

# VARSIITY

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

Winter 2010  
 Vol 4, No. 2



## College honors athletic legends

Grove City College dedicated two of its athletic facilities in honor of longtime coaches this fall.

The College named its baseball facility "R. Jack Behringer Field" Oct. 9. On Dec. 4, Grove City officially named its competition pool as the "James E. Longnecker Competition Pool" in recognition of retired swimming and diving coach Jim Longnecker.

For more photos, turn to page 6.

Behringer worked at Grove City from 1956 to 1996 and spent 40 years as the College's athletic director. He reinstated the varsity baseball program in 1959 and coached the team for 30 seasons.

Behringer is the baseball program's all-time wins leader with 236 victories as head coach.

Longnecker coached the men's swimming and diving team to 40 straight winning seasons from 1957 to 1997. He accumulated 366 victories in his 40-year career as head coach. Forty-four swimmers or divers earned NCAA All-America honors under Longnecker's guidance.

He also coached three NCAA Division III diving champions during his tenure.



Jack Behringer, above, and Jim Longnecker, left, both left their marks on Grove City College's baseball and men's swimming programs.

## College lauds coaching greats

Jack Behringer and Jim Longnecker impacted countless Grove City College varsity athletes over the years, whether as administrator and teacher or as coach and mentor.

"Both of these individuals during their respective 40-year careers made lasting, significant, even historical contributions to the College's sports programs in particular and the institution in general," said College President Richard G. Jewell '67 in his recommendation for this honor.



Clockwise from top: Jim Longnecker coached swimmers for decades. Bob Smith '59, left, congratulates Jack Behringer. Behringer, right, presents Longnecker with swimming accolades.

## Soccer players earn All-PAC, Lamie also lauded

The Grove City College women's and men's soccer teams are well-represented on the respective All-Presidents' Athletic Conference teams as selected by the league's head soccer coaches.

Head coach Melissa Lamie earned the PAC women's soccer Coach of the Year award while senior forward Michelle Peck is the conference's Player of the Year.

In all, six women's players earned All-PAC while five men's

players received conference recognition. On the women's side, Peck, junior midfielder Emily Ostlund and freshman midfielder Grace Rieman all received First Team honors.

Senior midfielder Elise Bender and senior defender Hannah Yang



Melissia Lamie

each earned Second Team and sophomore midfielder Cara Colley received Honorable Mention.

For the men, freshman forward Andrew Quinn earned First Team All-PAC. Second Team distinction went to sophomore defender Adam Brewer, junior midfielder Evan Moore and senior goalkeeper Sean Osborne.

Junior midfielder Chuck Witt earned All-PAC Honorable Mention.

See ALL-PAC, page 4

### Inside ...

College leads All-Sports race	2
Department makes changes	3
Soccer earns academic honors	3
Soccer, football earn All-PAC	4
What's new in the PLC	5

### Quick Click...

Bookmark these links on [www.gcc.edu](http://www.gcc.edu).

- **Sports**  
[www.gcc.edu/sports](http://www.gcc.edu/sports)
- **Dept. of Physical Education**  
[www.gcc.edu/Physical\\_Education.php](http://www.gcc.edu/Physical_Education.php)
- **Alumni & Friends**  
[www.gcc.edu/alumni](http://www.gcc.edu/alumni)
- **News & Media**  
[www.gcc.edu/news](http://www.gcc.edu/news)

### GROVE CITY COLLEGE **Varsity G**

**Editor**  
 Ryan Briggs '01  
 Sports Information Director

**Design**  
 Rebecca Miller '04  
 Assistant Director of Communications

**Printer**  
 SCP Group  
 Sharon, Pa.

*Varsity G is the official newsletter of the Grove City College Department of Physical Education and Athletics. It is published three times a year following each athletic season: winter, spring and fall.*

## Welcome to 'Varsity G'

Dear alumni, parents, friends and athletes,

It is hard believe that we have started a new calendar year. It seems like yesterday that our fall sports teams arrived for camp. As you will read, we had a successful fall and winter teams are off to good starts.

The men's cross country team finished seventh out of 43 teams at the regional championships and junior Garrett Cichowitz qualified for the NCAA Championships for the second straight year. Our women's cross country team finished fourth at the regional meet and narrowly missed qualifying the whole team for the national championships.

The women's tennis team won its 23rd consecutive conference championships and has qualified for the NCAA Championships in May. The football team went 4-2 in the conference and beat Thiel to maintain possession of the Mercer County Cup.

Our women's soccer team finished the season very strong with a 7-0 conference record and qualified for the ECAC Tournament. Our men's soccer and volleyball teams both advanced to the conference playoffs.

After the fall season, both the men's and women's teams are in first place for the conference All-Sports Trophies.

Homecoming was very exciting. The men's soccer team held its annual Hall of Fame game, which featured 60 alumni participants. The alumni defeated the varsity 5-4. Two alumni entered the Men's Soccer Hall of Fame: Bob Bishop '66 and Greg Kreutzberg '97. The women's soccer, volleyball, basketball and water polo teams also had alumni games or gatherings throughout Homecoming weekend.

This fall was particularly exciting. The Board of Trustees decided to name two of our athletic facilities for former coaches. In October, the College dedicated the baseball field in honor of R. Jack Behringer for his 40 years of service as a coach and athletic director. He restarted the baseball program in 1959 and coached the team for 30 seasons.

In early December, the College named its competitive pool in honor of former swimming and diving coach Jim Longnecker. In 40 years as coach, he produced 44 All-Americans and 40 consecutive winning seasons. He owns the highest winning percentage of any coach in our history. The facility is now known as the James E. Longnecker Competition Pool. Both dedications were extremely well attended by current athletes, faculty, board members, alumni and friends.

We inducted our fourth class into the College's Athletic Hall of Fame on Jan. 30. The Athletic Heritage Awards were also presented that night.

We are making a lot of changes within the Physical Learning Center to highlight our athletic program and heritage. We are always looking for trophies, pins, pictures, awards or memorabilia that you would like to loan or donate to the department for display. Piecing our history together is a fun process and anything you could share verbally or tangibly would be very much appreciated.

Recently, we received letter blankets from Dr. Ralph Carlson '62, Dave Marovich '66 and Dick Manley '67. We also received letter sweaters from Manley and Marovich. All are on display in the Physical Learning Center. If you have memorabilia to donate, please contact me at Box 3057, 100 Campus Drive, Grove City, PA 16127, phone (724) 458-2122 or email dllye@gcc.edu.

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



Donald L. Lyle

Best regards,  
**Donald L. Lyle, Ed.D.**  
Director of Athletics

## Harriers dominate conference

Grove City College's cross country teams capped another strong season by dominating the Presidents' Athletic Conference Championships.

Several Grove City runners earned All-PAC recognition for their performance at the meet. On the women's side, freshman Sara Fisher captured the PAC individual title as seven Grove City runners finished in the top 12.

Freshman Mary Kate Breese, freshman Ella Smith, junior Brigitte Fryan and junior Emily Pierce all joined Fisher on the PAC's First Team.

Junior Kate McRoberts and senior Rachel Nelson both earned Second Team recognition.

Those seven runners helped Grove City earn fourth place at the 53-team NCAA Midwest Regional Championships in Bethlehem, Pa., Nov. 14.

Fisher, Pierce and Smith all earned All-Region recognition for their performance at the meet.

Smith finished 16th overall while Fisher placed 24th. Pierce took 33rd.

The men's team also placed the bulk of its lineup on the All-PAC Team. Junior Garrett Cichowitz won the conference's MVP award after winning the individual race in 26:41.

Senior Frankie Hourigan, senior Royce Hyland, senior Derek Kruse and freshman Josiah Husk all joined Cichowitz on the PAC First Team. Freshmen Tim Coyle and Wes Tomer both received All-PAC Second Team.

The Wolverines earned 10th at the NCAA Midwest Regional Championships, the program's fourth straight top-10 finish at the regional meet.

Cichowitz qualified for the NCAA Championships by taking fifth overall in the Midwest Championships.

At the NCAA Championships in Berea, Ohio, Nov. 21, Cichowitz took 70th out of 276 runners.

## College leads All-Sports

Grove City leads the competition for both the men's and women's All-Sports Trophies in the Presidents' Athletic Conference.

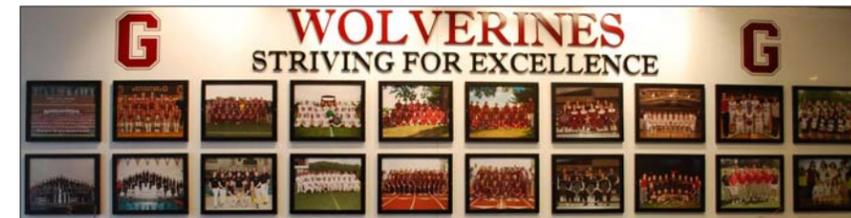
On the women's side, Grove City teams accumulated 26 points to claim a 1½-point advantage over Westminster. Grove City won conference titles in women's tennis and women's cross country, earning eight points for each win.

On the men's side, Grove City is lodged in a three-way tie at 16 points with Thomas More and Washington & Jefferson.

### McCurdy earns All-PAC

Sophomore volleyball player Anna McCurdy earned All-PAC Honorable Mention after her first starting season. She led the team with 300 kills.

She also finished second on the team in total blocks (74) and aces (23).



# Honoring history



**Dr. Donald L. Lyle**  
Director of Athletics

As you may remember, the main hall of the Physical Learning Center was just a long hall leading to the intramural rooms. In the middle of the lobby – under the clock – was a built-in trophy case filled with lots of trophies, some old and some new. The left side of the hall featured all of the coaches' offices.

All of these items still exist but the hall has taken on a much different look. As you enter the hall from the Hall of Fame, you can see a banner down the hall which has our new department logo displayed above the intramural room doors.

As you proceed down the hall, you will notice a celebration of pictures and special recognition for our current student athletes. Each sport now has its own trophy case to display team and individual accomplishments. These lighted cases feature the same oak theme as the cases in the Hall of Fame and Heritage Hall areas.

Each team also has a view case to house current publications and pictures of current athletes for information and recruiting purposes.

We have cases which highlight team accomplishments, such as Presidents' Athletic Conference champions. We also have cases focusing on special individual accomplishments by our student athletes, such as All-Americans, players of the year and NCAA special recognition.

Next to the Arena is an area displaying 11- by 14-inch color pictures of each of our teams. In the main lobby area, there are banners recognizing the other conference teams. On the opposite wall, we have PAC sportsmanship banners that have been presented to our specific teams in recognition of their sportsmanship, as voted on by their peers.

I am proud to say that we lead the conference in this area for number of teams recognized. I am sure you are not surprised.

There have been many changes over the past few years. You need to plan a visit to see all of the changes and renovations to the Physical Learning Center and on campus in general.

The Physical Learning Center walls feature trophies and awards that celebrate the College's athletic history.



### ALL-DISTRICT from page 3

She is a two-time Academic All-District selection.

A team co-captain, Bender is majoring in psychology. She is Dean's List student who has also been named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll.

Yang is studying molecular biology. She has

been inducted into the Beta Beta Beta biology honorary and is a Dean's List honoree.

A 2008 Second Team All-District selection, Peck is majoring in molecular biology. She is a member of Beta Beta Beta, ODK, the Crown and Sceptre women's honorary and has earned Deans List recognition. Peck is also a two-year letterwinner in golf.

District II includes all non-NCAA

Division I colleges and universities in Pennsylvania, Maryland, New Jersey, Delaware, West Virginia and the District of Columbia. To be nominated for the CoSIDA Academic All-America program, a student-athlete must be at least a sophomore with a 3.3 or higher cumulative grade-point average and be a starter or significant reserve.

## ALL-PAC from page 1

Lamie received Coach of the Year after guiding the Wolverines to a 7-0 mark in conference play this fall. Grove City earned the top seed in the PAC Championship Tournament and qualified for the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Southern Championship Tournament.

Grove City finished 11-7-3. It is the eighth time in the last 10 years under Lamie that the Wolverines have won 10 or more matches in a season.

Peck led Grove City with 10 goals and 24 total points this season. She shared the team lead with three game-winning goals and started all 21 matches this year.

A four-year starter, Peck played in 81 career matches and Grove City and scored 29 goals. She also earned Third Team All-Great Lakes Region from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America.

Ostlund earned her third consecutive All-PAC honor after finishing with seven goals and six assists in 19 matches. Her 20 points ranked second on the squad.

Ostlund earned First Team All-PAC in 2007 and Second Team status last year. This year, she also received All-ECAC South Second Team distinction.

Rieman made an immediate impact for Grove City this year as she started all 21 matches as a rookie. Rieman recorded seven goals and six assists this year while tying Ostlund for second on the team with 20 points.

Bender led Grove City with seven assists this year. That figure ranked second overall in the conference. Bender, a four-year letterwinner, added five goals this year and finished with 17 points.

Yang moved to defense prior to the 2009 season and helped the Wolverines record nine shutouts this year. She also scored four



Michelle Peck '10, a four-year starter, earned 2009 PAC Player of the Year.

goals in 21 matches this year while earning her third letter. Yang captured All-PAC honors at forward as a freshman in 2006.

Colley started all 21 matches at midfielder and received her first All-PAC citation. A two-year letterwinner, Colley scored one goal and had one assist this year.

Quinn moved to forward midway through the 2009 season and ultimately led Grove City with five goals. His four game-winning goals also ranked fourth in the conference. He played in all 19 matches, including 10 starts.

Brewer became a stalwart at outside defender for Grove City, helping the Wolverines post seven shutouts this year. He started all 19 matches and tied for the team lead with two assists. Brewer is a two-year letterman.

Moore captained the 2009 Wolverines and started all 19 matches at midfielder. Osborne, meanwhile, started all 19 matches in goal for the Wolverines (8-10-1) and tallied seven shutouts. He recorded a 1.41 goals-against average during the 2009 season and surrendered just five goals in conference play.

Witt played in 18 matches at forward this year and scored three goals. Witt ranked second on the team with seven points.

## Football lands 14 on All-PAC

Fourteen Grove City football players earned All-PAC honors.

Senior defensive tackle Tony Clark and junior offensive tackle Pete Polesnak both earned First Team All-PAC honors.

Junior kicker Craig Bicehouse, senior quarterback Andrew DiDonato, sophomore linebacker Jason Ferguson, sophomore tailback Blaine Miller and senior cornerback Randy Santina all earned Second Team recognition.

Seven players received Honorable Mention: sophomore nose tackle Jarred Frawley, senior guard David Gernhard, senior center Justin Macella, junior wide receiver Luke O'Hara, sophomore cornerback Aaron Palmieri, senior tight end Chris Rich and sophomore offensive tackle Zach Start.

Clark anchored the defensive line this season and recorded 61 total tackles in 10 starts. A team co-captain, Clark finished second on the team with 9.5 tackles for loss. He also earned All-South Region honors from D3Football.com.

Clark received Second Team All-PAC and All-South Region honors in 2008 as a junior.

Polesnak started nine games at left tackle this year and helped the Grove City offense average 30 points and 382 total yards per

game. He is a three-year starter at left tackle for the Wolverines.

Bicehouse earned his second All-PAC citation after scoring 53 points this year. He set a new single-season Grove City record by kicking 35 extra points this year, along with six field goals. The 53 kick points are the most in one season at Grove City.

DiDonato led the conference with 2,994 yards of total offense and 240 pass completions. He threw for a Grove City-record 2,466 yards and 18 touchdowns this year. DiDonato also led Grove City with 528 rushing yards this season. He finished his career with 7,509 passing yards and 8,904 yards of total offense.

Ferguson led the conference with 105 total tackles this season. He also led Grove City with 10 tackles for loss from his inside linebacker position.

Miller led all PAC running backs in receptions this year as he caught 49 passes for 465 yards. He also ran for 468 yards and finished with a team-leading 11 total touchdowns in 10 games this year.

Santina led Grove City with four interceptions and six pass deflections this year. A three-year starter at cornerback, Santina tallied 48 total tackles in 10 games.

## Women's tennis stays dominant

Under the direction of head coach Joe Walters, Grove City's women's tennis team posted an 11-2 overall record and won its 23rd consecutive conference title.

By winning the conference title, Grove City earns an automatic berth in this spring's upcoming NCAA Division III Championships. It will be the Wolverines' second straight trip to the national tournament.

Junior Natalie Walten earned PAC Player of the Year recognition after winning the conference title at first singles. Senior captain Lisa Baldwin posted a team-best 12-1 record in singles play this season. Baldwin, Stacy Moon, Kimberly Peterson, and Walten all won multiple titles at the PAC Championships.

## Athletic department adds 1, makes changes

Grove City College has hired Jonathan Miller as head women's water polo coach and assistant men's and women's swimming and diving coach.

Miller, a native of Fresno, Calif., came to Grove City after spending the 2008-09 academic year as assistant men's and women's water polo coach at California Baptist University.

He is a 2008 graduate of California Baptist and graduated as CBU's all-time leader in goalkeeper saves with 1,025. He earned a bachelor's degree in kinesiology and recently finished his master of science degree in kinesiology at California Baptist.

Miller's hiring coincides with several other personnel adjustments in the athletic department.

Head men's swimming and diving coach Dave Fritz has added the responsibilities of head women's swimming and diving coach at Grove City this year. In seven years as head



Jonathan Miller

men's swimming and diving coach, Fritz has guided the Wolverines to a 65-18 dual-meet record and three Presidents' Athletic Conference titles.

Fritz coached women's water polo at Grove City from 2002 through the 2009 season. He led the Wolverines to seven appearances in the Collegiate III Championships during his tenure.

Joe Walters recently completed his first season as the College's new head women's tennis coach after serving as interim head coach during the 2008-09 season.

Walters completed his 37th season as head men's tennis coach at Grove City last spring. He directed the men's squad to its 19th straight conference title in April. Walters will remain men's tennis coach as well as associate athletic director.

Grove City has also consolidated its head track and field coaching positions into one



Joe Walters

position. In 2009, Dr. Allison Williams took over as head coach for both the men's and women's track and field programs after coaching the women's team from 2001 to 2008.

Dr. Stan Keehlwetter remains on the track and field staff as an assistant coach after serving as head men's track coach for five seasons. This move helps Keehlwetter better meet the needs of his expanding role on campus as dean of the chapel.

Also, Cathy Jacobs has taken over as the department's facility coordinator. In that role, she will oversee the scheduling of activities in the College's Physical Learning Center.

Jacobs handles all game management duties for home events throughout the academic year. She has also assumed increased academic responsibilities in the department's physical education and exercise science curricula.

Jacobs joined the Grove City staff in 1988 as head women's swimming and diving coach. She also coached women's tennis from 1991 to 2007 and coached the softball team from 1989 to 1993.

## Soccer players named to Academic All-District for classroom success

Ten Grove City College soccer players earned Academic All-District honors from "ESPN The Magazine" and the College Sports Information Directors of America through voting by the region's sports information directors.

Four members of the men's soccer team earned All-District recognition. Junior forward Chuck Witt earned First Team All-District and advanced to the national Academic All-America ballot.

Sophomore forward Brian Eckenhoff is a Second Team selection. Junior midfielder Austin Bernal and senior midfielder Joel Metz both landed on the Third Team.

On the women's side, junior midfielder Emily Ostlund and senior defender Lauren Woodring both earned Second Team honors.

Senior goalkeeper Bethany Preston, senior midfielder Elise Bender, senior defender Hannah Yang



Chuck Witt '11

and senior forward Michelle Peck all received Third Team recognition.

Witt is a mechanical engineering major who has been named to the Dean's List and the Presidents' Athletic Conference Academic Honor Roll. Witt is also involved with Grove City's Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and has been inducted into the Omicron Delta Kappa honorary.

He earned Second Team Academic All-District as a sophomore.

Eckenhoff is majoring in

business management. He is a Dean's List student and has achieved PAC Academic Honor Roll distinction.

An entrepreneurship/Spanish major, Bernal is a Dean's List student and has been named to the PAC's Academic Honor Roll.

A team co-captain, Metz is majoring in mechanical engineering. He is a Dean's List student and has been named to the conference's Academic Honor Roll.

Metz is also involved in SAAC and has been inducted into the Roundtable men's honorary.

Ostlund earned Second Team Academic All-District for the second straight season.

Ostlund is studying molecular biology and Spanish. A Dean's List student, she has also been named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll. Ost-

lund has also been inducted into the Alpha Mu Gamma foreign language honorary.

Woodring earned Second Team All-District this year after receiving Third Team honors in each of the last two seasons. She is mathematics/secondary education major.

Woodring is a Dean's List student who has also been named to the PAC Academic Honor Roll. She is a member of ODK, Kappa Delta Pi education honorary, Kappa Mu Epsilon math honorary and Mortar Board.

Preston graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in music last May. She completed the requirements for a bachelor of science degree in business this fall. She has been named to the Dean's List and the PAC Academic Honor Roll.

See ALL-DISTRICT, page 5