



NCAS IMPACT

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR ACADEMICS AND SPORTS

NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE NEWSLETTER

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NCAS NORTHEAST REGIONAL OFFICE



CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SPORT IN SOCIETY

NATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR ACADEMICS AND SPORTS

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Honoring the Sportsmanship & Service of Tomorrow's Leaders

National Student-Athlete Day Celebrates Mass. Citizenship Awards in Boston, Springfield

“Once Upon a Time ...” Fairfield Hoops Reading Program

Men's Basketball Team Reads to Youth Every Friday from September to November

FAIRFIELD, CT – Longtime NCAS member, Fairfield University, is one of the most dedicated members of the entire 220-member Consortium in terms of community service. Winners of the NCAS Outreach and Community Service Award in 2000 and 2001, and Outreach and Community Program Award in 2002, Fairfield is once again set to open the next chapter of its successful reading program. Launched in 1998, the program features the men's basketball reading to elementary-grade boys and girls in public and parochial schools in Fairfield and New Haven counties. Last fall, they impacted 12 different schools in 12 consecutive weeks, reading for 2 hours every Friday, before resuming again this Spring.



Photo courtesy of Fairfield University

In addition to Fairfield University's Reading Program conducted by members of the Men's Basketball Team, Fairfield student-athletes from other sports also participate in the following activities: Build a Playground (Sherman Elementary School, St. Anne's School, McKinney School), Breast Cancer Walk, toy collection for New Haven Hospital Children's Ward, Habitat for Humanity, Make-A-Wish Foundation, Boys and Girls Club of Bridgeport, Fairfield Senior Center, Bridgeport Homeless Shelter, various soup kitchens, Sunshine Kids, Hunger Clean, and more.

CONTINUED ON THE INSIDE ...

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High School Junior and Senior Student-Athlete Panelist for the 7th-Annual Mass. Citizenship Awards, assemble on the stage at Northeastern University's Blackman auditorium. The Boston event was held on April 29, 2003.



High School student-athlete Colleen Burke (Pittsfield HS), offers a first-hand testimonial during the "Leading By Example" Panel at the Springfield awards ceremony on April 10, 2003.

Photos by Paul Ermlich

BOSTON, MA – For the first time, the *National Consortium for Academics and Sport* (NCAS) hosted two separate Mass. Student-Athlete Citizenship Awards ceremonies. On April 29, 2003, high schoolers from the eastern region of Massachusetts assembled at Northeastern University for the 7th-Annual Mass. Citizenship Awards. Forty-eight schools registered a total of 202 high school juniors and seniors who have shown a commitment to athletics, academics and community service. Each high school student-athlete in attendance received an official award certificate. The awards ceremony also featured two panels, "Do the Right Thing" and "Sportsmanship On and Off the Field" as well as testimonial "Leading By Example" segments. NU Track & Field Coach Sherman Hart and one of his stars, Zara Northover, served as two of the panelists. NU quarterback Cecil Howard joined Westborough HS Golf Coach Greg Rota as keynote speakers.



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SPRINGFIELD, MA – On April 10, 2003, The Basketball Hall of Fame, in Springfield, MA, served as host of the NCAS' Massachusetts Citizenship Awards ceremony for high schools from the western region of the Commonwealth. Coordinated locally by fellow presenting sponsor, the Mass. Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA), the event welcomed 35 schools and 150 high school juniors and seniors. Each high school student-athlete received an official award certificate. Award recipients were all individually nominated by their respective schools athletic director, principal or headmaster. High school panelists offered personal testimonials of examples of sportsmanship, community service and leadership to the audience of their peers and chaperones. Keynote speakers included Center for the Study of Sport in Society Director Peter Roby and Senior Associate Director Allyce Najimy, and MIAA Deputy Director Bill Gaine. The

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Message from the Regional Office Director



KEVIN J. MATTHEWS

As we honor the remarkable achievements of our student-athletes by celebrating National Student-Athlete Day (NSAD) across the country this Spring, I am reminded of one truly special individual who represents the finest qualities within our student-athletes - sportsmanship, sacrifice, and community service.

Jen White was a participant in the Degree Completion Program (DCP) in 1999-2000. She was a two-time All-American field hockey player on a team that went to the tournament. She was also a nursing major who maintained a 3.6 GPA. However, she had not been able to take her labs and clinicals while she was on the team and she needed three more semesters to complete her degree.

Through the DCP, Jen White single-handedly started an inner-city field hockey program at four Boston middle schools with young girls who had never played the sport. She wrote a proposal and secured equipment grants from the National Field Hockey Association that fully outfitted each of the four schools. She taught them the game of field hockey - but she taught them so much more. She taught fair play, sportsmanship, and perseverance to young girls who had never played organized sports before. She taught them to believe in themselves. Through these lessons, one could see that she had changed their lives through the power of sport. In addition, she had also become much more self-assured and was a better leader because of her work with the young girls. In fact, she had possibly gained as much as the young girls had.

Jen White not only represents the premise for which NSAD was founded, she is also proof of the value of the DCP. For National Student-Athlete Day, the Degree Completion Program and Jen White - it was Win! Win! Win!

**Mass. Citizenship Awards:
Boston, MA - Northeastern University**



NCAS Assistant Director of Mentors in Violence Prevention, Laila Brock (left), joins NU Track & Field Coach Sherman Hart (right) and high school panelists, Shannon Doran (Bishop Feehan HS) and Matt Hill (Holliston HS).

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NCAS Northeast Regional Office Director Kevin J. Matthews moderated the event. A total of 352 high school student-athlete were honored as part of the combined regional events.



NU Track & Field star, Zara Northover, on the "Do the Right Thing" Panel.

Springfield, MA - Basketball Hall of Fame

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 ...

event was moderated by Mike Kane of the MIAA. Both the Boston and Springfield based events were sponsored by the MIAA, the Center for the Study of Sport in Society, and Reebok International Ltd.



High School student-athlete panelists (left-right) Carmen Oyola (Sabis International Charter School) and Lindsay Galli (Mt. Greylock Regional HS) at the Springfield event.



Fairfield Reading Program ...

"I'm very proud of our reading program for I believe it transcends all racial, ethnic, and societal prejudices. Our diverse group of players also discourage bullying or teasing and share their experiences from being too tall, too small, adjusting to a new language, etc... and how they personally overcame those struggles. I'm so proud of all my players for when they graduate, regardless if they ever scored a basket, they will know that in their 4 years at Fairfield, they helped contribute to helping 40,000 children to learn to read."

- Tim O'Toole, Fairfield Men's Head Basketball Coach



★ Congratulations! ★

NACDA Regional Athletic Directors of the Year



Division II
Dana Skinner
University of Massachusetts, Lowell



Division III:
John Harper
Bridgewater State College

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University of Massachusetts-Boston Mr. Charlie Titus, <i>Athletic Director</i> 617-287-7810 Mr. Ed Suglia, <i>Academic Advisor for Student-Ath.</i> 617-287-7832	
University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth Mr. Robert W. Mullen, <i>Athletic Director</i>	508-999-8722
University of Massachusetts-Lowell Mr. Dana Skinner, <i>Athletic Director</i>	978-934-2310
University of Rhode Island Mr. Paul Kassabian, <i>NCAA Compliance Counselor</i>	401-874-7837