



2021-22 ANNUAL REPORT





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2021-22 SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF

Jim Schaus
Geoff Cabe
Sue Arakas
Doug King
Jason Yaman
Sean Diminick
Phil Perry

Commissioner
Senior Associate Commissioner
Associate Commissioner
Associate Commissioner for Compliance
Associate Commissioner
Assistant Commissioner for Championships
Assistant Commissioner for Media Relations

Paul Lollis
Jasmine Washington
Ralan Wardlaw
Laura Granger
Cliff Conway
Lanie Angel

Assistant Commissioner for Video Productions
Director of Creative Services
Assistant Director of Media Relations
Executive Assistant to the Commissioner
Championships Assistant
Media Relations Assistant

LETTER FROM COMMISSIONER SCHAU



What a year! This annual report will chronicle our many 2021-22 successes in athletics, academics, student-athlete welfare and crowning personal achievements. I am proud to present it to you. Thanks to our outstanding university and athletic department administrators, coaches, staffs, student-athletes, conference personnel and fans.

In the midst of unprecedented membership changes among Division I conferences, the Southern Conference demonstrated solidarity and commitment to a common vision of excellence. We are a conference where academics is paramount and student-athletes are students first. We strive to compete at the highest level in all sports. We value the student-athlete experience and their well-being. We believe vibrant athletic programs contribute to the overall success of their universities.

With many changes in the NCAA and collegiate landscape still ahead, the Southern Conference, entering its 102nd year of operation, will continue to be visionary, strategic and adaptive as it charts its auspicious course for the future. Our future is bright!

Thanks again to everyone in the SoCon family, and our supporters, for another great year! See you again soon!

A white, cursive signature of Jim Schaus on a dark blue background.

Jim Schaus
Commissioner



2021-22 INSTITUTIONAL ADMINISTRATION

The Citadel

President	Gen Glenn M. Walters
Athletics Director	Mike Capaccio
Senior Woman Administrator	Kevicia Brown
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Chip Taylor

Samford

President	Dr. Beck Taylor
Athletics Director	Martin Newton
Senior Woman Administrator	Michelle Durban
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Denise Gregory

ETSU

President	Dr. Brian Noland
Athletics Director	Scott Carter
Senior Woman Administrator	Lauren Aksionoff
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Susan Epps

Chattanooga

Chancellor	Dr. Steve Angle
Athletics Director	Mark Wharton
Senior Woman Administrator	Laura Herron
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Valerie Rutledge

Furman

President	Dr. Elizabeth Davis
Athletics Director	Jason Donnelly
Senior Woman Administrator	Jodi Steffes
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Danielle Vinson

VMI

Superintendent	Maj. Gen. Cedric T. Wins
Athletics Director	Jim Miller
Senior Woman Administrator	Haley Shotwell
Faculty Athletics Representative	Col. Jay Johnson

Mercer

President	William D. Underwood
Athletics Director	Jim Cole
Senior Woman Administrator	Sybil A. Blalock
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Jeffrey D. Hugdahl

Western Carolina

Chancellor	Dr. Kelli R. Brown
Athletics Director	Alex Gary
Senior Woman Administrator	Stacey Miller
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Alex Macaulay

UNCG

Chancellor	Dr. Franklin D. Gilliam Jr.
Athletics Director	Brian Mackin
Senior Woman Administrator	Jody Smith
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Jeremy Bray

Wofford

President	Dr. Nayef H. Samhat
Athletics Director	Richard Johnson
Senior Woman Administrator	Elizabeth Rabb
Faculty Athletics Representative	Dr. Jameica B. Hill



NCAA LEADERSHIP


BASEBALL RULES COMMITTEE
ALEX GARY
*AD
Western Carolina
08/31/26*

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
ALEX GARY
*AD
Western Carolina
08/31/26*

DIVISION I PRESIDENTIAL FORUM
Dr. Brian Noland
*President
ETSU
08/31/23*

DIVISION I NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Elizabeth Rabb
*SWA
Wofford
08/31/25*

DIVISION I PROGRESS TOWARD DEGREE WAIVERS COMMITTEE
Emily Blackman
*Senior Assoc. AD -
Academic Enhancement
Chattanooga
08/31/23*

DIVISION I WOMEN'S BASKETBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Jackie Carson
*Head Women's Basketball
Furman
06/30/23*

POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE
Jameica B. Hill
*FAR
Wofford
08/31/23*

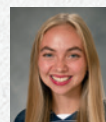
MEN'S LACROSSE RULES COMMITTEE
James Purpura
*Head Men's Lacrosse Coach
VMI
08/31/25*

WOMEN'S SOFTBALL RULES COMMITTEE
Janelle Breneman
*Head Softball Coach
UNCG
08/31/23*

DIVISION I PRE-ENROLLMENT AMATEURISM CERTIFICATION COMMITTEE
Kay Lennon McGrew
*Assistant University Counsel
ETSU
08/31/25*

DIVISION I WRESTLING COMMITTEE
Kyle Ruschell
*Head Wrestling Coach
Chattanooga
08/31/23*

DIVISION I FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP COMMITTEE
Mark Wharton
*AD
Chattanooga
08/31/26*

DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL COMMITTEE
Martin Newton
*AD
Samford
08/31/27*

DIVISION I STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Rachel Reid
*Student-athlete
ETSU
05/31/24*

DIVISION I COMMITTEE ON ACADEMICS
Rob Carson
*Associate AD/Academic Success
Furman
08/31/26*

DIVISION I FOOTBALL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
Rusty Wright
*Head Football Coach
Chattanooga
06/30/24*

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S RIFLE COMMITTEE
Stanley Broaden
*Associate AD for Operations
Wofford
08/31/24*

DIVISION I MEN'S SOCCER COMMITTEE
Sybil Blalock
*SWA
Mercer
08/31/24*

Representatives from nine of the 10 Southern Conference schools hold NCAA appointments, including ETSU President Dr. Brian Noland serving on the Division I Presidential Forum.

ACADEMICS

Academic Progress Rate

Eleven Southern Conference sports met or exceeded the national average and 32 league teams achieved perfect scores in the most recent Academic Progress Rate data released by the NCAA. Nine of the 10 SoCon members had at least one sport that posted a perfect score of 1,000, with Furman leading the way with six and UNC Greensboro following with five. Chattanooga and Mercer had four each, while Samford, Western Carolina and Wofford had three each. The Citadel and ETSU had two each. Women's golf produced six perfect scores, while men's golf and men's cross country each had five. Football, men's cross country, men's golf, men's tennis, men's track and field, softball, women's cross country, women's golf, women's soccer, women's tennis, and volleyball all collectively met or surpassed the national averages for those sports.

The Southern Conference matched or exceeded the FCS average in seven men's sports and five women's sports for Graduation Success Rate scores released in the December. Fifty-nine SoCon programs earned perfect scores of 100, with nine of the 10 league schools boasting at least one men's program with a perfect score and eight SoCon schools having at least one women's program earn a 100. Wofford led the SoCon with 11 perfect scores, followed the Samford with 10. For the third year in a row, Samford was the lone SoCon school to exceed the FCS average in every sport it sponsors.

CoSIDA Academic All-America

(3rd Team) **JP Armbruster**,
Gr., MF, Belmont, Men's soccer

(3rd Team) **Kayla White**,
UNCG, Gr., Volleyball

(3rd Team) **Ryan Galanie**,
Wofford, Jr., IF, Baseball

(3rd Team) **Drew Singerman**,
Furman, Gr., Men's at-large (Tennis)

(3rd Team) **Jonathan Boyd**,
Chattanooga, Gr., Men's track & field/cross country

CoSIDA Academic All-District 3

Ailym Ford, So., RB, Chattanooga, Football
Cole Strange, Sr., OL, Chattanooga, Football
Aaron Sears, R-So., K, Chattanooga, Football
Christian Snyder, Jr., LB, Chattanooga, Football
Rashun Freeman, Sr., DB, Chattanooga, Football
Jerrell Lawson, Sr., DB, Chattanooga, Football
CaMiron Smith, Jr., DB, Chattanooga, Football
JP Armbruster, Gr., MF, Belmont, Men's soccer
AJ Chastonay, So., MF, Belmont, Men's soccer
Ares Marlonsson, Sr., F, Belmont, Men's soccer
Natalie McNally, Gr., D, Western Carolina,
Women's soccer

Kayla White, UNCG, Gr., Volleyball
Malachi Smith, Chattanooga, R-So., Men's basketball
Delaney Cumbie, UNCG, Sr., C, Softball
Makenna Matthijs, Gr., OF, Softball
Zach Ketterman, Western Carolina, Jr., IF, Baseball
Jonathan Boyd, Chattanooga, Gr.,
Men's track & field/cross country
Emma Russum, Chattanooga, Jr.,
Women's track & field/cross country

CoSIDA Academic All-District 4

Hamp Sisson, Sr., QB, Furman, Football
Raleigh Webb, Sr., WR, The Citadel, Football
Barron King, R-Jr., DL, Mercer, Football
Alexis Tomlin, Sr., Wofford, Women's basketball
Ryan Galanie, Wofford, Jr., IF, Baseball
Luke Sadd, Mercer, Gr., Men's at-large (lacrosse)
Drew Singerman, Furman, Gr., Men's at-large
(tennis)
Adam Beucler, Furman, Jr.,
Men's cross country/track & field
Josh Powers, Furman, Jr.,
Men's cross country/track & field
Kerrington Johnson, Wofford, Jr.,
Women's track & field/cross country

Academic All-SoCon

To be eligible for the academic all-conference teams, student-athletes must carry at least a 3.3 cumulative grade-point average at the conclusion of the semester and were required to compete in at least one-half of their teams' competitions. In addition, the student-athletes must have successfully completed at least three semesters at their institutions, making true freshmen and first-year transfers ineligible for inclusion. A league-record 422 student-athletes earned the honor in the fall, while 528 student-athletes combined for 640 selections in the spring, with 112 earning the distinction for both the indoor and outdoor track and field seasons.

SoCon Academic Honor Roll

The academic honor roll consists of student-athletes who participated in varsity sports and posted a 3.0 grade point average or higher for the academic year, were eligible the entire academic year and were members of the final squad lists. This season, 2,442 student-athletes from the 10 member institutions and 14 associate members garnered the distinction, with 713 earning the Commissioner's Medal, awarded to student-athletes who attain a GPA of 3.8 or higher throughout the year. In addition, 264 student-athletes achieved perfect 4.0 GPAs for the year, matching the record set last year.



ACADEMIC ALL-SOCON BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL
SELECTIONS**
1,062

4.0S
92

HONOR ROLL BY THE NUMBERS

**TOTAL
SELECTIONS**
2,442

**COMMISSIONER'S
MEDALS**
713

4.0S
264
(Ties record)

OTHER ACADEMIC AWARDS

MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU

Furman

Mercer

UNCG

Samford

Wofford

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC

INDIVIDUALS

Cameron Ponder, Furman

Dylan Schubert, Furman

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU

Furman

Mercer

UNCG

Samford

Wofford

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC

INDIVIDUALS

Lindsey Stallworth, ETSU

Bethany Graham, Furman

MEN'S SOCCER

UNITED SOCCER COACHES TEAM

ACADEMIC AWARD

ETSU

Furman

Mercer

UNCG

WOMEN'S SOCCER

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE

Isabella Gutierrez, Furman

VOLLEYBALL

USMC/AVCA TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

The Citadel

ETSU

UNCG

Samford

Chattanooga

Western Carolina

Wofford

USMC/AVCA TEAM ACADEMIC AWARD

HONOR ROLL

ETSU

Western Carolina

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATE

Kayla White, UNCG

FOOTBALL

FCS ADA ACADEMIC

ALL-STAR TEAM

Timmy Bleekrode, Furman

Hamp Sisson, Furman

CaMiron Smith, Chattanooga

Cole Strange, Chattanooga

FCS ADA POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
FINALISTS

Hamp Sisson, Furman

Cole Strange, Chattanooga

STATS PERFORM FCS DORIS ROBINSON
SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARD FINALIST

McClendon Curtis, Chattanooga

WRESTLING

NWCA SCHOLAR

ALL-AMERICAN TEAM

Campbell

Davidson

NWCA DI INDIVIDUAL SCHOLAR ALL-
AMERICANS

Caleb Smith, Jr., 125,

App State

Heath Gonyer, So., 141,

App State

Will Formato, Sr., 165,

App State

Thomas Flitz, Gr., 174,

App State

Josh Heil, Gr., 149,

Campbell

Caleb Hopkins, R-Jr., 184, Campbell

Cole Burke, Sr., 184,

The Citadel

Michael McAleavey, Gr., HWT,

The Citadel

Hale Robinson, Fr., 125, Davidson

Jaden Hardrick, So., 165, Davidson

Finlay Holston, Sr., 197, Davidson

Rodrick Mosley, R-Jr., 165,

Gardner-Webb

Michael Ramirez, R-So., 157,

Presbyterian

Lincoln Heck, R-Fr., 157, Chattanooga

Weston Wichman, R-So., 157,

Chattanooga

Andrew Nicholson, Gr., 165,

Chattanooga

Cameron Chicella, Jr., 125, VMI

Jon Hoover, Jr., 174, VMI

RIFLE

CRCA SCHOLASTIC ALL-AMERICANS

Jordan Blankenship, UAB

Claire Vonderau, UAB

Maggie Vonderau, UAB

Blake Wingard, UAB

Erin Ballard, Georgia Southern

Bella Gamez, Georgia Southern

Lillian Herring,

Georgia Southern

Ashley Judson,

Georgia Southern

Anna Mayo, Georgia Southern

Amy Visconti, Georgia Southern

Ryan Sponauer, North Georgia

Dawson Kissik, North Georgia

Jaden-Ann Fraser,

North Georgia

Lindsey Slaten, North Georgia

Alyssa Kiser, North Georgia

Jayne Fraley, North Georgia

Jessica Hankin, VMI

Cassidy Dufour, VMI

Jason Gardner, VMI

Savanah Diamond, VMI

Maxine Gray-Barth, VMI

Samantha Reid, VMI

MEN'S BASKETBALL

NABC TEAM ACADEMIC

EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Citadel

NABC HONORS COURT

Brady Spence, The Citadel

David Maynard, The Citadel

Hayden Brown, The Citadel

Jackson Gammons, The Citadel

Robert Guyton, The Citadel

Jerry Higgins III, The Citadel

Tyler Mofte, The Citadel

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

SENIOR CLASS AWARD CANDIDATES

Jada Lewis, Mercer

Shannon Titus, Mercer

WBCA ACADEMIC TOP-25

Samford, T-12

MEN'S TENNIS

ITA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

Furman

Mercer

UNCG

Chattanooga

Wofford

ITA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Francisco Lamas, ETSU

Thiago Pernas, ETSU

Juan Sebastian Zabala, ETSU

Ben Cahill, Furman

Drew Singerman, Furman

James Roelofse, Furman

Jason Smith, Furman

Charlie Meyerson, Furman

Emil Westling, Furman

Cole Riggsby, Furman

Samuel Barrow, Mercer

David Georgadze, Mercer

Alexandr Koliev, Mercer

Daniel Krashin, Mercer

David Flisberg, UNCG

Hampus Johannsson, UNCG

Harrison Gwynn, UNCG

Christopher Johns, UNCG

Hugh Knapp, UNCG

Roger Rogowski, UNCG

Cooper Wyett, UNCG

Peyton Gatti, Chattanooga

Kaisei Kuroki, Chattanooga

Simon Labbe, Chattanooga

Jacob Marshall, Chattanooga

Bo Nash, Chattanooga

Quinten Nevenhoven, Chattanooga

Tomas Rodriguez, Chattanooga

Will Fullett, Wofford

Alex Horn, Wofford

Callum Rendle, Wofford

Robbie Young, Wofford

WOMEN'S TENNIS

ITA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS

ETSU

Furman

Mercer

UNCG

Samford

Chattanooga

Western Carolina

Wofford

ITA SCHOLAR-ATHLETES

Laylo Bakhodirova, ETSU

Maria Emilia Alfaro, ETSU

Maria Fernanda Carvajal, ETSU

Yunuen Elizarraras, ETSU

Mayya Gorbunova, ETSU

Eva Borders, Furman

Julia Adams, Furman

Madison Dillon, Furman

Mary Hunter Hyche, Furman

Ilayda Baykan, Furman

Maggie Pate, Furman

Jess Dawson, Furman

Ellie Schulson, Furman

Sara Snyder, Furman

Mary Courville, Mercer

Alara Hollyfield, Mercer

Ashley Popham, Mercer

Lauren Rich, Mercer

Lekha Varudandi, Mercer

Kristin Yordanova, Mercer

Erika Barquero, UNCG

Araina Chan, UNCG

Olivia Gallagher, UNCG

Hannah Mitchell, UNCG

Rhoda Perry, UNCG

Olivia Gallagher, UNCG

McCollough Perry, UNCG

Raegan Mitchell, UNCG

Rouxanne Janse van Rensburg,

Samford

Ally Hayduk, Samford

Christianna Hornigold, Samford



Alexis Lopez, Samford
Samantha Maras, Samford
Lindsay Song, Samford
Sofia Zaprianov, Samford
Emma Van Hee, Chattanooga
Lilly Holmes, Chattanooga
Caroline Gibbens, Chattanooga
Jessie Young, Chattanooga
Callie Billman, Chattanooga
Grace Anne Dunavant, Chattanooga
Wilma Bergqvist, Chattanooga
Coco Bosman, Chattanooga
Nicole Abel, Chattanooga
Jada Young, Chattanooga
Angela Perez, Western Carolina
Julia Pezzuco, Western Carolina
Jacy Smith, Western Carolina
Hoda Habib, Western Carolina
Jordyn King, Western Carolina
Breda Brennan, Wofford
Georgia Fischer, Wofford
Emely Kahrs, Wofford
Elizabeth Massie, Wofford
Emma Soerensen, Wofford
Lilie Steryous, Wofford
Lily Woods, Wofford
Brianna Wilbur, Wofford

MEN'S GOLF

GCAA PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL RECOGNITION
UNCG

GCAA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAM

Furman
Samford

GCAA SRIXON/CLEVELAND GOLF ALL-AMERICA SCHOLARS

Remi Chartier, ETSU
Archie Davis, ETSU
Mats Ege, ETSU
Tobias Jonsson, Mercer
Jonathan Parker, Mercer
Martin Plukka, Mercer
Jay Spivey, Mercer
Ethan Werblo, Mercer
Symon Balbin, UNCG
Noah Connor, UNCG
Randall Hudson, UNCG
Tommy Lamb, UNCG
Nick Lyerly, UNCG

Jack Marcotte, UNCG
Zack Swanson, UNCG
Andrew Sullivan, Samford
Davis Woodliff, Samford

WOMEN'S GOLF

WGCA ALL-AMERICAN SCHOLARS

Anna Morgan, Furman
Carolina Crumrine, Furman
Mikayla Dubnik, Mercer
Kate Song, Mercer
Carol Pyon, Mercer
Laila Hrindová, Mercer
Hailey Joy, UNCG
Grace Holcomb, UNCG
Victoria Cook, UNCG
Anna Bowman, UNCG
Tara Bettle, UNCG
Esme Hamilton, Chattanooga
Megan Docherty, Chattanooga
Kaitlyn Wingnean,
 Western Carolina
Kayleigh Baker,
 Western Carolina
Victoria Ladd, Western Carolina
Becca Earl, Wofford
Hallie Kent, Wofford
Nicole Amos, Wofford
Lindsey Hollis, Wofford
Maggie Jackson, Wofford

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS
Furman

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC INDIVIDUALS

Cameron Ponder, Furman
Dylan Schubert, Furman
Matthew Smith, Furman
Ashton Domingue, Samford
Ben Garner, Samford
Ty Kimberlin, Samford
Michael McMahan, Samford
Jed Sisco, Samford
Justin Stuckey, Samford
Seth Wolfe, Samford

WOMEN'S TRACK & FIELD

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC TEAMS
Furman
Mercer

Samford
Chattanooga

USTFCCCA ALL-ACADEMIC INDIVIDUALS

Madelynne Cadeau, Furman
Bethany Graham, Furman
Megan Marvin, Furman
Morayo Bhados, Samford
Brittany Bishop, Samford
Erin Long, Samford

MEN'S LACROSSE

USILA ACADEMIC TEAM AWARD

High Point
Jacksonville
Mercer

USILA DIVISION I SCHOLAR ALL-AMERICANS

Antonio Arcona, High Point
PJ Peters, High Point
Koby Russell, High Point
Joel Scerbo, High Point
Trey Smith, High Point
Jack Dolan, Jacksonville
Troy Hettinger, Jacksonville
Luke Millican, Jacksonville
Dixon Smith, Jacksonville
Max Waldbaum, Jacksonville
Jeremy Winston, Jacksonville
Jason Yoquinto, Jacksonville
Sean Goldsmith, Mercer
Garrett LeClaire, Mercer
Nick Rockefeller, Mercer
Ashton Wood, Mercer
Roy Baran, Richmond
Luke Frankeny, Richmond

SENIOR CLASS AWARD FINALIST

RYAN LANCHBURY, RICHMOND
(SECOND TEAM)

BASEBALL

ABCA TEAM ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Citadel
UNCG
Wofford

SOFTBALL

EASTON/NFCA ALL-AMERICA SCHOLAR

ATHLETE
Taylor Boiling, ETSU

Allison Chernak, ETSU

Peyton Coleman, ETSU

Alana Collins, ETSU

Carolina Davis, ETSU

Mackenzie Dyson, ETSU

Emily Glasscock, ETSU

Lillian Holston, ETSU

Andrea Sarhatt, ETSU

Kelly Warren, ETSU

Cameron Young, ETSU

Blayne Batten, UNCG

Reese Byrd, UNCG

Delaney Cumbie, UNCG

Tori Dalehite, UNCG

Ashley Gontram, UNCG

Jordan Gontram, UNCG

Meredith Harwood, UNCG

Grace Loftin, UNCG

Makenna Matthijs, UNCG

Alex Rodriguez, UNCG

Jessie Shipley, UNCG

Anna White, UNCG

Reagan Armour, Chattanooga

Skylar Berkhiser, Chattanooga

Emily Coltharp, Chattanooga

Kendall Forsythe, Chattanooga

Gracey Kruse, Chattanooga

Alyssa Lavdis, Chattanooga

Olivia Lipari, Chattanooga

Bailey Myers, Chattanooga

Abby Orr, Chattanooga

Brooke Parrott, Chattanooga

Kaili Phillips, Chattanooga

Elizabeth Rodebaugh, Chattanooga

Kailey Snell, Chattanooga

Presley Williamson, Chattanooga

Hannah Wood, Chattanooga

Savannah Baldwin, Western Carolina

Bethany Dobias, Western Carolina

Caitlin Griffin, Western Carolina

Natalie Henry, Western Carolina

Bailey Huneycutt, Western Carolina

Riley Lamberty, Western Carolina

Morgan Maddaluna, Western Carolina

Makenzie Martin, Western Carolina

Madeline Mentel, Western Carolina

Amber Parker, Western Carolina

Deanna Pelfrey, Western Carolina

Lindsay Perillo, Western Carolina

Samantha Reece, Western Carolina

Jeralynn Wells, Western Carolina

SOCON ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

Created as a partnership of the conference office and the chief academic officers of the member institutions, the SoCon Academic Exchange was launched in October 2014. The league's 10 schools place an emphasis on engaging their campus administrators, including annual meetings of institutional provosts, chief financial officers, vice student affairs directors and chief development and marketing officers. Among the major initiatives undertaken by the SoCon Academic Exchange are the:

GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

The SoCon awards 10 postgraduate scholarships a year, worth \$2,000 each. The recipients are evaluated on academics, athletics and community service and are nominated by their schools and selected by the Southern Conference Graduate Scholar Committee.

FACULTY/STAFF AWARDS

Each SoCon school nominates a deserving campus faculty member and staff member, who are both recognized at a home basketball game.

SOCON UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FORUM (SURF)

An annual research competition with SoCon schools featuring oral and poster presentations, hosted by Wofford. The event returned in the fall of 2021 after a one-year hiatus.

ENTREPRENEURSHIP CHALLENGE

An annual competition featuring profit and non-profit categories where students/teams present pitches to judges for prize money. Contested for the first time in February 2022, the winners of both categories received checks for \$10,000 each.



THE SOUTHERN CONFERENCE
IS MORE
THAN JUST OUTSTANDING
ATHLETICS
WE HIGHLY VALUE:

Student academic achievement and staff development. The southern conference

Academic exchange program uniquely engages students, faculty and campus

Administrators through its annual undergraduate research forum, entrepreneurship

Challenge event, faculty-staff awards and leadership assistance. Building champions on the athletic field and on our campuses

SOCON POSTGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS

2021-22 SoCon Graduate Scholars

NAME (Institution)	SPORT	ACADEMIC MAJOR	GRADUATE SCHOLARSHIP
Alexis Tomlin (Wofford)	Women's basketball	Biology and Mathematics	David Knight
Hamp Sisson (Furman)	Football	Health Sciences	Dave Hart
Drew Singerman (Furman)	Men's tennis	Health Sciences	Bob McCloskey Insurance
Sarah Anschutz (VMI)	Women's soccer	Biology	Bob McCloskey Insurance
Kayla White (UNC Greensboro)	Volleyball	MBA/Marketing	Dorothy Hicks
Carter Unger (Western Carolina)	Women's track and field	Criminal Justice and Anthropology	William V. Moore Scholarship presented by McMillan Pazdan Smith
Jessica Cullins (UNC Greensboro)	Women's track and field/ cross country	Consumer, Apparel and Retail Studies	Southern Conference Presidential
Zoë Perrin (Samford)	Women's soccer	Exercise Science	Southern Conference Presidential
Cooper Long (Chattanooga)	Men's tennis	Biology	Southern Conference Presidential
Clay Summers (Western Carolina)	Men's track and field/ cross country	Biology	Southern Conference Presidential

2021-22 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE FACULTY TEAM

Dr. Kevin Skenes, The Citadel, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering

Dr. Natalie Smith, ETSU, Associate Professor, Department of Sport, Exercise, Recreation, and Kinesiology

Dr. Scott Murr, Furman, Assistant Professor, Health Sciences Department

Dr. Chris Grant, Mercer, Professor, Political Science

Dr. Chris Kepley, UNCG, Associate Professor, Joint School of Nanoscience and Nanoengineering

Larry Harper, Samford, Assistant Professor, Brock School of Business

Dr. Mark Schorr, Chattanooga, UC Foundation Professor, Department of Biology, Geology and Environmental Science

Col. James A. Coale, VMI, Professor and Head, Department of Physical Education

Dr. Alvin Malesky, Western Carolina, Head, Psychology Department

Dr. Jameica B. Hill, Wofford, Chair, Chemistry Department

2021-22 ALL-SOUTHERN CONFERENCE STAFF TEAM

Stephanie Fye, The Citadel, Assistant Director and Employee Relations Manager, Career Center

Jeff Shell, ETSU, Coach, Esports

Dr. Brad Harmon, Furman, Assistant Dean, First-Year and Second-Year Experience

Rick Cameron, Mercer, Senior Assistant Vice President for Marketing Communications

Zach Smith, UNCG, Assistant Vice Chancellor for Emergency and Risk Management

James Carlson, Samford, Assistant AD for Facilities, Game Operations and Equipment

Christopher Stokes, Chattanooga, Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs

Dr. David Copeland, VMI, Director, VMI Infirmary

Roger Turk, Western Carolina, Grounds Superintendent, Facilities Management Department

Jeff Burney, Wofford, Director of Housekeeping and Event Services

ALL-AMERICANS

WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY (1)

Bethany Graham, So., Furman
USTFCCCA All-America

MEN'S SOCCER (1)

Theo Collomb, So., F, UNCG
College Soccer News (2nd), Top Drawer Soccer (3rd), United Soccer Coaches (2nd)

VOLLEYBALL (1)

Kayla White, Gr., OH, UNCG
AVCA (HM), VolleyballMag.com (HM)

FOOTBALL (15)

Jared Folks, LB, R-Sr., ETSU
Phil Steele (2nd)

Quay Holmes, RB, R-Jr., ETSU
AFCA (1st), AP (1st), Athlon (1st), FCS ADA (1st),
HERO Sports (1st), Phil Steele (1st), Stats
Perform (1st), Walter Camp (1st)

Donovan Manuel, LB, R-So., ETSU
HERO Sports (3rd)

Tyree Robinson, DB, Sr., ETSU
HERO Sports (3rd), Phil Steele (3rd)

Jacob Saylor, AP, Jr., ETSU
AP (2nd), Stats Perform (3rd)

Tre'mond Shorts, OL, R-Jr., ETSU
AP (3rd), HERO Sports (2nd), Phil Steele (2nd),
Stats Perform (2nd)

Ryan Miller, TE, R-Sr., Furman
AP (3rd), Phil Steele (3rd), Stats Perform (3rd)

Jason Poe, OL, Gr., Mercer
Phil Steele (4th)

Montrell Washington, AP/RS/PR, Sr., Samford
AFCA (1st), AP (1st), Athlon (1st), FCS ADA (1st),
HERO Sports (2nd), Phil Steele (1st - AP; 3rd -
PR), Stats Perform (1st)

Brandon Dowdell, DB, Sr., Chattanooga
AP (2nd)

Devonsha Maxwell, DL, Jr., Chattanooga
AFCA (2nd), AP (2nd), HERO Sports (2nd), Phil
Steele (1st), Stats Perform (1st)

Cole Strange, OL, Sr., Chattanooga
AFCA (1st), AP (3rd), Athlon (1st), HERO Sports
(1st), Phil Steele (1st), Stats Perform (1st),
Walter Camp (1st)

Stone Snyder, LB, Jr., VMI
AFCA (2nd), Athlon (1st), HERO Sports (2nd), Phil
Steele (2nd), Stats Perform (2nd)

Robert Soderholm, LS, Sr., VMI
AFCA (2nd), HERO Sports (3rd), Phil Steele (3rd),
Stats Perform (3rd)

Calvin Jones, KR, Fr., Western Carolina
Phil Steele (4th)

MEN'S BASKETBALL (3)

Mike Bothwell, Sr., G, Furman
Lou Henson

Ques Glover, So., G, Samford
Lou Henson

Malachi Smith, So., G, Chattanooga
Lou Henson (winner)

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD (2)

Cameron Ponder, Sr., Furman
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, 3,000-meter run)

Justin Stuckey, Sr., Samford
USTFCCCA All-America (1st, high jump)

WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD (1)

Morayo Bhadmos, Gr., Samford
USTFCCCA All-America (HM, triple jump)

WRESTLING (1)

Jonathan Milner, 149, R-Sr., App State
NCAA All-American

MEN'S GOLF (2)

Archie Davies, R-So., ETSU
PING All-American (HM)

Nick Lyerly, Gr., UNCG
Golfweek (HM)

WOMEN'S GOLF (1)

Anna Morgan, Jr., Furman
Golfweek (3rd), WGCA (2nd)

MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD (3)

Carson Williams, So., Furman
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, 3,000-meter
steeplechase)

Ashton Domingue, Sr., Samford
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, javelin)

Ben Garner, Gr., Samford
USTFCCCA All-America (HM, 3,000-meter
steeplechase)

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD (2)

Megan Marvin, So., Furman
USTFCCCA All-America (2nd, 1,500-meter run)

Brittany Bishop, Jr., Samford
USTFCCCA All-America (HM, pole vault)

MEN'S LACROSSE (7)

Asher Nolting, A, 5th, High Point
Inside Lacrosse (3rd), USA Lacrosse Magazine
(3rd), USILA (3rd)

Troy Hettinger, SSDM, R-Jr., Jacksonville
USA Lacrosse Magazine (HM)

Colin Hinton, D, Gr., Jacksonville
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USA Lacrosse Magazine
(3rd), USILA (HM)

Luke Millican, GK, Gr., Jacksonville
Inside Lacrosse (HM)

Max Waldbaum, A, Gr., Jacksonville
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USA Lacrosse Magazine
(HM), USILA (HM)

Ryan Lanchbury, A, Gr., Richmond
Inside Lacrosse (HM), USA Lacrosse Magazine
(HM), USILA (HM)

Senior CLASS Award (2nd)

Jake Saunders, D, Sr., Richmond
Inside Lacrosse (HM)

BASEBALL (3)

Jackson Kelley, RHP, Jr., Mercer
NCBWA (2nd)

Alex Hoppe, RHP, Sr., UNCG
Collegiate Baseball (3rd)

Hogan Windish, 2B, Jr., UNCG
ABCA/Rawlings (2nd), Baseball America (3rd),
Collegiate Baseball (2nd), College Baseball
Foundation (2nd), NCBWA (2nd)

NATIONAL PROMINENCE



MEN'S BASKETBALL

The Southern Conference finished 11th in the RPI and 12th in the NET rankings in 2021-22, finishing in the top 15 in both metrics for the fourth straight year. Furman, Samford and Chattanooga each appeared in the CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major Top 25 for at least one week of the season, with Chattanooga appearing each week and finishing at No. 7. Following the season, the Mocs' Lamont Paris accepted the head job at South Carolina, becoming the third SoCon coach in the last four seasons to take the reins at a Power 5 conference program. UTC's Malachi Smith won the Lou Henson Award as the mid-major player of the year.

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Mercer finished No. 25 in the final CollegeInsider.com Mid-Major poll of 2021-22. The Bears went 23-7 on the season, notching their sixth 20-win season since joining the SoCon in 2014-15.

FOOTBALL

Five of the league's nine programs were nationally ranked during the 2021 campaign, with ETSU jumping into the rankings after stunning Vanderbilt to open the season and staying in the polls the



remainder of the season, finishing No. 7 in the AFCA FCS Coaches' Top 25 and No. 9 in the Stats Perform FCS Top 25. ETSU running back Quay Holmes led the FCS in rushing yards per game and Samford wide receiver/kick returner Montrell Washington leading the subdivision in all-purpose yards per game. Holmes finished third in the voting for the Walter Payton Award, while Washington was taken in the fifth round of the NFL Draft by the Denver Broncos. Chattanooga offensive lineman Cole Strange was selected by the New England Patriots with the 29th overall pick, becoming the SoCon's first first-round pick since 1974. Fifteen different SoCon student-athletes earned postseason All-America honors.

CROSS COUNTRY

Furman's men's and women's teams were both nationally ranked in 2021, with the Paladin men spending the entire season in the national rankings, peaking at No. 10 in the USTFCCCA poll for its first top-10 ranking since 2017. The Furman women spent three weeks in the top 30 and Bethany Graham earned All-America honors with her 40th-place finish at the NCAA Championship.



MEN'S SOCCER

UNCG's men's soccer team spent six weeks ranked in the College Soccer News Top 30, peaking at No. 19 on Oct. 31. All-American Theo Collomb became the Spartans' first drafted player since 2007 when he was taken in the third round with the 72nd overall pick by the Vancouver Whitecaps FC in the Major League Soccer Super Draft.

WRESTLING

Campbell, which claimed its fourth straight SoCon Championship in 2022, finished the campaign ranked No. 29 in the InterMat NCAA Division I Dual Meet Rankings, while regular-season SoCon champion App State finished No. 26 in InterMat's tournament rankings. The Mountaineers' Jonathan Millner finished sixth at the NCAA Championships to earn All-America honors for the second straight season.

RIFLE

Three SoCon rifle teams finished the season ranked in the top 20 of the Collegiate Rifle Coaches Association's national poll. SoCon regular-season and tournament champion Georgia Southern finished No. 17, with North Georgia at No. 19 and The Citadel at No. 20.

NATIONAL PROMINENCE



TENNIS

Furman's women's team finished the season ranked No. 39 in the ITA team rankings, while the Paladins' Julia Adams and Ellie Schoppe capped the season ranked No. 36 in doubles and Adams was No. 51 in singles. ETSU's men's squad finished the season ranked No. 72 in the ITA team rankings, while Furman's Ivan Mitric and Jamie Connel finished the campaign ranked No. 78 nationally in doubles.

GOLF

Furman's women's squad finished the season ranked in the Golfstat top 50 at No. 43. The Paladins' Anna Morgan finished the season ranked No. 16 in the Golfstat individual rankings and tied for ninth at the NCAA Championships. Morgan was named a second-team All-American by the WGCA, qualified for the U.S. Women's Open, competed on the U.S. Arnold Palmer Cup team and played in the Augusta National Women's Amateur to highlight

her 2021-22 campaign. ETSU's men's golf team finished the season ranked No. 31 in the Golfstat rankings, while the Bucs' Archie Davies and UNCG's Nick Lyerly both earned All-America honorable mention.

TRACK AND FIELD

The Southern Conference earned eight All-America citations between the indoor and outdoor men's and women's track and field seasons. Samford's Justin Stuckey earned first-team honors with a third-place finish in the high jump at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.

MEN'S LACROSSE

Two SoCon squads appeared in the national rankings during the 2022 season, with Richmond and Jacksonville both finishing in the top 20 of all three major polls. SoCon tournament champion Richmond peaked at No. 12 in the final Nike/USA Lacrosse Division I Men's Top 20 and regular-season champion Jacksonville, which joined the national



rankings after a win at No. 2 Duke early in the season, totaled nine weeks inside the top 10. High Point attackman Asher Nolting was selected in the second round of the Premier Lacrosse League Draft and Jacksonville defenseman Colin Hinton was taken in the fourth round. Those two were named All-Americans, while five other league players earned All-America honorable mention.

BASEBALL

Mercer and Wofford both appeared in the national rankings last year. The Bears got off to a 31-5 start to the season to storm into the polls en route to 40 wins on the season, while Wofford earned its first top-25 ranking in program history and won a school-record 42 games. The SoCon had two 40-win teams for the first time since 2012 and just the sixth time overall. Eight SoCon players were selected in the MLB Draft and Mercer's Jackson Kelley and UNCG's Hogan Windish and Alex Hoppe earned All-America honors.

TEAM CHAMPIONS

Men's Cross Country

Champion: Furman

Runner of the Year: Cameron Ponder, Sr., Furman

Freshman of the Year: Gabe Montague, Furman

Coach of the Year: Robert Gary, Furman

Pinnacle Award: Dylan Schubert, So., Furman

Women's Cross Country

Champion: Furman

Runner of the Year: Bethany Graham, So., Furman

Freshman of the Year: Kaylie Armitage, Furman

Coach of the Year: Robert Gary, Furman

Pinnacle Award: Megan Marvin, So., Furman



Men's Soccer

Regular-season champion: UNCG

Tournament champion: Mercer

Player of the Year: Theo Collomb, So., F, UNCG

Goalkeeper of the Year: Niclas Wild, So., UNCG

Freshman of the Year: JC Ngando, MF, UNCG

Coaches of the Year: David Costa, Belmont; Chris Rich, UNCG

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Dylan Gaither, Jr., MF, Mercer

Pinnacle Award: Liam Coxhead, Jr., MF; Logan Longo, So., D; and Nick Wanzer, So., MF, Mercer

Women's Soccer

Regular-season champion: Samford

Tournament champion: Samford

Player of the Year: Nieva Gaither, So., F, Furman

Defensive Player of the Year: Kylie Gazza, Jr., D, Samford

Freshman of the Year: Shu Ohba, GK, ETSU

Coach of the Year: Todd Yelton, Samford

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Mary Raymond, Jr., MF, Samford

Pinnacle Award: Alyssa Frazier, Sr., MF, Samford



Volleyball

Regular-season champion: UNCG, Mercer
Tournament champion: The Citadel

Player of the Year: Kayla White, Gr., OH, UNCG
Libero of the Year: Megan Smith, Gr., Mercer
Rayna Taylor Freshman of the Year: Ali Ruffin, OH, The Citadel
Coach of the Year: Corey Carlin, UNCG
Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Sharlissa De Jesus, 5th, OH, The Citadel
Pinnacle Award: Jaelynn Elgert, So., L, The Citadel



Football

Champion: ETSU

Offensive Players of the Year: Quay Holmes, R-Jr., RB, ETSU
Defensive Players of the Year: Devonsha Maxwell, Jr., DL, Chattanooga
Freshman of the Year: Andreas Keaton, DB, Western Carolina
Jacob Blocking Award: Cole Strange, Sr., OL, Chattanooga
Coach of the Year: Randy Sanders, ETSU
Pinnacle Award: Cade Larkins, Fr., QB, ETSU



Men's Indoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

Heath Whittle Award (Men's Most Outstanding Athletes): Jordin Poindexter, Sr., VMI
Most Outstanding Track Performer: Jordin Poindexter, Sr., VMI
Most Outstanding Field Performer: Javell Brown, So., Western Carolina
Freshman of the Year: Justin Hayes, Western Carolina
Coach of the Year: Rod Tiffin, Samford
Pinnacle Award: Harrison Siegel, So., Samford



Women's Indoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

Most Outstanding Athletes: Makaila McIntyre, 5th, Western Carolina
Most Outstanding Track Performer: Madelynne Cadeau, So., Furman
Most Outstanding Field Performer: Netanya Linares, Jr., Wofford
Freshman of the Year: Sierra Bower, Furman
Coach of the Year: Rod Tiffin, Samford
Pinnacle Award: Erin Long, So., Samford

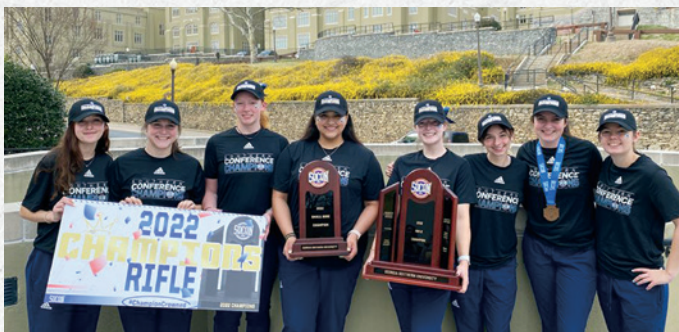


Wrestling

Regular-season champion: App State
Tournament champion: Campbell

Wrestler of the Year: Jonathan Millner, R-Sr., 149, App State
Freshman of the Year: Noah Castillo, 149, Chattanooga
Coach of the Year: JohnMark Bentley, App State
Tournament Most Outstanding Wrestler: Jonathan Millner, R-Sr., 149, App State
Pinnacle Award: Levi Hopkins, R-So., 197, Campbell





Rifle

Regular-season champion: Georgia Southern
Tournament champion: Georgia Southern

Smallbore Athlete of the Year: Erin Ballard, So., Georgia Southern
Air Rifle Athlete of the Year: Ashley Judson, Jr., Georgia Southern
Freshman of the Year: James Hart, The Citadel
Coach of the Year: Sandra Worman, Georgia Southern
Pinnacle Award: Ashley Judson, Jr., Georgia Southern



Men's Basketball

Regular-season champion: Chattanooga
Tournament champion: Chattanooga

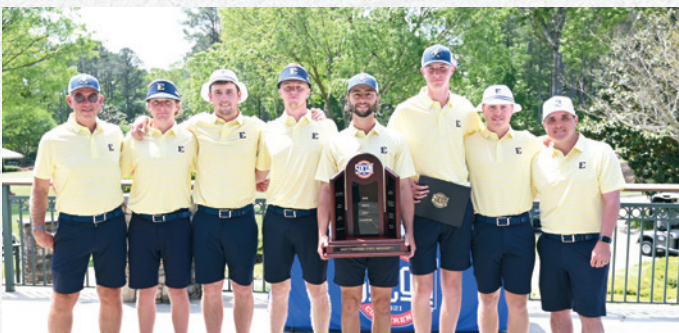
Player of the Year: Malachi Smith, So., G, Chattanooga
Defensive Player of the Year: Jalen Slawson, Sr., Furman
Freshman of the Year: Jason Roche, The Citadel
Coach of the Year: Lamont Paris, Chattanooga
Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Malachi Smith, So., G, Chattanooga
Pinnacle Award: Grant Ledford, So., G/F, Chattanooga



Women's Basketball

Regular-season champion: Mercer
Tournament champion: Mercer

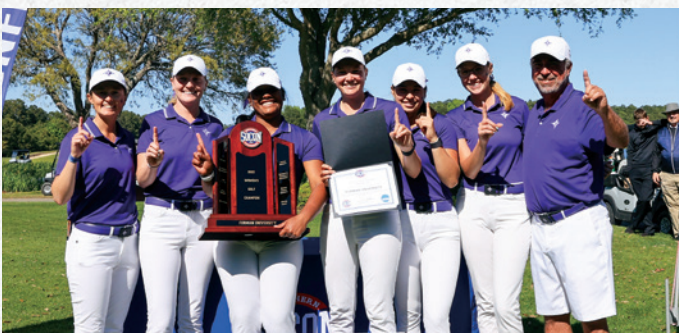
Player of the Year: Tierra Hodges, 5th, G/F, Furman
Defensive Player of the Year: Shannon Titus, 5th, G/F, Mercer
Freshman of the Year: Erin Houpt, G, Mercer
Ann Lashley Inspiration Award: Aja Boyd, Gr., G/F, UNCG
Coach of the Year: Susie Gardner, Mercer
Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Amorita Neal-Tyson, Sr., G, Mercer
Pinnacle Award: Eliza Snyder, So., G, Mercer



Men's Golf

Tournament champion: ETSU

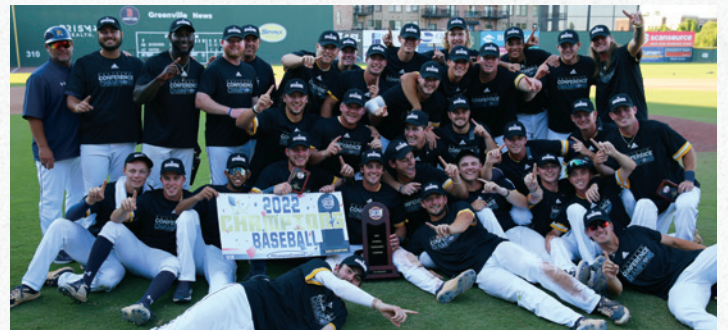
Golfer of the Year: Nick Lyerly, Gr., UNCG
Freshman of the Year: Jake Peacock, Western Carolina
Coach of the Year: Jake Amos, ETSU
Pinnacle Award: Archie Davies, R-So., ETSU



Women's Golf

Tournament champion: Furman

Golfer of the Year: Anna Morgan, Jr., Furman
Freshman of the Year: Sera Hasegawa, ETSU
Coach of the Year: Angie Ridgeway, Wofford
Pinnacle Award: Anna Morgan, Jr., Furman



Men's Tennis

Regular-season champion: ETSU

Tournament champion: ETSU

Player of the Year: Dimitri Badra, R-So., ETSU

Freshman of the Year: Jamie Connel, Furman

Don Bunch/Buddy Hartsell Sportsmanship Award: Drew Singerman, Gr., Furman

Coach of the Year: Martin Stiegwardt, ETSU

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Thiago Pernas, So., ETSU

Pinnacle Award: Francisco Lamas, R-Fr., ETSU

Women's Tennis

Regular-season champion: Furman

Tournament champion: Furman

Player of the Year: Julia Adams, Sr., Furman

Freshman of the Year: Sara Snyder, Furman

Sportsmanship Award: Jordyn King, R-Sr., Western Carolina

Coach of the Year: Ricky Rojas, ETSU

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Julia Adams, Sr., Furman

Pinnacle Award: Maggie Pate, Jr., Furman

Men's Outdoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

Most Outstanding Athlete: Matt Cahoon, Gr., Samford

Most Outstanding Track Performer: Jordin Poindexter, Sr., VMI

Most Outstanding Field Performer: Matt Cahoon, Gr., Samford

Freshman of the Year: Matthew Smith, Furman

Coach of the Year: Rod Tiffin, Samford

Pinnacle Award: Logan Guzik, So., Samford

Women's Outdoor Track and Field

Champion: Samford

Most Outstanding Athlete: Marissa Blakely, Sr., Western Carolina

Most Outstanding Track Performer: Marissa Blakely, Sr., Western Carolina

Most Outstanding Field Performer: Hannah Daffin, Jr., Samford

Freshman of the Year: Madelynn Cadeau, Furman

Coach of the Year: Rod Tiffin, Samford

Pinnacle Award: Savannah Schmidt, So., Samford

Men's Lacrosse

Regular-season champions: Jacksonville

Tournament champion: Richmond

Offensive Player of the Year: Asher Nolting, 5th, A, High Point

Defensive Player of the Year: Colin Hinton, Sr., D, Jacksonville

Freshman of the Year: Jackson Intrieri, A, Jacksonville

Coach of the Year: John Galloway, Jacksonville

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Luke Frankeny, Gr., M, Richmond

Pinnacle Award: Jake Kapp, Jr., LSM/D, Richmond

Softball

Regular-season champion: UNCG

Tournament champion: Chattanooga

Player of the Year: Mary Katherine Tedder, Gr., SS, Samford

Pitcher of the Year: Morgan Scott, Jr., UNCG

Freshman of the Year: McKenzie Newcomb, RHP, Samford

Coach of the Year: Janelle Breneman, UNCG

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Brooke Parrott, Jr., RHP, Chattanooga

Pinnacle Award: Liz Rodebaugh, So., C/UTL, Chattanooga

Baseball

Regular-season champion: Wofford

Tournament champion: UNCG

Player of the Year: Hogan Windish, Jr., 2B, UNCG

Pitcher of the Year: Alex Hoppe, Sr., RHP, UNCG

Freshman of the Year: Tommy Barth, OF, ETSU

Coach of the Year: Todd Interdonato, Wofford

Tournament Most Outstanding Player: Kennedy Jones, Fr., OF, UNCG

Pinnacle Award: Alex Hoppe, Sr., RHP, UNCG

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

SoCon Female Athlete of the Year

Anna Morgan | FURMAN GOLF

Bob Waters SoCon Male Athlete of the Year

**Cameron Ponder | FURMAN CROSS COUNTRY/
TRACK AND FIELD**

Bob Waters SoCon Male Athlete of the Year

Cole Strange | CHATTANOOGA FOOTBALL

Furman golfer Anna Morgan was named the 2021-22 Southern Conference Female Athlete of the Year and Paladin cross country/track and field runner Cameron Ponder and Chattanooga football player Cole Strange were voted co-winners of the Bob Waters Southern Conference Male Athlete of the Year award.

Ponder and Strange are the first student-athletes in league history to share the athlete of the year award. Morgan and Ponder make Furman just the third school to win both awards in the same year, with ETSU's Keith "Mister" Jennings and Nicole Hopson winning in 1990-91 and Mercer's Will Bagrou and Kahlia Lawrence doing so in 2017-18.

Morgan is Furman's third straight SoCon Female Athlete of the Year, following former teammate and current Epson Tour player Natalie Srinivasan, who won in 2019-20, and professional Adidas runner Gabbi Jennings, who claimed the honor last season. Morgan is the 11th Paladin to win the award.

The 2022 SoCon Player of the Year, Morgan led the league with a 72.25 stroke average over 36 rounds. The junior from Spartanburg, South Carolina, finished ninth at the NCAA Championship, punching her ticket to the final event by tying for fifth at the NCAA Stillwater Regional. She finished the season ranked No. 16 nationally and was a second-team All-America selection by the Women's Golf Coaches Association.

The Edna Hartness Furman Female Athlete of the Year earned All-SoCon honors for the second straight season after posting nine top-10 finishes and six top-five finishes in 2021-22,

including wins at the Lady Paladin Invitational, where she set a tournament record at 13-under-par and helped Furman to the team title, and the UNF Collegiate. Morgan also tied for ninth at the SoCon Women's Golf Championship to help the Paladins to the team title. She was the SoCon Player of the Month for September, February and March and earned SoCon Player of the Week honors five times on the season.

On the national and international stages, Morgan finished 21st at the Augusta National Women's Amateur in April and played in the U.S. Women's Open in early June. She competed for the U.S. Team at the Arnold Palmer Cup last weekend.

Off the golf course, Morgan earned WGA All-America Scholar Team accolades for the second straight season and is a member of Lambda Pi Eta, the honor society for communications studies. She was the winner of the Pinnacle Award, which goes to the student-athlete with the top GPA on the SoCon championship-winning team. Morgan is also a member of Kappa Delta sorority, through which she works with local Girl Scout troops and which raised money for the Julie Valentine Center, a nonprofit that provides services to sexual assault and child abuse survivors.

Ponder is Furman's 10th winner of the Bob Waters SoCon Male Athlete of the Year award and the first since tennis player James Cameron won in 2002-03.

Furman's Male Athlete of the Year for a second straight season, Ponder earned All-America honors in the 3,000-meter run for the second straight year by finishing 11th in the event at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships in March. He qualified for the meet with a career-best time of 7:45.56, which ranked 14th nationally.

The senior from Winston-Salem, North Carolina, won the mile run at the SoCon Indoor Track and Field Championships in a meet-record time of 3:59.75 and helped the Paladins' distance medley relay finish second.

In the fall, Ponder won the SoCon Cross Country Championship with a time of 24:40.0, earning SoCon Runner of the Year accolades and leading Furman to its ninth straight team title. He finished ninth at the NCAA Southeast Region Championship, earning all-region honors and helping the Paladins to a second-place team finish, a No. 17 national ranking, and a spot in the NCAA Championship.



Ponder won the individual title at the Furman Invitational, leading the Paladins to the team title, and helped the squad to the team win at a loaded Notre Dame's Joe Piane Invitational.

He claimed SoCon runner of the week honors twice during cross country season and track honors three times during indoor season. Ponder earned monthly honors a combined three times during the academic year. In addition, he was twice named the SoCon Student-Athlete of the Week.

A member of the USTFCCA All-Academic Team, Ponder volunteers with the Greenville Children's Hospital and organized various community service initiatives for the Paladins with the children's hospital, including a toy drive through the Valiant Player organization. He is also a member of the Furman Student-Athlete Advisory Committee and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Strange is Chattanooga's third winner of the Bob Waters SoCon Male Athlete of the Year award, all of which have been football players. Davis Tull won the Mocs' first in 2014-15 and Jacob Huesman earned the honor the following year.

A standout offensive lineman, Strange was a consensus All-American for the 2021 season, earning first-team honors from the AFCA, Athlon Sports, HERO Sports, Phil Steele, Stats Perform and Walter Camp and third-team honors from the Associated Press. He finished his career as a five-year starter and a three-time All-SoCon selection.

The graduate student from Knoxville, Tennessee, won his second straight SoCon Jacobs Blocking Award in the fall after helping the Mocs' offensive line to allow just nine sacks, matching a program record. Strange also helped clear the

way for 1,000-yard rusher and first-team All-SoCon running back Ailym Ford, who ranked second in the league in yards per game.

After the season, Strange was selected for the Reese's Senior Bowl and invited to the NFL Combine, where he earned All-Combine Team status at left guard.

In April, Strange was selected with the 29th overall pick in the NFL Draft by the New England Patriots, becoming the league's first first-round pick since 1974 and the Mocs' highest-drafted player ever, surpassing Pro Football and SoCon Hall of Famer Terrell Owens, who was selected in the third round with the 89th overall pick in 1996.

A four-time Academic All-SoCon selection, Strange graduated in December 2020 with a degree in psychology before beginning work on an engineering management master's degree. A two-time FCS ADA Academic All-Star, Strange was an FCS ADA Postgraduate Scholarship finalist and earned CoSIDA Academic All-District 3 distinction. He had six 4.0 semesters in his academic career.

Strange was also an active participant in the Mocs' community service efforts.

The Athlete of the Year Awards are selected annually by the Southern Conference athletics directors and a media member representing each conference school. The award recognizes athletic achievement, academic performance and civic involvement. Prior to 1990-91, the award was selected solely by members of the Southern Conference Sports Media Association. Beginning in 1991-92, the men's award was named after the late Bob Waters, who was Western Carolina's head football coach from 1969-88.

COMMISSIONER'S AND GERMANN CUPS



ETSU's men's programs and Samford's women's programs have won the races for the Southern Conference's all-sport trophies.

The Commissioner's and Germann cups are awarded annually to the Southern Conference schools fielding the league's best all-around men's and women's sports programs, respectively. Scoring is conducted on a percentage basis, with only the top seven sports for each school counting toward its season total. The league's three co-ed rifle teams counting toward the Commissioner's Cup standings and the two women's rifle teams counting toward the Germann Cup.

Each sport is worth 10 points, with each spot in the standings given equal measure relative to how many schools sponsor that particular sport. For

sports that determine a regular-season champion, a two-point bonus is awarded for winning the league tournament. Each school's total for the year is divided by 70, the maximum number of points possible when counting seven sports, to find its percentage.

ETSU's men won the Commissioner's Cup for the sixth time overall and fifth time since 2015-16. The Bucs won regular-season SoCon titles in football and tennis and tournament championships in tennis and golf. ETSU, whose football title was its first outright SoCon gridiron crown, also turned in a second-place cross country finish to bolster its total. The Bucs accumulated 56.00 total points toward the Commissioner's Cup, equating to an .800 percentage to edge runner-up and 2020-21 champion Furman.

Samford's women claimed their second straight Germann Cup title and fourth overall. The Bulldogs had a dominant 2021-22, winning the soccer regular season and claiming championship titles in soccer and indoor and outdoor track and field. Samford, which also turned in runner-up finishes at the cross country championship and in the softball regular season, totaled 64.29 points for a .918 percentage. Since joining the SoCon in 2008-09, Samford has finished in the top two of the Germann Cup standings 11 of a possible 13 times and in the top four each year in the league.

Furman's men, who have finished in the top three in the Commissioner's Cup standings every year it has been awarded since 2015-16 (the all-sports cups were not awarded in 2019-20 due to the coronavirus pandemic), totaled

54.18 points and a .774 percentage. The Paladins' cross country dynasty added its ninth straight cross country title, while Furman also claimed runner-up finishes in the basketball and tennis regular seasons.

The Samford men finished third in the Commissioner's Cup standings with a .738 percentage on the strength of titles in indoor and outdoor track and field. Mercer, which won the men's soccer tournament and turned in runner-up finishes in the football, soccer and baseball regular seasons, finished fourth with a .664 percentage. UNCG was fifth with a .648 percentage, bolstered by a regular-season soccer title, a baseball tournament title and a runner-up finish in the baseball regular season.

Men's basketball regular-season and tournament champion Chattanooga was sixth with a .606 percentage, followed by VMI (.572), Western Carolina (.558), baseball regular-season champion Wofford (.478) and The Citadel (.380).

In the race for the Germann Cup, Furman finished runner-up to Samford for the second straight season, totaling 60.21 points and an .860 percentage. Like their male counterparts, the Paladin women won their ninth consecutive cross country title. Furman also added a regular-season crown in tennis and tournament titles in golf and tennis in addition to a runner-up finish in the soccer regular season.

ETSU finished third in the Germann Cup standings with a .723 percentage, highlighted by runner-up finishes at both the indoor and outdoor track and field championships. Wofford, which finished second in both the basketball regular season and golf championship, was fourth in the women's all-sport race with a .693 percentage.

Mercer, which won the basketball regular-season and tournament crowns and shared the volleyball regular-season title, finished fifth with a .657 percentage, while UNCG, which won the softball regular-season title and shared the volleyball regular-season championship, was sixth with a .579 percentage.

Western Carolina followed in seventh at .569, followed by softball tournament champion Chattanooga in eighth at .553. The Citadel, which claimed the volleyball tournament title for the first SoCon championship by a women's team in school history, was ninth at .333, followed by VMI at .185.

The Commissioner's Cup was inaugurated in 1970 and the Germann Cup was first awarded in 1987. The latter is named for former SoCon Commissioner Ken Germann, who served as commissioner of the Southern Conference from 1974-86 and spearheaded the effort to introduce women's athletics to the league.

Six schools have won the Commissioner's Cup in the 50-year history of the award, including current members ETSU (2021-22, 2018-19, 2017-18, 2016-17, 2015-16 and 1982-83), Furman (2020-21 and 1990-91) and Chattanooga (2014-15 and 2004-05).

Five schools have won the Germann Cup in its 33-year history. Among current schools, Furman owns a league-best 17, including 12 straight from 1992-2004 and four straight from 2015-19. Samford has won four (2021-22, 2020-21, 2014-15 and 2009-10) and Chattanooga won in 2007-08.

COMMISSIONER'S CUP (MEN'S ATHLETICS - FINAL STANDINGS)

1. ETSU	.800
2. FURMAN	.774
3. SAMFORD	.738
4. MERCER	.664
5. UNCG	.648
6. CHATTANOOGA	.606
7. VMI	.572
8. WESTERN CAROLINA	.558
9. WOFFORD	.478
10. THE CITADEL	.380

GERMANN CUP (WOMEN'S ATHLETICS - FINAL STANDINGS)

1. SAMFORD	.918
2. FURMAN	.860
3. ETSU	.723
4. WOFFORD	.693
5. MERCER	.657
6. UNCG	.579
7. WESTERN CAROLINA	.569
8. CHATTANOOGA	.553
9. THE CITADEL	.333
10. VMI	.185

Institutional Awards

BARRETT-BONNER AWARD
(HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF STUDENT-ATHLETES ON SOCON HONOR ROLL)
MERCER



D.S. MCALISTER SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD
THE CITADEL



GRADUATION RATE AWARD
SAMFORD, WOFFORD



STUDENT-ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SoCon SAAC Mission Statement

The mission of the Southern Conference Student-Athlete Advisory Committee is to enhance the total student-athlete experience by promoting opportunity, protecting student-athlete well-being, and fostering positive student-athlete image.

Purpose of SoCon SAAC

The purpose of the organization shall be to protect, foster, and improve the student-athlete well-being by establishing a foundation for developing the SoCon SAAC into a solid organization, while utilizing each other's resources and providing guidance to strengthen SAAC's throughout the Southern Conference. Specifically to:

1. *Be an organization in which individuals serve as a voice for their institution,*
2. *Share ideas, network, and develop lasting friendships,*
3. *Promote a positive image of student-athletes and address issues and problems,*
4. *Create opportunities for unity, change, and rewards, and*
5. *Foster communication among all schools in the conference.*

Monthly Zoom Calls

In an effort to build and collaborate among the SoCon institutions, the SoCon SAAC continued to conduct monthly Zoom meetings for all SoCon SAAC representatives throughout the year in 2021-22. These calls were about to bring together student-athletes and share their thoughts, ideas and concerns throughout the year.

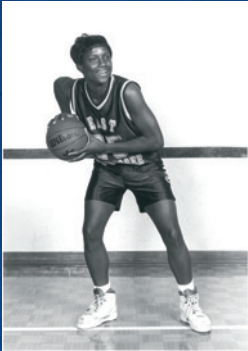
Mental Health Awareness

The SoCon SAAC chose mental health as its focus initiative for the second straight year in 2021-22. The student-athletes developed a social media kit to use on each campus as part of the campaign to promote mental health awareness during the third week of April, with each school SAAC encouraged customize its plan according to its strengths. They used the hashtag #SoConnected to express helpful thoughts and ideas. Growing out of this concern for mental health awareness, the Southern Conference is planning to sponsor a Mental Health Summit, where health professionals and administrators can work together on this important topic.

Happy retirement!

Associate Commissioner Sue Arakas retired at the end of the 2021-22 academic year after 28 years on the SoCon staff. The conference's senior woman administrator, Arakas was involved with the league's Student-Athlete Leadership Institute since its inception and had oversight responsibility for the SoCon Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). She was a longtime member of Women Leaders in College Sports (formerly NACWAA) and the national Conference Women Administrators group. A tireless advocate for women in sports, she spearheaded the celebration of 25 years of SoCon women's athletics in 2007-08. Arakas oversaw the conference's budget, financial resources, office operations and meeting planning. She also supervised the management of daily business operations and administered all policies and procedures of the conference. The conference internship program was also under her supervision.

SOCON HALL OF FAME



DeShawne Blocker
ETSU



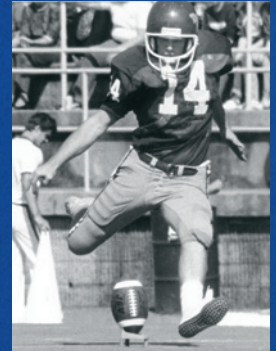
Clyde Mayes
Furman



Anita Buggins
Georgia Southern



Michelle Fuzzard LaCourse
Chattanooga



Kirk Roach
Western Carolina

The Southern Conference Hall of Fame welcomed its ninth class in the spring of 2022. ETSU women's basketball player DeShawne Blocker, Georgia Southern tennis player Anita Buggins, Chattanooga softball player Michelle Fuzzard LaCourse, Furman basketball player Clyde Mayes and Western Carolina football player Kirk Roach were the latest former SoCon student-athletes to be enshrined.

Blocker, who earned All-America honorable mention after her junior and senior seasons, led the NCAA in total rebounds with a SoCon single-season record 450 in 1993-94, while her average of 17.3 per contest not only led the NCAA but still ranks fourth in a season in NCAA history and second in a season in SoCon history, 28 years later. She had the NCAA single-game high for rebounds in 1992-93 with 25 against Marshall and in 1993-94 with 28 against Covenant, which remains a SoCon single-game record.

Buggins, who competed for the Eagles from 1994-98, was the SoCon Freshman of the Year in the spring of 1995, the league's player of the year in both 1997 and 1998, and the SoCon Female Athlete of the Year in 1997-98. A four-time All-SoCon selection in singles and a three-time all-conference pick in doubles, Buggins turned in a 56-11 career singles record and 56-9 doubles mark. More impressively, Buggins never lost a SoCon match, going 30-0 in both singles and doubles in league play in her career.

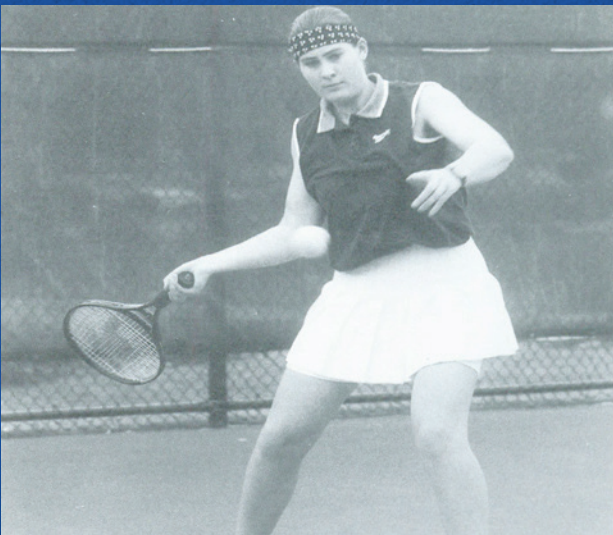
One of the most prolific hitters in league history, LaCourse played for the Mocs from 2008-12 and was named the Southern Conference Player of the Year in 2011 and 2012 and the SoCon Female Athlete of the Year in 2011-12, becoming the first and still only softball player to win the award. One of

just five four-time first-team All-SoCon selections in league annals, LaCourse took the honor at first base in 2008 and 2009 and designated player in 2011 and 2012 after missing the majority of the 2010 season with injury. She also earned second-team honors at pitcher in 2009.

Mayes, who competed for the Paladins from 1972-75, was a three-time first-team All-SoCon pick. He was the league's player of the year in 1973-74 and 1974-75 and was a first-team All-American and the SoCon Male Athlete of the Year in 1974-75. In 89 varsity games over three years, he scored 1,589 points, which was sixth in school history at the conclusion of his career and now ranks 14th. Nearly 50 years after donning the purple and white for the final time, he still ranks third in Furman history with 1,118 career rebounds, while his average of 12.6 per game ranks fourth.

The first four-time first-team All-SoCon football selection in league history, Roach was also the first SoCon player to claim first-team All-America honors from the Associated Press three times, earning the distinction in 1984, 1986 and 1987. The 1984 SoCon Freshman of the Year, Roach finished his career with numerous program, conference and NCAA I-AA (now FCS) records.

CLASS OF 2022



SOUTHERN



CONFERENCE