Carter recognized by NCAA for sportsmanship

The NCAA honored Grove City College senior cross country runner Kristen Carter with the organization’s 2007-08 Division III Sportsmanship Award Feb. 7, during the College’s basketball doubleheader with Thomas Moore College. Carter received the honor for her compassionate actions following the 2007 Presidents’ Athletic Conference Cross Country Championships in Latrobe, Pa.

Carter owned a sizeable leadCorner of the course. Carter consoled the disheartened meet worker and assured her that she was not upset by the error. PAC Executive Director Joseph M. Onderko nominated Carter for the Sportsmanship Award after witnessing her actions. In his nomination, Onderko wrote, “It was one of the most refreshing and heartwarming acts of individual sportsmanship I have personally witnessed in over 15 years as a full-time athletic administrator.”

Penn State Altoona athletic director Fredina Ingold represented the NCAA and presented Carter with her award. Carter is the first Grove City student-athlete to receive this honor.

Cross country runner Kristen Carter ’09, right, receives the Division III Sportsmanship Award from Fredina Ingold, Penn State Altoona athletic director, on Feb. 7.

Carter’s lead had evaporated by the time she encountered the employee. Carter sought out the employee. Carter consoled the disheartened meet worker and assured her that she was not upset by the error.

The meet director realized the error and re-directed Carter onto the proper course. Carter’s lead had diminished significantly and any shot at a course record evaporated by the time she got back on track. Carter recovered to win the race and after learning that the meet worker had been admonished for her error, Carter sought out the employee. Carter consoled the disheartened meet worker and assured her that she was not upset by the error.

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Welcome to ‘Varsity G’

Dear alumni, parents, friends and athletes,

We recently completed a very successful winter sports season here at Grove City College and are enjoying the start of spring sports competition.

Both the men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams won Presidents’ Athletic Conference titles in February after three days of record-breaking action. The men went on to record a historic sixth-place finish at the NCAA Division III Championships. The men’s basketball team qualified for the ECAC Championship Tournament for the third straight year, and the women’s basketball team finished 7-1 in the PAC. The women also hosted a PAC Championship Tournament game for the first time in five years.

Our baseball, softball and golf teams all traveled south in late February and got off to promising starts in the spring season.

We inducted our third class of honorees into the Athletic Hall of Fame on Feb. 7. The inductees were recognized during halftime of our men’s basketball game with Thomas More during the afternoon. That night, the College also presented the inaugural Grove City College Athletic Heritage Awards in conjunction with the Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

In addition, the College dedicated its newly-refurbished Heritage Hall, which is located in what many of you remember as the mail hall. Heritage Hall contains numerous photos, news clippings and other memorabilia of our athletic history going back to the 19th century. It was a truly exciting, successful and memorable day for the College and the Athletic Department.

Although the Class of 2009 has just entered the Hall of Fame, we are already making preparations for the Class of 2010. If you would like to nominate someone for Hall of Fame or Heritage Award consideration, please contact me via phone at (724) 458-2122. You may also e-mail me at dlyle@gcc.edu.

Nominations also will be accepted through the Hall of Fame and Heritage Award pages on the College’s athletic Web site, www.gcc.edu/sports. Additionally, we are looking for any trophies, pins, pictures, awards or memorabilia that you would like to loan or donate to the athletic department for display. It has been a real thrill to be able to piece together our athletic history, which dates back 125 years. Any items that you could share verbally or tangibly would be greatly appreciated.

Please stop in when you are on campus. You are always welcome.

Best regards,
Donald L. Lyle, Ed.D.
Director of Athletics
Men, women sweep PAC swimming crowns

Grove City’s men’s and women’s swimming and diving teams both captured 2009 Presidents’ Athletic Conference titles in February at the Grove City College Pool.

The men earned their second straight conference title after accumulating 949 team points during the three-day conference championships, which was held in conjunction with the Grove City College Invitational. Meanwhile, the women’s team won its first PAC title since 1999. The women earned 833½ team points to out-distance longtime rivals W&J and Westminster.

Senior Caleb Courage earned the Invitational’s Most Outstanding Performer award on the men’s side. He also earned MVP honors from league head coaches for his performance. Grove City swimmers broke 13 school records during the three-day competition. Fifteen Grove City athletes surpassed NCAA Championships qualifying standards at the meet.

The women’s team also broke 13 school records at the Championships. Eight swimmers surpassed NCAA qualifying standards and head coach John Richards earned the Invitational’s Coach of the Year award.

The conference championships capped outstanding regular seasons for both teams. The men went 12-2 in dual-meet competition and clinched their 58th consecutive winning season.

Meanwhile, the women’s team set a new program record with 12 dual-meet victories during the 2008-09 season, Grove City’s 12-3 record is the program’s best record percentage-wise since the 1996-97 team went 11-1.

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The women’s team broke 13 school records at the 2009 Presidents’ Athletic Conference Championships.

Head coach Dave Fritz earned PAC Coach of the Year honors for his efforts. Grove City swimmers broke 13 school records during the three-day competition. Fifteen Grove City athletes surpassed NCAA Championships qualifying standards at the meet. The women’s team also broke 13 school records at the Championships. Eight swimmers surpassed NCAA qualifying standards and head coach John Richards earned the Invitational’s Coach of the Year award.

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