2011 BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS

Welcome........................................................................................................... Jeff Charles
Voice of the Pirates

Invocation ........................................................................................................ Allison Spivey
Women’s Basketball
President, Student-Athlete Advisory Committee

Breakfast

Greetings
East Carolina University .......................................................... Marilyn Sheerer
Provost

Potash Corp.........................................................................................Chris Toppin
Manager, Human Relations

Kristi Overton Award.................................................................Carlester Crumpler
Student Development

Pat Draughon Postgraduate
Scholarship Award ...............................................................Brian Cavanaugh
Former Pat Draughon Award Recipient
and Director of Baseball Operations

Pirate Service and Leadership Postgraduate
Scholarship Award .................................................................Jamie Quinn
Community Service Coordinator

Walter and Marie Williams “Spirit of the East”
Posteligibility Scholarship Award.................................Walter Williams

Outstanding Scholar-Athlete Awards ..............................................Chris Toppin
Potash Corp Aurora

Closing Remarks...................................................................................... Terry Holland
Director of Athletics
Antoinette Paisley
Softball

My experience at East Carolina has created a person that I thought never existed. Not only has athletics taught me to challenge myself, it has connected me with the community. I now strive to do everything at my best, to give back to my community, to pursue a master’s degree and to help others realize that they too can reach great heights. If it wasn’t for my peers, coaches, professors and advisors, I may never have taken advantage of this life changing experience.

Antoinette Paisley, this year’s most outstanding female scholar-athlete, has firmly established herself as a champion in every sense of the word. As a member of the Pirate softball team, the Lakewood, California, native has made her mark at East Carolina University. This outstanding Pirate pitcher is a top 25 finalist for the Amateur Softball Association of America’s 2011 USA Collegiate Player-of-the-Year Award. She is the Conference USA and East Carolina career leader in wins, strikeouts, innings pitched and appearances. In 2010 she was named to the Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division I All-America Third Team. In both 2009 and 2010 she was named a First-Team Louisville Slugger/National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region selection, Conference USA Pitcher-of-the-Year and first-team all-league honoree.

Paisley’s academic record is just as impressive where she graduated Cum Laude this past spring with a degree in social work. She carries a 3.55 cumulative grade point average and is currently seeking her certification as a school social worker. She has garnered numerous academic honors including being named to the Conference USA All-Academic Team.

In the community, Paisley has been a tireless volunteer working with local school children and assisting such organizations as The ALS Association, Relay for Life, Riley’s Army and the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina.
My athletic and academic success at ECU has changed my goals for the future for the better. I want to do things and achieve things that four years ago I did not think I could handle or accomplish. I want to achieve things that will not only make my family or myself better off, but ultimately the world. The world is not better off with one person doing something for himself or herself but is made better when selfless individuals work with others to help one another.

Andrew Stoker
Swimming

This year’s most outstanding male scholar-athlete, Andrew Stoker, has distinctly established himself as both a leader and an inspiration. As a member of the Pirate swim team, the Berwyn, Pennsylvania, native was named ECU Rookie-of-the-Year his freshman season. His hard work and leadership abilities went on to earn him the role of team captain during both his junior and senior seasons. While competing for the Pirates, Stoker has earned the honor of being a two-time All-Conference USA performer, a four-year Conference USA Championship finalist, and varsity record holder in the 200-yard butterfly.

In the classroom, Stoker maintains a perfect 4.00 cumulative grade point average as an accounting major and economics minor. His academic achievements have been recognized with his membership in Phi Eta Sigma Freshman Honor Society and Beta Gamma Sigma Business Honor Society where he currently serves as the organization’s vice president.

Stoker’s leadership abilities also extend into the service realm. He has served two years on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and was elected secretary his senior year. Stoker is the founder of Pirates Against Ovarian Cancer. This spring he organized the group’s first walk to raise awareness and research monies to benefit the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund. The inaugural event raised $3,900.00. Other organizations that have benefited from his efforts include Relay for Life, Special Olympics and the Food Bank of Eastern North Carolina. This spring, Stoker was recognized by Conference USA with the Spirit of Service Award.
**Kristi Overton**

**Female Scholar-Athlete Award**

This award was established by the Parker Overton family in honor of Kristi Overton, who has achieved national prominence in the sport of water skiing. This endowment was created to honor an outstanding female athlete from the state of North Carolina who has excelled during her freshman year at ECU. The award winner is honored for her outstanding athletic ability, academic achievement and service to the community.

**Abby Wynne**

Softball

“Never before has someone so young in her career delivered as many ‘key’ hits as Abby has, regardless of the competition or dire situation.” These are the words head coach Tracey Kee uses to describe catcher Abby Wynne’s first year as a member of the Pirate softball squad. The Greenville, North Carolina, native is a graduate of North Pitt High School where she was named the Eastern Plains Conference Player-of-the-Year as well as the North Carolina Softball Coaches Association 2A East Player-of-the-Year. Academically, Wynne’s performance has been just as impressive where she earned a 3.63 grade point average her first semester at ECU as a middle grades education major.

**Austin Homan**

Baseball

“It’s not necessarily the talent, but what’s inside the heart that matters most.” These are Austin Homan’s words as he describes the lessons learned as an ECU Pirate. The Port Matilda, Pennsylvania, native is the first two-time recipient of the number 23 jersey – former head coach Keith LeClair’s number and given annually to a deserving player who best displays characteristics of LeClair - hustle, determination and desire. Homan has also demonstrated those characteristics off the field. He graduated this past spring with a 3.43 grade point average with a health fitness specialist degree and is currently pursuing a master of science in recreation and park management.

**Walter and Marie Williams**

**“Spirit of the East” Posteligibility Scholarship Award**

This prestigious award is presented to a student-athlete who demonstrates outstanding commitment to the spirit of East Carolina University. Recipients exemplify the qualities of dedication, loyalty, persistence, and the spirit of competition on and off the field. Walter and Marie Williams have generously given their time and resources to the growth and advancement of East Carolina University. Their dedication and loyalty will always be remembered as the true “Spirit of the East.”

**Allison Spivey**

Basketball

Allison Spivey states that “without having involvement in our local Greenville and Pitt County communities, I may have never learned of my gift to serve.” While at ECU, the Asheboro, North Carolina, native has served as vice president and president of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee, been a member of Fellowship for Christian Athletes and volunteered for such organizations as Boys and Girls Club, Relay for Life and The Building Hope Community Life Center. Upon graduation, the 3.29 communication major plans to take a position at the Good Samaritan Hospital in the Dominican Republic as an interpreter for medical mission teams. After her year of service, she plans to pursue a master’s degree in health communication at ECU.

**Colleen Estes**

Golf

Colleen Estes describes ECU as a university “brimming with opportunity.” And she has seized those opportunities with full Pirate passion and pride. During her tenure on the Pirate golf team, the Cary, North Carolina, native has three Top 10 placements and nine Top 20. She has served as secretary and vice president for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and is on the Student Service Council. The 3.81 health fitness specialist major has been a three-time National Golf Coaches Association Scholar All-American and was named to the 2011 Conference USA All-Academic Team. Through her community service efforts, she has assisted such organizations as Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity and Pitt County Specialized Recreation.
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