Bergeron, who broke the UMaine hammer record with a 59.43m throw at the prestigious Penn Relays, placed 31st in the NCAA East Regional.

Softball infielder Faythe Goins (Marine Science & Honors / Elgin, SC) and outfielder Erika Leonard (Nursing / Rocky Hill, CT) were named as the America East Elite-17 recipients for having the highest GPA (tie 3.836) for athletes competing in the softball championships.

11 Softball student-athletes will be named 2017 Easton/NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association) “All-America Scholar-Athletes” for achieving a 3.5 or better GPA in 2016-2017: Second time honors went to Chloe Douglass, Julianna Ferguson, Faythe Goins, Rachel Harvey, Erika Leonard, Nicole Misner and Ashley Tinsman. First-time recognitions went to Rachel Carlson, Alyssa Derrick, Felicia Lennon and Madeleine Moore.
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19 Football student-athletes were named to the 2016 CAA Academic All-Conference Team for achieving a 3.0 or higher accumulative GPA: Max Andrews, Drew Belcher, Nicholas Bizzaro, Skylar Bowman, Austin Brown, Daniel Burrows, Samuel Cooper, Gunnar Docos, Christopher Ferguson, John Kay, Samuel Lenson, Kurt Massey, Christopher Mulvey, John Reddington, Jason Simonovich, Hunter Smith, Jacob Stanko Michael Supp and Jacob Williams.

For the second year, the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) named Women’s Basketball’s Sigi Koizar to the 6 member CoSIDA Academic All-District 1 team and as a Division I Academic All-American. She was on the All-America second team in 2015-16 and third team in 2016-17.

For their exemplary efforts in the area of community service while remaining in good academic standing, two UMaine student-athletes were named as UMaine’s representatives to the America East's 2017 “Helping Hands Team.” Named for the second time, from Women’s Track & Field, was senior Jillian Lary (Food Science & Human Nutrition / Hopkinton, MA) and from Men’s Track & Field, senior, Jeremy Frantz (Secondary Education / Waterville, ME).

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The 2017 inductees into the College of Engineering’s Francis Crowe Society from Chemical and Biological Engineering and Women’s Track & Field, Kayla Marquis (Greenbush, ME), from Chemical Engineering, Sage Duguay (Waterville, ME) and Grace MacLean (Bangor, ME) and from Men’s Track & Field, Justin Tracy (New Vineyard, ME). Civil Engineering honored, from Swimming & Diving, Cecelia McEachern (Ellsworth, ME), and from Women’s Ice Hockey, Jessica Vallotton (Glenboro, Manitoba). Engineering Physics recognized Swimmer Benjamin Hebert (S. Berwick, ME) while Mechanical Engineering honored Football’s Michael Supp (Perkasie, PA) and from Men’s Track & Field, Jacob Johns (N. Andover, ME) and Joseph Slattery (Old Orchard Beach, ME). From the School of Engineering Technology, Crowe honorees in Construction Engineering Technology were Football’s Kurt Massey (Orrington, ME) and Jeremy Salmon (Mechanicsburg, PA).
The 2016-17 M Club Dean Smith Awards were presented to Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field distance runner, Jesse Orach (Gorham, ME), Women’s Basketball guard, Sigrid Koizar (Vienna, Austria) and Field Hockey midfielder/back, Sydney Veljacic (Coquitlam, British Columbia). Since 1980, these awards have been presented UMaine’s top male and female student-athletes for outstanding academic and athletic achievement, along with citizenship and community service.

Jesse Orach, Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field captain, a two-time Dean Smith honoree, graduated in 2016 summa cum laude with a 3.95 GPA in Chemical Engineering and a minor in mathematics. He was also named the Outstanding Graduating Chemical Engineering student in 2016. Jesse pursued graduate studies and competition while completing the 5-MBA degree in May of 2017. He was a Pulp & Paper Foundation Scholarship recipient, and inducted into the Tau Beta Phi Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the National Society for Collegiate Scholars and National AP Scholar with Distinction. Along with numerous community service projects, he was a gold medalist as a four-time UMaine scholar-athlete, a three-time UMaine Presidental Scholar, was named to the Dean’s List 6 times and to the America East All-Academic Team multiple times. Three times he was named to TEAM MAINE, awarded to the highest GPA on each individual varsity sport. Due to outstanding race finishes, he was a four-time America East Scholar Athlete between the sports of Cross Country, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. He was also a three-time America East Elite 17 award winner and an America East Presidential Scholar. Orach won the 2016 America East Cross Country Championships and was named to the NCAA Division I Academic All-Region (Northeast) team. He finished fourth in the 5000m in the indoor IC4A championship. He was selected to the All-New England an All-America East Cross Country teams. Finally, Orach was a finalist for the America East Man of the Year in 2016-17.

Sigi Koizar, Women’s Basketball captain, was a two-time Dean Smith honoree graduated in May 2017 with a 3.97 GPA in Biology with a Pre-Medical concentration and a minor in Chemistry. She was named a 2-time COSIDA Academic All-District selection. She was a gold medalist as a three-time UMaine scholar-athlete and made the America East Commissioner’s Honor Roll four consecutive years. She was named to the America East All-Academic Team and has been a seven-time Presidential Scholar and eight-time Dean’s list honoree. In addition, Koizar was a three-time TEAM MAINE honoree for achieving the highest GPA on the Women’s Basketball team. She was named America East Winter Scholar-Athlete her senior year as the top women’s basketball student-athlete in the conference. She was also an athletic tutor and due to numerous community and volunteer events along with her athletic and academic accomplishments, she was named one of the nation’s 30 finalist for the Senior CLASS Award and is a two-time WBCA Good Works Team nominee. Koizar helped lead the team to a share of the America East regular season title in 2016, and to a runner up finish twice in the tournament. She was named for the third year to first team All-Conference and was among the top of the league statistics in nine different categories. Koizar culminated her career ranked sixth on Maine’s all-time scoring list with 1,671 points. She tallied double-digit scoring in 80 of 130 games. Finally, Koizar was a finalist for the America East’s most prestigious award, Woman of the Year in addition to being nominated for NCAA Woman of the Year, which will not be announced until October 2017.

Sydney Veljacic, Field Hockey captain, graduated in May 2017 with a double major in accounting and management and with a 3.77 GPA. She was a gold medalist as a three-time UMaine scholar-athlete a four-time America East Academic Honor Roll and America East All-Academic team selection. Selected to the Dean's List on five occasions, Veljacic was a three-time UMaine Presidential Scholar and has twice been honored to the National Academic Squad as a Scholar of Distinction with the SGI National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA). She was an ambassador for the Maine Business School for two years and inducted to the Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society. Veljacic was an athletic tutor and involved in numerous Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and community events including America East's 'You Can Play' initiative. She was named to the America East All-Rookie team and was twice named to both the America East All-Conference second team and the Division-I Northeast Region first team. She was chosen for the 2016 Victory Sports Tours, NFHCA Division-I Senior Game and as an alternate for the Senior All-Star team. Veljacic was integral to the team’s 17th place national ranking in 2015 and 2nd place finish in America East that year. Throughout her collegiate career, Veljacic earned 61 points in 86 games, scored 22 goals and had 17 assists.