Our Mission

The University of Southern Maine Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) is a student led group comprised of selected student-athletes representing each of our 22 intercollegiate teams. As members of SAAC, these representatives actively participate in the organization, administration, implementation and evaluation of the collegiate athletic program at USM.

The goals of SAAC focus on improving the quality of the athletic experience for all participants, involving student-athletes in educational programming and leadership opportunities, and implementing outreach programs that support and nurture the growth and development of children in the surrounding communities.

SAAC has taught me how important it is as student-athletes to step up and be the leaders that bring our fellow student-athletes, the University, and athletics as a whole together as one with our community. Events such as our Halloween party, caroling at nursing homes and preschools, the pen-pal program, and breast cancer awareness games show that we care about our community and that feeling is returned when we see local kids and long-time residents of Gorham cheering us on at our games.

The feeling of being a part of an organization that has such a positive voice on and off campus has really taught me a lot about how enjoyable and rewarding it can be to become a part of something much bigger than just a sports team.
Community Halloween Party

Each Fall, USM SAAC members host the annual Community Halloween Party. Kids get to interact with student-athletes in various activities including dancing, face-painting, games, a haunted house, and more. The event is free of charge for participants and is supported in part by the Town of Gorham Recreation Department. USM student-athletes of all 22 teams help organize and facilitate the event. SAAC’s Halloween Party has received honorable mention recognition from the National Association of Division III Athletic Administrators (NADIIAA) two years in a row in the “On-Going Projects” category.

Carolining

During the holiday season, SAAC members head to local schools and nursing homes to sing carols and bring holiday cheer.

Skate with the Huskies

Each February during school break, the USM men’s and women’s ice hockey teams host the annual “Skate with the Huskies” event at the USM Ice Arena. Members of the community get the chance to meet and skate with the Huskies men’s and women’s hockey teams.
Think Pink

Each year, SAAC helps put on the “Think Pink” charitable event to raise awareness and donations for cancer research and prevention. Teams wear pink accessories during their competitions and fans can buy “Think Pink” t-shirts to show their support. Fans can also enter contests and raffles for prizes. All proceeds from the event are donated to cancer research through the American Cancer Society.

Husky Hysteria

To help improve the quality of the athletics experience for all participants, SAAC helps put on the Husky Hysteria event. Through games and exhibitions, the event gets both fans and players excited for the upcoming seasons.
And More...

SAAC members volunteer at Gorham House Assisted Living Facility to help with spring cleaning.

Student-athletes make Valentine’s cards each year for children at the Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital.

Each year, SAAC members are given the opportunity to participate on search committees for the Athletic Department. SAAC members also get to voice their opinion on proposed legislation from the NCAA and USM’s Code of Conduct. SAAC student-athletes act as liaisons by participating in leadership presentations and relaying the messages back to their teams.

My time at USM as part of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) provided me an opportunity to develop my leadership skills, both in and out of the classroom and the playing field. I had always been someone who had been a quiet leader who “led by example” but my involvement in SAAC really helped me find my voice as a leader on campus and nationally on the Division III SAAC. Even today in the classroom I can see the effects of my USM experience, as I work with students, and student-athletes, to develop their own vision and voice for who they want to be professionally. I truly do not know where I would be today if I had not been a part of SAAC, however I am certain that my path would have been very different!

Heather Gilmour ’97
Assistant Professor in Sport Management, Mount Ida College
Awards and Honors

2015  USM Outstanding Contribution to Community Service Award

2014  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (On-Going Project Category)

2013  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (On-Going Project Category)

2011  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (Array of Projects Category)

2009  USM Outstanding Contribution to Community Service Award

2008  USM Outstanding Student Organization Award
      USM Outstanding Contribution to Community Service Award

2007  USM Outstanding Student Organization Award
      Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (One-Time Project Category)
      Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (On-Going Project Category)

2006  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (On-Going Project Category)

2005  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Award of Merit (Array of Projects Category)

2004  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Award of Merit (One-Time Project Category)
      Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Award of Merit (Array of Projects Category)
      Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Honorable Mention (On-Going Project Category)

2003  USM Outstanding Student Organization Award
      Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Award of Merit (Array of Projects Category)

2002  Josten's NADIII AA Community Service Award of Merit (On-Going Project Category)

2001  USM Outstanding Student Organization Award

For more information contact:
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