

# VARSITY

The Official Newsletter Of Grove City College's  
Department of Physical Education and Athletics

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## Hall of Fame welcomes new members

Grove City College inducted the sixth class into its Athletic Hall of Fame February 4.

The College inducted Ruth (Bogert '63) Wible (rifle), R.J. Bowers (football), Bob Casalandra '62 (football/track and field), Dr. Mike Donahoe '79 (basketball),

Tammy (Leonard '88) Hardy (softball), James Livermore '65 (diving), Ron Plano '60 (football/baseball), Amy (Scott '96) Campbell (swimming), Dr. Don Shockey '63 (football/track and field), and Monica (Yustak '87) Zajicek (basketball) into the Hall of Fame.

## College leads conference in All-Sports points

Grove City College leads the Presidents' Athletic Conference in total All-Sports points with 74.5. Grove City led the conference in total All-Sports points in both 2009-10 and 2010-11.

Grove City continues to hold first place in the conference Women's All-Sports Trophy competition after the conclusion of the winter sports season.

Grove City has accumulated 44 points through the first two seasons of the academic year. Westminster also finished the winter with 44 points, forging a tie.

On the men's side, Grove City has 30.5 points.

Washington & Jefferson has 32.5 points, and Saint Vincent is second with 32. W&J received seven points for finishing third in the three-team PAC wrestling championships this winter.

The All-Sports trophies are awarded annually to the schools which perform the best across the board in league competition.

First-place finishes are worth 10 points (nine for men) and second place is worth nine points (eight for men). The point scale goes down incrementally until last place is worth one point.

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grove city college  
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# Welcome to 'Varsity G'

Dear varsity athletes, parents, alumni and friends:

It is hard to believe that the winter season is over and we are well into spring sports. The winter season featured numerous highlights and milestones, including conference championships for our men's and women's swimming and diving teams.



Donald Lyle

Six of our women's swimmers qualified for the NCAA Championships and four earned All-America status. The team finished 10th nationally, which is the program's best finish ever at the national championships.

Presently, we are tied for first place in the Women's All-Sports Trophy race and just two points out of the lead in the Men's All-Sports competition. We have the highest combined point total of any school in the conference.

We inducted our sixth Hall of Fame class and presented our fourth class of Athletic Heritage Award winners February 4. It was a fantastic day for the athletic department and Grove City College.

We are in the process of selecting the Hall of Fame inductees and Heritage Award recipients for 2013. If you have someone to nominate for either honor, please contact us. We welcome your nominations.

We have made some significant changes to the Physical Learning Center. We refurbished the trophy cases in the front hall outside of the arena. We are currently developing a display on the history of women's athletics (see related article on right). This summer, we will be renovating the arena.

These additions benefit all aspects of campus and help us better meet the needs of our college community. As our student needs grow, we have been very fortunate to be able to grow with them in a timely fashion.

I would like to once again ask if you would be willing to donate any memorabilia from your days as a Grove City College athlete. During the past two years, we have received items including letter jackets, varsity blankets and game balls. All of these items have been properly displayed in prominent areas of the building with the donor's name attached. I am currently looking for a varsity letter sweater and a varsity "G" sweater worn by the cheerleaders in the 1950s and 60s.

Thanks to all of you, our athletic program is very much alive and well. We hope that many of you will visit sometime this spring. Please stop in and say hello when you return to campus. You are always welcome.

Sincerely,

**Donald L. Lyle, Ed.D.**

Director of Athletics  
Grove City College



R. Jack Behringer  
Director of Athletics



Cynthia Walters  
Associate Director of Athletics

## Women's athletic program highlighted

Since 2006, we have been working diligently to develop and display the abundant history of our athletic program. The rich athletic heritage we enjoy today is the outgrowth of strong roots established more than 100 years ago.

As you walk through our halls, you can see how our athletic history has developed. Each entrance into the Physical Learning Center features the faces and achievements of past and present athletes.

Our next project is the development of a display, the Crimson Line, that highlights the history of our women's athletic program. The display will feature a brief written history, numerous photos and other artifacts. We will have photos of each of the first teams, select pictures of female athletes who have brought distinction to our program and highlights of the two visionaries of our women's program: R. Jack Behringer and Cynthia Walters.

We will also trace the establishment of the Women's Athletic Association (WAA) and Title IX, and review our affiliations with the Women's Keystone Conference (WKC), the Association of Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW), the NCAA and the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

We have several more displays in the planning phase. We intend to honor our CoSIDA Academic All-Americans, our All-Americans and our coaches' accomplishments. We are also planning exhibits that will honor historical events, such as the dedication of Ketler Gym.

We are working hard to make sure that everyone who visits our building knows that we have a rich and tradition-filled athletic history.

If you would like to make a donation either in money or memorabilia to help assist with the development of the Crimson Line, it would be very much appreciated.

Thanks to all of you, the Grove City College Athletic program is stronger than ever. Please stop in whenever you are in the area.

# Wolverines make a splash in PAC, NCAA



The Grove City College women's swimming and diving teams shined this season, earning Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) recognition.

The women's team placed 14 competitors on All-Presidents' Athletic Conference Teams. Eight Grove City performers earned First Team honors and six received Second Team decoration.

Sophomore Janelle Baglia, freshman Tori Baker, freshman Lauren Cassano, junior Angela Palumbo, senior Jenna Richert, junior Kait Riesmeyer, junior Jenny Ryan and senior Kate Wilt all earned First Team All-PAC recognition.

Second Team honors went to sophomore Kristi Baur, senior Larissa Cassano, junior Natalie Keibler, freshman Keegan Reed, freshman Emma Rudolf and junior Michelle Shimrock.

Baglia and Baker both participated in Grove City's victorious 800 free relay effort, which recorded a winning time of 7 minutes, 45.88 seconds. Baglia also took sixth in the 100 butterfly (1:00.49), while Baker took third in the 200 (1:55.26) and 500 free (5:13.25).

Cassano swept the backstroke events. She won the 100 in 59.09 seconds and prevailed in the 200 with a time of 2:07.86. She joined

Palumbo, Richert and Ryan on the Wolverines' victorious 200 free relay that posted a meet-, conference- and pool-record time of 1:35.37.

Cassano, Palumbo, Riesmeyer and Wilt also combined for wins in the 200 (1:47.30) and 400 (3:53.21) medley relays. Meanwhile, Palumbo, Richert, Riesmeyer and Ryan teamed to win the 400 free relay in 3:29.17.

In addition to her four relay wins, Palumbo also swept the sprints for the Wolverines. She won the 50 free in 23.78 seconds, took the 100 free in 51.47 and captured the 200 free in a time of 1:52.96. Palumbo set new meet and pool records in both the 100 and 200 free and provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships in all three sprint events.

Richert recorded wins in all three free relays. She also earned second in the 100 (53.01) and 200 free (1:54.52), along with a third-place finish in the 50 free (24.83).

Like Palumbo, Riesmeyer earned three individual wins. She swept the butterfly, winning the 100 fly in 56.75 and the 200 fly in 2:05.09. She provisionally qualified for the NCAA meet in both events. Riesmeyer also won the 500 free in 5:09.23, along with her three relay triumphs.

Ryan won the 400 individual medley (4:31.48) and the 1650 in a conference-record time of 17:27.60. She provisionally qualified for the national championships in each event. Ryan added a runner-up finish in the 200 IM (2:05.98). That time also surpassed the NCAA "B" qualifying standard.

Wilt contributed to both medley relay wins and also finished third in the 200 breaststroke with a time of 2:26.23, just 0.05 seconds off her school-record time. Wilt added a fourth-place finish in the 200 individual medley (2:14.05).

Grove City won its fourth straight conference title and 10th league crown in the last 21 years. Head coach Dave Fritz '94 earned the conference's Coach of the Year award.

The All-PAC teams are determined through a formula that reflects athletes' performances in individual and relay events at the conference championships.

## Basketball stars recognized for their efforts in 2011-12

Two Wolverine basketball players earned All-Presidents' Athletic Conference honors following the 2011-12 season.

In women's basketball, junior guard Leah Gibson earned Second Team All-PAC recognition, and on the men's side, senior guard Brett Matson captured Second Team honors.

Gibson led Grove City in scoring, averaging 13.0 points per game. She led the Wolverines in foul shooting at 77.8 percent and also finished second on the team with 28 three-point goals and 40 steals.

She ranked third on the squad in assists (56) and rebound average (3.8) this winter.

With 338 points this year, she now has 896 career points.

Matson concluded his career with 1,108 points, which ranks

17th all-time at Grove City. This season, Matson led the Wolverines (11-14, 7-9 PAC) in scoring average (13.1), rebound average (6.6), assists (85) and steals (52).

He also finished second on the team with 35 three-point goals. Matson led all conference guards in rebounding and assist-to-turnover ratio (1.52). He also ranked second in assist average and third in steals.

His 52 steals are the second-most in one season at Grove City, and he finished his career with 315 assists, fifth all-time at the College. Matson also concluded his career in fourth place on Grove City's career three-pointer list with 114.

# Men's swimming and diving earns honors



Sixteen members of the Grove City College men's swimming and diving team earned All-Presidents' Athletic Conference honors in recognition of their respective performances at the conference championships, held during Grove City's James E. Longnecker Invitational February 16-18.

Nine Wolverine swimmers earned First Team recognition and seven received placement on the conference's Second Team.

Senior Ben Bowser earned the conference's Most Valuable Performer award after recording three wins at the Invitational. He won the 200 butterfly in a school-, meet- and conference-record time of 1 minute, 52.04 seconds. Bowser also prevailed in the 200 individual medley (1:53.43) and 400 individual medley.

His time of 4:02.83 in the 400 IM also set new school, meet, pool and conference records. He provisionally qualified for the NCAA Division III Championships in all three events.

Senior Clay Beckner, sophomore David Bossert, sophomore C.P. Dehli, junior Eric Fairchild, senior Collin Foster, sophomore Louis Gabriele, senior Kirk Gagliardo and senior Nick Hamilton joined Bowser on the First Team.

Freshman Jim Bossert, senior Josh Kim, freshman Richie Klimek, sophomore E.J. Leuschner, freshman Ben Satre, junior Ian Smyth and junior Adam Walker all earned Second Team status.

Beckner joined Bowser, Foster and Gagliardo on Grove City's victorious 200 medley relay team (1:32.97) that provisionally qualified for the NCAA meet. Beckner also earned runner-up honors in both the 100 (57.83) and 200 breaststroke (2:08.45).

David Bossert won the 1650 in 16:40.84 and added a fourth-place finish in the 500 (4:47.96). Dehli joined Fairchild, Gagliardo and Hamilton on the Wolverines' winning 400 free relay (3:04.95) that set a new meet and pool

record. That same quartet also won the 200 free relay in 1:24.13.

In addition to his free relay wins, Fairchild also earned second in the 50 free (21.00) and 100 free (46.39). He also placed third in the 200 free with a time of 1:43.12.

Foster contributed to the 200 medley relay victory and also scored points in the 100 backstroke with a 12th-place time of 56.06 seconds. Gabriele, meanwhile, won the 200 breaststroke in a school-record time of 2:07.11. Gabriele also took fourth in the 100 breaststroke (58.72) and 200 individual medley (1:57.38).

Gagliardo swept the sprints for Grove City winning the 50 free (20.95), 100 free (45.65) and 200 free (1:41.39). He provisionally qualified for the national meet in the 100 and 200 free events. Gagliardo also contributed to wins in the 200 and 400 free relays and the 200 medley relay.

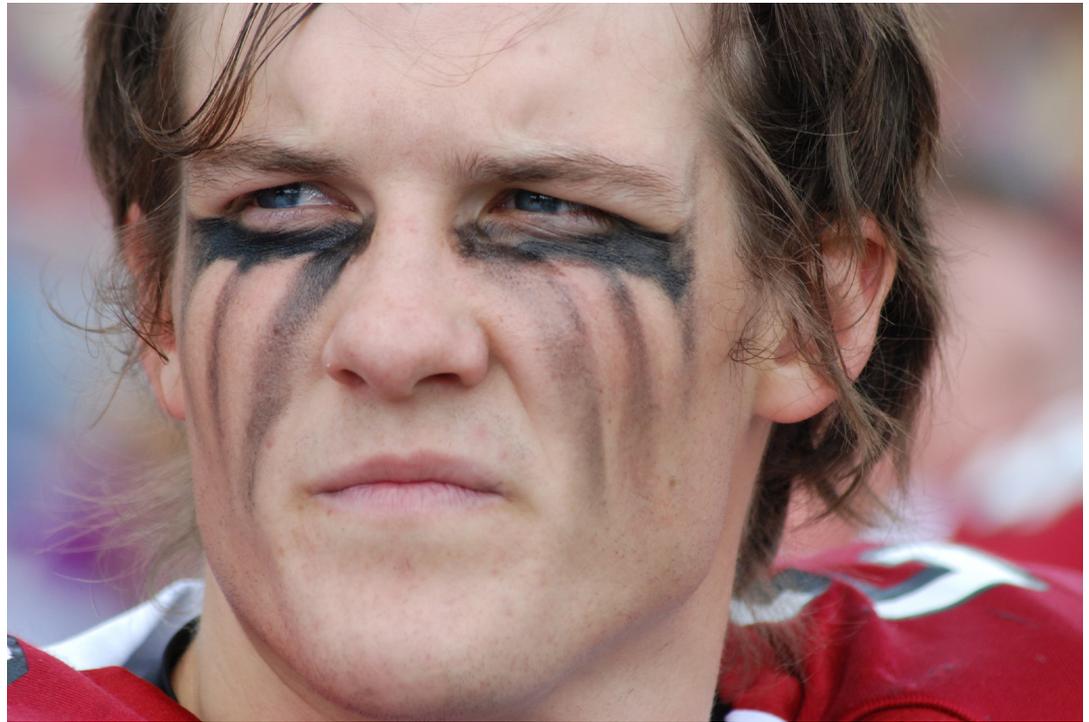
Hamilton augmented his free relay victories with a third-place finish in the 500 (4:47.78). He also took fourth in the 100 (47.76) and 200 free (1:43.34).

Grove City won its fifth straight conference championship. Head coach Dave Fritz '94 earned the conference's Coach of the Year award.

The All-PAC teams are determined through a formula that reflects athletes' performances in individual and relay events at the conference championships.



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## Irwin receives prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship

Senior football player Tim Irwin has earned a prestigious NCAA postgraduate scholarship in recognition of his outstanding academic and athletic performance.

Irwin is one of 58 fall sports athletes – 29 men and 29 women representing all three NCAA divisions – to earn the \$7,500 grant.

He earned four letters as an outside linebacker for Grove City and started each of the last three seasons. He finished second on the team last fall with 66 tackles. Irwin intercepted one pass and forced two fumbles. He concluded his career by starting 30 consecutive games.

He had 52 tackles and an interception in 2010, helping Grove City field

the Presidents' Athletic Conference's top defense.

Irwin is majoring in molecular biology. He is a Dean's List student who has been named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll. Irwin has been inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa and Round Table honoraries, along with the Beta Beta Beta biology honorary.

He is also a Grove City College Presidential Scholarship recipient and earned Capital One/CoSIDA First Team Academic All-District from the region's sports information directors last fall. Irwin is the first Grove City football player to earn an NCAA postgraduate scholarship since

Andy Sems in 1995.

Irwin has been accepted into the Penn State College of Medicine and Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and also interviewed at Drexel University College of Medicine and New York Medical College. He plans to make a decision on which medical school to attend before the end of the academic year.

To qualify, student-athletes must excel academically and athletically, be in their final year of eligibility and plan to pursue graduate study. Student-athletes must also maintain at least a 3.2 grade-point average and be nominated by their institution's faculty athletics representative.

## Alumni honored with Heritage Award

In addition to the Hall of Fame Induction, the College also presented its fourth class of Athletic Heritage Awards during the Hall of Fame dinner on February 4, which featured a record turnout.

Bill Allen '50 (golf/athletic department), Odis V. "Dan" Boone '14 (multiple sports), William Clees '25 (football) and Vaughn "Stu" Irwin '53 (soccer/track) received the College's Athletic Heritage Award.

The College held the ceremonies in conjunction with Grove City's Presidents' Athletic Conference basketball doubleheader with longtime rival Westminster. Grove City's basketball teams helped highlight the day by sweeping Westminster. The women earned a 65-54 win and the men prevailed 80-78.



## Wolverines finish No. 10 nationally, four earn All-America distinction



Jenny Ryan

The Grove City College women's swimming and diving team concluded the 2011-12 season by taking 10th in the team standings at the NCAA Division III Championships in Indianapolis March 21-24.

Grove City accumulated 101 team points during the four-day meet and recorded its best-ever finish at the national championships.

Four Grove City swimmers earned All-America honors at the meet. Senior Jenna Richert and juniors Angela Palumbo, Kait Riesmeyer and Jenny Ryan combined to achieve All-America distinction in each of the three free relays.

That quartet placed 10th in the 200 free relay in 1 minute, 35.63 seconds March 22. The next night, the Grove City team combined for a sixth-place finish in the 800 free relay (7:30.27).

Grove City then concluded the Championships with a sixth-place arrival in the 400 free relay (3:27.43).

Additionally, Palumbo, Riesmeyer and Ryan all earned individual All-America honors at the national meet. Palumbo took sixth in the 200 free (1:52.35), 14th in the 50 free (23.95) and 15th in the 100 free (51.87). Palumbo set a new school record in the 50 free during the preliminaries with a time of 23.66 seconds. Riesmeyer finished seventh in the 200 butterfly (2:04.14) and Ryan placed 12th in the 400 individual medley in a school-record time of 4:29.36.

Palumbo is now a 15-time All-American. Ryan owns 12 All-America citations and Riesmeyer is an 11-time All-America honoree. Richert concluded her career as an eight-time All-American.

Grove City had finished 11th at the national championships in each of the past two seasons.