

Report of the Faculty Athletics Representative

4 March 2015

As we head into college basketball March Madness, please join me in congratulating our Men's Swimming and Diving student-athletes on a superlative showing in the ACC Tournament where they finished second—winning gold in five events and earning 16 medals overall. Despite the weather, baseball and softball are underway! If you are interested in supporting these U of L sports, you will join an enthusiastic fan base.

In my last report, I noted that the 19th Annual Red and Black Reception for Scholar Athletes and Faculty Mentors was to be held on February 8th at the KFC Yum! Center's Spirit Room, overlooking the Ohio River. The reception was a gala event in honor of the 403 student-athletes and members of the spirit teams who had earned a 3.25 cumulative gpa for all semesters at U of L. The scholar athletes who attended the banquet with their chosen faculty mentors ---professors and instructors who had made a difference in their academic achievement--were celebrated by the Provost and the Faculty Athletics Representative, who presented the first annual Mentor of the Year Award to Dr. Mary Ashlock from the Department of Communication. She was chosen by the student-athletes as someone who has most inspired them to succeed in the classroom, offering support and guidance in their academic careers. Following the Reception, scholar athletes and their mentors were invited to the Women's Basketball game with the University of Pittsburgh. At halftime, I was honored by our female student-athletes and Tom Jurich with a video of my work with student-athletes and the 2015 National Girls and Women in Sports Award, a lovely tribute which I will long remember and always cherish.

One of the joys of our membership in the ACC is its focus on academic excellence. Thus, it gives me great pleasure to announce to you that four of our student-athletes have been chosen to receive ACC Post Graduate Awards. The press release is attached. All four will be recognized at a luncheon in honor of the ACC recipients on April 15 in Greensboro.

Elaine Wise, FAR

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