For the 13th consecutive year, Maine’s America East “All Sport” GPA exceeded a 3.0 average, posting a 3.16 for the 2015-16 year. Maine placed 5th among the conference schools. The Academic Cup, established by the America East Board of Directors in 1995, is presented to the institution whose student-athletes post the highest GPA’s during the academic year. Maine won the cup in both 2004 and 2007.

The Black Bears had **12 of 17 teams with a GPA of 3.0 or better** for the 2015-16 year. All of UMaine’s Women’s teams including: Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Ice Hockey, Soccer, Softball, Swimming & Diving and Indoor & Outdoor Track & Field. Men’s teams included: Cross Country, Ice Hockey and Outdoor Track & Field.

11 of Maine’s 17 teams were at or above the national average for multi-year rates in their respective sports in the NCAA Division I Academic Progress Rate (APR). Men’s sports included: Cross Country, Football, Ice Hockey, Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. Women’s sports included: Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer and Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field. This is the 12th year, and since the inception of the APR, that no UMaine teams were subject to NCAA penalties for poor academic performance.

Congratulations to Coach Richard Barron and the Women’s Basketball team for achieving a team GPA of 3.47 in 2015-16, the highest year end GPA of all Maine teams. Women’s Ice Hockey came in second at 3.42.

Four Black Bear squads posted their **highest team semester GPA’s** in Fall 2015 and/or Spring 2016 in 28 years of tracking these marks: Men’s Basketball – Spring (3.04), Softball – Fall (3.40), Women’s Ice Hockey – Spring (3.51) and Women’s Basketball – Fall (3.53).

91 Student-Athletes **graduated** in 2015-16.

Two student-athletes were among UMaine’s five named as “**Outstanding Graduating International Students of the Year**” - Basketball forward, Mikaela Gustafsson (Sociology / Sodertalje, Sweden) was recognized by UMaine’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and Track & Field and Cross Country runner, Annabelle Wilson (Elementary Education / Geelong, Victoria, Australia) was honored by the College of Education and Human Development. In addition, basketball forward, Elizabeth Wood (Biology & Honors / Catlett, VA) was named the “**Outstanding Graduating Student**” in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry and Agriculture.

Maine had a 90% **Graduation Success Rate** compared to 82% nationally and a 66% **Federal Graduation Rate** for SA’s compared to 59% of all UMaine students. Both rates based on the latest cohort (2008-09) for SA’s receiving an athletic scholarship in their first semester at Maine. The GSR includes incoming and outgoing transfer data and is improved by those who left Maine eligible.
For the second year in a row, Women’s Basketball had the **highest 2015-16 America East GPA** amongst conference schools with an impressive 3.47. Also in the conference, 2nd place rankings were held by Field Hockey with 3.26 and Men’s Basketball with 2.96.

For the 12th consecutive year, over one-half (~66%) of the UMaine student-athletes were recognized for their success in the classroom at the University of Maine Scholar-Athlete Recognition Awards ceremony. The record 297 students honored was the largest group to be recognized in the history of the event. 218 students were named UMaine **Scholar-Athletes** for achieving a 3.0 or better GPA for the 2015 calendar year and/or maintaining a 3.0 cumulative GPA. In addition, 79 first year athletes were honored as *Rising Stars* for earning a 3.0 or better GPA in their first semester at UMaine.

**“Team Maine 2015”** honors were presented to the top sophomore, junior or senior of each team achieving the highest GPA for their team during the 2015 calendar year: Jake Osborne - Baseball, Garvey Melmed - Men's Basketball, Sigrid Koizar - Women's Basketball, Jesse Orach - Men's Cross Country & Indoor and Outdoor Track, Shannon O'Neil - Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field, Adriana Martineau - Field Hockey, Max Andrews - Football, Cedric Lacroix and Sean Romeo - Men's Ice Hockey, Jillian Langtry - Women's Ice Hockey, Kendra Ridley - Soccer, Erika Leonard - Softball, Matthew England - Men's Swimming & Diving, Victoria Kingston - Women's Swimming & Diving and Katrina Ogden - Cheering.

The NCAA honored the Women’s Cross Country team with public recognition for their latest multi-year **Academic Progress Rate scores**. This team posted multi-year APR scores that were in the top 10% of all teams in their sport. This marks the 11th consecutive year that the Women’s Cross Country team has posted a perfect score of 1000, every year of the awards existence. Maine is just 1 of 110 teams out of the more than 6000 teams in all NCAA Division I sports to achieve this standard. The APR provides a look at a team's academic success by tracking academic progress of each student-athlete. The APR measures eligibility, retention and graduation in the calculation.

For the 2nd consecutive year and 4th time in program history, the Women’s Basketball team was named to the **Women’s Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) Academic Top 25**, ranked 18th nationally with a team GPA of 3.48 in 2015-16. Maine, the only America East school to receive a spot on the Top 25, improved its ranking from 24th in 2014-15.

**2015-16 America East All-Academic Team** selections represent the top student-athletes in their respective sport from the America East conference. Honored for Men’s teams were 2-time selection Logan Fullmer – Baseball, Jesse Orach – 2-time honors for Men’s Cross Country along with Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, Steven Longfellow Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field, Joshua Horne and Michael Lucas – Men’s Indoor Track & Field. Women’s honors were presented to 3-time selection Elizabeth Wood and 2-time selection Sigi Koizar – Basketball, Sydney Veljacic - Field Hockey, Janelle Bouchard and Erika Leonard – Softball, Emily Borger, Victoria Kingston, Cecelia McEachern and Mariya Pominova - Women’s Swimming & Diving and 2-time honors for both Jaclyn Masters and Shannon O’Neill – Women’s Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field.
76% of Maine’s Fall sport student-athletes were named to the America East Fall Academic Honor Roll for achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 60 student-athletes named were from Field Hockey (15), Women’s Cross Country (18), Soccer (20), and Men’s Cross Country (7). 32 of them were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher. Maine has achieved the highest percentage of fall student-athletes on the fall honor roll in the conference 8 of the last 10 years.

66% of Maine’s Winter/Spring sport student-athletes were named to the America East Winter/Spring Academic Honor Roll for achieving a GPA of 3.0 or higher. The 146 student-athletes named were from Baseball (18), Men’s and Women’s Basketball (9 & 14 respectively), Softball (15) Women’s Swimming (25) and Men’s & Women’s Track & Field (26 & 39 respectively). 69 of them were named to the Commissioner’s Honor Roll for earning a GPA of 3.5 or higher. The women’s basketball team led all women’s basketball conference member schools with 87% of its roster earning honor roll selections.

Three students were named America East Presidential Student-Athletes for compiling a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher as an undergraduate and graduating in May 2016: From Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field, with a 3.95 GPA, Jesse Orach – (Chemical Engineering/ Gorham, Maine), from Women’s Cross Country and Track & Field with a 3.98 GPA, Shannon O’Neil (Communication Sciences & Disorders / Milan, NH) and from Women’s Basketball with a 3.95 GPA, Liz Wood (Biology / Catlett, VA).

For the 3rd consecutive year, the Women’s Ice Hockey squad led the Hockey East conference with 21 players named to the Women’s Hockey East All-Academic Team for achieving a 3.0 or better GPA in both Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. Seniors Abby Cook, Brooklyn Langlois, Jillian Langtry, Kelsey MacSorley and Audra Richards were named “Distinguished Scholars” for posting a 3.0 or better in each semester over four collegiate years. Third-time selection was Jessica Vallotton, while second-time honors were presented to Emilie Brigham, Kristin Gilmour, Victoria Hummel, Morgan Sakundiak, Meghann Treacy and Anna Wright. First-time honors went to Nicole Arnold, Mariah Fujimagari, Cassidy Herman, Cailey Hutchinson, Carly Jackson, Alyson Matteau, Lydia Murray, Natalie Robinson and Catherine Tufts.

Maine had 13 Men’s Ice Hockey student-athletes named to the Hockey East Conference All-Academic Team for earning above a 3.0 GPA in both the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters. Third-time honors went to Brady Campbell, Brian Morgan, and Eric Schurhamer. Second-time honorees were Mark Hamilton, Bill Norman and Scan Romeo. First-time honors were given to Sam Becker, Stephen Cochrane, Cedric Lacroix, Will Merchant, Jack Musil and Jaspreet Rai. Senior Steven Swavely (Finance/ Reading, PA) was one of eight student-athletes to be named a “Distinguished Scholar” for earning fourth-time honors, achieving a 3.0 or better GPA in each semester over his four years at Maine.

Sam Becker (Financial Economics/ Roseville, MN) was named one of six Hockey East “Top Scholar-Athletes” for earning a perfect 4.0 GPA for the 2015-16 season. He was also named as a defenseman to the Hockey East Academic All-Star team, honoring the conference’s top grade point average by position.
Football linebacker Austin Brown (Finance / Easton, PA) was named a finalist for the CAA Football Student-Athlete of the Year distinction.

For the 12th consecutive year, the Field Hockey team was one of the 68 teams honored with the Gladiator by SGI/NFHCA Division I National Academic Team Award for posting a 3.0 or higher GPA in Fall 2015 (3.20). For maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.30 or higher, individual honors went to third-time recipient Sydney Veljacic, second-time honors to Madison Cummings and first-time honors for Casey Crowley, Adriana Martineau, Ella Mosky, Elizabeth Riedl, Nicole Sevey and Marissa Shaw. Casey Crowley (Business-Undeclared / New Plymouth, New Zealand), was also one of the 80 named nationwide as 2015 ZAG Field Hockey /NFHCA Division I “Scholars of Distinction” for achieving a cumulative GPA of 3.90 or higher through Fall 2015.

The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association (USTFCCCA) awarded the Women’s Indoor and Outdoor Track & Field teams All-Academic Team honors for posting a team GPA of 3.28 in 2015-2016.

The Women’s Soccer team will receive the 2015 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Team Academic Award for posting an impressive 3.27 team GPA for 15-16 year.

Football defensive end Trevor Bates (Kinesiology & Physical Education / Westbrook, ME) was a finalist for the America Football Coaches Association Allstate AFCA 2015 Good Works Team recognizing superior commitment to community and volunteerism.

Maine Athletics had representatives selected to all four of the University of Maine’s all-inclusive and prestigious honor societies, representing the top 1% of their respective classes. From Swimming & Diving, Cecelia McEachern (Civil Engineering / Ellsworth, ME) was named to the “All Maine Women” Honor Society, recognizing the outstanding women of the rising senior class who exhibits leadership, scholarship and service to the University and campus community. Men’s Swimmer, Timothy Edison (Kinesiology and Physical Education / Westfield, MA) was named to the “Senior Skulls” Honor Society as one of twelve male rising seniors who exhibit strong moral character, outstanding school spirit, leadership, strong academic achievement, and ability to serve as role model for underclassmen. Rising Sophomores from the Women’s Swimming and Diving team, Gabrielle Murphy (Chemical Engineering / Montreal, Quebec) and Beatrix Lavigueur (Athletic Training & Honors / Newport, RI) were inducted to the “Sophomore Eagles” for scholarship, leadership, character, friendship and dignity - the five points of the Sophomore Eagles' symbolic blue star. Male swimmer, Stephen Comeau (Bioengineering / Bangor, ME) was inducted to the “Sophomore Owls” Honor Society, dedicated to community service at UMaine and in surrounding communities, to aid First Year men in the adaptation process to the University of Maine and to promote and exemplify excellent citizenship and University spirit on campus.

Track & Field sprinter/hurdles, Michael Lucas (Sociology / Auburn, ME) received a Senior Recognition Award from the Department of Sociology. During his senior year, Lucas also balanced his studies with dual track and military training in hopes to become a Navy SEAL.
The U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Association (USTFCCCA) All-Academic accolades were given to pole vaulter Jaclyn Masters (Nursing / Auburn, ME) with a 3.72 GPA. Recipients must have compiled a 3.25 cumulative GPA and have participated in the NCAA Championships. Masters broke her own school records multiple times graduating with marks of Indoor (4.05m / 13'3 ½") and Outdoor (4.06m / 13'3 ¾"). In 2016, she was the champion in America East (indoor & outdoor), New England (indoor), and ECAC (indoor and outdoor). She capped off a stellar career with a 32nd place at the NCAA East Regional.

18 Football student-athletes were named to the 2015 CAA Academic All-Conference Team for achieving a 3.0 or higher accumulative GPA: Drew Belcher, Austin Brown, Daniel Burrows, Samuel Cooper, Jamil Demby, James De Martini, John Kay, Samuel Lenson, Kurt Massey, John McCabe, John Reddington, Calvert Schaefer, Sterling Sheffield, Michael Supp, Jason Simonovich, Davis Turner, Connor Walsh & Benedict Wezel.

For their exemplary efforts in the area of community service while remaining in good academic standing, two UMaine student-athletes were named as UMaine’s representatives to the America East’s 2016 “Helping Hands Team.” Named from Women’s Track & Field was junior Jillian Lary (Food Science & Human Nutrition / Hopkinton, MA) and from Football was junior, Michael Supp (Mechanical Engineering / Perkasie, PA).

In February, The College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) named Women’s Basketball’s Sigi Koizar and Liz Wood to the 8 member Academic All-District 1 team. In March, they were two of the fifteen nationwide named COSIDA Division I Academic All-Americans, Koizar to the second team and Liz to the third team.

The 2016 inductees into the Francis Crowe Society from the School of Engineering Technology were Construction Engineering Technology majors from Football, offensive lineman Josh Ingalls (Wells, ME) and left-back, Matthew Leblanc (Holden, MA).

10 Softball student-athletes were named 2016 Easton/NFCA (National Fastpitch Coaches Association) “All-America Scholar-Athletes” for achieving a 3.5 or better GPA in 2015-2016: Janelle Bouchard, Faythe Goins, Rachel Harvey, Annie Kennedy, Erika Leonard, Nicole Misner, Meghan Royle & Ashley Tinsman.

Senior Women’s Basketball forward, Elizabeth Wood (Biology & Honors / Catlett, VA) capped off a stellar college career with more awards in 2015-16. She was selected as a top 30 candidate for the national 2015-16 Senior CLASS Award (Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School) which focuses on the total student-athlete and encourages students to use their platform in athletics to make a positive impact as leaders in their communities. She was also a finalist for the America East Woman of the Year and chosen as the America East Co-defensive Player of the Year. In addition, she was awarded the Frank B. and Charles S. Bickford Memorial Prize as the outstanding senior student in the College of Natural Sciences, Forestry, and Agriculture. She was also named COSIDA Academic All-American. Wood served as the America East Conference’s SAAC representative to the NCAA and a three-time finalist to the WBCA Allstate Good Works Team for her dedication to community service.
This year’s M Club Dean Smith Awards were presented to Men’s Cross Country and Track & Field co-captain and distance runner Jesse Orach (Gorham, ME) and Women’s Basketball guard, Sigrid Koizar (Vienna, Austria). Since 1980 these awards have been presented UMaine’s top male and female student-athletes for outstanding academic and athletic achievement, along with citizenship and community service.

Orach graduated Summa Cum Laude with a 3.95 GPA in May 2015 with a B. S. in Chemical Engineering and a minor in mathematics. He was also named the Outstanding Graduating Chemical Engineering student in 2016. Jesse will continue his studies and athletic eligibility at Maine with plans to complete a 5-year MBA program in May of 2017. He was a Pulp & Paper Foundation Scholarship recipient, and recently completed a 10-month co-op experience with Verso Corporation. Inducted into the Tau Beta Phi Honor Society, Alpha Lambda Delta Honor Society and the National Society for Collegiate Scholars and National AP Scholar with Distinction. He was a gold medalist as a four-time UMaine scholar-athlete, a three-time UMaine Presidential Scholar and was named to the Dean’s List 6 times and to the America East All-Academic Team multiple times. He was also named to TEAM MAINE, awarded to the highest GPA on each individual varsity sport. He was an America East Presidential Scholar, named to the “Elite 18” for being the top scholar in the America East Championships, and was the top America East Scholar Athlete for both Men’s Cross Country and Indoor Track & Field. Orach finished 7th in the 2015 America East Cross Country Championships and third in the 5000m in the IC4A. He was selected to the All-New England an All-America East Cross Country teams.

Koizar was a junior with a 3.96 GPA, majoring in Biology with a Pre-Medical concentration and a minor in Chemistry. She was named a 2-time COSIDA Academic All-District selection. She was a silver medalist as a two-time UMaine scholar-athlete and has made the America East Commissioner’s Honor Roll three consecutive years. She was named to the America East All-Academic Team and has been a five-time Presidential Scholar and six-time Dean’s list honoree. In addition, Sigi was a member of TEAM MAINE in 2014 and 2015 for achieving the highest GPA on the Women’s Basketball team. With one year of eligibility remaining, Sigi was the 20th Black Bear to score over 1000 points. She helped lead the team to a share of the America East regular season title in 2016 and was named for the second year to first team All-Conference. She ranked in the top 10 of the America East standings in nine different statistical categories including averaging 17.5 points per game, third-best in the league. She had double-figures in 27 games, besting 20 on 12 occasions with 30+ in three games. She set the UMaine school-record in 3-pointers with 76 makes, led the league in 3-point makes, averaging 2.5 per game, and was ranked and ninth nationally with a 43.4 percent showing from 3-point range. She was third in the league with 3.9 assists per game and was also ranked first with a 1.8 assist-to-turnover ratio on the UMaine team, which ranked 10th best in the nation in turnovers.

Looking forward to another great year in 2016-2017 🐾 🐾 🐾 Go BLUE!!