



# America East Conference

## Student Athlete Advisory Committee Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 2

February 2008

*\*Spring SAAC Meeting April 11-12, 2008 in Boston, MA.\**

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### National SAAC Rep at NCAA Convention in Nashville

Hi everyone!

I hope you all had a wonderful winter break and I also hope you are all ready to focus on the spring semester.

Over this past winter break I received the amazing opportunity to attend the NCAA Convention in Nashville, Tennessee. I not only attended the event, I got to be a part of it. It is true when we say National SAAC has a voice, and it isn't just a small one. The athletic directors, presidents and various athletic staff in the audience of the 2008 legislative forum, heard what the Division-I student-athletes had to say and took our opinions to heart.



It was a successful week for the National SAAC and for every Division-I student-athlete in the country. In one instance when our new chair, Kerry Kenny spoke on the override of text messaging, there was an overwhelming applause as he said, "Only five months have passed since the ban and I am delighted to say the recruiting process has survived."

On top of speaking at the legislative forum, the members of Division-I National SAAC received the opportunity to attend a key-notes lunch hosted by the President of the NCAA, Myles Brand. In this lunch there were four speakers, one of which was Nancy Zimpher, the president of the University of Cincinnati. She, along with the other three speakers, voiced their thoughts and opinions on diversity issues in the NCAA. They spoke on topics such as the lack in presence of African-American and female athletic directors in Division-I athletics and how this needs to change.

The representatives of National SAAC also had a chance to eat lunch with each of our individual conference management council representatives as well as the chance to eat breakfast with the members of the NCAA Executive Board. Each day and each experience of the convention came with a chance for the members of National SAAC to voice the opinions of Division-I student-athletes everywhere, and we certainly used every opportunity.

Every moment of the Convention will leave a lasting impression on me but one of my favorite moments was the NCAA Honors Banquet on the final day. I had the chance to meet the infamous John Glenn and one of my favorite softball players of all time, Dot Richardson.

I learned something with every person I met and with every speaker who spoke to our committee; however, something that really struck me was when Robert Vowels, the NCAA Vice President for Education Services spoke to us about being on the right path to our goal career. He said, "Sometimes you have to take a step back to really get to where you want to go." I think that is something many of us would have a hard time understanding when really looking at it: taking a job where you have less responsibility or making less money than the one you are at, just so you can get on a better track for where you want to end up. I believe this is a vital word of advice for many of those who look first at the dollar amount on a job description. For those of us who are graduating seniors, look first at where the job can take you in the long run, not where it takes you at that moment in time.



Another great moment at convention for the members of Division-I National SAAC was when we attended a community service event along with Division-II and Division-III SAAC's. We participated in a Habitat or Humanity event and it was very fun and an extremely fulfilling experience for all of us. We found out quickly that not too many of us are quite as good at hammering nails as we are at being student-athletes.

~Alexandra Morley

## Campus Feature: UMBC Retrievers

### UMBC Hosts Midday Madness for Community



**Baltimore, MD—** On Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> UMBC hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> annual Midday Madness. 800 elementary and middle school students from 8 different schools visited the UMBC campus for the day. They arrived and were greeted by True Grit and our head women's basketball coach Phil Stern. They then went on tours of campus led by members of our men's and women's lacrosse teams and our swimming and diving team. They had the opportunity to eat lunch in our dining hall facilities, and then made it back to the RAC by noon to watch the women's basketball team take on Binghamton University. Each student received a foam cheering noodle for the game and a UMBC Retrievers pencil. The day is a fun and exciting way for young students to experience a college campus, and encourages them to someday pursue a college education.

*By: Kelly Fahey  
UMBC '07, Women's Lacrosse*



## Spring SAAC Meeting



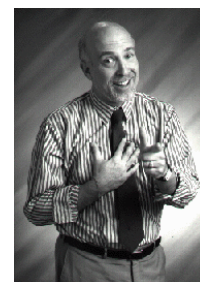
**America East Conference SAAC  
Boston, MA. April 11-12, 2008**

This year's Spring America East Conference SAAC meeting will take place on April 11-12, 2008. The meeting will take place at The Royal Sonesta Hotel in Boston located across from the Cambridge Side Galleria (links for the hotel and Galleria can be found below).

America East Conference schools have the opportunity to send two student-athlete participants to the meeting along with the institutional SAAC Advisor.

Over the course of the weekend, the group will be hearing from nationally recognized speaker, Dr. Steve Sobel. Dr. Sobel will lead a feature presentation on Friday afternoon, followed by the business session. Student-athletes will then enjoy a social dinner in the evening. On Saturday the group will be taking part in a community service activity.

More information about the meeting will be provided to each advisor with the agenda and materials as the date approaches.



(<http://www.royalsonestaboston.com/>)  
(<http://www.cambridgesidegalleria.com/>)

(<http://www.drstevesobel.com>)



## NCAA National Issues

### Court initially approves settlement in White case

The NCAA has reached an agreement with plaintiffs in a federal antitrust lawsuit that would benefit current and former student-athletes through a restructuring of assistance funds. The settlement, which was preliminarily approved February 4 by the U.S. District Court in Los Angeles, could end a case in which plaintiffs argued that caps on student-athlete grants-in-aid to tuition, room and board and books amounted to a restriction of trade.

Foremost among settlement terms in Jason White et al vs. the NCAA is a reorganization of funds that allow conferences and institutions to distribute \$218 million in existing allocations through 2012-13. Those dollars originally were designated for the Special Assistance Fund and the Academic Enhancement Fund – existing funds earmarked for specific uses – but will now be more widely accessible under the flexible guidelines of the Student-Athlete Opportunity Fund (SAOF).

The SAOF, established as part of the NCAA's latest broadcast-rights agreement with CBS Sports and ESPN, is intended to provide "direct benefits" to student-athletes by meeting financial needs that arise in conjunction with participation in inter-collegiate athletics, helping finance enrollment in an academic curriculum or recognizing academic achievement. Its access guidelines are more liberal than the other two student-athlete assistance funds, but under terms of the settlement, the more flexible access will apply to the entirety of the funds.

Other settlement terms include:

- The creation of a \$10 million fund to which former student-athletes who are members of the class involved in the lawsuit can apply for reimbursement of education expenses.
- A new NCAA rule allowing Division I institutions to provide year-round, comprehensive health insurance to student-athletes. A commitment from the NCAA membership to examine whether colleges and universities should provide multi-year scholarships.

The former student-athletes must apply over the next three years for grants from the new fund to pay for educational expenses and career development costs. Payouts can occur as a \$500 one-time payment or a maximum of \$2,500 per year for three years for undergraduate, graduate or professional certificate education.

The details of the benefits and an application process will be available on an NCAA-created Web site.

Class members have an opportunity to review the settlement terms, with final court approval scheduled for June 30.

The NCAA issued a statement, saying the settlement allows the Association to resolve the litigation and enhance the benefits potentially available to former, current and future Division I student-athletes.

"The NCAA is pleased the court has granted preliminary approval to the settlement agreement in the White case, and we hope it leads to final approval on June 30. The settlement allows us to resolve the litigation and enhance the benefits potentially available to former, current and future student-athletes.

"As the NCAA worked to reach agreement, it was important to construct a settlement that supports our emphasis on education and degree completion. The NCAA also wants to help former student-athletes who are part of the class members in this settlement gain career development skills to put that education to use.

"The NCAA believes the full-ride scholarship currently offered is appropriate for the majority of student-athletes, but we recognize there may be some student-athletes whose needs are still not met, despite access to Pell Grants and other need-based aid. By adjusting the rules regarding access to the hundreds of millions of dollars aid scheduled to be made available for student-athletes over the next several years, it is the NCAA's intention to help meet any true additional needs of its student-athletes."

Learn more at (<http://www.ncaa.org>)

Or voice your opinion on the **NCAA blog** ! (<http://www.doubleazone.com/> )







## Roundtable Discussion

### Sports Wagering...

- ◆ Is it taking place on your campus and do student-athletes realize the consequences?
- ◆ Should more strict policies about gambling be established?
- ◆ A national study done by the NCAA revealed that male student-athletes are engaged in gambling or sports wagering at rates much higher than female student-athletes. The data showed 35% of male student-athletes have engaged in some type of sports wagering behavior in the past year, compared to only 10% of female student-athletes.
- ◆ The survey also showed that Division III student-athletes are the most likely to engage in gambling or sports wagering, followed by DII student-athletes, while DI were the least likely.
- ◆ According to the study, the sports with the highest percentages of male student-athletes involved in wagering on collegiate sports are men's golf, wrestling, lacrosse, and football. For female student-athletes wagering on collegiate sports, the sports with the highest involvement are golf, lacrosse, basketball and field hockey.



### Helpful Links:

- ◆ [www.dontbetonit.org](http://www.dontbetonit.org)
- ◆ [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org) (go to "Eligibility and Recruiting" and access link "Sports Wagering")
- ◆ <http://www.ncaa.org/releases/research/2004/2004051201re.htm>

## Upcoming Events

**February 14-17:** Swimming & Diving Championships, Orono, Maine

**February 22-23:** Indoor Track & Field Championships, Boston, MA

**March 7-9:** Men's Basketball Championships, Binghamton, NY

**March 13-16:** Women's Basketball Championships, Hartford, CT

**April 25-27:** Tennis Championships, New Haven, CT

**April 25-27:** Women's Lacrosse Championships, highest seed

**May 1 & 3:** Men's Lacrosse Championships, highest seed

**May 3-4:** Outdoor Track & Field Championships, Orono, ME

**May 3 & 4:** Golf Championships, Simsbury, CT

