



# UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS

Office of Student-Athlete Success

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## LEADERSHIP TEAM

[Eric A. Wood](#)

Associate A.D. for  
Student-Athlete Services

[Felecia Saine](#)

Director of Academics

[Charles Small, Ed.D.](#)

Director of Student-Athlete  
Development

[Christine Sheets](#)

Associate Director of  
Educational Enrichment

# Razorback Student-Athletes Post Record GPAs

On Wednesday, January 27th, the court at Bud Walton Arena was filled with Razorback student-athletes being recognized for their academic accomplishments.

For student-athletes, academic achievement and success in the classroom is just as important as their individual and team performance in their respective sports. Their dedication and hard work — along with the support of coaches and members of the Office of Student-Athlete Success staff — has resulted in the department posting a program-record 3.25 cumulative GPA for the Fall 2015 semester.



That mark tops last year's previous record, a 3.24 cumulative GPA for the Fall 2014 semester. This laudable achievement is the 12th consecutive semester where the department GPA has been at 3.0 or above at the end of term.

In addition:

- The Fall 2015 average term GPA of 3.24 was an improvement over the 3.22 Fall 2014 average term GPA
- 16 of 19 Razorback teams finished with an overall and cumulative GPA greater than 3.0. In comparison, only 14 teams accomplished this feat during the Fall 2014 semester
- A record 63 student-athletes posted a perfect 4.0 GPA, topping the Fall 2014 mark of 54, a 16.6 percent year-to-year increase
- 109 student-athletes achieved a personal best GPA in the Fall 2015 semester, a striking 39.7 percent increase from the Fall 2014 mark of 78
- 298 student-athletes made the department honor roll (at or above 3.0) during the Fall 2015 semester, compared to 264 a year ago, an increase of 12.8 percent

## Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC)



Razorback student-athletes and the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee helped nine local school children in the eighth annual Shop With the SAAC event.

Razorback student-athletes raised over \$1,400 to take nine children selected by their school's counselor on a shopping trip to Toys"R"Us on Dec. 8.

In addition, the nine children were provided with a \$25 Harp's Foods gift card and a brand new coat.

### LEE SPENCER CUP STANDINGS

1. W Track & Field
2. M Track & Field
3. W Tennis
4. W Golf
5. Gymnastics
6. W Basketball
7. Swim & Dive
8. M Basketball
9. Soccer
10. Softball
11. M Golf
12. Volleyball
13. M Tennis
14. Baseball
15. Football

\*Updated: 2/1/16

The Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is comprised of leaders from each team who represent their fellow student-athletes and act as liaisons to the University of Arkansas, the Athletic Department, the SEC and the NCAA.

On Tuesday, January 26th, SEC Commissioner Greg Sankey spoke with over 45 Razorback Student-Athletes about time and schedule demands associated with being a Division I student-athlete.

In addition, he asked for feedback and recommendations on the conference championships including sites, facilities, schedules and gifts.

Lastly, he encouraged the student-athletes to continue discussions on the recent proposals addressed during the 2016 NCAA Convention.



## Financial Literacy—Eric Smith

More than 150 freshmen and sophomore Razorback student-athletes attended a financial literacy workshop on Tuesday, January 26th and learned important lessons on how to avoid debt, saving, spending wisely and investing.

According to a Marketwatch report, about 62 percent of Americans have less than \$1,000 in their savings accounts. Millennials — the segment of the U.S. population aged 18-to-34 — said they have no money in their savings account. These startling statistics show the importance of this workshop, a segment of the financial literacy programming provided to Razorback student-athletes.

“This event was very informative and interesting to attend,” freshman free/fly swimmer Kiera Michailoff-Russell said. “We will definitely benefit from the information we received tonight.”

National speaker and former mortgage originator Eric Smith introduced his four principles of winning financially: Saving, planning, spending, and giving.

Student-athletes can make use of the lessons within the financial literacy programming through online videos, quizzes, activities, case studies and guest speakers.

“This workshop was very useful,” freshman football running back Rawleigh Williams III said. “The speaker emphasized that being broke isn't sexy.”



# Student-Athletes of the Month

## ACADEMICS



**Jamarco Stephen**  
Sophomore  
Friendswood, TX  
Men's Track & Field  
Information Systems

Letter received from Professor about Jamarco Stephen.

*I have taught college courses a long time and very seldom have I sent a note like this. Before I began my (27 yr) career teaching college math, I was a high school football and track coach. Jamarco is FAR from the stereotype that some athletes get labeled. I was very impressed with him in a number of ways. He is an exceptionally intelligent student and set the curve on several tests. He turned in all assignments in a timely fashion and had perfect attendance. He was polite, attentive, respectful and very personable. A model student and gentleman.*

## Educational Enrichment Services (EES)



**Brandon Lewis**  
Junior  
Memphis, TN  
Football  
Criminal Justice/Sociology

Brandon was the student that experienced the most academic growth in the Fall. He took his studies seriously and sought help from tutors as well as the EES staff whenever he could. He has emerged as a leader by leading with his actions and showing younger student athletes how they should work on academics. We are all extremely proud of his growth and success.

## STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT



**Summar Roachell**  
Junior  
Conway, AR  
Women's Golf  
Marketing

Summar exemplifies what it means to be a Razorback student-athlete. She excels not only in the classroom and on the golf course, but dedicates many hours a week to her future after sports. She serves as the Marketing Chair on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and is responsible for running both the SAAC Instagram and Twitter accounts. Summar also attends the Sport Administrator Group meetings to serve as a spokesperson for her fellow student-athletes.

## Martin Luther King Jr. Day



Twenty-seven (27) Razorback student-athletes played basketball and participated in face painting while interacting with over sixty elementary school kids from the local Northwest Arkansas Community.

This is the seventh year student-athletes have participated in the Martin Luther King Jr. Youth Day Activities event. This event for the elementary school kids honors the dream and the vision that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had. It emphasizes the importance of education, equity, and service.



## February

- Feb. 2 SAAC Meeting**
- Feb. 10 Leadership Academy (Emerging, Veteran, 360)**
- Feb. 15 Leadership Academy (Rookies)**
- Feb. 16 SAAC**
- Feb. 24 Career Development Workshop Interview (Juniors & Seniors)**



## Top Hog Talent Show

On Sunday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted the third Annual Top Hog Talent Show at the University of Arkansas Student Union Ballroom. The event was coordinated by swimming student-athlete Nina Drolc and the SAAC special events committee. The event was a fundraiser for local charitable and educational organizations. For the third year, funds were raised for the Yvonne Richardson Center. The Yvonne Richardson Center is dedicated to providing a structured recreation, socialization, and extra-curricular learning environment for the citizens of Fayetteville, Arkansas. The center was built in the memoriam of former Arkansas Razorbacks basketball Coach Nolan Richardson's daughter, Yvonne Richardson, who passed away from Leukemia.

Eric Wood, Associate Athletic Director for Student-Athlete Services served as the emcee for the evening. Razorback student-athletes showcased their talents outside of their sports. The volleyball, swimming and diving and softball teams coordinated dance routines. Men's baseball student-athletes, Rick Nomura sang and played the ukulele, while Cannon Chadwick played the guitar in a separate act. Women's soccer student-athlete Teni Butler sang a song while playing the guitar. Similarly, football student-athlete Chris Saunders played the guitar in a separate act. Women's tennis student-athlete and SAAC president Flavia Araujo performed in the event directly after competing in a tennis match. The DJ for the night was men's tennis student-athlete Austin Robles.

The event also featured guests judges, football student-athlete Chris Jones, homecoming queen Rachel Reece, Arkansas Student Government president Tanner Bone and Director of the Yvonne Richardson



Center Tenisha Gist.

Teni Butler and Flavia Araujo were selected by the judges as best performances while Cannon Chadwick won the "people's choice award".

