

# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT







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## 2020-21 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF

Jim Schaus  
Geoff Cabe  
Sue Arakas  
Doug King  
Jason Yaman  
Phil Perry

*Commissioner*  
*Senior Associate Commissioner*  
*Associate Commissioner*  
*Associate Commissioner for Compliance*  
*Associate Commissioner*  
*Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations*

Paul Lollis  
Stanley Broaden  
Hannah Bradley  
Neili Akridge  
Nicholas Hunt  
Jasmine Washington

*Assistant Commissioner for Video Productions*  
*Assistant Commissioner for Championships*  
*Assistant Director of Media Relations*  
*Executive Assistant to the Commissioner*  
*Championships Assistant*  
*Media Relations Assistant*





# LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER SCHAUS



Our greatest character is revealed when we overcome adversity. Our most rewarding achievements occur when we do so through great sacrifice and effort. Our motivation and vision become their very best through trials. Such was true for the Southern Conference as we dealt with a worldwide pandemic in 2020-21, but we were able to celebrate successes despite the many challenges.

It was a unique and amazing year! We were able to safely complete all regular seasons, conference championships and NCAA qualifying opportunities despite the many hurdles of COVID-19. We exhibited excellence in athletic competition, academic performance, student-athlete well-being, national brand enhancement and many new strategic initiatives. We celebrated our storied history during the SoCon's 100th Anniversary. I hope that you enjoy reading about our special year in this annual report.

How were we able to accomplish so much? We have a great team that worked together throughout a plethora of unprecedented difficulties. Thanks go to our presidents, chancellors, athletic directors, senior woman administrators, faculty athletic representatives, staff, coaches, student-athletes, parents and fans for their contributions to the SoCon team.

So what's ahead for the future? A BIG vision. A vision for the Southern Conference to be the premier mid-major conference in the country. A vision that embodies dynamic athletic, academic and student success. I can't wait to see what 2021-22 holds for our conference and our outstanding membership! The best is yet to come!



**Jim Schaus**  
Commissioner





## 2020-21 INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

### The Citadel

<b>President</b>	<b>Gen Glenn M. Walters</b>
Athletics Director	Mike Capaccio
Senior Woman Administrator	Kathy Kroupa
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Chip Taylor

### Samford

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr. Andrew Westmoreland</b>
Athletics Director	Martin Newton
Senior Woman Administrator	Michelle Durban
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Denise Gregory

### ETSU

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr. Brian Noland</b>
Athletics Director	Scott Carter
Senior Woman Administrator	Lauren Aksionoff
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Susan Epps

### Chattanooga

<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Dr. Steve Angle</b>
Athletics Director	Mark Wharton
Senior Woman Administrator	Laura Herron
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Valerie Rutledge

### Furman

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr. Elizabeth Davis</b>
Athletics Director	Jason Donnelly
Senior Woman Administrator	Jodi Steffes
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Danielle Vinson

### VMI

<b>Superintendent</b>	<b>Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins</b>
Athletics Director	Dr. David Diles
Senior Woman Administrator	Haley Shotwell
Faculty Athletics Representative	Col. Jay Johnson

### Mercer

<b>President</b>	<b>William D. Underwood</b>
Athletics Director	Jim Cole
Senior Woman Administrator	Sybil A. Blalock
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Jeffrey D. Hugdahl

### Western Carolina

<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Dr. Kelli R. Brown</b>
Athletics Director	Alex Gary
Senior Woman Administrator	Stacey Miller
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Alex Macaulay

### UNCG

<b>Chancellor</b>	<b>Dr. Franklin D. Gilliam Jr.</b>
Athletics Director	Kim Record
Senior Woman Administrator	Jody Smith
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. David Wyrick

### Wofford

<b>President</b>	<b>Dr. Nayef H. Samhat</b>
Athletics Director	Richard Johnson
Senior Woman Administrator	Elizabeth Rabb
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Jameica B. Hill





## NCAA LEADERSHIP

Representatives from all 10 Southern Conference schools hold NCAA appointments, including ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland serving on the Division I Presidential Forum and Samford Director of Athletics Martin Newton serving on the Division I Council.



### DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

**Dr. Brian Noland**

President  
ETSU  
08/31/23



### WOMEN'S SOFTBALL RULES COMMITTEE

**Janelle Breneman**

Head Softball Coach  
UNCG  
08/31/23



### DIVISION I COUNCIL

**Martin Newton**

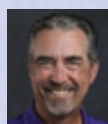
AD  
Samford  
06/30/23



### COMMITTEE ON SPORTSMANSHIP AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

**Dave Diles**

AD  
VMI  
08/31/21



### DIVISION I WOMEN'S GOLF COMMITTEE

**Jeff Hull**

Head Women's Golf Coach  
Furman  
08/31/21



### DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Martin Newton**

AD  
Samford  
06/30/23



### DIVISION I BOARD OF DIRECTORS INFRACTIONS PROCESS COMMITTEE

**Dave Diles**

AD  
VMI  
08/31/25



### MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE

**Kathy Kroupa**

SWA  
The Citadel  
08/31/24



### DIVISION I WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

**Michelle Durban**

SWA  
Samford  
08/31/21



### DIVISION I NOMINATING COMMITTEE

**Elizabeth Rabb**

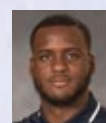
SWA  
Wofford  
08/31/25



### DIVISION I PRE-ENROLLMENT AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE

**Kay Lennon McGrew**

Assistant University Counsel  
ETSU  
08/31/25



### DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE STUDENT-ATHLETE CONNECTION GROUP

**Olajuwon Pinkelton**

Student-Athlete  
ETSU  
07/02/21



### DIVISION I PROGRESS TOWARD DEGREE WAIVERS COMMITTEE

**Emily Blackman**

Senior Assoc. AD -  
Academic Enhancement  
Chattanooga  
08/31/23



### DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS

**Kim Record**

AD  
UNCG  
08/31/23



### DIVISION I WOMEN'S LACROSSE COMMITTEE

**Samantha Eustace**

Head Women's Lacrosse Coach  
Mercer  
08/31/25



### DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Jackie Carson**

Head Women's Basketball Coach  
Furman  
06/30/23



### DIVISION I WRESTLING COMMITTEE

**Kyle Ruschell**

Head Wrestling Coach  
Chattanooga  
08/31/23



### DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

**Scott Carter**

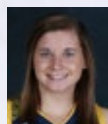
AD  
ETSU  
08/31/22



### POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**Jameica Hill**

FAR  
Wofford  
08/31/23



### DIVISION I STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Liz Wood**

Student-Athlete  
Chattanooga  
05/31/22



### DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE

**Sybil Blalock**

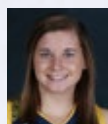
SWA  
Mercer  
08/31/24



### DIVISION I BASEBALL COMMITTEE

**Jim Cole**

AD  
Mercer  
08/31/21



### DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Liz Wood**

Student-Athlete  
Chattanooga  
05/31/22



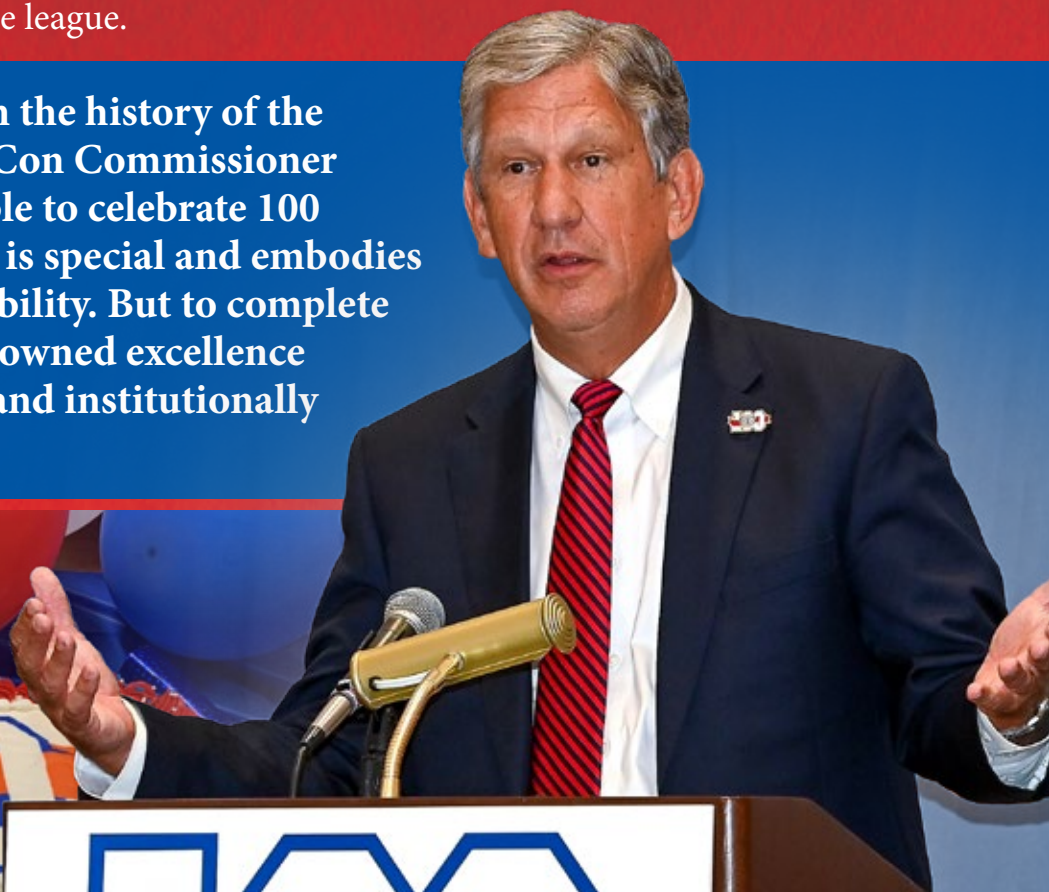


# 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Throughout the 2021 calendar year, the Southern Conference has celebrated its 100th anniversary in a multitude of ways. The most notable and ubiquitous was the new logo created for the anniversary, which incorporates the well-established mark the league has used since 2000. The 100th anniversary logo appeared on players' uniforms during SoCon championships, officials' uniforms, helmets and competition surfaces and throughout arenas and stadiums at all 10 campuses. It also appeared in printed materials and on broadcasts, social media and merchandise.

The SoCon produced and distributed videos for use during national and regional broadcasts, and a special section of the league's website, SoConSports.com, was created and is dedicated to the anniversary and history of the league.

**“This is a landmark event in the history of the Southern Conference,” SoCon Commissioner Jim Schaus said. “Being able to celebrate 100 years for any organization is special and embodies stability, respect and credibility. But to complete a century that features renowned excellence athletically, academically and institutionally means that we did it well.”**





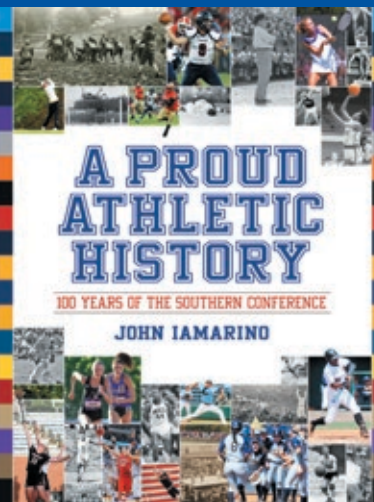
# COMMISH CHAT



**MERRY GEBEL**  
VOLLEYBALL



**JIM SCHAUS**  
COMMISSIONER





# ACADEMICS

## Graduate Success Rate

The Southern Conference matched or exceeded the FCS average in seven men's sports and six women's sports for Graduation Success Rate scores released in the fall. Fifty-five SoCon programs earned perfect scores of 100, with 33 women's programs and 22 men's teams achieving the standard. Samford and Wofford led the SoCon with 10 perfect scores apiece, with the Bulldogs exceeding the FCS average in every sport they sponsor for the second straight year.

CoSIDA Academic All-America	CoSIDA Academic All-America	CoSIDA Academic All-America	CoSIDA Academic All-America	CoSIDA Academic All-America	CoSIDA Academic All-America
SECOND TEAM	SECOND TEAM	THIRD TEAM	THIRD TEAM	THIRD TEAM	THIRD TEAM
<b>Megan Kaufman</b> <i>Sr., Chattanooga, Volleyball</i>	<b>Allie Jones</b> <i>Sr., Mercer, Softball</i>	<b>Jordan Broadwater</b> <i>R-Jr., ETSU, Men's Soccer</i>	<b>Garrett Delano</b> <i>Gr., Mercer, Baseball</i>	<b>RJ Yeager</b> <i>Jr., Mercer, Baseball</i>	<b>Jonathan Boyd</b> <i>Sr., Chattanooga, Men's Cross Country/Track &amp; Field</i>



KAUFMAN



YEAGER

## CoSIDA Academic All-District 3

Jonathan Boyd, Jr., Chattanooga, Men's cross country/track and field  
 Jordan Broadwater, R-Jr., MF, ETSU, Men's soccer  
 Nelson Oceano, Sr., MF, UNCG, Men's soccer  
 Brenna Everingham, Jr., DS/L, Chattanooga, Volleyball  
 Megan Kaufman, Sr., DS/L, Chattanooga, Volleyball  
 Merry Gebel, Jr., OH, Western Carolina, Volleyball  
 Tyler Keltner, So., K, ETSU, Football  
 Drayton Arnold, Sr., QB, Chattanooga, Football  
 Ailym Ford, So., RB, Chattanooga, Football  
 Cole Strange, Sr., OL, Chattanooga, Football  
 Rashun Freeman, Sr., LB, Chattanooga, Football

Christian Snyder, Jr., LB, Chattanooga, Football  
 Jerrell Lawson, Sr., DB, Chattanooga, Football  
 Lauren LaPlant, R-Sr., G, Western Carolina, Women's basketball  
 Kamdyn Curfman, So., G, VMI, Men's basketball  
 Matt Halvorsen, Sr., G, Western Carolina, Men's basketball  
 Archie Davies, R-Fr., ETSU, At-large (Men's golf)  
 Makenna Matthijs, R-Jr., OF, UNCG, Softball  
 Jasmine Palmer, R-Sr., IF, UNCG, Softball  
 Kayleigh Willis, Sr., OF, UNCG, Softball  
 Daniel Walsh, Jr., IF, Western Carolina, Baseball





## CoSIDA Academic All-District 4

Sam Blumer, Sr., *The Citadel*, Men's cross country/track and field  
 Mason Coppi, Sr., *Furman*, Men's cross country/track and field  
 Josh Powers, So., *Furman*, Men's cross country/track and field  
 Emma Kuntz, Sr., *Furman*, Women's cross country/track and field  
 Logan Dix, Sr., F, *The Citadel*, Women's soccer  
 Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., MF, *Furman*, Women's soccer  
 Jordyn Ebert, Sr., GK, *Mercer*, Women's soccer  
 Ally Fordham, Gr., F, *Mercer*, Women's soccer  
 Caroline Orman, Sr., F, *Samford*, Women's soccer  
 Maggie Adcock, Sr., D, *Wofford*, Women's soccer  
 Trevor Martineau, Jr., F, *Mercer*, Men's soccer  
 Leo Toledo Jr., R-Sr., F/M, *Mercer*, Men's soccer  
 Sierra Rayzor, Sr., MB, *Samford*, Volleyball  
 Riley Coonan, Sr., MB, *Wofford*, Volleyball  
 Raleigh Webb, Sr., WR, *The Citadel*, Football  
 Garrison Moore, Sr., TE, *Wofford*, Football

Barron King, R-Jr., DL, *Mercer*, Football  
 Jada Lewis, R-Sr., G, *Mercer*, Women's basketball  
 Shannon Titus, Sr., G/F, *Mercer*, Women's basketball  
 Lilly Hatton, So., F, *Wofford*, Women's basketball  
 Fletcher Abree, So., G, *The Citadel*, Men's basketball  
 Hayden Brown, R-Jr., F, *The Citadel*, Men's basketball  
 Storm Murphy, Sr., G, *Wofford*, Men's basketball  
 Ashley Judson, Jr., *Georgia Southern*, At-large (rifle)  
 Drew Singerman, Sr., *Furman*, At-large (Men's tennis)  
 Lauren Lightfritz, Gr., *Mercer*, At-large (Women's golf)  
 Allie Jones, Sr., OF, *Mercer*, Softball  
 Travis Lott, Fr., C, *The Citadel*, Baseball  
 Collin Price, So., C, *Mercer*, Baseball  
 Garrett Delano, Gr., IF, *Mercer*, Baseball  
 RJ Yeager, Jr., IF, *Mercer*, Baseball

## Academic All-SoCon

To be eligible for the academic all-conference teams, student-athletes must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative grade-point average at the conclusion of the semester and were required to compete in at least one-half of their teams' competitions. In addition, the student-athletes must have successfully completed at least three semesters at their institutions, making true freshmen and first-year transfers ineligible for inclusion. For the first time in 2020-21, just one academic all-conference team was selected, including all 22 SoCon-sponsored sports, due to the majority of competition taking place in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine hundred and twenty-four student-athletes earned 1,028 spots on the 2020-21 Academic All-Southern Conference Team, the second-most for any academic year in SoCon history. Thirty student-athletes earned the honor for cross country, indoor track and field and outdoor track and field, while another 76 were recognized for two of those three sports. Fifty-five student-athletes combined for 57 4.0 cumulative GPAs, the most in a combined academic year in league history.

## SoCon Academic Honor Roll

The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher for the academic year, were eligible the entire academic year and were members of the final squad lists. A league-record 2,741 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions and 16 associate members garnered the distinction, with 786 earning the Commissioner's Medal, awarded to student-athletes who attain a GPA of 3.8 or higher throughout the year, a record since the standard was raised from 3.5 prior to 2015-16. A league-record 2,741 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions and 16 associate members garnered the distinction, with 786 earning the Commissioner's Medal, awarded to student-athletes who attain a GPA of 3.8 or higher throughout the year, a record since the standard was raised from 3.5 prior to 2015-16. In addition, a record 264 student-athletes achieved perfect 4.0 GPAs for the year.

### ACADEMIC ALL-SOCON BY THE NUMBERS

#### TOTAL SELECTIONS

**1,028** (second-most in a school year in SoCon history)

4.0s

**57** (SoCon record for an academic year)

### HONOR ROLL BY THE NUMBERS

#### TOTAL SELECTIONS

**2,741** (record)

#### COMMISSIONER'S MEDALS

**786** (record since standard rose to 3.8 GPA)

4.0s

**264** (record)



## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU

Furman

Samford

Wofford

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC

INDIVIDUALS

Phelani Maduwa, ETSU

Ryan Adams, Furman

Mason Coppi, Furman

Jake Ogden, Furman

Cameron Ponder, Furman

Evan Brooks, Samford

Ben Garner, Samford

Ty Kimblerlin, Samford

Michael McMahan, Samford

Jose Penalver, Samford

Jed Sisco, Samford

### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU

Furman

Mercer

Samford

Chattanooga

Wofford

### USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC INDIVIDUALS

Bethany Graham, Furman

Gabbi Jennings, Furman

Emma Kuntz, Furman

Megan Marvin, Furman

Morayo Bhadosh, Samford

Maggie Johnston, Samford

Megan Dunn, Wofford

Kerrington Johnson, Wofford

Netanya Linares, Wofford

Destiny Shippy, Wofford

### MEN'S SOCCER

UNITED SOCCER COACHES NCAA DIVISION I

MEN'S SCHOLAR ALL-REGION TEAM

Tommy Kay, Furman

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATES

Jack Shaw, Belmont

Leo Toledo Jr., Mercer

### WOMEN'S SOCCER

UNITED SOCCER COACHES NCAA DIVISION I

WOMEN'S SCHOLAR ALL-REGION TEAM

Jordyn Ebert, Furman

Ally Fordham, Mercer

Brie Pavol, Mercer

### VOLLEYBALL

USMC/AVCA TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

The Citadel

ETSU

Furman

UNCG

Chattanooga

Western Carolina

Wofford

### FOOTBALL

FCS ADA ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM

Raleigh Webb, The Citadel

Nate Adkins, ETSU

Hamp Sisson, Furman

Jerrell Lawson, Chattanooga

Cole Strange, Chattanooga

STATS PERFORM FCS DORIS ROBINSON

SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD FINALIST

Drayton Arnold, Chattanooga

WILLIAM V. CAMPBELL TROPHY

SEMIFINALISTS

Bryce Nunnally, Chattanooga

Grady Thomas, Western Carolina

### WRESTLING

NWCA SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

Campbell

Davidson

Gardner-Webb

NWCA DI INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICANS

Anthony Brito, Sr., 141, App State

Sean Carter, So., 133, App State

Thomas Flitz, R-Sr., 174, App State

Will Formato, Jr., 165, App State

Mitch Collica, So., 149, Bellarmine

Max Dansereau, So., 133, Bellarmine

Corbin Hale, R-So., 149, Bellarmine

Alex Rhine, Gr., 157, Bellarmine

Josh Heil, R-Sr., 149, Campbell

Caleb Hopkins, R-So., 184, Campbell

Michael McAleavey, Gr., HWT, The Citadel

Kyle Gorant, Jr., 133, Davidson

RJ Mosley, R-So., 165, Gardner-Webb

Jacob Brasseur, R-So., 141, Presbyterian

Bernardino Gomez, Sr., 125,

Presbyterian

Michael Ramirez, Fr., 149, Presbyterian

Andrew Nicholson, R-Jr., 165,

Chattanooga

Franco Valdes, R-Jr., 141, Chattanooga

Weston Wichman, R-Fr., 157,

Chattanooga

### RIFLE

CRCA SCHOLASTIC ALL-AMERICANS

Jordan Blankenship, UAB

Hayden Hayes, UAB

Amy Kohan, UAB

Thomas Loring, UAB

Zoe Lum, UAB

Claire Vonderau, UAB

Maggie Vonderau, UAB

Hallie Willis, UAB

Blake Wingard, UAB

Cameron Bates, The Citadel

Max Brabston, The Citadel

Kyle Goodwin, The Citadel

Stephen Griffin, The Citadel

Emma McCorkle, The Citadel

Riley Neiders, The Citadel

Brandon Oerman, The Citadel

Demi Perez, The Citadel

Emily Perkins, The Citadel

Aidan Randel, The Citadel

Taylor Swiger, The Citadel

Charlotte Welsh, The Citadel

Erin Ballard, Georgia Southern

Bella Gamez, Georgia Southern

Lilly Herring, Georgia Southern

Ashley Judson, Georgia Southern

Gabby Morrow, Georgia Southern

Amy Visconti, Georgia Southern

Jayne Fraley, North Georgia

Morgan Frank, North Georgia

Jaden-Ann Fraser, North Georgia

Alyssa Kiser, North Georgia

Dawson Kissik, North Georgia

Kimberlee Nettles, North Georgia

Ryan Sponauer, North Georgia

Savanah Diamond, VMI

Cassidy Dufour, VMI

Jason Gardner, VMI

Jessica Hankin, VMI

Christopher Hicks, VMI

Samantha Reid, VMI

Nicholas Schaefer, VMI

Meredith Bean, Wofford

Marcus Stallings, Wofford

Isabella Timmons, Wofford

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

NABC HONORS COURT

Victor Baffuto, Mercer

Mitch Prendergast, Mercer

Patrick Urey, Mercer

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE

Ross Cummings, Mercer

### WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATES

Jada Lewis, Mercer

Shannon Titus, Mercer

WBCA ACADEMIC TOP-25

Samford, T-12

### MEN'S TENNIS

ITA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Mercer

UNCG

Samford

Chattanooga

Wofford

ITA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Miguel Este, ETSU

Francisco Lamas, ETSU

Juan Lugo, ETSU

Thiago Pernas, ETSU

Juan Sebastian Zabala, ETSU

Carver Arant, Mercer

Samuel Barrow, Mercer

Daniel Krashnin, Mercer

Samuel Macleod, Mercer

Lucas Wayenburg, Mercer

David Flisberg, UNCG

Nico Grewe, UNCG

Michael Gwynn, UNCG

Hampus Johansson, UNCG

Chris Jones, UNCG

Ollie Palmer, UNCG





Callum Thacker, UNCG  
 Eric Whisnant, UNCG  
 Cooper Wyett, UNCG  
 Mohamed Ali Bellalouna, Samford  
 Victor Chaw, Samford  
 Timothy Dixon, Samford  
 Eladio Fabregas, Samford  
 Jim Hendrikx, Samford  
 Rossouw Norval, Samford  
 Tomas Santantonio, Samford  
 Kaisei Juroki, Chattanooga  
 Cooper Long, Chattanooga  
 Bo Nash, Chattanooga  
 Peyton Gatti, Chattanooga  
 Quinten Nevenhoven, Chattanooga  
 Luke Plaisted, Chattanooga  
 Tomas Rodriguez, Chattanooga  
 Turner Voges, Chattanooga  
 Will Fullett, Wofford  
 Alex Horn, Wofford  
 Bryce Keim, Wofford  
 Callum Rendle, Wofford

### **WOMEN'S TENNIS** ITA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Furman  
 Mercer  
 Samford  
 Chattanooga  
 Western Carolina  
 Wofford

### **ITA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES**

Julia Adams, Furman  
 Ilayda Baykan, Furman  
 Madison Dillon, Furman  
 Katarina Kozarov, Furman  
 Carol Elizabeth Kerman, Furman  
 Maggie Pate, Furman  
 MaryAnn Rompf, Furman  
 France Antezana, Mercer  
 Ericka Chavarria, Mercer  
 Mary Courville, Mercer  
 Alara Hollyfield, Mercer  
 Ashley Popham, Mercer  
 Lauren Rich, Mercer  
 Maeva Roquebert, Mercer  
 Betsy Blanchard, Samford  
 Natalia De Ugarte, Samford  
 Ally Hayduk, Samford  
 Alex Konjaev, Samford

Alexis Lopez, Samford  
 Samantha Maras, Samford  
 Cindy Oest, Samford  
 Lauren Waddles, Samford  
 Wilma Bergqvist, Chattanooga  
 Callie Billman, Chattanooga  
 Grace Anne Dunavant, Chattanooga  
 Lilly Holmes, Chattanooga  
 Emma Van Hee, Chattanooga  
 Jessie Young, Chattanooga  
 Boghdana Zaporozhets, Chattanooga  
 Antonella Benavides, Western Carolina  
 Carli Deehr, Western Carolina  
 Emily Elliott, Western Carolina  
 Kata Foldeak, Western Carolina  
 Hoda Habib, Western Carolina  
 Jordyn King, Western Carolina  
 Julia Pezzuco, Western Carolina  
 Jacy Smith, Western Carolina  
 Anna Uljanov, Western Carolina  
 Georgia Fischer, Wofford  
 Ansley Hardeman, Wofford  
 Michaela Kluska, Wofford  
 Liz Massie, Wofford  
 Lilie Steryous, Wofford  
 Jenna Vroman, Wofford  
 Brittney Wilbur, Wofford

### **MEN'S GOLF** GCAA PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION ETSU Mercer UNCG Samford Chattanooga

### **GCAA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM** Furman

**GCAA SRIXON/CLEVELAND GOLF ALL-AMERICA SCHOLARS**  
 Shiso Go, ETSU  
 Trevor Hulbert, ETSU  
 Jack Rhea, ETSU  
 Keller Harper, Furman  
 Reynolds Lambert, Furman  
 Tyler Copp, Mercer  
 Lino Galdin, Mercer  
 Martin Plukka, Mercer  
 Symon Balbin, UNCG  
 Noah Connor, UNCG

Justin Emmons, UNCG  
 Zack Swanson, UNCG  
 Harlan Winn, Samford  
 Leon Bader, Chattanooga  
 A.J. Lintunen, Chattanooga

### **ACADEMIC MOMENTUM AWARD THIRD TEAM** Louis Theys, Western Carolina

### **WOMEN'S GOLF** WGCA ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLARS

Carly Burkhardt, Furman  
 Anna Morgan, Furman  
 Laila Hrindova, Mercer  
 Lauren Lightfritz, Mercer  
 Carol Pyon, Mercer  
 Tara Bettle, UNCG  
 Victoria Cook, UNCG  
 Hailey Joy, UNCG  
 Sara Rydman, UNCG  
 Beatriz Barrios, Chattanooga  
 Jefimija Dodevic, Chattanooga  
 Esme Hamilton, Chattanooga  
 Daphne Van Son, Chattanooga  
 Victoria Ladd, Western Carolina  
 Hazel Martin, Western Carolina  
 Maya White, Western Carolina  
 Cameron Wood, Western Carolina  
 Nicole Amos, Wofford  
 Becca Earl, Wofford  
 Lindsey Hollis, Wofford  
 Lina Settelmayr, Wofford

### **MEN'S LACROSSE** USILA ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD Bellarmine High Point Jacksonville

### **USILA DIVISION I SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICANS**

Jon Robbins, Bellarmine  
 Eric Rubak, Bellarmine  
 Landon Trout, Bellarmine  
 Taylor Acra, High Point  
 Colin Clothier, High Point  
 Sean Coughlin, High Point  
 Clayton Krol, High Point  
 Kevin Rogers, High Point  
 Ryan Lanchbury, Richmond  
 Jack Reynolds, Richmond

Jason Savoca, Richmond  
 Tyler Shoults, Richmond

### **SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE** Michael Quinn, Mercer

### **WOMEN'S LACROSSE** IWLC ACADEMIC HONOR SQUADS Furman Mercer Wofford

### **IWLC ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL**

Sydney Catts, Furman  
 Regan Lingo, Furman  
 Hannah Nodar, Furman  
 Rachel Sindler, Furman  
 Avery Whitehead, Furman  
 Samantha Brown, Mercer  
 Haley Gerold, Mercer  
 Caroline Kerr, Mercer  
 Hannah Lind, Mercer  
 Lily Morin, Mercer  
 Jocelyn Pena, Mercer  
 Emma Pizzo, Mercer  
 Natalie Sannes, Mercer  
 Eva Thorn, Mercer  
 Abby Pagano, Wofford

### **SOFTBALL** SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE Julia Fritz, ETSU Kelly Warren, ETSU Danielle Castleberry, Mercer

### **BASEBALL** ABCA TEAM ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD The Citadel Mercer Samford

### **SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE** RJ Yeager, Mercer



## SOCON POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The Southern Conference has awarded 193 postgraduate scholarships since 1990-91, from modest beginnings of two in that first year to 10 in each of the last nine years. The recipients are nominated by their schools and selected by the Southern Conference Graduate Scholar Committee. The scholarships, worth \$2,000 each, are awarded to student-athletes about to receive their undergraduate degrees who intend to pursue advanced degrees in graduate or professional school. The student-athletes are evaluated on academics, athletics and community service.

### 2020-21 SoCon Graduate Scholars

NAME (Institution)	SPORT	ACADEMIC MAJOR	GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
Grant Wollam (Wofford)	Men's soccer	Physics/finance	Dave Hart
Allie Jones (Mercer)	Softball	Biochemistry and molecular biology	Dorothy Hicks
Emma Kuntz (Furman)	Women's track and field/ cross country	Applied mathematics/economics	Insurance Office of America
Kaley Tucker (UNCG)	Women's soccer	Communication studies	David Knight
Megan Dunn (Wofford)	Women's track and field	Biology	Bob McCloskey Insurance
Omar Williams (Wofford)	Men's tennis	Accounting	Bob McCloskey Insurance
Victoria Solheim (Western Carolina)	Women's track and field	Biology/chemistry	William V. Moore presented by McMillan Pazdan Smith
Avery Whitehead (Furman)	Women's lacrosse	Health sciences	Southern Conference Presidential
Maria Esch (UNCG)	Volleyball	International and global studies/ women's, gender and sexuality studies	Southern Conference Presidential
Caroline Orman (Samford)	Women's soccer	Health sciences	Southern Conference Presidential

## NATIONAL AWARDS

### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

**Lindsey Stallworth, R-Jr., ETSU**  
USTFCCCA All-America

### FOOTBALL

**Scott Wachenheim, VMI**  
Eddie Robinson Award, NFCA FCS National Coach of the Year

### ALL-AMERICANS

**Jared Folks, LB, R-Sr., ETSU**  
AFCA (1st), Phil Steele (3rd)

**Quay Holmes, AP, R-Jr., ETSU**  
AP (2nd), Phil Steele (2nd), Stats Perform (1st)

**Tre'mond Shorts, OL, Jr., ETSU**  
Phil Steele (3rd), Stats Perform (2nd)

**Ryan Miller, TE, Jr., Furman**  
AP (1st), Phil Steele (2nd), Stats Perform (2nd)

**Chris Edmonds, DB, So., Samford**  
AP (1st), Athlon (1st), Stats Perform (1st)

**Mitchell Fineran, PK, Jr., Samford**  
Phil Steele (3rd), Stats Perform (2nd)

**Liam Welch, QB, Gr., Samford**  
Stats Perform (2nd)

**Devonnsha Maxwell, DL, Jr., Chattanooga**  
AFCA (2nd), Phil Steele (2nd)

**Jakob Herres, WR, Jr., VMI**  
AFCA (1st), AP (1st), Athlon (1st), FCS ADA (1st), HERO Sports (1st), Phil Steele (1st), Stats Perform (1st)

**Stone Snyder, LB, So., VMI**  
AP (1st), Athlon (1st), HERO Sports (1st), Phil Steele (1st), Stats Perform (1st)

**Robert Soderholm, LS, So., VMI**  
HERO Sports (1st), Phil Steele (3rd), Stats Perform (1st)

**Nathan Walker, FB, Jr., Wofford**  
Phil Steele (2nd), Stats Perform (2nd)

### MEN'S BASKETBALL

#### ALL-AMERICANS

**Ledarius Brewer, G, R-Jr., ETSU**  
Lou Henson

**Ross Cummings, G, R-Sr., Mercer**  
Senior CLASS Award (1st)

**Isaiah Miller, G, Sr., UNCG**  
Lou Henson, Lefty Driesell Defensive, Lute Olson

### MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

**Cameron Ponder, Jr., Furman**  
USTFCCCA All-America (1st, 3,000-meter run)

**Aaron Wier, Sr., Furman**  
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, mile)

**Justin Stuckey, Jr., Samford**  
USTFCCCA All-America (1st, high jump)

### WRESTLING

**Jonathan Millner, 149, R-Jr., App State**  
NCAA All-American

### WOMEN'S TENNIS

**Katarina Kozarov, Sr., Furman**  
ITA All-American (singles)

### MEN'S GOLF

**Shiso Go, Sr., ETSU**  
PING All-American (HM)

### MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

**Ryan Adams, Sr., Furman**  
USTFCCCA All-America (HM, 1,500-meter run)

**Justin Stuckey, Jr., Samford**  
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, high jump)

### WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

**Gabbi Jennings, Sr., Furman**  
USTFCCCA All-America (1st, 3,000-meter steeplechase)

### MEN'S LACROSSE

#### ALL-AMERICANS

**Eric Rubak, LSM, Gr., Bellarmine**  
USA Lacrosse Magazine (HM)

**Asher Nolting, A, Sr., High Point**  
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USA Lacrosse Magazine (HM), USILA (3rd)

**Kevin Rogers, M, Gr., High Point**  
Inside Lacrosse (3rd), USA Lacrosse Magazine (2nd), USILA (3rd)

**Ryan Lanchbury, A, Sr., Richmond**  
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USILA (HM)

**Sean Menges, LSM, Gr., Richmond**  
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USA Lacrosse Magazine (HM)

### BASEBALL

#### ALL-AMERICANS

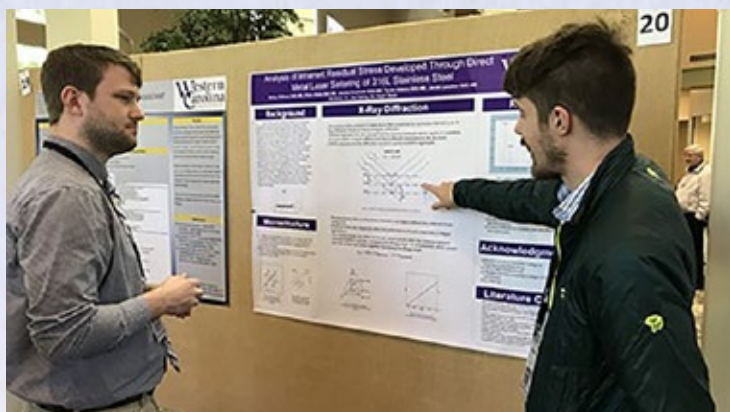
**Garrett Delano, INF/P, R-Sr., Mercer**  
DI Baseball (3rd), College Baseball Foundation (2nd)



## SOCON ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

Created as a partnership of the conference office and the chief academic officers of the member institutions, the SoCon Academic Exchange was launched in October 2014. The mission statement is as follows:

**“The SoCon Academic Exchange is a cooperative educational program of the Southern Conference designed to provide collaborative learning activities and opportunities to benefit students, faculty and staff of the member institutions.”**



One of the SAE's major initiatives is the SoCon Undergraduate Research Forum (SURF), an annual event geared toward students seeking experience in presenting their research projects in the arts and humanities in addition to the STEM disciplines.

Another byproduct of the SAE was the creation of the annual All-Southern Conference Faculty and Staff awards presented by the commissioner at a sporting event on campus. Recipients are determined by the administrations of each campus.

An entrepreneurship competition is planned to be introduced in 2022.

### 2020-21 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FACULTY TEAM

**Dr. Chip Taylor**, The Citadel, Head of Department of Psychology

**Dr. Virginia Foley**, ETSU, Professor, Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Analysis

**Dr. Marian Strobel**, Furman, Professor, History

**Dr. Mahkin Thitsa**, Mercer, Assoc. Professor, School of Engineering

**Dr. Jeremy Bray**, UNCG, Professor, Economics; Interim Head of Department of Economics

**Dr. Celeste Hill**, Samford, Assoc. Professor, Department of Human Development and Family Science

**Dr. Christine Benz Smith**, Chattanooga, Director, School of Nursing; Chief Health Affairs Officer

**Col. Timothy Hodges**, VMI, Professor; Head of Department of Physics and Astronomy

**Dr. Kelly R. Kelley**, Western Carolina, Assoc. Professor, Inclusive/Special Education; University Participant Program Director

**Dr. Anna Catllá**, Wofford, Assoc. Professor of Mathematics; Director, Center for Innovation and Learning

### 2020-21 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF TEAM

**Henry Bouton**, The Citadel, Director of Intramurals and Extramural Sports

**Janet Stork**, ETSU, Event and Project Coordinator for the College of Public Health

**Todd Duke**, Furman, Assoc. Athletics Director of Facilities and Game Operations

**Matt Brownback**, Mercer, Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Support Services

**Amy Collins Moore**, UNCG, Business Officer and Executive Assistant to the Dean, College of Visual and Performing Arts

**Paige Mathis**, Samford, Asst. Director of Athletics for Academics

**Endia Butler**, Chattanooga, Student Employment Coordinator, Financial Aid Office

**Chief Michael Marshall**, VMI, Police Chief

**Courtney Gauthier**, Western Carolina, Assoc. Director of Career Integrated Learning, Center for Career and Professional Development

**Lisa Lefebvre**, Wofford, Director, Employee Wellness and Medical Services



## NATIONAL PROMINENCE



### Men's basketball

The Southern Conference finished ninth in the RPI and 10th in the NET rankings in 2020-21, among the highest for the conference all-time. Six of the conference's 10 squads were ranked in the CollegeInsider.

com Mid-Major Top 25 for at least three weeks of the season. UNCG guard Isaiah Miller, the 2020-21 Bob Waters Southern Conference Athlete of the Year who was named the SoCon Player of the Year for the second straight season and the SoCon Defensive Player of the Year for the third consecutive year, signed a free-agent contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves in July.



### Women's basketball

Mercer spent several weeks ranked inside the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 in 2020-21, finishing the season at No. 25.



### Football

Five of the league's nine programs were nationally ranked during the spring 2021 campaign, with Mercer and VMI making their first-ever appearances in the FCS national polls. Furman, VMI and Chattanooga each appeared in the top 10 at points in the season, while VMI and ETSU both finished the season in the top 25, marking the 38th time in 39 years that multiple league schools finished the season nationally ranked. VMI's Scott Wachenheim won the Eddie Robinson Award and was

named the AFCA FCS National Coach of the Year, while 12 different players earned All-America honors.

### Cross country

Furman's men's and women's teams were both nationally ranked in 2020-21, with the Paladin men spending four weeks in the top 30 and finishing No. 24 and the Furman women spending the entire season in the national rankings, including three weeks at No. 10.



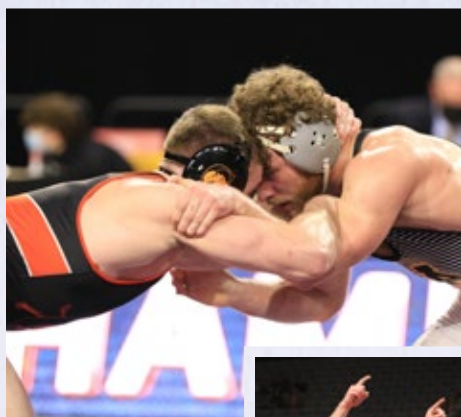


## NATIONAL PROMINENCE



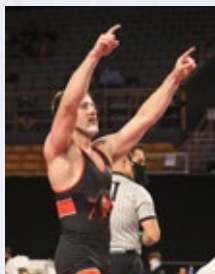
### Men's lacrosse

Two SoCon squads appeared in the national rankings during the 2021 season, with High Point finishing in the top 20 in all three major national polls and Richmond spending the majority of the season inside the national rankings.



### Wrestling

Campbell, which claimed its third straight SoCon Championship this season, finished the campaign ranked No. 19 in the InterMat NCAA Division I Rankings, while the Camels and Appalachian



State both finished in The Open Mat's final dual rankings, at Nos. 21 and 25, respectively. The Mountaineers' Jonathan Millner finished eighth at the NCAA Championships to earn All-America honors.

### Rifle

Three SoCon rifle teams finished the season ranked in the top 20 of the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association's national poll. North Georgia and UAB, which shared the regular-season SoCon crown, finished ranked No. 17 and No. 18, respectively, while The Citadel was ranked No. 19.



### Women's tennis

Furman spent three weeks inside the top 25 of the ITA team rankings in 2021, with senior Katarina Kozarov finishing the campaign ranked No. 11 in the singles rankings and Kozarov and Julia Adams finishing No. 22 in the doubles rankings.



### Soccer

UNCG's men's team finished the season ranked No. 30 in the College Soccer News Top 30, while Furman spent three weeks in the national rankings late in the season. Furman's women's squad finished the season ranked No. 29 in the College Soccer News Top 30.







## TEAM CHAMPIONS

### Men's Cross Country

Champion: Furman

Runner of the Year: Daniel Bernal, Sr., Furman

Freshman of the Year: Andrew Hammel, Furman

Coach of the Year: Robert Gary, Furman

Pinnacle Award: Adam Beucier, Furman



### Women's Cross Country

Champion: Furman

Runner of the Year: Lindsey Stallworth, R-Jr., ETSU

Freshman of the Year: Madelynne Cadeau, Furman

Coach of the Year: Robert Gary, Furman

Pinnacle Award: Abigail Robertson, Furman



### Men's Soccer

Regular-season champion: Furman

Tournament champion: UNCG

Player of the Year: Ben Hale, R-Sr., GK, Furman

Goalkeeper of the Year: Ben Hale, R-Sr., Furman

Freshmen of the Year: Jake Raine, F, Furman; Theo Collomb, F, UNCG

Coach of the Year: Doug Allison, Furman

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Mani Austmann, UNCG

Pinnacle Award: Jarrett Payne, UNCG

### Women's Soccer

Regular-season champion: Samford

Tournament champion: Furman

Player of the Year: Isabella Gutierrez, Jr., MF, Furman

Defensive Player of the Year: Maggie Shaw, Jr., D, Chattanooga

Freshman of the Year: Nieva Gaither, MF, Furman

Coach of the Year: Gavin McKinney, Chattanooga

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Jasmine Greene, Furman

Pinnacle Award: Isabella Gutierrez, Furman







## Football

**Champion:** VMI

**Offensive Players of the Year:** Liam Welch, Gr., QB, Samford; Jakob Herres, Jr., WR, VMI

**Defensive Players of the Year:** Jared Folks, Gr., ETSU; Stone Snyder, So., VMI

**Freshman of the Year:** Seth Morgan, QB, VMI

**Jacob Blocking Award:** Tre'mond Shorts, R-Jr., OL, ETSU; Cole Strange, Sr., OL, Chattanooga

**Coach of the Year:** Scott Wachenheim, VMI

**Pinnacle Award:** Brad Davis, VMI



## Volleyball

**Regular-season champion:** Samford

**Tournament champion:** Samford

**Player of the Year:** Lauren Deaton, Jr., OH, Samford

**Libero of the Year:** Destinee Dorsey, Fr., Western Carolina

**Rayna Taylor Freshman of the Year:** Kenya McQuirter, OH, Samford

**Coach of the Year:** Derek Schroeder, Mercer

**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Lauren Deaton, Samford

**Pinnacle Award:** Sierra Rayzor, Samford



## Men's Indoor Track and Field

**Champion:** Samford

**Heath Whittle Award (Men's Most Outstanding Athletes):** Matt Cahoon, Sr., Samford; Ty Kimberlin, Jr., Samford

**Most Outstanding Track Performer:** Evan Brooks, So., Samford

**Most Outstanding Field Performer:** Matt Cahoon, Sr., Samford

**Freshman of the Year:** Keyandre Midgett, VMI

**Coach of the Year:** Rod Tiffin, Samford

**Pinnacle Award:** Jeb Jones, Samford





## Women's Indoor Track and Field

**Champion:** Samford

**Most Outstanding Athletes:** Nicole Johnson, So., ETSU; Makaila McIntyre, Sr., Western Carolina; Netanya Linares, So., Wofford  
**Most Outstanding Track Performer:** Nicole Johnson, So., ETSU  
**Most Outstanding Field Performer:** Hannah Daffin, So., Samford  
**Freshman of the Year:** Madeline McNinch, Wofford  
**Coach of the Year:** Johnny Bomar, Wofford  
**Pinnacle Award:** Amanda Dumar, Samford



## Wrestling

**Regular-season champion:** Campbell  
**Tournament champion:** Campbell

**Wrestler of the Year:** Will Formato, 165, R-So., App State  
**Freshman of the Year:** Weston Wichman, 157, Chattanooga  
**Coach of the Year:** Scotti Sentes, Campbell  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestler:** Andrew Nicholson, Chattanooga  
**Pinnacle Award:** Caleb Hopkins, Campbell



## Rifle

**Regular-season champion:** North Georgia  
**Tournament champion:** North Georgia

**Smallbore Athlete of the Year:** Kimberlee Nettles, Sr., North Georgia  
**Air Rifle Athletes of the Year:** Ashley Judson, Jr., Georgia Southern; Jaden-Ann Fraser, Fr., North Georgia  
**Freshman of the Year:** Charlotte Welsh, The Citadel  
**Coach of the Year:** Seth Flanagan, Wofford  
**Pinnacle Award:** Kimberlee Nettles, North Georgia



## Men's Basketball

**Regular-season champion:** UNCG  
**Tournament champion:** UNCG

**Player of the Year:** Isaiah Miller, Sr., G, UNCG  
**Defensive Player of the Year:** Isaiah Miller, Sr., G, UNCG  
**Freshman of the Year:** Damari Monsanto, G, ETSU  
**Coach of the Year:** Dan Earl, VMI  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Isaiah Miller, UNCG  
**Pinnacle Award:** Kobe Langley, UNCG

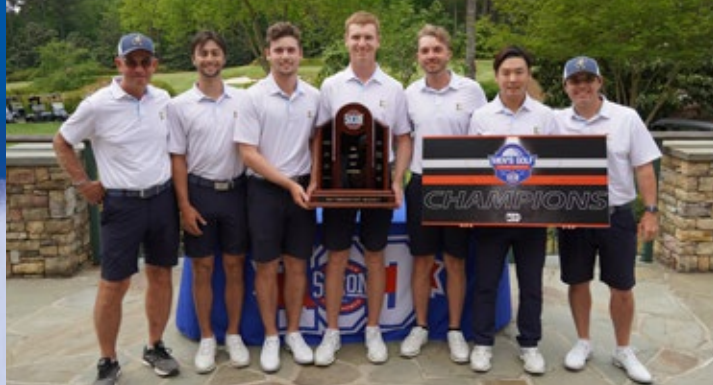
## Women's Basketball

**Regular-season champion:** Samford  
**Tournament champion:** Mercer

**Player of the Year:** Andrea Cournoyer, Jr., G, Samford  
**Defensive Player of the Year:** Shannon Titus, Sr., G/F, Mercer  
**Freshman of the Year:** Sydney James, G, Furman  
**Ann Lashley Inspiration Award:** Jamari McDavid, Sr., F, Wofford  
**Coach of the Year:** Carley Kuhns, Samford  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Amoria Neal-Tysor, Mercer  
**Pinnacle Award:** Emily Stradling, Mercer







## Men's Golf

**Tournament champion:** ETSU

**Golfers of the Year:** Archie Davies, R-Fr., ETSU; Keller Harper, Sr., Furman

**Freshman of the Year:** Archie Davies, ETSU

**Coach of the Year:** Jake Amos, ETSU

**Pinnacle Award:** Shiso Go, ETSU

## Women's Golf

**Tournament champion:** ETSU

**Golfer of the Year:** Tereza Melecka, Sr., ETSU

**Freshman of the Year:** Anna Morgan, Furman

**Coach of the Year:** Stefanie Shelton, ETSU

**Pinnacle Award:** Warda Amira Rawof, ETSU



## Men's Tennis

**Regular-season champion:** ETSU

**Tournament champion:** ETSU

**Player of the Year:** Dimitri Badra, R-So., ETSU

**Freshman of the Year:** Dimitri Badra, ETSU

**Coach of the Year:** Rahim Esmail, Samford

**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Juan Lugo, ETSU

**Pinnacle Award:** Juan Sebastian Zabala, ETSU

## Women's Tennis

**Regular-season champion:** Furman

**Tournament champion:** Furman

**Player of the Year:** Katarina Kozarov, Sr., Furman

**Freshman of the Year:** Maria Fernanda Carvajal, ETSU

**Coach of the Year:** Ricky Rojas, ETSU

**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Katarina Kozarov, Sr., Furman

**Pinnacle Award:** Maggie Pate, Furman





## Men's Outdoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

**Men's Most Outstanding Athlete:** Matt Cahoon, Jr., Samford

**Most Outstanding Track Performer:** Jordin Poindexter, R-So., VMI

**Most Outstanding Field Performer:** Matt Cahoon, Jr., Samford

**Freshman of the Year:** Ty Kimberlin, Samford

**Coach of the Year:** Rod Tiffin, Samford

**Pinnacle Award:** Luke Dobbins, Samford



## Women's Outdoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

**Most Outstanding Athlete:** Cherrish Wright, Sr., Mercer

**Most Outstanding Track Performer:** Cherrish Wright, Sr., Mercer

**Most Outstanding Field Performer:** Maggie Johnston, Sr., Samford

**Freshman of the Year:** Kerrington Johnson, Wofford

**Coach of the Year:** Rod Tiffin, Samford

**Pinnacle Award:** Aiya Finch, Samford

## Men's Lacrosse

**Regular-season champions:** High Point; Richmond

**Tournament champion:** High Point

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Ryan Lanchbury, Sr., A, Richmond

**Defensive Player of the Year:** Sean Menges, Gr., LSM, Richmond

**Freshman of the Year:** Dalton Young, A, Richmond

**Coach of the Year:** Dan Chemotti, Richmond

**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Asher Nolting, High Point

**Pinnacle Award:** Colin Clothier, High Point



## Women's Lacrosse

**Regular-season champion:** Furman

**Tournament champion:** Mercer

**Offensive Player of the Year:** Hannah Demis, Sr., A, Furman  
**Defensive Player of the Year:** Avery Whitehead, Sr., D, Furman  
**Freshman of the Year:** Meagan Beal, MF, Furman  
**Coach of the Year:** Rachel Whitten, Furman  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Iseabal Cryne, Mercer  
**Pinnacle Award:** Natalie Sannes, Mercer



## Softball

**Regular-season champion:** UNCG

**Tournament champion:** UNCG

**Player of the Year:** Bailey Huneycutt, Jr., SS, Western Carolina  
**Pitcher of the Year:** Morgan Scott, So., UNCG  
**Freshman of the Year:** Morgan Scott, RHP, UNCG  
**Coach of the Year:** Jim Clift, Western Carolina  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Maycin Brown, UNCG  
**Pinnacle Award:** Jordan Gontram, UNCG; Katie Stettler, UNCG

## Baseball

**Regular-season champion:** Wofford

**Tournament champion:** Samford

**Player of the Year:** Colin Davis, Sr., OF, Wofford  
**Pitcher of the Year:** Elliot Carney, Sr., RHP, Wofford  
**Freshman of the Year:** Justin Starke, 1B, VMI  
**Coach of the Year:** Todd Interdonato, Wofford  
**Tournament Most Outstanding Player:** Towns King, Samford  
**Pinnacle Award:** Garrett Brown, Samford



*Student-athletes that would have been eligible for all-freshman consideration in spring 2020 before the season was curtailed by the coronavirus pandemic were eligible to be considered for the 2021 freshman awards.*





## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

### Bob Waters SoCon Male Athlete of the Year

#### Isaiah Miller | UNCG BASKETBALL

UNC Greensboro basketball player Isaiah Miller and Furman cross country/track and field runner Gabbi Jennings were named the 2020-21 Bob Waters Southern Conference Male Athlete of the Year and SoCon Female Athlete of the Year, respectively.

Miller becomes the first UNCG student-athlete, male or female, to be named the SoCon Athlete of the Year. The SoCon Men's Basketball Player of the Year in 2019-20 and 2020-21, Miller was also named the Defensive Player of the Year for the last three seasons.

The 6-0 guard led the SoCon in scoring this season with 19.2 points per game and steals with 2.6 per game and finished eighth in rebounding at 6.8 per contest, helping the Spartans to SoCon regular-season and tournament titles and earning Most Outstanding Player honors at the 2021 Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championship presented by General Shale Brick. The only player in program history to appear in multiple NCAA Division I tournament games, Miller won 100 games in his four-year career – including a program-record 29 in 2018-19, when the Spartans were the No. 1 seed in the National Invitation Tournament – and finished second in SoCon history with 315 career steals and third in UNCG history with 1,942 career points. He was part of four 20-win seasons and became the first player to lead the league in scoring and win the tournament championship in the same season since Davidson's Steph Curry in 2007-08.

This season, the Covington, Georgia, senior was a finalist for the Lou Henson Award, presented annually to the top mid-major player, and the Lute Olson Award, which goes to the top player in Division I. In addition to earning All-America honors in association with both of those awards for the second straight season, he was a member of the Lefty Driesell

### SoCon Female Athlete of the Year

#### Gabbi Jennings | FURMAN CROSS COUNTRY/TRACK AND FIELD

Defensive All-America Team for the second time in as many years.

Miller also earned first-team All-District 21 honors from the NABC for the second straight year and was a USBWA All-District III selection. He was the SoCon Player of the Week presented by GEICO for the final week of the regular season and was named the SoCon Player of the Month for February.

The high-flyer was selected to the Great Clips Slam Dunk Championship roster for the 32nd annual State Farm College Slam Dunk & 3-Point Championships at famed Hinkle Fieldhouse this season.







Miller, who graduated in May with a degree in communications, participated in community service initiatives with the UNCG athletics department and participated in peaceful protests in Greensboro, North Carolina, with the men's basketball team. Miller signed a contract with the Minnesota Timberwolves in the summer.

Jennings becomes the 10th Paladin to earn the SoCon Female Athlete of the Year award and the second straight, as current Symetra Tour player Natalie Srinivasan earned the honor in 2019-20.

Jennings qualified for the NCAA East Preliminaries in four events this season, the 800-meter run, 1,500-meter run, the 5,000-meter run, and the 3,000-meter steeplechase, electing to focus on the latter. She finished

seventh in the steeplechase at this year's NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, erasing her own school record with a time of 9:38.24 and earning All-America honors in the event for the third time in her career. The senior from Slidell, Louisiana, who lowered her personal-best time in the event in each of her last four collegiate efforts, also competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials in the steeplechase in June, finishing 22nd.

The holder of five school records, Jennings set the program's 5,000m mark of 15:33.59 as a senior this season. She also holds the school standard in the outdoor 1,500m, the indoor mile and the distance medley relay. At the SoCon Outdoor Track and Field Championships this spring, she won the 1,500m and finished second in the 800m. Jennings, who also earned All-America honors in cross country and indoor track in her career, is a three-time All-Southeast Region performer in cross country, finishing second in the regional race in 2019. She is a five-time SoCon champion on the track.

A two-time SoCon Track Athlete of the Week this outdoor season, Jennings was also the April Track Athlete of the Month.

Jennings graduated cum laude with a degree in communications and has begun work on a degree in fine arts, earning the Furman 4-D Art Work Award. A member of the USTFCCCA All-Academic Team, Jennings volunteers with the Greenville Children's Hospital.

She recently signed pro contracts with Team Boss and adidas.

The Athlete of the Year Awards are selected annually by the Southern Conference athletics directors and a media member representing each conference school. The award recognizes athletic achievement, academic performance and civic involvement. Prior to 1990-91, the award was selected solely by members of the Southern Conference Sports Media Association. Beginning in 1991-92, the men's award was named after the late Bob Waters, who was Western Carolina's head football coach from 1969-88.





## TELEVISION

The Southern Conference has secured new national television agreements that will provide the most nationwide exposure in league history.

In November, the league reached an agreement with ESPN and ESPN+ that will last through the 2025-26 academic year. The deal features even more conference games across ESPN networks, as well as an increased presence across ESPN Digital platforms.

As part of the new pact, there will be an increase in the number of SoCon men's basketball regular-season home telecasts that will air on ESPN linear networks each year, as well as an expanded men's basketball tournament broadcast schedule that will include both the semifinals and championship game over the life of the agreement. All other live digital events produced by the SoCon – including football and men's basketball – will stream on ESPN+. In all, an estimated 4,200 SoCon events will be available on ESPN Digital platforms throughout the agreement.

“We are excited to continue our long-standing relationship with ESPN,” SoCon Commissioner Jim Schaus said. “This agreement represents the most

national television exposure with ESPN in conference history, which is critical as we continue to grow our successful brand into our second century of excellence. The Southern Conference is truly on the rise and this new agreement will further propel the league to even greater heights in the future.”

In April, the SoCon announced a multi-year agreement with CBS Sports Network to televise five men's basketball league games per year.

“We are excited about finalizing a long-term partnership with CBS Sports Network for regular-season men's basketball, beginning for the 2021-22 season,” Schaus said. “The addition of this national television package with CBS Sports Network, combined with our current agreement with ESPN, will provide the Southern Conference with double-digit national linear men's basketball telecasts every year and will signify the largest national television package in conference history.”

Over the summer of 2021, the league finalized a deal to continue and expand its Nexstar broadcast packages for football and men's basketball, which will see 20 games aired in eight different markets throughout the SoCon's footprint.



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# OLYMPICS

Three Southern Conference alums competed at the 2020 Olympic Games in Tokyo. ETSU's Adrian Meronk become the first men's golfer to represent Poland in Olympic history, while former Chattanooga women's golfer Christine Wolf competed in her second Olympic Games for Austria. UNCG alumnus Paul Chelimo medaled in the 5,000-meter run for the second straight summer Olympics, claiming bronze in the event after earning silver in 2016. Chelimo became the first American man to win multiple Olympic medals in the 5,000-meter run.





## COMMISSIONER'S AND GERMANN CUPS



Furman's men's programs and Samford's women's programs won the races for the Southern Conference's all-sport trophies in 2020-21.



The Commissioner's and Germann cups are awarded annually to the Southern Conference schools fielding the league's best all-around men's and women's sports programs, respectively. Scoring is conducted on a percentage basis, with only the top

seven sports for each school counting toward its season total. The league's three co-ed rifle teams count toward the Commissioner's Cup standings and the two women's rifle teams counting toward the Germann Cup.

Each sport is worth 10 points, with each spot in the standings given equal measure relative to how many schools sponsor that particular sport. For sports that determine a regular-season champion, a two-point bonus is awarded for winning the league tournament. Each school's total for the year is divided by 70, the maximum number of

points possible when counting seven sports, to find its percentage.

The all-sports cups were not awarded in 2019-20 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Furman's men, who won the Commissioner's Cup for the second time overall and for the first time since 1990-91, have finished in the top three every year the Cup has been awarded since 2015-16. The Paladins, who won championships in cross country and soccer and finished third in indoor track and field, basketball, golf, tennis and outdoor track and field, totaled 58.00 points for an .829 percentage to edge ETSU, which had won four straight Cup titles from 2015-19.

ETSU's men totaled 56.63 points for an .809 percentage. The Bucs captured the men's golf championship and secured regular-season and tournament titles in tennis in addition to tying for second in the soccer regular season and posting third-place finishes in the football regular season and the cross country championship.

Samford, which claimed championship titles in indoor track and field, outdoor track and field and baseball and a runner-up finish in tennis to go with the Blue Division title and second-best record in the baseball standings, finished third in the Commissioner's Cup standings with 51.68 points and a .738 percentage.







VMI, which won its first football title since 1997 and finished second at the cross country championship, amassed 47.06 points and a .672 percentage to finish fourth in the Commissioner's Cup standings, its highest finish since 2000-01. Baseball regular-season champion Wofford finished fifth with a .580 percentage (40.61 points), just ahead of basketball regular-season and tournament champion and soccer tournament champion UNCG, which finished at .573 (40.11 points).

Mercer (.544), Western Carolina (.523), Chattanooga (.502) and The Citadel (.378) round out the standings.

Samford won its third Germann Cup title and first since 2014-15. The Bulldogs claimed regular-season titles in soccer, volleyball and basketball and championship titles in indoor track and field, volleyball and outdoor track and field this academic

year. Samford, which totaled 66.69 points and a .953 percentage, also turned in a runner-up finish in cross country as six of its seven counting programs finished in the top two in the league. Since joining the SoCon in 2008-09, Samford, which won its first Germann Cup in 2009-10, has finished in the top two of the Germann Cup standings 10 of a possible 12 times and in the top four each year in the league.



### COMMISSIONER'S CUP

(MEN'S ATHLETICS - FINAL STANDINGS)

1. FURMAN	.829
2. ETSU	.809
3. SAMFORD	.738
4. VMI	.672
5. WOFFORD	.580
6. UNCG	.573
7. MERCER	.544
8. WESTERN CAROLINA	.523
9. CHATTANOOGA	.502
10. THE CITADEL	.378

### GERMANN CUP

(WOMEN'S ATHLETICS - FINAL STANDINGS)

1. SAMFORD	.953
2. FURMAN	.922
3. MERCER	.757
4. ETSU	.700
5. WOFFORD	.682
6. CHATTANOOGA	.615
7. WESTERN CAROLINA	.591
8. UNCG	.546
9. THE CITADEL	.258
10. VMI	.217

Furman, which had won the previous four Germann Cups that had been awarded, totaled 64.56 points and a .922 percentage. The Paladins won championship titles in cross country, soccer and tennis and regular-season crowns in tennis and lacrosse, also posting runner-up finishes in



## Institutional Awards

### BARRETT-BONNER AWARD

(HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES ON SOCON HONOR ROLL)

MERCER



### D.S. MCALISTER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

WOFFORD



### GRADUATION RATE AWARD

SAMFORD



the soccer regular season and the golf championship.

Basketball and lacrosse tournament champion Mercer, which also shared the regular-season volleyball title and finished second in the basketball and baseball regular-season standings, finished third in the Germann Cup standings with 52.97 points and a .757 percentage.

Women's golf champion ETSU finished fourth at .700. The Bucs also posted a runner-up finish in the tennis regular season and finished third in the cross country and indoor track and field championships. Wofford, which posted runner-up finishes in both the indoor and outdoor track and field championships, finished fifth with a .682 percentage.

Chattanooga finished sixth with .615, followed by Western Carolina (.591), softball regular-season and tournament champion UNCG (.546), The Citadel (.258) and VMI (.217).

The Commissioner's Cup was inaugurated in 1970 and the Germann Cup was first awarded in 1987. The latter is named for former SoCon Commissioner Ken Germann, who served as commissioner of the Southern Conference from 1974-86 and spearheaded the effort to introduce women's athletics to the league.

Six schools have won the Commissioner's Cup in the 49-year history of the award, including current members ETSU (2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16 and 1982-83), Furman (2020-21 and 1990-91) and Chattanooga (2014-15 and 2004-05).

Five schools have won the Germann Cup in its 32-year history. Among current schools, Furman owns a league-best 17, including 12 straight from 1992-2004 and four straight from 2015-19. Samford has won three (2020-21, 2014-15 and 2009-10) and Chattanooga won in 2007-08.





## RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE

The Racial Equity and Justice Task Force counsels the league by identifying concepts and developing actionable items that can be used by all conference member schools regarding improving racial equity and social justice. The 18-member panel is composed of a racially diverse blend of student-athletes, coaches, campus administrators and athletics department staff members, with at least one representative from each of the league's 10 full member schools.

### The task force's main tenets to explore are:

*Promoting  
diversity*

*Educating  
conference  
members*

*Support for key  
constituents*

*Raising  
Awareness*

*Marketing  
schools' efforts/  
initiatives*

The task force meets regularly and seeks input from constituents on SoCon campuses and to engage in conversations with student-athletes on these focus areas, including raising awareness about mental health. The committee also supports the NCAA and each SoCon SAAC's on-campus efforts.

### Diversity Statement

The members of the Southern Conference stand opposed to all forms of racism, prejudice, intolerance, and injustice. We implore everyone to engage in conversation, listen to those who are experiencing discrimination and seek solutions to foster meaningful change.

Creating a rewarding, inclusive, and equitable experience for all student-athletes, coaches, and staff remains at the forefront of our efforts. We celebrate and support our diverse population as it exposes our membership to valuable thoughts, ideas, creativity, and compassion; enhances our student-athletes' collegiate experience; and serves as a positive force in our communities.

### Purpose of SoCon Racial Equity and Justice Task Force

The purpose of the task force is to identify concepts and develop items that can be used by all conference members regarding improving racial equity and justice. The group is broken down into subcommittees to develop concepts, plans and actions for this task force. The subcommittees are:

1. **Promoting Diversity** (Chair: Kathy Kroupa, The Citadel)
2. **Education** (Chairs: Ken Jones, Chattanooga/Tori Powell, UNCG)
3. **Support** (Chair: Kristin Rusbuldt, UNCG)
4. **Marketing** (Chair: Jasmine Washington, SoCon)



## RACIAL EQUITY AND JUSTICE TASK FORCE

### SoCon Unity Campaign

The Inaugural SoCon Unity Campaign, which was from Jan. 25-29, 2021, included five different themed days to showcase and tell the stories of student-athletes, faculty and administration in the Southern Conference to recognize diversity across the league. The five days were:

*"We Are #SoConUnited"*

*"Speak Up, Reflect and Learn"*

*"The Power of Your Platform"*

*"More Than An Athlete"*

*"They Did, So I Can..."*



### Alfred White Trailblazer Recognition

The Southern Conference Alfred White Trailblazer Recognition was developed in conjunction with the conference's 100th anniversary to honor Black student-athletes, faculty and administrators who have paved the way and contributed to the success of those who came after them in the league. The recognition is named after former SoCon commissioner Alfred White (1998-2001), who is the first and only Black commissioner of the league and the first African American named to lead a conference not composed primarily or exclusively of historically Black colleges.

The list of trailblazers includes a total of 78 former and current Black student-athletes, faculty and administrators of the conference. There are 15 current Black head coaches and administrators who earned



honorable mention, as they continue to make a daily impact on the lives of student-athletes.

The initial members of the list were the first to make marks on their respective campuses as first Black head coaches, student-athletes, administrators and more.



# STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## SoCon SAAC Mission Statement

The mission of the Southern Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete well-being, and fostering positive student-athlete image.

## Purpose of SoCon SAAC

The purpose of the organization shall be to protect, foster, and improve the student-athlete well-being by establishing a foundation for developing the SoCon SAAC into a solid organization, while utilizing each other's resources and providing guidance to strengthen SAAC's throughout the Southern Conference. Specifically to:

1. Be an organization in which individuals serve as a voice for their institution,
2. Share ideas, network, and develop lasting friendships,
3. Promote a positive image of student-athletes and address issues and problems,
4. Create opportunities for unity, change, and rewards, and
5. Foster communication among all schools in the conference.

## Monthly Zoom Calls

The challenges that COVID-19 brought to SoCon SAAC limited its ability to get together for its annual in-person leadership meeting. To help continue to build and collaborate among the SoCon institutions, SoCon SAAC held monthly calls over zoom for all SoCon SAAC representatives. These calls were able to bring together student-athletes and share their thoughts, ideas and concerns throughout the year.



## #SoConVotes

The 2020 Presidential Election was one of the focal points of the SoCon SAAC during the 2020-21 school year. The SAAC created the initiative #SoConVotes to help civically engage student-athletes leading up to the election. Some of the efforts included encouraging people to register to

vote and fill out absentee ballots. Student-athletes also discussed the importance of voting.



## Mental Health Awareness

The SoCon SAAC chose mental health as its focus initiative for the 2020-21 year. The student-athletes developed a social media kit to use on each campus as part of the campaign to promote mental health awareness during the third week of April. They used the hashtag #SoConnected to express helpful thoughts and ideas such as "our minds are #SoConnected to our sports" and "we are #SoConnected to mental well-being." Growing out of this concern for mental health awareness, the Southern Conference is planning to sponsor a Mental Health Summit where health professionals and administrators can work together on this important topic.



## ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

### Strategic Plan

The vision statement of the league's strategic plan is: "The Southern Conference will be the premier mid-major conference." The SoCon made significant progress in its first year in completing strategies to assist in achieving its goals in a variety of priority areas.

### Basketball returns to Asheville

In May, the league announced that an agreement had been reached to keep the Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale Brick at Harrah's Cherokee Center – Asheville in Asheville, North Carolina, through 2026. First contested in 1921, the SoCon men's tournament is the nation's oldest collegiate conference tournament. Asheville has served as host to the SoCon's championship more than another other location, with the 22-year history of the tournament in the city comprising a 12-year run from 1984-95 and the current 10-year run that began in 2012. At the end of the current extension, the tournament will have been in Asheville for 15 consecutive years, which will eclipse a 14-year stay in Raleigh, North Carolina, from 1933-46 as the longest stretch the tournament has stayed in one location consecutively. The SoCon women's basketball championship has been contested in Asheville 11 times, with the semifinals and final played there in 1995 before the current 10-year stretch.



**"This is a historic day to extend the Southern Conference's long-standing and successful partnership with Asheville to host our basketball championships," SoCon Commissioner Jim Schaus said. "Over the 101 SoCon basketball championships, Asheville has hosted the most of any city. What makes this tournament special is how the city and area community embrace it, having an ideal venue and how much our schools and fans enjoy coming here."**

**"I would like to thank the sports commission, City of Asheville, Buncombe County commissioners, local organizing committee, volunteers, my outstanding staff and our title sponsor Ingles and presenting sponsor General Shale of the last several years for making this tournament not only the oldest conference basketball tournament but the best. We can't wait to work together with our outstanding local team to continue to grow this event for years to come."**

### Happy retirement!

The Southern Conference wishes a happy retirement to a pair of conference leaders in Samford President Dr. Andrew Westmoreland and VMI Superintendent Gen. J.H. Binford Peay III, who both stepped down in 2020-21.





## COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The Southern Conference takes great pride in the annual community outreach events conducted at the Ingles Southern Conference Basketball Championships presented by General Shale Brick. While some of them could not be undertaken in 2021 because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the ones that did take place were again a great success.

The Southern Conference and Eblen Charities continued to team up for the Hoops Against Hunger program, which provides awareness to help combat childhood hunger. Through the annual Hoops Against Hunger hotel food drive, more than 1,000 food items and packed boxes were collected to take to the Buncombe County Resource Center at Enka Middle School.

VMI successfully defended its title in the Ingles SoCon Mascot Challenge, with nearly 2,800 fans voting for the Keydets' mascot, Moe. Ingles donated \$1,000 to VMI's athletics scholarship fund as well another \$1,000 to Hoops Against Hunger on behalf of the school.

While the annual Education Days initiatives around the first two days of the tournament were unable to be conducted as usual due to the pandemic, 10 Buncombe County schools adopted SoCon schools

to cheer on throughout the tournament: Haw Creek Elementary (The Citadel), Avery's Creek Elementary (ETSU), Emma Elementary (Furman), Enka Intermediate (Mercer), Leicester Elementary (UNC Greensboro), Candler Elementary (Samford), West Buncombe Elementary (Chattanooga), Black Mountain Elementary (VMI), Johnston Elementary (Western Carolina), and North Buncombe Elementary (Wofford). Videos of those schools cheering for their adopted SoCon squads played on the videoboard at Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville throughout the tournament.

The SoCon's other community engagement initiatives are scheduled to return in 2022, including the Downtown Dribble, the Ingles SoCon Fan Experience, Hometown Heroes Night, the SoCon Teddy Bear Toss and the annual Mission Children's Hospital mascot visit.





# COVID-19

The Southern Conference was able to promote safety and ensure overall success during the 2020-21 academic year as the league and its member institutions navigated the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The league, which served in a leadership role as an information source to provide COVID guidelines to its member schools throughout the regular season and championships, provided all necessary testing needs for its championships and game officials.

Through meticulous preparation, abundant safety protocols, regular testing and schedule flexibility, all 22 league-sponsored sports played their regular seasons and championships to completion, with the SoCon providing its conference champion to all NCAA postseason championship opportunities. The SoCon was the only FCS conference to see all of its members compete in football in the spring season.









