



SOUTHERN  
**SOCCON**  
1921  
CONFERENCE

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2019-20 ANNUAL REPORT



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## SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF

2019-20

<b>Jim Schaus</b>	Commissioner
<b>Geoff Cabe</b>	Senior Associate Commissioner
<b>Sue Arakas</b>	Associate Commissioner
<b>Doug King</b>	Associate Commissioner for Compliance
<b>Jason Yaman</b>	Associate Commissioner
<b>Phil Perry</b>	Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations
<b>Paul Lollis</b>	Assistant Commissioner for Video Productions
<b>Stanley Broaden</b>	Director of Championships
<b>Hannah Bradley</b>	Assistant Director of Media Relations
<b>Neili Akridge</b>	Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
<b>Eynde Frazier</b>	Championships Assistant
<b>Sara Yang</b>	External Operations Assistant
<b>Jon Perdue</b>	Media Relations Assistant

# LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER SCHAUS



Athletic success. Academic excellence. Impressive student-athletes. Memorable conference championships. Dynamic, new conference initiatives. COVID-19 pandemic. Promise of a 100th anniversary. Impressive membership, unity and people. That describes 2019-20 for me.

In this annual report, you will see what makes the Southern Conference so special. You will read about our athletic, academic and administrative accomplishments. You will learn about how the conference is emerging into a premier mid-major conference. But more importantly, you will see what is the fuel that drives our success: Our people.

True success is never about one or two individuals. True success is always about a team of people working together and strategically toward a common goal. I would like to thank our outstanding conference leadership: presidents, athletic directors, senior woman administrators, faculty athletic representatives and conference staff for contributing to a prolific year.

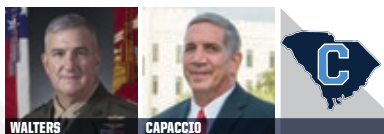
I would also like to thank our coaches, student-athletes, officials, parents, alumni, corporate sponsors, local tournament staff and of course our fans for all they do to make the SoCon one of the nation's finest conferences.

The best is yet to come!

**Jim Schaus**  
*Commissioner*



# 2019-20 INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION



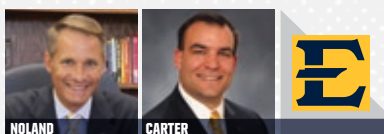
## The Citadel

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



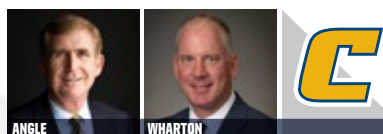
## Samford

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



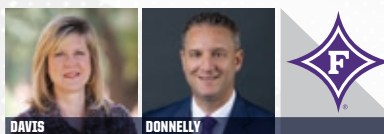
## ETSU

President..... Dr. Brian Noland  
 Athletics Director..... Scott Carter  
 Senior Woman Administrator..... Kay Lennon McGrew  
 Faculty Athletics Representative..... Dr. Susan Epps



## Chattanooga

Chancellor..... Dr. Steve Angle  
 Athletics Director..... Mark Wharton  
 Senior Woman Administrator..... Laura Herron  
 Faculty Athletics Representative..... Dr. Debbie Ingram



## Furman

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



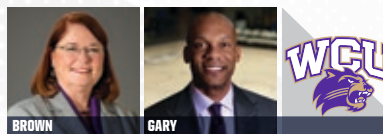
## VMI

Superintendent..... Gen J.H. Binford Peay III  
 Athletics Director..... Dr. David Diles  
 Senior Woman Administrator..... Haley Shotwell  
 Faculty Athletics Representative..... Col. Timothy M. Hodges



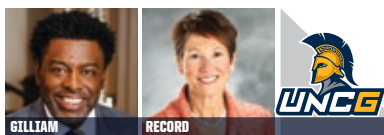
## Mercer

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



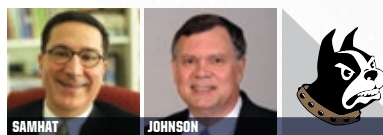
## Western Carolina

Chancellor..... Dr. Kelli R. Brown  
 Athletics Director..... Alex Gary  
 Senior Woman Administrator..... Stacey Miller  
 Faculty Athletics Representative..... Dr. A.J. Grube



## UNCG

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



## Wofford

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

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS



## Graduation Success Rate

The Southern Conference matched or exceeded the FCS average in seven men's sports and four women's sports for Graduation Success Rate scores released in October. Forty-nine SoCon programs earned perfect scores of 100 for the cohort, with 31 women's programs and 18 men's teams achieving the standard. Furman had a league-best 10 programs do so and Samford had nine. Samford was the lone SoCon school to exceed the FCS average in every sport it sponsors.

## Academic Progress Rate

Eight Southern Conference sports met or exceeded the national average and 25 league teams achieved perfect scores in the most recent APR data. Nine of the 10 SoCon members had at least one sport that posted a perfect score of 1,000, with Furman leading the way with five and Mercer following with four. UNC Greensboro, Samford and Chattanooga had three each, while The Citadel, ETSU and Western Carolina had two each and Wofford had one.

### SOCON SPORTS THAT EXCEEDED THE APR NATIONAL AVERAGE:

- |                       |                       |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY   | MEN'S TENNIS          |
| WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY | MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD |
| FOOTBALL              | SOFTBALL              |
| MEN'S GOLF            | VOLLEYBALL            |

### SOCON PROGRAMS POSTING PERFECT APR SCORES:

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>The Citadel – 2</b><br><i>(men's cross country, women's cross country)</i>                                      | <b>Mercer – 4</b><br><i>(baseball, men's cross country, men's golf, women's tennis)</i> | <b>Chattanooga – 3</b><br><i>(women's cross country, men's tennis, volleyball)</i> |
| <b>ETSU – 2</b><br><i>(women's golf, women's tennis)</i>   | <b>UNCG – 3</b><br><i>(women's golf, men's tennis, women's tennis)</i>                  | <b>Western Carolina – 2</b><br><i>(men's golf, women's golf)</i>                   |
| <b>Furman – 5</b><br><i>(men's basketball, men's cross country, softball, men's tennis, men's track and field)</i> | <b>Samford – 3</b><br><i>(women's basketball, men's cross country, women's golf)</i>    | <b>Wofford – 1</b><br><i>(women's cross country)</i>                               |

## APR Public Recognition Awards

Twenty-six Southern Conference squads in 13 different sports and representing nine member institutions were recognized by the NCAA with Public Recognition Awards for posting multiyear APRs in the top 10 percent of all Division I squads in each respective sport.

### NUMBER OF PROGRAMS EARNING PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARDS:

<b>5</b> FURMAN	<b>5</b> MERCER	<b>3</b> UNCG
<b>3</b> SAMFORD	<b>3</b> CHATTANOOGA	<b>2</b> THE CITADEL
<b>2</b> ETSU	<b>2</b> WESTERN CAROLINA	<b>1</b> WOFFORD

### By the numbers:

# 44

SOCON MEN'S PROGRAMS AT OR ABOVE THE APR NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR THEIR SPORTS

# 40

SOCON WOMEN'S PROGRAMS AT OR ABOVE THE APR NATIONAL AVERAGE FOR THEIR SPORTS

# 26

SOCON PROGRAMS EARNING APR PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARDS

# 13

SOCON SPORTS REPRESENTED AMONG THOSE EARNING APR PUBLIC RECOGNITION AWARDS



# ACADEMIC AWARDS

## CoSIDA Academic Awards

Thirty-three SoCon student-athletes earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors, with football leading the way with nine selections. Seven league student-athletes went on to earn Academic All-America honors, with Mercer defensive lineman Jack Raines earning first-team honors; Chattanooga wide receiver Bryce Nunnelly, Mercer men's basketball guard Djordje Dimitrijevic and Furman track and field and cross country runner Savannah Carnahan taking second-team distinction; and Mercer softball outfielder Allie Jones, Chattanooga track and field and cross country runner Abby Bateman and Wofford track and field multis student-athlete William Stout earning third-team honors.

### CoSIDA Academic All-America

FIRST TEAM

# JACK RAINES

R-SR., DL, MERCER, FOOTBALL



SECOND TEAM

# BRYCE NUNNELLY

JR., WR, CHATTANOOGA, FOOTBALL

# DJORDJE DIMITRIJEVIC

SR., G, MERCER, MEN'S BASKETBALL

# SAVANNAH CARNAHAN

SR., FURMAN, WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD/CROSS COUNTRY



**THIRD TEAM**  
**ALLIE JONES**  
 JR., OF, MERCER, SOFTBALL



**ABBY BATEMAN**  
 SR., CHATTANOOGA, WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD/  
 CROSS COUNTRY



**WILLIAM STOUT**  
 SR., WOFFORD, MEN'S TRACK & FIELD/  
 CROSS COUNTRY



**CoSIDA Academic  
 All-District 3**



**FIRST TEAM**

- Jonathan Boyd, Jr., Chattanooga, Men's track & field/cross country
- Nathan Watson, Sr., Chattanooga, Men's track & field/cross country
- Abby Bateman, Sr., Chattanooga, Women's track & field/cross country
- Sarah Connolly, Jr., F, ETSU, Women's soccer
- Emily Zipay, Sr., MF/F, Western Carolina, Women's soccer
- Creaghan Diekema, Sr., D, Belmont, Men's soccer
- Megan Kaufman, Jr., DS/L, Chattanooga, Volleyball
- Roberta Todd, Jr., OH, Mercer, Volleyball
- Bryce Nunnally, Jr., WR, Chattanooga, Football
- Eddie Gajardo, Sr., OL, ETSU, Football
- Jerrell Lawson, Jr., DB, Chattanooga, Football
- A.J. Smith, Jr., DB, VMI, Football
- Onno Steger, Sr., F, Western Carolina, Men's basketball
- Celie Hudson, Sr., P, Chattanooga, Softball
- Erica Hayes, Sr., IF, Western Carolina, Softball
- Morgan Kazerooni, Sr., DP, Chattanooga, Softball
- Jon Clines, Sr., IF, VMI, Baseball
- Noah Hill, Sr., IF, ETSU, Baseball

**CoSIDA Academic  
 All-District 4**

**FIRST TEAM**

- Sam Blumer, Jr., The Citadel, Men's track & field/cross country
- William Stout, Sr., Wofford, Men's track & field/cross country
- Savannah Carnahan, Sr., Furman, Women's track & field/cross country
- Abigail Veit, Sr., OH, Western Carolina, Volleyball
- Catie Cronister, Sr., OH, Wofford, Volleyball
- Tucker Cannon, Sr., WR, Mercer, Football
- Blake Jeresaty, Jr., OL, Wofford, Football
- Bo Layton, Jr., OL, Furman, Football
- Dorian Kithcart, R-Sr., DL, Mercer, Football
- Jack Raines, R-Sr., DL, Mercer, Football
- Djordje Dimitrijevic, Sr., G, Mercer, Men's basketball
- Storm Murphy, Jr., G, Wofford, Men's basketball
- Douglas Gudenburr, Sr., 157, The Citadel, At-large (wrestling)
- Noah Nawabi, Sr., The Citadel, At-large (men's tennis)
- Allie Jones, Jr., OF, Mercer, Softball



# ACADEMIC AWARDS

## 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. Because of the cancelation of the spring season, the participation requirement was modified for this year's spring team to include projected starters and key contributors. 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. The fall academic all-conference team included 351 student-athletes, while the spring team, which includes all winter and spring sports, saw 621 student-athletes earn a record 742 spots on the team. It should be noted that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some schools instituted measures of academic relief this year.

## 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 2,646 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions and 17 associate members garnered the distinction, with 710 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. It should be noted that because of the COVID-19 pandemic, some schools instituted measures of academic relief this year.

### NUMBER OF COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT SELECTIONS BY SCHOOL:

Mercer	6
Chattanooga	5
Western Carolina	4
ETSU	3
Wofford	3
The Citadel	2
VMI	2
Belmont (men's soccer associate)	1
Furman	1

### NUMBER OF COSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-DISTRICT SELECTIONS BY SPORT:

Football	9
Softball	4
Men's track and field/cross country	4
Volleyball	4
Men's basketball	3
Baseball	2
Women's soccer	2
Women's track and field/cross country	2
Men's soccer	1
Men's tennis	1
Wrestling	1

## OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

### MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU  
Furman  
Samford  
Chattanooga  
Wofford

### USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC INDIVIDUALS

Ben Varghese, ETSU  
Ryan Adams, Furman

### WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU  
Furman  
UNCG  
Samford  
Chattanooga  
Wofford

### USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC INDIVIDUALS

Savannah Carnahan, Furman  
Emma Grace Hurley, Furman

### MEN'S SOCCER UNITED SOCCER COACHES NCAA DIVISION I MEN'S SCHOLAR ALL-SOUTH REGION

**SECOND TEAM**  
Jack Shiels, Furman

### THIRD TEAM

Conor Sloan, Furman  
Leo Toledo Jr., Mercer

### FOOTBALL FCS ADA ACADEMIC ALL-STAR TEAM

Bryce Nunnally, Chattanooga  
Blake Jeresaty, Wofford

### FCS ADA APR AWARD

Wofford

### FCS ADA APR MOST IMPROVED

Chattanooga

### WRESTLING NWCA SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

The Citadel  
Gardner-Webb

### NWCA SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS

Sean Carter, Appalachian State  
Thomas Flitz, Appalachian State  
Will Formato, Appalachian State  
Matt Zwisstoski, Appalachian State  
RJ Mosley, Gardner-Webb  
Tanner Smith, Chattanooga

### RIFLE CRCA SCHOLASTIC ALL-AMERICANS

Jordan Blankenship, UAB  
Hayden Hayes, UAB  
Amy Kohan, UAB  
Thomas Loring, UAB  
Zoe Lum, UAB  
Lilly Vonderau, UAB  
Maggie Vonderau, UAB  
Cariton Wingard, UAB  
Max Brabston, The Citadel  
Kyle Goodwin, The Citadel  
Stephen Griffin, The Citadel  
Victoria Krone, The Citadel  
Emma McCorkle, The Citadel  
Demi Perez, The Citadel  
Emily Perkins, The Citadel  
Tierra Price, The Citadel  
Taylor Swiger, The Citadel  
Lillian Herring, Georgia Southern  
Ashley Judson, Georgia Southern  
Lydia Odlin, Georgia Southern  
Eric Azotea, North Georgia  
Kimberlee Nettles, North Georgia  
Jayne Fraley, North Georgia  
Tobin Sanctuary, North Georgia  
Ryan Sponauer, North Georgia  
Kelia Aardema, VMI  
Savannah Diamond, VMI  
James Doucett, VMI  
Cassidy Dufour, VMI  
Jason Gardner, VMI  
Jessica Hankin, VMI

Samantha Reid, VMI  
Nicholas Reynolds, VMI  
Nicholas Schaefer, VMI  
Carlite Shaffer, VMI  
Marcus Stallings, Wofford  
Isabella Timmons, Wofford

### MEN'S GOLF GCAA SRIXON/CLEVELAND GOLF ALL-AMERICA SCHOLARS

Austin Carter, ETSU  
Shiso Go, ETSU  
Trevor Hulbert, ETSU  
Jack Rhea, ETSU  
Keller Harper, Furman  
Matt Lehman, Furman  
Nick Lyerly, UNCG  
Zack Swanson, UNCG  
Henry Augenstein, Wofford  
Matthew Copeland, Wofford  
Ryan Marter, Wofford

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

Ankita Kedlaya, ETSU  
Kornbongkoat Sararat, ETSU  
Parkha Ijaz, ETSU  
Rimsha Ijaz, ETSU  
Caitlin Cotterill, Furman  
Carly Burkhardt, Furman  
Natalie Srinivasan, Furman  
Carol Pyon, Mercer  
Laila Hrdnova, Mercer

Lauren Lightfritz, Mercer  
Anna Bowman, UNCG  
Kendall Dobbins, UNCG  
Louisa Tichy, UNCG  
Sara Rydman, UNCG  
Tara Bettie, UNCG

Allison Howard, Samford  
Esme Hamilton, Chattanooga  
Kirsty Beckwith, Chattanooga  
Hazel Martin, Western Carolina  
Maya White, Western Carolina  
Victoria Ladd, Western Carolina  
Lina Settelmayer, Wofford  
Lindsey Hollis, Wofford

### MEN'S LACROSSE USILA/WARRIOR AND NEW BALANCE DIVISION I SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICANS

Ben Baker, High Point  
Nick Walsh, High Point  
Luke Cappetto, High Point  
Davis Sampere, High Point  
Dalton Sulver, High Point  
Chris Price, High Point  
Michael Quinn, Mercer  
Sean Menges, Richmond  
Jack Rusbuldt, Richmond  
Tate Gallagher, Richmond  
Jack Cook, Richmond



# SOCON POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS



The Southern Conference has awarded 183 postgraduate scholarships since 1990-91, from modest beginnings of two in that first year to 10 in each of the last eight 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.

## 2019-20 SOCON GRADUATE SCHOLARS

NAME (INSTITUTION)	SPORT	ACADEMIC MAJOR	GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
<b>William Stout</b> ( <i>Wofford</i> )	Men's track and field	Biology	Dave Hart
<b>Danni Vines</b> ( <i>Furman</i> )	Women's tennis	Health sciences	Dorothy Hicks
<b>Kirsty Beckwith</b> ( <i>Chattanooga</i> )	Women's golf	Psychology	Insurance Office of America
<b>Maggie Johnston</b> ( <i>Samford</i> )	Women's track and field	Communication studies/Spanish	David Knight
<b>Jack Raines</b> ( <i>Mercer</i> )	Football	Finance/Spanish	Bob McCloskey Insurance
<b>Sam Franklin</b> ( <i>VMI</i> )	Women's soccer	Arabic/International Studies	Bob McCloskey Insurance
<b>Lakelyn Bouldin</b> ( <i>Chattanooga</i> )	Women's basketball	Biology	William V. Moore presented by McMillan Pazdan Smith
<b>Nikki Grupp</b> ( <i>ETSU</i> )	Softball	Physical education-exercise science	Southern Conference Presidential
<b>Alexis Pitchford</b> ( <i>UNCG</i> )	Women's basketball	Media studies	Southern Conference Presidential
<b>Emily Zipay</b> ( <i>Western Carolina</i> )	Women's soccer	Biology	Southern Conference Presidential



NIKKI GRUPP



JACK RAINES



MAGGIE JOHNSTON



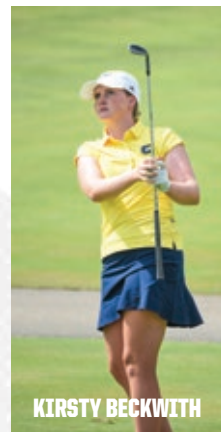
WILLIAM STOUT



LAKELYN BOULDIN



ALEXIS PITCHFORD



KIRSTY BECKWITH



SAM FRANKLIN



EMILY ZIPAY



DANNI VINES

# 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 2021.

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## 2019-20 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FACULTY TEAM

Dr. James Bezjian, The Citadel, Asst. Professor, Entrepreneurship  
 Dr. Joe D. Moore, ETSU, Assoc. Professor, Music  
 Dr. Virginia W. Gerde, Furman, Professor, Strategic Management and Business Ethics  
 Dr. Sybil Keesbury, Mercer, Assoc. Professor, Special Education  
 Dr. Tom Martinek, UNCG, Professor, Kinesiology  
 Dr. Emily Hynds, Samford, Professor, Mathematics  
 Dr. Debbie Ingram, Chattanooga, Professor, Physical Therapy  
 Col. Jack B. “Jay” Johnson Jr., VMI, Professor, Physical Education  
 Dr. Channa De Silva, Western Carolina, Assoc. Professor of Chemistry  
 Dr. Dan Mathewson, Wofford, Assoc. Professor of Religion

## 2019-20 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF TEAM

Stanton Adams, The Citadel, Marketing Specialist  
 Jay Seehorn, ETSU, Supervisor of Central Receiving  
 Elaine Baker, Furman, Director of Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation Operation/SWA  
 Myra Cameron, Mercer, Administrative/Eligibility Coordinator  
 John Chapman, UNCG, Co-founder of North Carolina Sales Institute  
 Theresa Kanute, Samford, One Stop Advisor  
 Terry Denniston, Chattanooga, Chief of Staff for the Chancellor  
 Col. Sarah L. Jones, VMI, Director of the Center for Cadet Counseling/Director for the Office of Disabilities Services  
 Dr. Lowell K. Davis, Western Carolina, Assoc. Vice Chancellor for Student Success  
 Curt McPhail, Wofford, Executive Director of The Space

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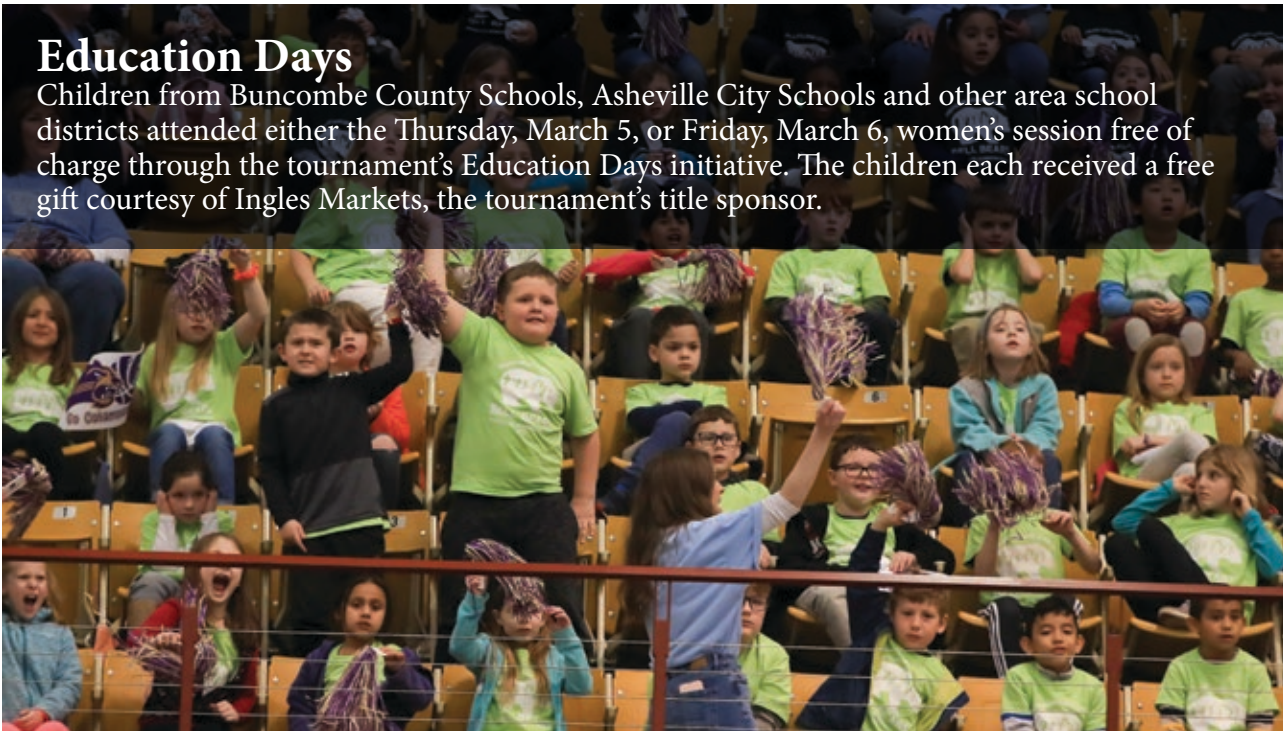
# COMMUNITY OUTREACH EVENTS



The Southern Conference and the Asheville-Buncombe Regional Sports Commission support a number of programs aimed at providing individuals and groups in the Western North Carolina area with assistance and allowing them to attend designated sessions of the Ingles SoCon Basketball Championships presented by General Shale free of charge.

## Education Days

Children from Buncombe County Schools, Asheville City Schools and other area school districts attended either the Thursday, March 5, or Friday, March 6, women's session free of charge through the tournament's Education Days initiative. The children each received a free gift courtesy of Ingles Markets, the tournament's title sponsor.



## Downtown Dribble and KidsFest presented by Champion Credit Union

Downtown Dribble and KidsFest took place in Pack Square in downtown Asheville on Saturday, March 7. The Square was filled with interactive games, as well as cheerleaders, bands and mascots. Children who attended the event were given a free basketball and T-shirt and a wristband allowing them free admission to the men's session beginning at noon that same day. The event culminated with a dribble parade from Pack Square to the Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville.

## SoCon Morning/Afternoon Out

The Southern Conference, working through the Asheville Police Department and the Buncombe County Sheriff's Department, provided a morning and afternoon out for select elementary school-aged children on Saturday, March 7. The children attended the Downtown Dribble and KidsFest on Saturday morning, as well as the afternoon men's session at Harrah's Cherokee Center Asheville.

The kids were treated to a pizza party and received free apparel courtesy of the Western North Carolina Children's Fund and adidas.



**“One of the many great aspects to this tournament is that it’s more than just great college basketball. It is a signature event in the Asheville community that gives back and benefits so many deserving people.”**

—Commissioner Jim Schaus

### Teddy Bear Toss

Those that attended the 4 p.m. game on Sunday, March 8, had the opportunity to make a donation to the Mountain Child Advocacy Center in order to receive a stuffed teddy bear. At halftime of the game, the bears were thrown onto the playing court and donated to be used as comfort bears for children at the Mission Children’s Hospital and by local law enforcement agencies.

### Hometown Heroes Night

Members of the military, fire, police, emergency and medical services, charitable organizations

and civil service employees were afforded an opportunity to attend the men’s championship game free of charge on Monday, March 9, as part of Hometown Heroes Night sponsored by Blue Cross Blue Shield of Western North Carolina, Duke Energy and Hedrick Industries.

### Wounded Warrior Project

A number of military veterans were recognized at halftimes and timeouts during the championships through the Wounded Warrior Project.

### Hoops Against Hunger

The Southern Conference and Eblen Charities teamed up throughout the championships to provide awareness and to help combat childhood hunger through the Hoops Against Hunger program. An information booth was set up at Harrah’s Cherokee Center Asheville to provide information about childhood hunger and to accept cash or food donations. The Hoops Against Hunger Hotel Challenge also took place during the tournament at local hotels as each hotel had a collection bin in its lobby. Two winners of the Challenge were selected and the Hilton Garden Inn Downtown (3,239 food items) and the Hyatt Place Downtown (2,500 food items) were recognized at halftime of the men’s championship game. Awareness of the Hoops Against Hunger program was also displayed through the Hoops Against Hunger Relay Challenge during halftime of each tournament game and by the team coaching staffs wearing Hoops Against Hunger lapel pins.



# SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR



**BOB WATERS SOCON MALE  
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

**NEAL RICHARDS, VMI  
WRESTLING**

**SOCON FEMALE  
ATHLETE OF THE YEAR**

**NATALIE SRINIVASAN, FURMAN  
WOMEN'S GOLF**



VMI redshirt senior wrestler Neal Richards and Furman senior women's golfer Natalie Srinivasan are the 2019-20 Bob Waters Southern Conference Male Athlete of the Year and SoCon Female Athlete of the Year, respectively.

Richards becomes the just the second VMI student-athlete to be named the SoCon Male Athlete of the Year and the first since Johnny Mapp in 1953-54. Richards also becomes just the second wrestler to earn the award, joining Appalachian State's Austin Trotman, who took the distinction in 2011-12.

Richards was named a second-team All-American by the National Wrestling Coaches Association this season, becoming just the third Keydet and first since 1999 to earn All-America honors. The 174-pounder shared SoCon Championship Most Outstanding Wrestler honors in 2020, taking the award for the second straight season after winning the league title in the weight class and qualifying for the NCAA Championships for the third time in his career.

The South Chesterfield, Virginia, native finished the 2019-20 season with a 38-7 record that included six major decisions, seven technical falls and five pins. In addition to his 174-pound title at the SoCon Wrestling Championships, Richards also claimed the crown in that weight class at the All-Academy Championships. He won 18 of his final 19 matches to close the season and earned a spot on the Virginia Sports Information Directors all-state first team.

Richards, who graduated with a degree in civil engineering, is commissioning in the United States Army.

Srinivasan becomes the ninth Paladin to earn the SoCon Female Athlete of the Year award and the second Furman women's golfer to be honored, joining Caroline Peek (1993-94).

A first-team All-America selection by both Golfweek and the Women's Golf Coaches Association, Srinivasan was named the PING WGCA National Player of the Year and won the ANNIKA Award presented by Stifel, given annually to the top female U.S. collegiate golfer and voted on by players, coaches and members of the golf media. Srinivasan also won the inaugural Juli Inkster Senior Award presented by WorkDay, which recognizes the highest-ranked women's collegiate golfer in her final year of NCAA eligibility.

The Spartanburg, South Carolina, native, who led the conference and set a Furman single-season record with a stroke average of 70.78 over 18 rounds, concluded her career as the top-ranked active collegiate golfer according to Golfstat after winning three tournaments during her senior year: the Glass City Invitational, the Lady Paladin Invitational and the Moon Golf Open. Srinivasan also finished as the runner-up at the Darius Rucker Invitational and posted five top-20 finishes over six tournaments. She ended her Paladin career with a program-best 72.6 stroke average over 118 rounds while earning

a second invitation to the Augusta National Women's Amateur.

Srinivasan graduated summa cum laude with a degree in health sciences, finishing with a 3.90 grade point average. The Furman Dean's list selection is also a three-time member of the WGCA All-American Scholar Team and SoCon Academic Honor Roll.

Srinivasan was the recipient of the Winston Babb Memorial Award, which is given by the Furman Chapter of Omicron Delta Kappa to the woman in each class who has demonstrated the most outstanding qualities of leadership, scholarship, and service to the university. Off the course, she has devoted time volunteering with Prisma Children's Hospital and LPGA/USGA Girl's Golf Organization.

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.

# FALL SPORTS



## **MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION: FURMAN**

Runner of the Year - Ryan Adams, R-Sr., Furman  
Freshman of the Year - David Ahlmeyer, Furman  
Coach of the Year - Robert Gary, Furman  
Pinnacle Award - Trent Mandato, Furman



## **WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPION: FURMAN**

Runner of the Year - Hannah Steelman, Jr., Wofford  
Freshman of the Year - McKenzie Hogue, Samford  
Coach of the Year - Robert Gary, Furman  
Pinnacle Award - Emma Kuntz, Furman



## **WOMEN'S SOCCER REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONS: FURMAN, SAMFORD TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: SAMFORD**

Player of the Year - Nicole Icen, Fr., F, Mercer  
Defensive Player of the Year - Taylore Miller, Jr., D, Samford  
Freshman of the Year - Jasmine Greene, F, Furman  
Coach of the Year - Tony Economopoulos, Mercer  
Tournament Most Outstanding Player - Morgan McAslan, Samford  
Pinnacle Award - Taylore Miller, Samford



## **MEN'S SOCCER REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONS: FURMAN, UNC GREENSBORO TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: MERCER**

Player of the Year - Casey Penland, Sr., D, UNCG  
Goalkeeper of the Year - Josh Perryman, R-So., ETSU  
Freshman of the Year - Adrian Roseth, MF, Wofford  
Coach of the Year - Doug Allison, Furman  
Tournament Most Outstanding Player - JR DeRose, Mercer  
Pinnacle Award - George Iakovidis, Mercer



## **VOLLEYBALL REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPION: SAMFORD TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: SAMFORD**

Player of the Year - Kelsi Hobbs, Sr., RS, Samford  
Libero of the Year - Meagan Sanchez, Sr., Western Carolina  
Rayna Taylor Freshman of the Year - Olivia Cunningham, OH, ETSU  
Coach of the Year - Karen Glover, Western Carolina  
Tournament Most Outstanding Player - Kelsi Hobbs, Samford  
Pinnacle Award - Sierra Rayzor, Samford



## **FOOTBALL CHAMPION: WOFFORD**

Offensive Player of the Year - Joe Newman, Sr., QB, Wofford  
Defensive Player of the Year - Willie Eubanks III, Jr., LB, The Citadel  
Freshman of the Year - Ailym Ford, RB, Chattanooga  
Jacobs Blocking Award - Blake Jeresaty, Jr., OL, Wofford  
Coach of the Year - Scott Wachenheim, VMI  
Pinnacle Award - Blake Jeresaty, Wofford

# WINTER SPORTS



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPIONS: UNC GREENSBORO, SAMFORD, CHATTANOOGA TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: SAMFORD

Player of the Year - Nadine Soliman, Sr., G, UNCG  
 Freshman of the Year - Lilly Hatton, F, Wofford  
 Defensive Player of the Year - Shannon Titus, Jr., G/F, Mercer  
 Coach of the Year - Trina Patterson, UNCG  
 Ann Lashley Inspiration Award - Lakelyn Bouldin, Sr., G, Chattanooga  
 Tournament Most Outstanding Player - Natalie Armstrong, Samford  
 Pinnacle Award - Samantha Fitzgerald, Samford



## WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPION: SAMFORD

Most Outstanding Athlete - Savannah Carnahan, Furman  
 Most Outstanding Track Performer - Savannah Carnahan, Furman  
 Most Outstanding Field Performer - Maggie Johnston, Samford  
 Freshman of the Year - Georgia McDevitt, Wofford  
 Coach of the Year - Rod Tiffin, Samford  
 Pinnacle Award - Amanda Dumar, Samford



## MEN'S BASKETBALL REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPION: ETSU TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: ETSU

Player of the Year - Isaiah Miller, Jr., G, UNCG  
 Freshmen of the Year - Keyshaun Langley, G, UNCG; Travis Eevee, G, VMI  
 Defensive Player of the Year - Isaiah Miller, Jr., G, UNCG  
 Coach of the Year - Steve Forbes, ETSU  
 Tournament Most Outstanding Player - Isaiah Tisdale, ETSU  
 Pinnacle Award - Patrick Good, ETSU



## WRESTLING REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPION: CAMPBELL TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: CAMPBELL

Wrestler of the Year - Noah Gonser, R-Sr., 133, Campbell  
 Freshman of the Year - Sean Carter, 125, Appalachian State  
 Coach of the Year - Cary Kolat, Campbell  
 Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestlers - Neal Richards, 174, VMI; Cary Miller, HWT, Appalachian State  
 Pinnacle Award - Austin Kraisser, Campbell



## MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPION: SAMFORD

Heath Whittle Award (Men's Most Outstanding Athlete) - Matt Cahoon, Samford; Emmanuel Tait, Samford  
 Most Outstanding Track Performer - Emmanuel Tait, Samford  
 Most Outstanding Field Performer - Matt Cahoon, Samford  
 Freshman of the Year - Evan Brooks, Samford  
 Coach of the Year - Rod Tiffin, Samford  
 Pinnacle Award - Hunter Poole, Samford



## RIFLE REGULAR-SEASON CHAMPION: UAB TOURNAMENT CHAMPION: UAB

Smallbore Athlete of the Year - Kimberlee Nettles, North Georgia  
 Air Rifle Athletes of the Year - Ashley Judson, Georgia Southern; Kimberlee Nettles, North Georgia  
 Freshman of the Year - Amy Kohan, UAB  
 Coaches of the Year - Sandra Worman, Georgia Southern; Lt. Col. Bill Bither, VMI  
 Pinnacle Award - Jordan Blankenship, UAB

## 30-WIN MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAMS IN SOCON HISTORY

North Carolina  
 30-5 | 1944-46

NC State  
 30-7 | 1950-51

Wofford  
 30-5 | 2018-19

ETSU  
 30-4 | 2019-20

## DID YOU KNOW?

The title game of the Ingles SoCon Men's Basketball Championship presented by General Shale sold out for the third time in four years in 2020. This year's average attendance of 4,927 was the tournament's highest since averaging 5,551 fans per session in 2012, the first year the tournament had been in Asheville, North Carolina, since 1995.

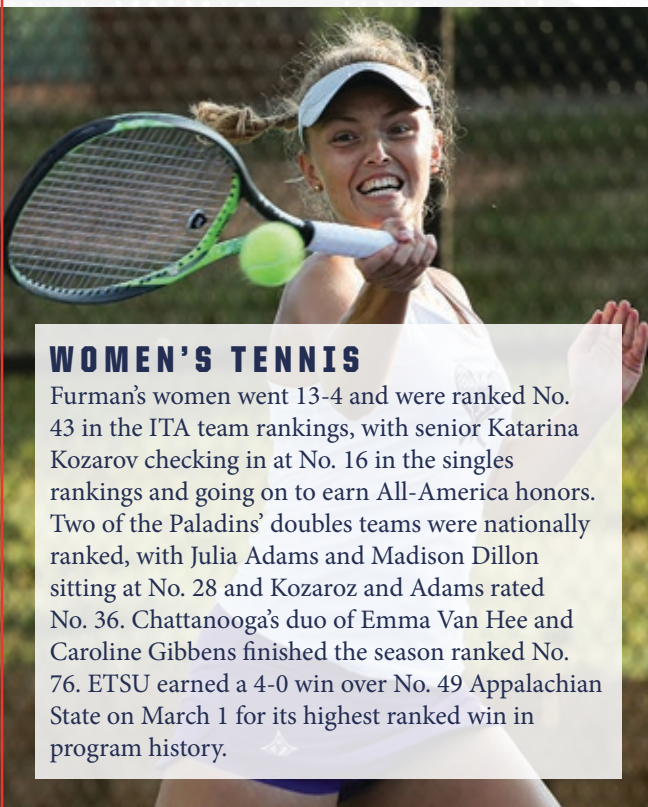
# SPRING SPORTS

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the spring season was canceled in mid-March. Before their seasons were canceled, however, SoCon squads and student-athletes were well on their way to successful campaigns.



## MEN'S TENNIS

Mercer senior Olivier Stuart was ranked as high as No. 46 in the ITA singles rankings, the highest in program history, and finished the season ranked No. 71. Stuart went 17-8 overall on the season, including an 8-4 mark at No. 1 singles in the spring. In doubles play, Furman's Jake Munns and Jake Bhangdia were ranked No. 40 nationally. The duo went 8-2 at No. 1 in the spring.



## WOMEN'S TENNIS

Furman's women went 13-4 and were ranked No. 43 in the ITA team rankings, with senior Katarina Kozarov checking in at No. 16 in the singles rankings and going on to earn All-America honors. Two of the Paladins' doubles teams were nationally ranked, with Julia Adams and Madison Dillon sitting at No. 28 and Kozarov and Adams rated No. 36. Chattanooga's duo of Emma Van Hee and Caroline Gibbens finished the season ranked No. 76. ETSU earned a 4-0 win over No. 49 Appalachian State on March 1 for its highest ranked win in program history.

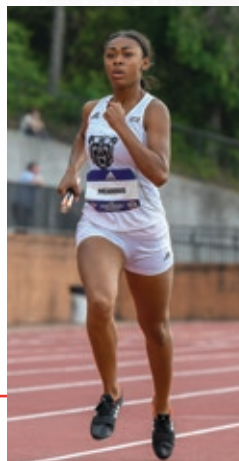
## MEN'S GOLF

UNCG and ETSU both won tournament titles during the season, with the Spartans winning consecutive tournaments spanning the fall and spring seasons and the Bucs, ranked No. 26 nationally, adding a trio of runner-up finishes to their win in Hawaii. Individually, seven different SoCon student-athletes won or shared medalist honors throughout the season. UNCG senior Jonathan Brightwell earned All-America honors from the GCAA and Golfweek and finished the season ranked No. 13 nationally. ETSU's Jack Rhea finished the season ranked No. 36 and earned All-America honorable mention from both organizations, while teammate Shiso Go was also ranked inside the top 100, finishing at No. 90.



## WOMEN'S GOLF

Furman senior Natalie Srinivasan was named the WGCA PING National Player of the Year and won the ANNIKA Award and the inaugural Juli Inkster Senior Award after winning three tournaments and finishing as the top-ranked active golfer in the Golfstat national rankings. Srinivasan was one of eight SoCon players to finish first in a tournament this season, while three league squads earned team wins. As a team, the Paladins were ranked No. 35 nationally. ETSU's Tereza Melecka spent time in the top 50 in the world amateur golf rankings and Srinivasan has been ranked inside the top 10.



## OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Outdoor season had barely begun in the SoCon, with only Mercer's women's team competing before the season was called off. The Bears picked up several event wins in their season debut at the Jaguar Open.



## MEN'S LACROSSE

Air Force, High Point and Richmond each spent time in the national rankings this year, with the Falcons pulling off one of the biggest upsets of the season with a 14-13 win over No. 5 Duke to open the campaign. Mercer sophomore attackman Sean Goldsmith finished the abbreviated season as the Division I leader in goals per game (4.86), twice matching the SoCon record with seven goals in a game and earning Inside Lacrosse Maverik Media All-America honorable mention alongside Richmond's Sean Menges and Jason Reynolds.



## WOMEN'S LACROSSE

Mercer was off to a 5-2 start when the season was curtailed, with sophomore Hailey Rhatigan leading the league in scoring at 4.86 points per game. Furman's Hannah Demis finished the season leading the SoCon and in the top 10 in Division I in assists (20) and assists per game (2.86).



## BASEBALL

Several league teams got off to hot starts, with six finishing with at least 10 wins and four finishing with three losses or fewer. Samford finished with a 13-2 mark that including a nine-game win streak, with Wofford just behind at 14-3, including a 4-3 win over No. 14 Auburn in what would be its last game of the season. Mercer

won its first 11 games of the season en route to a 13-3 record, while ETSU's eight-game win streak was halted by No. 20 Tennessee to end the season at 12-3. ETSU pitcher Landon Knack, who led Division I with 51 strikeouts and a 51.00 strikeout-to-walk ratio, and Samford second baseman Brooks Carlson, who led DI with a .644 on-base percentage, earned first-team All-America honors from Collegiate Baseball. Knack was taken in the second round of the MLB First-Year Player Draft by the Los Angeles Dodgers, while Western Carolina's Chase Walter and Wofford's Brett Rodriguez signed free-agent deals with the San Diego Padres and Seattle Mariners, respectively.

## SOFTBALL

The SoCon's seven softball teams had yet to get into conference play when the season was canceled, but defending regular-season champion UNCG was off to a 15-7 start to the year and ETSU earned its first-ever win over a ranked opponent when it downed No. 20 Tennessee on March 1. Freshman hurler Savannah Rice pitched a gem in her first game in a Western Carolina uniform, tossing a complete-game shutout as the Catamounts played spoiler in Clemson's inaugural home game by defeating the Tigers 2-0 in game one of a doubleheader on Feb. 12. Emily Coltharp of preseason SoCon favorite and defending SoCon tournament champion Chattanooga was hitting .415 through 21 games, while teammate Celie Hudson was leading the league with a 1.92 ERA.



# NATIONAL AWARDS



## MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Ryan Adams, Sr., Furman  
*USTFCCCA All-America*

## WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

Savannah Carnahan, Sr., Furman  
*USTFCCCA All-America*

Gabbi Jennings, Sr., Furman  
*USTFCCCA All-America*

Hannah Steelman, Jr., Wofford  
*USTFCCCA All-America*

## FOOTBALL

### ALL-AMERICANS

Willie Eubanks III, LB, Jr., The Citadel  
*AFCA (1st), AP (1st), Phil Steele (1st), STATS (2nd)*

Brandon Rainey, QB/ATH, Jr., The Citadel  
*HERO Sports (3rd)*

Nasir Player, DL, R-Sr., ETSU  
*AFCA (2nd), HERO Sports (2nd), Phil Steele (4th), STATS (2nd)*

Artevious Smith, DB, R-Sr., ETSU  
*AP (2nd), Phil Steele (3rd), STATS (2nd)*

Grayson Atkins, K, Jr., Furman  
*AFCA (1st), AP (2nd), Phil Steele (2nd), STATS (2nd)*

Devin Wynn, RB, Jr., Furman  
*Phil Steele (4th)*

Montrell Washington, PR, Jr., Samford  
*HERO Sports (2nd), Phil Steele (2nd), STATS (1st)*

Alex Ramsey, RB/AP, R-Jr., VMI  
*AFCA (2nd), AP (2nd), HERO Sports (3rd), Phil Steele (2nd), STATS (2nd)*

Justus Basinger, OL, Sr., Wofford  
*HERO Sports (3rd)*

Blake Jeresaty, OL, Jr., Wofford  
*AFCA (2nd), AP (1st), Phil Steele (3rd), STATS (2nd)*

Joe Newman, QB/ATH, Sr., Wofford  
*HERO Sports (2nd)*



## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

*Achieving Coaching Excellence College Basketball Coaching Honor Roll*  
Trina Patterson, UNCG

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

*Achieving Coaching Excellence College Basketball Coaching Honor Roll*  
Lamont Paris, Chattanooga  
*Hugh Durham Award (top DI mid-major coach)*  
Steve Forbes, ETSU

*Skip Prosser Man of the Year Award*  
Mark Prosser, Western Carolina

### ALL-AMERICANS

Tray Boyd III, Sr., G, ETSU  
*Lute Olson*

Bo Hodges, Jr., G, ETSU  
*Lou Henson, Lute Olson*

Jordan Lyons, Sr., G, Furman  
*Lute Olson*

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

Carlos Dotson, Sr., F, Western Carolina  
*Lute Olson*



## MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Ryan Adams, Sr., Furman

*USTFCCCA All-America*

## WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Gabbi Jennings, Sr., Furman

*USTFCCCA All-America*

Hannah Steelman, Jr., Wofford

*USTFCCCA All-America*

## WRESTLING

ALL-AMERICANS

Josh Heil, R-Jr., 141, Campbell

*NWCA (1st)*

Andrew Morgan, R-Sr., 184, Campbell

*NWCA (1st)*



Noah Gonser, R-Sr., 133, Campbell

*NWCA (2nd)*

Neal Richards, R-Sr., 174, VMI

*NWCA (2nd)*

Quentin Perez, R-Sr., 165, Campbell

*NWCA (HM)*

Jere Heino, R-Sr., 285, Campbell

*NWCA (HM)*

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

*ITA DI Most Improved Senior*

Katarina Kozarov, Furman

*ITA Cissie Leary Sportsmanship Award*

Jordan Strickland, Sr., Western Carolina

ALL-AMERICA

Katarina Kozarov, Sr., Furman

*ITA (1st)*

## MEN'S GOLF

ALL-AMERICA

Jonathan Brightwell, Sr., UNCG

*GCAA PING (2nd), Golfweek (3rd)*

Jack Rhea, Jr., ETSU

*GCAA PING (HM), Golfweek (HM)*

## WOMEN'S GOLF

*WGCA PING National Player of the Year*

Natalie Srinivasan, Sr., Furman

*ANNIKA Award*

Natalie Srinivasan, Sr., Furman

*Juli Inkster Senior Award*

Natalie Srinivasan, Sr., Furman

*WGCA Kim Moore Spirit Award*

Carly Burkhardt, Jr., Furman

ALL-AMERICA

Natalie Srinivasan, Sr., Furman

*GCAA PING (1st), Golfweek (1st)*

## MEN'S LACROSSE

ALL-AMERICA

Sean Goldsmith, So., A, Mercer

*Inside Lacrosse Maverik (HM)*



Sean Menges, Sr., LSM, Richmond

*Inside Lacrosse Maverik (HM)*

Jason Reynolds, Jr., D, Richmond

*Inside Lacrosse Maverik (HM)*

## BASEBALL

ALL-AMERICA

Landon Knack, RHP, Sr., ETSU

*Collegiate Baseball (1st)*

Brooks Carlson, 2B, Jr., Samford

*Collegiate Baseball (1st)*

# 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.

## SUMMER MEETING

The SoCon SAAC met on July 19-21, 2019, on the campus of The Citadel for the group's summer meeting. Representatives from member schools and their advisors convened for leadership training, camaraderie and fun. The goal of this meeting was to provide campus SAAC representatives an opportunity to learn more about future conference plans as well as to develop initiatives that could be carried out league-wide during the 2019-20 academic year. First-year SoCon Commissioner Jim Schaus discussed developing a strategic plan as a guide for league endeavors as well as commemorations for the conference's upcoming 100th anniversary.



## MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

The SoCon SAAC chose mental health as its focus initiative for the 2019-20 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 first week of October. They created 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.

# HALL OF FAME



The 2020 Southern Conference Hall of Fame class includes members of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame and Pro Football Hall of Fame, a 10-year Major League Baseball veteran, an NCAA pioneer and an NCAA record-holder. This year's group of individuals represents the ninth class of inductees into the league's Hall of Fame, highlighting 99 years of athletic success.

## THE 2020 INDUCTEES ARE:

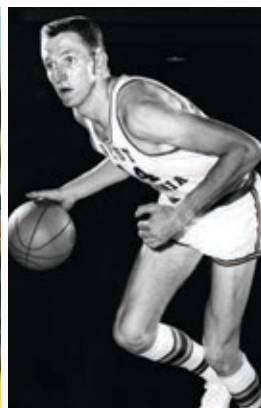
**Lynne Agee**  
(UNC Greensboro)

**Eric Breitenstein**  
(Wofford)

**Terrell Owens**  
(Chattanooga)

**Rod Thorn**  
(West Virginia)

**Wayne Tolleson**  
(Western Carolina)



### 2009 INDUCTION CLASS

#### INAUGURAL YEAR

- Megan Dunigan, Women's Tennis
- Dick Groat, Men's Basketball/Baseball
- Sam Huff, Football
- Charlie Justice, Football
- Melissa Morrison Howard, Track & Field
- Arnold Palmer, Men's Golf
- Adrian Peterson, Football
- Frank Selvy, Men's Basketball
- Jerry West, Men's Basketball
- Valorie Whiteside, Women's Basketball

### 2010 INDUCTION CLASS

- Everett Case, Men's Basketball
- Mary Jayne Harrelson, Women's Track & Field/Cross Country
- Fred Hetzel, Men's Basketball
- "Hot" Rod Hundley, Men's Basketball
- Banks McFadden, Football/Men's Basketball
- Wallace Wade, Football/Commissioner
- \*J. Dallas Shirley, Southern Conference

### 2011 INDUCTION CLASS

- Dexter Coakley, Football
- Lefty Driesell, Men's Basketball
- Regina Kirk, Women's Basketball
- Gen. Robert Neyland, Football
- Vic Seixas, Men's Tennis
- Shannon Wommack, Women's Track & Field/Cross Country

### 2012 INDUCTION CLASS

- Angie Barker, Women's Track & Field
- Percy Beard, Men's Track & Field
- \*Jim Burch, Southern Conference
- Dick Modzelewski, Football
- Paul Scarpa, Men's Tennis

### 2014 INDUCTION CLASS

- Rushia Brown, Women's Basketball
- Eddie Cameron, Football/Men's Basketball
- Clint Dempsey, Men's Soccer
- Jerry Moore, Football
- Charlie Teague, Baseball

### 2016 INDUCTION CLASS

- Stephen Curry, Men's Basketball
- Armani Edwards, Football
- Brad Faxon, Men's Golf
- Keith "Mister" Jennings, Men's Basketball
- Karen Pelphrey, Women's Basketball

### 2018 INDUCTION CLASS

- Mike Ayers, Football
- Ron Carter, Men's Basketball
- Susan Gardner Mayhorn, Women's Track & Field/Cross Country
- Chal Port, Baseball
- \*Les Robinson, Men's Basketball/Administration
- Debbie Southern, Women's Tennis

### 2020 INDUCTION CLASS

- Lynne Agee, Women's Basketball
- Eric Breitenstein, Football
- Terrell Owens, Football/Men's Basketball/Men's Track & Field
- Rod Thorn, Men's Basketball/Baseball
- Wayne Tolleson, Baseball/Football

*\*Special Contributor*

## NCAA LEADERSHIP

Representatives from all 10 Southern Conference schools hold NCAA appointments, including UNC Greensboro Chancellor Dr. Franklin D. Gilliam Jr. serving on the Division I Presidential Forum and Samford Director of Athletics Martin Newton serving on the Division I Council.



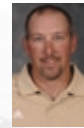
COMMITTEE ON SPORTSMANSHIP  
AND ETHICAL CONDUCT

**David L. Diles**  
AD | VMI | 08/31/21



DIVISION I MEN'S  
SOCCER COMMITTEE

**Sybil Blalock**  
SWA | Mercer | 08/31/24



DIVISION I WOMEN'S  
SOCCER COMMITTEE

**Chad Miller**  
WSOC Coach | Western Carolina | 08/31/20



DIVISION I BASEBALL  
COMMITTEE

**James C. Cole**  
AD | Mercer | 08/31/21



DIVISION I  
PRESIDENTIAL FORUM

**Dr. Franklin D.  
Gilliam Jr.**  
Chancellor | UNCG | 08/31/20



DIVISION I WOMEN'S  
VOLLEYBALL COMMITTEE

**Michelle Durban**  
SWA | Samford | 08/31/21



DIVISION I COMMITTEE  
ON ACADEMICS

**Kim S. Record**  
AD | UNCG | 08/31/23



DIVISION I PROGRESS TOWARD  
DEGREE WAIVERS COMMITTEE

**Emily Blackman**  
Senior Assoc. AD | Chattanooga | 08/31/23



DIVISION I WRESTLING  
COMMITTEE

**Rob Hjerling**  
WR Coach | The Citadel | 08/31/23



DIVISION I  
COUNCIL

**Martin Newton**  
AD | Samford | 06/30/23



DIVISION I STUDENT-ATHLETE  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Anna Claire Atha**  
Student-Athlete | Wofford | 05/31/22



MEN'S BASKETBALL  
RULES COMMITTEE

**Richard Johnson**  
AD | Wofford | 08/31/20



DIVISION I FOOTBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE

**Scott Carter**  
AD | ETSU | 08/31/22



DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Anna Claire Atha**  
Student-Athlete | Wofford | 05/31/21



MEN'S AND WOMEN'S  
RIFLE COMMITTEE

**Kathy Kroupa**  
SWA | The Citadel | 08/31/24



DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Martin Newton**  
AD | Samford | 06/30/23



DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL  
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Jackie Carson**  
WBK Coach | Furman | 06/30/23



WOMEN'S SOFTBALL  
RULES COMMITTEE

**Janelle Breneman**  
SB Coach | UNCG | 08/31/23



DIVISION I MEN'S  
LACROSSE COMMITTEE

**Richie Meade**  
MLAX Coach | Furman | 08/31/20



DIVISION I WOMEN'S  
GOLF COMMITTEE

**Jeff Hull**  
WGOLF Coach | Furman | 08/31/21



POSTGRADUATE  
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

**Jameica B. Hill**  
FAR | Wofford | 08/31/23

# ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES



## Strategic Plan

The Southern Conference, as a part of a year-long process with its membership institutions, completed a long-term strategic plan to serve as a guide to ensure a successful future for years to come. The vision is to be the premier mid-major conference. Top priorities in the plan include (listed alphabetically): academic excellence, athletic success, branding and marketing, conference championships, fiscal responsibility, integrity, membership and student-athlete well-being.



## 100th Anniversary

The Southern Conference will be celebrating its 100th anniversary season in 2020-21. It is the third-oldest conference for continuous membership under the same name. A list of exciting projects to recognize this historic event has been finalized and will be unveiled beginning in the fall. All of the greatest moments, student-athletes, coaches and teams will be promoted.



## JMI Sports Partnership

Another milestone was achieved with the signing of a new multimedia rights partnership with JMI Sports to coordinate all corporate sponsorships for the conference. JMI Sports' list of clients includes Clemson, Notre Dame and Kentucky as well as the Mountain West Conference, Mid-American Conference, Ivy League and Patriot League. The partnership will provide new opportunities to grow the business platform of the conference and provide benefits to its members.



## New Officiating Consortiums

The conference agreed to join the SEC football and men's basketball officiating consortiums beginning with the 2020-21 season. Joining the SEC consortium, along with several other top conferences, will provide more opportunities to attract and train high-quality officials.

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CONFERENCE

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STUDENT-ATHLETES FOR  
LIFE'S CHALLENGES  
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