Greetings and Salutations!

Meet your Franklin & Marshall 2015-16 student-athletes! See them in action with all their statistics and honors. Putting them all together in one publication is almost too much to take in, making it challenging to introduce this publication with much more than a huge cheer. But, whatever your interest or your involvement in the athletic department, I know you will enjoy the publication and save it for years to come.

What can you expect?

You will encounter 568 athletes from 24 countries on 10 nationally ranked teams, competing in 16 different sports where 297 of them obtained a 3.2 or higher GPA. You will see Division I wrestlers in Madison Square Garden, Division III Women’s Lacrosse players at the final four in Talen Energy Stadium, hundreds fanning throughout Lancaster at TeamWork, the annual spring clean-up day, and representatives from every team teaching lessons in leadership to high school students from the Lancaster-Lebanon League. In addition, there are stories about their lives, their backgrounds, challenges and accomplishments.

My hope, however, is that you will see more than an almanac and that you will feel and relive some of the excitement, the energy, the elation and even the disappointments from your personal perspective.

May all families see the realization of potential, a moment of victory or a fantastic effort that fell short, but will guide and transform your student. You will remember practicing in the yard, driving early morning carpool, chaotic holiday and meal schedules. With the players’ smiles, you can perceive that sense of gratitude for your help, guidance and love.

As an alumnus or alumna, you may remember those stifling August practices and freezing spring games, the bus and van rides and the moment you realized that you were part of a true team. Can you relive those astonishing moments of joy and that wrenching sensation of disappointment, knowing that both shaped who you are today?

May all members of the F&M community spot that young man you assisted in the dining hall or that young women you helped guide through a tough course. You can re-experience the exuberance of the crowd or the brief glance from a student who was so thrilled to see you in the stands. Inside, you will recognize friends who were once strangers.

And may every neighbor and fan in Lancaster understand that they make up a “hometown crowd” that is rarely seen at institutions like ours. Their unconditional support is welcome and appreciated.

Whatever your affiliation, my wish is that this publication lets you realize that you are all Diplomats, each undergirding the educational process in a myriad of ways that embody the saying “not for four years, but for a lifetime.”

With respect and gratitude,

Patty Epps

Director of Athletics & Recreation
Franklin & Marshall College
In April 2016, Rebecca Swisher and Rick Durso earned the highest honors Franklin & Marshall College bestows on a senior Diplomat. Swisher won the Karvasales Outstanding Senior Athlete Award, while Durso earned the Garrigues Outstanding Senior Athlete Award. The Garrigues and Karvasales awards are given to the male and female senior athletes who display outstanding athletic and academic achievements during their four years on campus.

Swisher, a Lititz, Pa., resident who attended Lancaster Catholic High School, has competed at the NCAA championship five times in her career and is a three-time All-American in the pole vault. Her highest finish came during her junior year, when she earned fourth place in the country. She holds both the indoor and outdoor school records for the pole vault.

Swisher was named the 2016 Women’s Centennial Conference (CC) Indoor Field Event Athlete of the year, is a four-time CC champion in both the indoor and outdoor pole vault, and is just the second athlete in conference history to win eight championships in one event.

Durso, who hails from Broomall, Pa., and attended Malvern Prep, became the first two-time Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association champion in program history with his 4-0 performance at the conference championships in March. Durso, who also is the program’s only four-time NCAA Qualifier, wrapped up his senior season with a 39-10 record, tying his season wins record and giving him a program-best 145-38 mark for his career.

In 2014, Durso became the program’s first All-American since 1981 and during his career, twice reached the quarterfinals at the NCAA Division I wrestling championship. He finished this year’s tournament with a 2-2 record and placed in the top 16 for the third time in his career.
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Coach Robinson, 900 Wins

Brad Lankler
Megan Liang
Ugo Okolie
Jamie Davidson
A.J. Koikoi
Rebecca Swisher
ATHLETICS & EXCELLENCE

Franklin & Marshall student-athletes not only stood out for their performance during competition, they also displayed excellence in the classroom during the 2015-16 academic year.

A total of 89 student-athletes earned spots on the Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll—38 in the fall, 23 in the winter and 28 in the spring. To garner the distinction, student-athletes must be a sophomore, junior or senior and have a cumulative GPA of 3.40 or above.

In the inaugural year of the award, eight Diplomats landed on the Academic All-Centennial team. To be nominated, a student-athlete must receive both All-Conference and Academic Honor Roll honors. Inigo Flores ’17 was named the conference’s scholar-athlete of the year for men’s tennis, an award that goes to the junior or senior with the highest GPA who makes the All-Centennial Team.

Morgan Gray ’16 of the women’s track & field team and Shawn Hines ’16 of the men’s basketball team were honored with the Delphic Student-Athlete Award at the annual department awards luncheon. The distinction is reserved for the male and female senior athletes with the highest cumulative GPAs at the conclusion of the fall semester. He or she must have achieved the highest level of excellence in athletics, community service and academics. In accordance with the College’s Delphic Student-Athlete Honor Society, the recipients must also embody the ideals of mind, body and spirit.

Jon Naji ’17 of the football team and Brandon Federici ’18 of the men’s basketball team both earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors for their respective sports. To qualify, a student-athlete must be a sophomore, junior or senior, have a 3.3 or higher cumulative grade point average and be a starter or key reserve on his or her team.

Eight members of the Franklin & Marshall field hockey team earned places on the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Division III National Academic Squad, which recognizes student-athletes who achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.3 or higher through the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year. Lauren Eastman ’16 and Clare Wirth ’16 each won the award for the fourth time, while classmate Maria Guarisco ’16 earned a nod for the third straight time. Sarah Powell ’17, Katherine Kistler ’17 and Jenn Silverman ’17 all garnered the award for the third consecutive year, while Sarah Schannauer ’18 and Emily Nagle ’19 received the distinction for the first time.

A trio of women’s rowers landed on the 2016 Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association Scholar-Athlete list, with Allison Hoffmann ’16, Leah Issokson ’18 and Teresa Chappell ’18 all earning a spot. The three members of the team also were named Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference Academic All-Conference.

For the 14th straight year, the women’s swimming team earned the College Swimming Coaches Association of America Team Scholar All-America Award, which is reserved for teams with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher.

Rick Durso earned the Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) Academic Achievement Award. The 141-pound redshirt senior was one of only 26 grapplers in the conference to garner the distinction. To earn the accolade, which is in its inaugural year, a student-athlete must either achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher and win 60 percent of his total schedule and/or be an EIWA Place winner, or achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher and qualify for the NCAA Championships through the EIWA.

Anthony Castaneda ’16, Max Havlusch ’16, Andrew Heird ’16, A.J. Kolen ’16, Matt Magarity ’16 and Matthew Pisarcik ’16 were inducted to the National Football Foundation and College Hall of Fame (NFF) Hampshire Society.

The Society is comprised of college football players from every division of play who were a starter or a significant substitute and graduated with a 3.2 or higher cumulative grade point average.

Six members of the softball team landed on the Easton/ National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-America Scholar-Athlete team, reserved for any player who achieved a 3.5 grade point average or higher during the 2015-16 academic year.

Melissa Bollmeyer ’18, Crystal Good ’18, Isabel Schaefer ’18 and Kathleen Zogorski ’18 all earned the distinction for the second consecutive year, while Samantha Clemens and Karly Newcomb were first-time honorees.

Stephen Colodny ’17 was named a Cleveland Golf/Srixon All-America Scholar by the Golf Coaches Association of America (GCAA).

To be eligible for All-America Scholar status an individual must be a junior or senior academically, compete in at least three full years at the collegiate level, participate in 50 percent of his team’s competitive rounds, have a stroke-average under 79.0 and maintain a minimum cumulative career grade-point average of 3.2.
Franklin & Marshall College

297
Athlete’s with 3.2 GPA or higher

23
Countries Represented

2
Conference Championship

8
Teams Ranked In The Top 15 Nationally

568
Student-athletes

12
All-Americans

72
Student-athletes earning All-CC recognition

79
CC Academic Honor Roll

4
CC Player of the Year honors

4
CC playoff teams

9
Teams ranked Nationally
Franklin & Marshall placed 52nd out of 442 NCAA Division III institutions in the final 2015–16 Learfield Sports Directors Cup standings. The Diplomats earned a total of 343.25 points, the most in school history, while finishing with their highest ranking since 2008–09. It also marked the fifth straight year that F&M finished in the top 100.

The Directors Cup program honors the top overall athletic programs (Division I, Division II, Division III and National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) in the country. Institutions earn points based on national postseason participation and success in NCAA championship competition in up to 18 sports (nine each for men and women).
Women’s Cross Country

The Diplomats put together another solid year in 2015, capped off by finishing 20th out of 50 teams at the NCAA Mid-East Regionals Nov. 14. The finish was F&M’s best in four years, dating back to 2012. Julia Zielinski ’16 led the Diplomats on the day, concluding the 6-kilometer course in 23:10.7 to take 36th place overall.

Zielinski led F&M Oct. 2 at the Paul Short Run hosted by Lehigh. The senior captured 17th place, recording a time of 23:12 and leading the Diplomats to a 19th-place finish out of 43 teams in the women’s college white division. Amelia Cadwell ’19 also finished in the top 100, clocking a time of 24:54 to claim 91st.

F&M put together a strong team performance at the Gettysburg Invitational Oct. 17, finishing 12th out of 26 teams from divisions I, II and III, as well as placing three runners in the top 60. Zielinski came in 11th overall with a time of 23:11, while Grace Adams ’18 took 49th at 24:27 and Rachel Weiss ’16 finished in 24:46 to earn 59th out of 280 competitors.
Men’s Cross Country

The squad capped off a successful 2015 season at the NCAA Mid-East Regionals Nov. 14, placing 18th out of 52 teams. The Diplomats have now finished inside the top 20 at regionals for five straight years dating back to 2011. J.T. Paganelli ’17 paced the Diplomats, finishing the 8-kilometer course in 27:07 to take 73rd overall. James Hamilton ’16, Spencer Lyman ’19, Michael Whalen ’17 and Patrick Manion ’19 all finished in the top 125 out of 371 competitors.

At the Paul Short Run, hosted by Lehigh Oct. 2, F&M finished fifth out of 39 teams in the men’s college white division. Manion was the first Diplomat across the line, taking 29th with a time of 27:02. Bryce Williams ’19 took 34th at 27:08, closely followed by Hamilton in 36th with a time of 27:10.

On Oct. 17 at the Gettysburg Invitational, Paganelli again paced the Diplomats, helping F&M earn eighth out of 24 teams spanning all three divisions. The junior claimed 36th after finishing in 27:14, closely followed by Lyman in 41st (27:28) and Hamilton in 44th (27:33).
Successful seasons continue to be the norm for the field hockey program as the Diplomats put together a strong 2015 campaign that culminated with a 17-4, 10-0 Centennial Conference (CC) record, their second straight appearance in the NCAA Second Round and the country’s No. 5 ranking at the end of the year.

F&M was nationally ranked among Division III’s top-10 teams throughout the season, reaching as high as No. 4, while producing a double-digit win total for the seventh straight year on its way to the second-most wins in program history.

Earning their eighth overall NCAA Playoff berth and third in the last four years, the Diplomats opened the tournament with a 5-0 drubbing of Cabrini at Tylus Field. The victory propelled F&M into the Sweet 16 for the second consecutive season, where the Diplomats' memorable campaign came to an end with a hard-fought 2-0 loss to No. 3 Middlebury, eventual National Champion.

During the regular season, F&M defeated No. 15 Mary Washington by a 2-0 score on Sept. 12, delivering eighth-year head coach Melissa Mariano her 100th career win. Already the program’s all-time wins leader, Mariano was honored at the end of her seventh straight winning season with the CC Coach of the Year award, the second such accolade of her career.

Individually, several members of the team were recognized for their noteworthy play on the field:

**Mary Kate Olson ’16**
- Longstreth/NFHCA All-America Second Team
- Synapse Sports All-America First Team
- Longstreth/NFHCA All-South Region First Team
- All-Centennial Conference First Team
- ECAC Mid-Atlantic All-Star Second Team

**Maria Guarisco ’16**
- Longstreth/NFHCA All-America First Team
- Synapse Sports All-America Second Team
- Longstreth/NFHCA All-South Region First Team
- All-CC First Team
- Academic All-Centennial
- ECAC Mid-Atlantic All-Star Second Team

**Bridget Falcone ’17**
- Longstreth/NFHCA All-South Region Second Team
- All-CC Second Team

**Anne Horsley ’18**
- All-CC Honorable Mention

**Ilianna Santangelo ’19**
- Synapse Sports All-Rookie Team
Volleyball

F&M put together a solid 2015 campaign, finishing with a 14-15 record and earning the program’s eighth straight berth in the Centennial Conference (CC) Tournament.

The Diplomats opened the year with four straight victories, winning 12 straight sets to notch 3-0 sweeps in all four of its matches between Sept. 1 and Sept. 5.

On Sept. 23, F&M started the CC slate by erasing a 2-0 deficit against Muhlenberg and claiming a dramatic 3-2 victory.

Entering the final day of the regular season, the Diplomats needed a win against Dickinson to secure a spot in the conference tournament. F&M turned in a clutch performance, dominating the Red Devils, 3-0, and earning the No. 5 seed.

The Diplomats’ run came to an end in the first round of the tournament, as they fell to eventual champion McDaniel, 3-1, Nov. 4.

On offense, F&M ranked first in the conference in kills per set (12.48) and second in assists per set (11.55). Defensively, the Diplomats were fourth in digs per set (17.13).

Alyssa Sanchez ’16, Kelsey Michenko ’16 and Katie Foreman ’16 finished their careers with four straight CC Tournament appearances, winning the conference championship and reaching the NCAA Tournament during the 2014 season.

Sanchez finished her tenure at the top of multiple statistical categories. She is second in total digs (1,658), digs per set (3.95) and matches played (122), and in the top five in several other categories.

Ellie Ezekiel ’17 and Sanchez both earned All-CC recognition, with Ezekiel landing on the first team and Sanchez earning honorable mention.
The football team finished the 2015 campaign with a 6-4 overall mark, including a 5-4 record in the Centennial Conference (CC). The year marked the fifth season in the last seven years F&M has finished with a winning record.

More impressively, the class of 2016 ended their four-year career without posting a losing record, made two postseason appearances, upset two top-25 teams and won an Eastern College Athletic Conference Bowl game.

F&M started the year by winning four straight games, including three victories by five or fewer points. F&M downed Lebanon Valley 42-37 in a season-opening game that featured a fourth-down pass breakup in the final seconds by Brendan Daly ’17.

Up next was No. 23 Muhlenberg for the home opener Sept. 12. The Diplomats took advantage of a forced fumble by Vincent Moffett ’18, and Matt Magarity ’16 found Bobby Keyes ’17 with 1:01 on the clock for the game-winning score.

The following week, the defense stepped up again. A goal-line stand in the third quarter combined with another stand inside the 10-yard line led F&M to a 17-13 win over Ursinus. F&M finished off its streak with a 24-7 win over Juniata Sept. 26 to mark the program’s best start since 1989. The Diplomats also picked up victories over McDaniel (30-28) and Susquehanna (16-7) during the season.

F&M ranked in the top five in multiple CC categories. The Diplomats were the least-penalized team in the league, gave up the third-fewest sacks and excelled in multiple special-teams categories. Moffett (25.6 yards per return) and Andrew DeStefano ’17 (24.9 yard per return) held the top two spots in kick return averages, while Billy Zwichawoski ’17 was second in the conference with a field-goal percentage of 87.5.
Five members earned six spots on the All-CC Football Team. Ryan Ignatovig ’16 and Jonathan Cox ’16 landed on the first team, while A.J. Koikoi ’16 and Moffett earned second-team accolades. Mark Opalski ’17 received honorable mention, and Moffett also earned honorable mention recognition as a kick returner.

Seniors Tre Henderson ’16, Ignatovig and Koikoi were selected to participate in postseason senior all-star games. Ignatovig and Koikoi both played in the D3 Senior Classic, while Ignatovig also participated in the National Bowl and the Dream Bowl, and Henderson saw action in the Tropic Bowl.

Ignatovig helped anchor a line that paved the way for 1,687 yards on the ground. He gave up one sack or fewer in seven games and finished the year with a blocking percentage of 91 and 52 knockdowns. Koikoi had 28 stops with 1.5 sacks and three tackles for a loss. Henderson started all 10 contests in 2015. The cornerback finished with 25 tackles, six pass breakups, two forced fumbles and two interceptions.
Women’s Soccer

An improving squad finished the 2015 season with a 3-11-3 overall record and a 1-8-1 mark in the Centennial Conference (CC). Sarah Mischianti '17 earned All-CC Honorable Mention for her efforts, anchoring the Diplomat defense and recording two assists on the year.

First-year Head Coach Heather Kemp’s team made great strides in just one season; the 2014 team earned two wins and a tie.

Late goals proved to be a hallmark of F&M’s victories. On Sept. 6, the Diplomats celebrated their home opener by defeating Rosemont, 1-0, courtesy of an 81st-minute goal by Lauren Kranis ’19.

Six days later, F&M improved its home record to 2-0 when the Diplomats took down Widener, 2-1, at Tylus Field. Meghan Byrne ’19 converted a penalty kick to draw even at 1-1 in the 63rd minute, and a goal in the 92nd minute from Hannah Kowalewski ’18 secured the one-goal victory.

On Oct. 3 against Bryn Mawr, the Diplomats carried a 1-0 lead late into the second half. In the 83rd minute, F&M iced the game, as Mischianti found leading scorer Kate Kerr ’17 for her second goal of the match in the 2-0 victory.

The Diplomats reached overtime on three other occasions, earning three ties, including back-to-back draws against Stockton Oct. 21 (2-2) and Washington Oct. 24 (0-0).

Kerr finished the year with three goals and six total points, while Byrne tallied three assists and a goal to finish with five points.

F&M used three different starting goalkeepers over the season, led by sophomore Shannon Johnson-Finn ’18, who logged eight starts in 10 matches played. Johnson-Finn made 56 saves on the year—20 of them coming in an Oct. 31 match against Dickinson—while recording an .800 save percentage.
Men’s Soccer

The 2015 campaign marked another year of historic firsts and another season of continued success for the men’s soccer team. The squad became the only one in program history to reach No. 1 in the nation—a spot F&M held for four consecutive weeks—while advancing to its third straight Sweet 16 and tying the all-time single-season wins mark. The team finished with a 17-4 overall mark, including a run of 14 straight wins to open the season.

Tylus Field once again served as a site for the first and second rounds of the NCAA Division III tournament, and the Diplomats took full advantage of their home-field edge, dominating Babson (5-1) and Gordon (3-1) en route to the Round of 16. F&M traveled to Gambier, Ohio, to take on the nation’s No. 1 squad, Calvin College, for the right to advance to the Elite Eight, but came up just short in a heartbreaking 1-0 match.

By the numbers, 2015 proved to be the greatest offensive season in program history, as the team set marks for goals (48), assists (36) and points (132). Leading scorer Chase TenBrook ’16 was third in the conference with 26 points and second with 12 goals. He earned an All-America First Team nod, becoming only the third Diplomat and 13th member in Centennial Conference history to land on the First Team.

TenBrook wrapped up his time in Lancaster with 66 points and 28 goals, both good for seventh-most in program history. Goalkeeper Trevor Britton ’16 was again stellar in net, concluding his final year on campus with a 0.54 goals against average, the second-lowest mark in program history.

Britton concluded his career by owning the lowest goals against average in the program (0.57), while his 33 all-time wins are third and his 21 shutouts second. He, TenBrook and fellow seniors Vince Perry ’16 and Devon Malfitano ’16 produced the most successful four-year run of any class in program history, posting a record of 62-16-5.

For their efforts, multiple Diplomats were honored with a host of postseason awards, while head coach Dan Wagner was honored as the Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) South Coach of the Year:

Chase TenBrook ’16
All-Centennial Conference First Team
All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team
NSCAA All-America First Team
ECAC South All-Star First Team

Ugo Okolie ’19
All-CC Second Team
All-CC Rookie of the Year
All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team

Trevor Britton ’16
All-CC First Team
All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team

Devon Malfitano ’16
All-CC First Team

ECAC South Defensive Player of the Year
ECAC South All-Star First Team

Ben Wild ’17
All-CC Honorable Mention
All-Mid-Atlantic Region Second Team

Wyatt Fabian ’18
All-CC Second Team

All-Mid-Atlantic Region Third Team
ECAC South All-Star First Team
Men’s Basketball

The 2015–16 season was another historic year for the men’s basketball team. F&M earned its 24th trip to the NCAA Tournament after winning its eighth CC crown—and 19th conference title overall—with a 75-64 win over Swarthmore in the CC championship game. The Diplomats finished the year with a 22-6 mark, the 27th time in school history F&M finished with 20 or more wins in a season.

Head Coach Glenn Robinson, already the most victorious coach in NCAA Division III history, joined Duke’s Mike Krzyzewski, Philadelphia University’s Herb Magee and former Indiana University general Bob Knight as the only men’s coaches to win 900 or more NCAA games with a 57-54 victory over Swarthmore Jan. 9. A week later, he passed Knight for the third spot on the coaching victory list and finished the season with 912 career wins.

At the conclusion of the season, Cedric Moune ’16 was named to the 2016 Division III Eastern College Athletic Conference South Men’s Basketball All-Star Team, National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC) Middle Atlantic All-Region Team, D3hoops.com All-Region Team and Centennial Conference First Team.

Moune led the conference with 9.4 rebounds per game and was third with 15.6 points per game. He scored in double figures in 23 games and reached the 20-point plateau in five contests.
while recording 12 double-doubles during the season. He was named the conference tournament MVP after averaging 19.5 points, 10.5 rebounds and three steals per game. With a 21-point performance in the CC championship game, he became just the 34th player in school history to reach 1,000 career points.

Brandon Federici ’18 continued his dominance in the CC this season and earned NABC All-Region recognition for the first time in his career, as well as D3hoops.com All-Region honors, and he was named to the CC First Team. He led the conference with 17.6 points per game. His 42.9 percent mark from three-point range was the second best in the conference, and his 46 steals placed him third. The sophomore scored in double figures in 24 games, including eight games of 20 or more points. He tallied a career-high 34 points against Haverford and finished the year with 994 career points. He also was named to the CC Academic All-Centennial team.

Hunter Eggers ’17 received Honorable Mention from the conference following the season. He was third on the team with 11.9 points per game and second with 67 assists. The junior’s 48 steals ranked second in the CC, and he scored in double figures in 19 games,notching 20 or more points in four contests.

At the conclusion of the season, the team was invited to the Pennsylvania State Senate by Sen. Lloyd K. Smucker, where Smucker recognized Robinson for surpassing 900 career wins. The Pennsylvania State House also honored Robinson and the team for the momentous milestone with a House Resolution that passed unanimously.

More on Coach Robinson » inside back cover
Women’s Basketball

The team showed continued improvement throughout the 2015–16 season, suggesting a bright future for the Diplomats. A young F&M squad battled its way to a 6-19 record and a 4-14 Centennial Conference (CC) mark, improving both its overall and conference records from a year ago.

The F&M offense was led by Haley Pilone ’19, whose 11.9 points per game (ppg) were the second highest in the conference by a first-year student. Anajha Burnett ’18 (11.2 ppg), Erica Brown ’18 (10.9 ppg) and Sarah Haddon ’17 (10.8 ppg) rounded out a group of four Diplomats averaging double figures in scoring.

Haddon ranked third in the CC with 9.0 rebounds per game, while Brown was seventh with 7.6. Sarah Pisani ’19 was fourth in the conference in assists per game (4.2), tops among CC first-year students.

The Diplomats opened the season with two straight victories in early January. F&M notched a 49-34 win at Hood Jan. 4 and followed up with a 64-59 overtime victory against Swarthmore Jan. 9. A Burnett three-pointer with 10 seconds remaining completed a fourth-quarter comeback that forced the extra period.

All 10 active players from the 2015-16 roster return for another campaign in 2016-17.
Wrestling

Facing one of the most difficult schedules in recent memory, the wrestling team battled a number of the nation’s top teams throughout the 2015–16 season. The tough competition brought out the best in the Diplomats and prepared F&M for a postseason run that produced three Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) place winners and two NCAA Qualifiers.

Rick Durso ’16 became the only two-time EIWA Champion in program history with his 4-0 performance at the conference championships in March. Entering action as the 141-pound bracket’s No. 1 seed, Durso rolled through the competition and wrapped up his second career title with a 7-4 decision over No. 2-seeded Todd Preston of Harvard in the final.

Antonio Pelusi ’18 won four out of five consolation matchups, including upset victories over the bracket’s No. 4, 5 and 8 wrestlers at 285 to secure fifth place, while Scott Stevens took eighth at 133. The trio of Diplomats guided F&M to a 12th-place finish out of 16 teams with 36.5 points, finishing ahead of Hofstra, Sacred Heart and Brown. Pelusi’s performance was the best for a heavyweight at the championships since Bob Bickelman took third in 1976, and the three place-winners were the most for the Diplomats since 2012.

Both Durso and Pelusi snagged automatic bids to the NCAA tournament that took place in historic Madison Square Garden, marking the first time since 1994 that F&M had multiple student-athletes represented in the tourney. Pelusi reached the tournament for the first time. He was dealt a difficult draw and bowed out after two matches, including an opening-round loss to eventual National Champion Kyle Snyder of Ohio State.

Durso became the first four-time NCAA qualifier in program history. He went 2-2 at the tournament and finished in the top 16 for the third time, bringing an end to his illustrious career. The redshirt senior captain wrapped up the season with a 39-10 record, which tied his season wins record and gave him a program-best 145-38 career mark.

He was also honored for his work in the classroom, becoming one of only 26 grapplers in the EIWA to receive the conference’s Academic Achievement Award. The honor is reserved for a student-athlete who achieves a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or higher and wins 60 percent of their total schedule and/or be an EIWA Place winner or achieve a 3.0 GPA or higher and qualify for the NCAA championships through the EIWA.

Pelusi registered a 26-21 overall mark, good for the 17th-most single-season victories of all time, while Anthony Mancini ’18 was solid with a 17-17 record as a 184-pounder.
Men’s Squash

The 2015–16 season had its share of ups and downs for the men’s squash team, but in the end, the Diplomats ended the program’s 50th year of competition on a positive note, winning two out of three contests in the Hoehn Cup (B Division) at the College Squash Association (CSA) team championships to finish the year ranked No. 13 in the nation.

During the CSA team championships in February, F&M followed up an opening-round loss to Princeton with a 5-4 victory against No. 16 Brown, then avenged a late-season loss to No. 14 Navy with a 6-3 victory in the consolation final.

A trio of Diplomats wrapped up 2015–16 at the CSA individual championships in March when Pedro Veiga De Almeida ’16, Sean Kenny ’19 and Cole Osborne ’17 all competed in Molloy Division draws. Almeida advanced to the quarterfinals before seeing his run come to an end, while Kenny and Osborne both advanced to the semifinals.

In addition to his on-court success, Almeida was recognized for his work in the classroom, earning 2015–16 Scholar-Athlete honors from the CSA. To make the list, a student-athlete must be a two-time letter winner, have a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or above and have played a top-10 ladder position for the majority of scheduled CSA-sanctioned matches during the season.

Osborne, Kenny and Almeida led the team with 12 wins each. Osborne tallied a 10-9 record from the No. 1 spot in the order, while Kenny went 6-3 from the No. 2 position and Almeida 6-3 from the No. 3 position. Kareem Nabil Abdel Mawla ’17 also produced a winning record at 9-8.
Women’s Squash

The team went toe-to-toe with some of the nation’s best programs during the 2015-16 season and competed at a high level throughout the year, finishing at No. 14, its highest national ranking since 2012.

For the second straight year, Franklin & Marshall was invited to the Kurtz Cup, an annual matchup of the nation’s No. 9 through No. 16 teams at the College Squash Association (CSA) team championships. The Diplomats produced a 1-2 record in the bracket, including a 6-3 victory against No. 15 Middlebury in the consolation round.

In March, three members of the team took part in the Holleran Division at the CSA individual championships. Fiona Murphy ’17 advanced to the semifinals of her draw after beginning play with two straight wins. Sherilyn Yang ’18 also won her opening contest but fell in the quarterfinals, while Emily Caldwell ’16 bowed out in the consolation semifinals.

Murphy was solid near the top of the ladder throughout the year, leading the team with a 14-5 record, which was the 18th-most single-season victories in program history. Lauren Johnston ’18 also produced a winning record at 8-7, competing at the No. 4 and 5 positions.
Men’s Swimming

The men’s swimming team recorded another strong season in 2015–16, winning three dual meets and finishing fourth at the Centennial Conference (CC) championships.

At the CC championships in February, F&M scored 467.5 total points to earn fourth place out of seven schools. The Diplomats were led by sophomore Eric Lang ’18, who struck gold in the 200-yard individual medley (IM) with a time of 1:52.46, winning by more than 1.5 seconds.

F&M hit its stride in January, beginning on the 16th as the Diplomats took first place in eight events en route to a 150.5-111.5 victory over Susquehanna.

The momentum continued with a pair of narrow victories against CC opponents in an eight-day span. On Jan. 29, the Diplomats needed a victory in the day’s final event to hold off McDaniel, and Ryan Caffrey ’18, Keith Kamons ’19, David Burton ’18 and Daniel Sanders ’19 delivered. The team posted a time of 1:29.79 to win the 200-yard freestyle relay to claim a 49-37 F&M victory over the Green Terror. Sanders, Richard Perry ’18 and Patrick Greaney ’16 all tallied first-place finishes for F&M on the day.

Eight days later, the Diplomats won another tight CC contest, this time against Ursinus. In the final meet of the event, Matthew Murphy ’17 joined Caffrey, Burton and Sanders in winning the 200-yard freestyle relay at 1:27.75, breaking a 94-94 deadlock and giving F&M the victory, 105-100. Lang added a pair of individual victories in the 200-yard IM and the 100-yard breaststroke as the Diplomats claimed the conference battle.
Women’s Swimming

For the 14th straight season, the team finished with a record of .500 or better, earning five medals and taking third place at the Centennial Conference (CC) championships in February. The program also produced its 123rd All-American—and first since 2013.

The Diplomats were led by Becca Meyers ’17 and Melissa Mullin ’18, both of whom earned a gold and silver medal at the conference championships. Meyers’ gold came in the 1650-yard freestyle, as her time of 16:43.06 broke the pool, meet and conference records. The junior also took second in the 500-yard freestyle, clocking a time of 4:59.51.

Mullin won gold in the 400-yard individual medley (IM), posting the fastest qualifying time before winning the finals at 4:32.95. She also reached the podium in the 200-yard backstroke, taking silver with a time of 2:24.99.

The final Diplomat medal came in the 400-yard medley relay, as Mullin joined Anna Hess ’19, Kellen McDonald ’18 and Jillian Albus ’17 to touch the wall at 3:59.89 en route to a bronze medal. At the end of three days of competition, F&M finished third with 518 points while Ursinus took the team title with 846.

Meyers’ time in the 1650-yard freestyle at the CC championships was the fourth fastest in Division III during the 2015–16 season, qualifying her for competition at the NCAA championships in Greensboro, N.C., from March 16 to 19. She qualified for the fastest heat of timed finals, her best finish, posting a time of 16:54.61 to take sixth place and earning All-America status. Her sixth-place finish was the best by a Diplomat since Kelly Landman took fourth in the 200-yard butterfly in 2007. She also competed in the prelims of the 500-yard freestyle and the 200-yard freestyle, but was unable to reach the finals in either event.

The Diplomats opened their conference schedule with three straight wins, beginning with a season-opening victory against Washington Oct. 31. Hess won three individual events as F&M took down the Shorewomen, 155.5-87.5.

The hot start continued Nov. 7, as the Diplomats tallied a pair of CC victories, a 116-82 triumph over Bryn Mawr and a 133-129 victory over Swarthmore. Conference victories over McDaniel Jan. 29 and Dickinson Jan. 30 pushed F&M to an overall record of 5-3-1 on the year and a 5-2 CC mark.
Men’s Indoor Track & Field

The men’s squad finished the indoor track & field season with a fifth-place finish at the Centennial Conference (CC) championship.

Evan Friend ’16 picked up two gold medals, racing to first-place finishes in the 60-meter dash with a time of 7.02 and in the 200 meters with a time of 22.15. Friend also competed in his first NCAA Indoor Track & Field championships, posting a time of 22.37 in the 200-meter dash, good for 13th place.

Logan Lewis ’18 won gold in the shot put at the CC indoor championships, as the sophomore’s throw of 52 feet, 1.75 inches set the meet record. Lewis then broke the CC indoor record at the NCAA championships, unleashing a throw of 16.40 meters (53 feet, 9.75 inches) that landed him in ninth place in his first trip to the national stage.

Michael Hoffman ’18 earned silver in the 60-meter hurdles for the second straight season with a time of 8.42 at the conference championships. The 4x400 relay team of Friend, Hoffman, Jinxin Chen ’18 and Brad Krell ’16 took third, crossing the finish line in 3:28.10.

At the Robert J. Kane Invitational hosted by Cornell University on Jan. 30, Friend was the highest Division III finisher in the 200-meter dash with a fourth-place effort. Friend continued his dominant indoor season by picking up gold at the Deschriver Invitational and the Monmouth Collegiate Open before finishing third at the Princeton Invitational, where he competed against runners primarily from Division I institutions.
Women’s Indoor Track & Field

The women’s team claimed several top finishes throughout its winter campaign. Rebecca Swisher ’16 had her best season yet, claiming gold in the pole vault at the Centennial Conference (CC) championship for the fourth consecutive year, setting the CC meet record and breaking her own school record with a height of 12 feet, 6 inches.

At the CC indoor championships, Morgan Grey ’16 recorded a leap of 33 feet, 7.25 inches to place fifth in the triple jump. The 200-meter relay team of Olivia Bendit ’16, Kaitlin Muccio ’19, Aleksandra Kiszka ’18 and Alyssa Ward ’18 finished in 1:50 to take fourth, while the 400-meter relay team of Bendit, Kiszka, Muccio and Swisher finished fourth with a recorded time of 4:14.22.

Swisher had several other noteworthy performances throughout the winter season, taking first in the pole vault at four competitions, including the Villanova Invitational on Dec. 5. She returned to the NCAA Indoor Track & Field championships for the second time and came up just short of All-America honors. Her height of 11 feet, 7.75 inches placed her in a tie for 12th place, just outside of the eighth-place finish required for All-America status.

At the Keogh Invitational, Ward had her top individual meet, claiming gold in the high jump with a height of 4 feet, 11.75 inches and the long jump with a distance of 16 feet, 7.25 inches, before finishing off the day by taking third in the 60-meter hurdles.
Women's Lacrosse

Women's lacrosse continued in 2016 to cement its place as one of the nation's top programs, reaching a second consecutive NCAA Final Four and appearing in the Centennial Conference (CC) championship game for the 13th time in 14 years.

The Diplomats opened their schedule with six straight wins, including a pair of victories over Denison and Plymouth State during spring break in Puerto Rico. An 11-game win streak to close out the regular season allowed F&M to host the CC tournament for the sixth time, narrowly falling to Gettysburg in the final.

F&M continued to roll in the NCAA Tournament, dropping Mount Union, 14-3, at home in the second round. The Diplomats next traveled to Salisbury, defeating Brockport State, 11-9, before beating the host Sea Gulls, 6-5, in overtime on a golden goal by Gabby Frank ’17. The victory avenged a 12-10 regular-season loss to Salisbury on March 23 and, for the second straight year, punched the Diplomats’ ticket to the Final Four.

F&M traveled to Chester’s Talen Energy Stadium for the national semifinals, falling to Trinity (Conn.), 6-2, and ending the season with a stellar 21-3 record (9-0 CC). The 21 wins marked the fourth time in program history that F&M reached the 20-win plateau and tied the program record for wins in a season.

The Diplomat defense stood among the nation’s best, ranking seventh in the country in scoring defense (5.91). Goalkeeper Danielle Harrington ’18 ranked sixth in the nation with a 6.10 goals-against average. The offense held its own as well, ranking third nationally in assists (192) and fourth in goals (319).

Attackers Paige Moriarty ’18 and Grace Saliba ’16 ranked near the top of several national offensive categories. In addition to being named the Intercollegiate Women’s Lacrosse Coaches Association’s (IWLCA) Attacker of the Year, Moriarty finished her sophomore season with a school record 108 points, the nation’s fifth-best points total, while her 78 goals were the sixth-most in the country. Saliba recorded 102 points, eighth in the nation, and ranked 13th in assists with 47, while Anastasia Merger ’16 rewrote the school’s and CC draw record with 304 draws.
Four Diplomats were named All-America on the season, the most since 2009, while a host of others earned regional and conference honors. Below is a breakdown of all the individual accolades:

**Paige Moriarty ’18**
- IWLCA Attacker of the Year
- IWLCA All-America First Team
- All-Metro Region First Team
- CC Offensive Player of the Year
- All-CC First Team

**Samantha Blicht ’16**
- All-America First Team
- All-Region First Team
- CC Defensive Player of the Year
- All-CC First Team

**Vanessa Budd ’17**
- All-America First Team
- All-Region First Team
- All-CC First Team

**Grace Saliba ’16**
- All-America Second Team
- All-Region First Team
- All-CC First Team

**Anastasia Mergner ’16**
- All-Region First Team
- All-CC First Team

**Sarah Bozzo ’17**
- All-Region Second Team
- All-CC Second Team
- NCAA All-Tournament Team

**Danielle Harrington ’18**
- All-CC Honorable Mention
- NCAA All-Tournament Team

**Gabby Frank ’17**
- All-CC Honorable Mention

**Caroline Doran ’16**
- Division III North-South All-Star game

**Mike Faith**
- CC Coach of the Year
- IWCLA Metro Region Coach of the Year
**Men’s Lacrosse**

The men’s lacrosse team marked a successful campaign in 2016, returning to the Centennial Conference (CC) playoffs for the third time in four years and finishing the season with a record of 12-5 (6-2 CC).

Following two losses to nationally ranked teams to open the season, the Diplomats hit their stride with seven straight wins, wrapping up the run with a 16-4 romp over Muhlenberg in the Centennial opener on March 26. After sustaining its first conference loss of the year to Ursinus, F&M put together another five-game winning streak, which included the Diplomats’ first-ever away victory over Washington College, an 11-8 triumph April 2. The run continued with a pair of 9-8 victories over McDaniel on April 9 and Swarthmore April 16, with Sean Rogers ’18 tallying the game-winner in overtime against the Garnet.

F&M finished off the regular season with a 12-10 victory at home over Dickinson on April 30, clinching the No. 3 seed in the conference playoffs. However, the Diplomats saw their season come to a close in the semifinals with a narrow 15-12 defeat at the hands of second-seeded Ursinus.

Rogers completed a stellar sophomore season by leading the conference in points with 70. His 35 assists were second in the CC and his 35 goals were good for third. Michael Bossidy ’16 closely followed Rogers in the goal rankings, as his 34 markers tied him for fourth in the conference. Bossidy and Rogers spearheaded an offense that finished the year third in the CC in goals (181) and assists (106).

Rogers was named to the 2016 United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association (USILA) Division III All-America Third Team, marking the fifth consecutive year that a Diplomat has been named All-America.

F&M landed four players on the All-Centennial Conference Team as well. Rogers was named to the first team, while Bossidy, Mike Wasik ’18 and Read Ziegler ’18 all earned honorable mentions.
Softball

The softball team raced to a 10-4 record in the first two weeks of play to finish 20-16 on the year, marking the third consecutive season—and fourth time in six seasons—that the Diplomats have reached the 20-win plateau. F&M finished with a conference record of 7-9, and remained in contention for the Centennial Conference (CC) playoffs into the final week of the season, but ultimately fell just short.

Doubleheader sweeps of Gallaudet (March 6) and Mary Washington (March 12) kickstarted the Diplomats’ season with four straight wins for the first time since 2003. Victories over Hamilton, Lesley, Skidmore and Utica during spring break action in Kissimmee, Fla., gave F&M a 4-2 mark in the Sunshine State and continued their strong start. Stiff competition in the Centennial provided numerous highlights, including a three-game win streak in mid-April and a dramatic 3-2 victory over Muhlenberg in extra innings during the April 30 season finale.

Erin Russell ’18 was one of two Diplomats named to the All-CC First Team, selected as the conference’s best catcher after leading the Diplomats in batting average (.351) and on-base percentage (.406). The sophomore also ranked second on the team in hits with 34 and collected 16 RBIs to go along with a fielding percentage of .976 behind the plate. Taylor Long ’19 joined Russell on the first team as the utility player, ranking second on F&M with a slugging percentage of .535 and third in batting average (.338) and on-base percentage (.392).

Sam Burns ’18 and Samantha Clemens ’19 also earned All-CC recognition, landing on the second team. Burns led F&M with a .607 slugging percentage, good for fourth in the conference, while her five home runs paced the Diplomats and tied her for fifth in the CC. Clemens led F&M with 41 hits and ranked second with a .339 average to go along with eight doubles and five triples, both team highs.

Head coach Mike Cooperstein reached a milestone of his own, becoming the winningest softball coach in F&M history after nine seasons at the helm. A pair of victories over Lancaster Bible College on March 22 gave him his 144th and 145th wins, pushing him past Ray Oswald, who was in charge of the Diplomats from 1984 to 93.

F&M’s young squad, featuring 12 underclassmen, will look to overcome the loss of its lone senior, Patricia Crigler ’16, and reach the conference playoffs next season.
Baseball

Facing off against Division III’s 19th-hardest schedule, the baseball team concluded the 2016 campaign with a 16-20-1 record (7-10-1 CC) and was in contention for a conference playoff spot up until the final week of the regular season.

The Diplomats’ slate of contests included seven games against teams that qualified for the NCAA playoffs. F&M held tough when Centennial Conference (CC) play began and was propelled into the postseason tournament chase with a clutch doubleheader sweep of Muhlenberg at home on April 16 with wins of 11-0 and 7-2. That pair of decisions evened F&M’s CC record to 5-5 on the year, but a tough stretch to end the season halted the Diplomats’ hopes of securing the program’s 11th trip to the CC tournament.
Offensively and defensively, F&M put together one of the best seasons among CC institutions during conference play, placing third with a .295 team batting average and third with a .963 team fielding percentage.

Several Diplomats made their imprint on the record books. Third baseman Matt Mezansky ’16 closed out his historic career with 171 hits, just two short of the program record held by J.T. Triantos ’12 and Gary Kruger ’06. He also joined Will Benenson ’14 as the only players in program history to record 100 runs and 100 RBIs. First baseman Luke Seib ’16 wrapped up his illustrious career as one of the Diplomats’ most sure-handed fielders, registering a .989 fielding percentage throughout his time in Lancaster, eighth-best all time.

Three members were recognized for their remarkable play on the field. David Iacobucci ’17 earned a spot on the All-CC First Team after the junior outfielder led F&M with a .379 batting average and a .579 slugging percentage, both marks good for sixth in the CC.

Closer Andrew Mascis ’18 once again thrived out of the bullpen for the Diplomats, landing on the All-CC First Team for the second straight season after notching a conference-high six saves along with a team-low 2.08 ERA in 21⅔ innings of work. In only his second season, Mascis surpassed the program’s career record for saves with 15. Mike Androconis ’18 garnered All-CC Second Team accolades for the first time in his career, anchoring the starting rotation with a 4-2 record, a 2.95 ERA in 58 innings pitched and registering 36 strikeouts during the year.
Women’s Golf

For just the fourth time in the history of the women’s golf program, a Diplomat earned multiple All-Centennial Conference (CC) honors in her career. Kathleen Smith ’16 tied for fifth out of 29 competitors at the 2016 CC championship to garner her second consecutive accolade.

Smith shaved three strokes off of her day one score, giving her a total of 175 (89-86) at the par-72, 5,801-yard Foxchase Golf Club course. She enjoyed another stellar season for F&M after leading the team with an 89.2 stroke average through five events, a mark that placed seventh in the conference.

The senior placed in the top 10 in every competition she participated in and had three top-five finishes, highlighted by a second-place showing out of 17 competitors after carding a 90 at the F&M Fall Invitational in October.

Megan Whittier ’19, who was named to the CC’s All-Sportsmanship Team, placed 25th with a 206 total (101-105) at the championship, while Harriet Waldron ’17 totaled a 238 (122-116) to round out the Diplomats’ scorers.
Three golfers and their coach earned recognition for their stellar seasons:

**Stephen Colodny ’17**
- Tie-second place at CC championship
- Tie-fourth place at NCAA championship
- All-CC First Team
- Golf Coaches Association of America All-Region First Team
- Division III PING All-America Team

**Brad Lankler ’17**
- Tie-sixth place at NCAA championship

**Daniel Furman ’16**
- CC Coach of the Year
- GCAA Division III Middle Atlantic Region Coach of the Year

**Men’s Golf**

The men’s golf team reached new heights in 2016, further solidifying its position as one of the nation’s top programs. The Diplomats won their third consecutive Centennial Conference (CC) championship and seventh in nine years, tied for 12th at the NCAA championship, and placed two individuals in the NCAA top 10.

The NCAA tournament, held from May 10 to 13 in Rochester, N.Y., saw the Diplomats fire a team total of 1,236 over four days. That score was good for a tie for 12th place, marking the highest finish by a CC school since the NCAA adopted its current format. **Stephen Colodny ’17** (fourth) and **Brad Lankler ’17** (sixth) tallied the two highest individual finishes in Diplomat history, as Colodny shot 73-72-74-78 for a total of 297 and Lankler posted rounds of 73, 72, 77 and 76 to total 298.
Women’s Tennis

Women’s tennis enjoyed another impressive regular-season Centennial Conference (CC) campaign, remaining at the top of the standings throughout the year and advancing to the program’s third consecutive conference tournament with a 7-3 record. The Diplomats fell just short of their third straight CC semifinals appearance, dropping a narrow 5-3 decision to Dickinson in the first round to conclude 2016 with a 9-11 overall record.

After a slow start in non-conference competition, F&M picked up steam when the CC schedule rolled around. The Diplomats saved their best tennis for the tail end of the season, progressing into the playoffs with wins in seven of their final eight matches and outscoring their opponents by a staggering 55-17 margin during that span.

Nicole Russo ’17 held the top spot in the singles order, accumulating a 7-3 conference record in her junior campaign to earn her third consecutive All-CC First Team honor, becoming one of just 25 players in conference history to accomplish the feat. Russo joined teammate Emily Gruenberg ’16 on the All-CC Second Team for doubles after the duo earned a 6-3 CC record from the No. 1 position. Gruenberg concluded her stellar career with 46 singles wins, good for 14th in program history, as well as 50 doubles victories, good for 10th all time.

First-year Gavriel Rubenstein ’19 was recognized for her solid play on the court, receiving All-CC Honorable Mention for singles with a team-leading 14-5 record (8-2 CC). Participating primarily in the No. 5 spot in the order, Rubenstein ended the year with a nine-match winning streak. She teamed with Allysan Breece ’17 to land on the honorable mention doubles list, as the duo formed the Diplomats’ most successful pair with a 14-6 mark (8-2 CC) at No. 3.
Men’s Tennis

The team put together a historic season in 2016 after tallying a 15-5 record to break the program record for wins in a season, bettering the 14 victories posted by the 1990 Diplomats. A 5-0 win over Dickinson in the first round of the Centennial Conference (CC) playoffs propelled F&M into the CC semifinals for the third straight year, where the Diplomats fell to Swarthmore, 5-0.

Doug Kaplan ’16 led the Diplomats in his senior season, posting a 15-7 mark at No. 1 singles, earning first team All-CC honors. He was joined by Jack Rothman ’18 at No. 1 doubles. That duo posted a record of 11-10 (6-3 CC) and was named to the All-CC Second Team. Rothman also landed on the second team for singles after posting a record of 15-6 (7-2 CC) on the year.

Inigo Flores ’17 and Vasant Rajamanickam ’18 earned all-conference recognition as well, receiving honorable mention in doubles with a record of 12-4 (6-2 CC) at No. 2. Flores was also named the conference’s Scholar-Athlete of the Year, awarded to the player with the highest GPA on the all-conference team.

After dropping the first match of the season, the Diplomats got on track with 11 consecutive wins, including a 7-0 record in March. A 6-3 victory over No. 21 Mary Washington March 20 propelled F&M into the national rankings for the first time since 2012. The Diplomats would rise as high as No. 26 according to the Intercollegiate Tennis Association.

On May 1, a 6-3 victory over Dickinson in the regular-season finale gave F&M a 6-3 record in CC action, placing the Diplomats in their seventh straight conference tournament.
Women’s Outdoor Track & Field

Women’s track & field put together another strong season in 2016, winning five medals at the Centennial Conference (CC) championship and sending an athlete to the NCAA championship for the seventh consecutive year.

Pole vaulter Rebecca Swisher ’16 finished off her senior year by qualifying for nationals for a third time, placing ninth with a height of 3.80 meters (12 feet, 5.5 inches). Earlier in May, she collected her fourth outdoor CC title and eighth overall (including indoor competition), breaking her own school record with an effort of 3.84 meters (12 feet, 7.25 inches) to win by more than a foot. With that victory, she became just the second athlete in conference history to win eight championships in one event.

Alyssa Ward ’18 turned in a strong performance at the CC championship, winning a pair of medals in the jumps. In the high jump, she cleared 1.59 meters (5 feet, 2.5 inches) to earn silver and tally eight points for the Diplomats. In the long jump, she posted a distance of 5.16 meters (16 feet, 11 inches) to take third place.

Morgan Gray ’16 also reached the podium, taking bronze in the triple jump with an effort of 10.99 meters (36 feet, .75 inches). Lindsey Powers ’19 earned a third-place showing in the shot put, recording a heave of 11.96 meters (39 feet, 3 inches).

Swisher, Gray and Powers all earned places at the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship in Westfield, Mass., from May 18 to 9. Swisher led the way by taking third in the pole vault at 3.76 meters (12 feet, 4 inches), while Gray finished 12th in the triple jump and Powers 23rd in the shot put.
Men’s Outdoor Track & Field

The men’s track & field team put together another successful season in 2016, tallying 77 points to place third at the Centennial Conference (CC) championship for the second consecutive season. The Diplomats grabbed eight medals to equal their haul from the 2015 championships, earning three gold medals, four silvers and one bronze.

Evan Friend ’16 accounted for two of F&M’s first-place finishes, sweeping the sprints for the second straight year. In the 100, his time of 10.75 netted him gold, while his time of 21.73 in the 200 also gave him first place by more than half a second. Logan Lewis ’18 nabbed a pair of medals as well, recording a mark of 15.66 meters (51 feet, 4.5 inches) to take first in the shot put and earning second in the discus with a throw of 45.96 meters (150 feet, 9.5 inches).

Michael Hoffman ’18 finished second in both the 110- and 400-meter hurdles, marking the second straight year that he took silver in both hurdle events. Ryan Kozloski ’17 and Tanner Erisman ’19 both reached the podium in the javelin, with Kozloski taking second (56.77 meters, 186 feet, 3 inches) and Erisman taking bronze (55.29 meters, 181 feet, 5 inches).

The Diplomats also had a successful regular season. On April 2, five first-place finishes and eight top-three finishes powered F&M to second place at the Little Three Meet. Kozloski and Hoffman both recorded a pair of individual victories on the day. Lewis won the shot put and took second in the discus as the Diplomats tallied 15 top-three finishes.

F&M tallied another strong outing at the Hopkins-Loyola Invitational on April 17, taking fifth in a field of 17 teams from across all three NCAA divisions. Friend won the 200 meters, and Lewis recorded a pair of second-place finishes to lead a Diplomat squad that recorded 10 top-10 performances on the day.

Friend, Lewis and Hoffman all earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-Mideast Region honors for their efforts during the season, awarded to each region’s top five competitors in each event. Lewis was named all-region in both the shot put and discus, while Friend earned the nod in the 200-meter dash and Hoffman in the 110-meter hurdles.
Women’s Rowing

Women’s rowing proved throughout the season that the Diplomats had the talent to compete with some of the nation’s top programs. Division III took notice of that fact and rewarded Franklin & Marshall with a two-week stint in the national rankings; the team was No. 15 from April 20 through May 4.

The appearance in the poll coincided with a torrid stretch of success near the tail end of the season for the Diplomats’ Varsity 8 boat that included a pair of second-place showings at the Knecht Cup April 10 and the Kerr Cup April 16, as well as an upset victory against boats from No. 12 Hamilton and Union April 17.

F&M rode that momentum into the 2016 Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference (MARC) championship as one of the favorites in a field of strong competitors. The Diplomats did not disappoint, securing the program’s highest-ever finish at the event with a second-place showing out of five teams after accumulating 35 points on the day.

At the conclusion of the championship, Katherine Cousart ’16 and Teresa Chappell ’18 were named to the 2016 All-MARC varsity list, while Erin Smith ’17 earned a place on the All-MARC novice team. Cousart earned the distinction for the second consecutive year. Chappell went on to be named to the Collegiate Rowing Coaches Association (CRCA) Pocock All-America Second Team, becoming just the second Diplomat in the history of the program to be named an All-American.

Chappell, Allison Hoffmann ’16 and Leah Issokson ’18 all were named MARC Academic All-Conference, awarded to rowers who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, are in their second, third or fourth year of eligibility, and have competed in 75 percent of the varsity competitions or the MARC championship. The trio continued to add accolades for their success in the classroom; each was named a national scholar-athlete by the CRCA.
Men's Rowing

Men's rowing held its own against top competition across all three NCAA divisions throughout the 2015–16 campaign, closing out its season in historic fashion when the duo of James Nelson ’17 and Sean Hyland ’18 advanced to the varsity pair semifinals at the prestigious 2016 Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia on May 14.

The duo landed in the semifinals with a seventh-place showing out of 22 boats after concluding their time-trial race with a time of 6:49.51, placing ahead of several Division I boats and becoming one of 18 to advance. In the semifinals, Nelson and Hyland finished third out of six boats with a time of 7:25.53, missing out on qualifying for the finals by a mere six seconds.

At the conclusion of the championship, Dillan DeCaro ’16 and Hyland landed on the All-MARC varsity list, while Ryan Paulekas ’19 received All-MARC novice recognition. Trexler Hirn ’18, Hyland and Dawei Ren ’18 were named MARC Academic All-Conference, awarded to rowers who have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.5, are in their second, third or fourth year of eligibility, and have competed in 75 percent of the varsity competitions or the MARC championship.

Leading up to the event, F&M found success throughout the spring portion of its schedule. At the Knecht Cup April 16, the Diplomats’ Varsity 8 boat advanced to the DII/DIII final after registering the fourth-fastest time of 6:48.25 in its heat earlier in the day. The Diplomats crossed the line at 6:49.59 in the finals to take fifth and finish ahead of MARC foe Washington College (7:17.67).
On Aug. 27, 2013, Franklin & Marshall College held its annual convocation ceremony for the incoming Class of 2017. During the ceremony, President Daniel Porterfield urged the newcomers to take pride in becoming “growing, developing, learning human beings.”

Later in the ceremony, Rebecca Green ’14 encouraged them “to be here in this new place, and think how you can contribute to this world.”

Brad Lankler was among the first-years in the audience that morning. Three years later, Lankler personifies the F&M experience—achieving personal goals while contributing to something larger than him.

These two themes manifest in the junior biology major’s pursuits both as a student and as a member of the golf team.

“It has definitely been a challenge over the past two and half years,” Lankler said. “I know that once I leave the golf course I have to go straight to the library to get my work done.”

When he’s not preparing for his future, Lankler finds time to help improve the future of others. He serves as the community service chair for his fraternity, Kappa Sigma, organizing multiple service projects in the Lancaster area.

Lankler’s actions as a student, making a positive difference for himself and those around him, are mirrored in his achievements as an athlete.

As a first-year student, he showed promise throughout the season before notching his best performance at the Centennial Conference (CC) championship in April 2014, where he shot 72-75-76 to finish at +10 and tie for first place.

In 2014–15, Lankler recorded another high finish at the CC championship, tying for second. When the season concluded, he earned first-team All-Region First Team and the CC First Team accolades for the second consecutive year.

While Lankler’s achievements are extensions of a traditionally individual sport, the impact he has had on the success of the team is unmistakable. In collegiate golf, team scoring is determined by adding the four best scores from each squad, and as with individual scoring, the team with the lowest total score wins.

“Being a member of a team provides an extra dimension to the sport,” he said. “You learn to play for everyone else on the team, which is rare in golf (after college).”

The Diplomats have gotten pretty good at this atypical side of the game. In 2013–14, Lankler’s individual victory paved the way for F&M to clinch the team conference championship, the sixth in program history.

And in 2014–15, the Diplomats set an NCAA record by winning nine tournaments, including five in a row in April 2015. The final victory of those five came at the CC championship, where Lankler tied for second and was one of three Diplomats to claim a top-two position. As a team, F&M shot 882 over three rounds, breaking its own record for a low score at the championship and winning by 30 strokes.

The 2015–16 campaign brought continued success for the Diplomats, who won their third consecutive CC Championship and seventh in nine years, tied for 12th at the NCAA Championships, and placed two individuals in the NCAA top 10, the highest individual finishes in program history, to conclude their banner year.

“There is much more motivation to play well knowing there is a team behind me,” Lankler said. “It’s an indescribable feeling when I can help the entire team, which I just don’t get when I play as an individual.”

“Brad is our No. 1 player,” said eighth-year head coach Andy Tompos ’69. “Because of his terrific play, we earned a chance to win the conference and participate in nationals.”
Megan Liang

WOMEN’S SWIMMING

Typically, being a student-athlete helps prepare people for life. In the case of Franklin & Marshall swimmer Megan Liang, life prepared her to be a student-athlete.

Succeeding as a student-athlete at F&M not only requires effort, but also a sense of purpose and unrelenting drive. The dual challenges of pursuing excellence academically and athletically make overcoming adversity a skill that student-athletes either possess, learn or dearly miss in balancing their activities. For Liang, it is already a well-developed skill.

A junior on the women’s swim team, Liang is pursuing a joint major of business, organizations and society (BOS) and public policy. It might sound like a challenge, but Liang is used to overcoming challenges. She is an amputee, losing most of her left leg to cancer-related surgery in 2001 when she was just 7 years old.

The Moraga, Calif., native continued to swim, competing individually at the U.S. Paralympic Trials and placing at various national-level meets. But she counts being on a varsity college team as her greatest athletic achievement.

“When I first began swimming, I never thought I would end up being a member of a team in college,” she said. “Many would say that I have plenty of other athletic achievements, but that is my proudest.”

Liang insists that lacking a limb has not affected her development as an athlete. “Though I do focus on perfecting my pull rather than focusing on my kick,” she said. “Other than that, the disability has not really affected me.”

Having overcome a disability that should have physically limited her performance, the challenges of being a student-athlete pale in comparison. She dedicates 16 hours a week to swimming, practicing every weekday afternoon and two to three mornings each week.

The reward is well worth the effort, she said. “The F&M swim team has helped me develop into someone who is more confident and comfortable with who I am. It has helped me become more confident in my abilities as well.”

Liang has made the most of her academic experience at F&M, too. Students who wish to major in business, organizations and society must submit their GPA and relevant coursework to the BOS department. The department then chooses to accept only the top applicants.

The past two summers, she served as a counselor at the Amputee Coalition’s Paddy Rossbach Youth Camp, where she was previously a camper for four years. “As a counselor, I get to help the younger amputees raise their self-esteem through activities that, although they may be physically challenging, help build their confidence,” said Liang.

This summer, she will intern at the Make-A-Wish Foundation, which helps to grant the wishes of children with life-threatening illnesses.

Ben Delia, fifth-year head coach of the F&M men’s and women’s swim teams, said Liang’s ability to succeed in so many different settings doesn’t surprise him. “Megan sets a great example for her teammates to follow through her work ethic and attention to detail in the water,” he said. “She is also one of the most energetic members of the team on the side of the pool, and is great at firing everyone up for big meets and races.”

Liang entered college already having the skills to be a successful student-athlete. It appears that those skills also have prepared her for much more.
Three games into the 2015 Franklin & Marshall College men’s soccer season, and already with a goal and two assists under his belt, first-year forward Ugo Okolie was still a relative unknown on a team abounding with talent. With a single play, just 10 minutes into his fourth collegiate contest, expectations began to soar.

Corralling the ball along the Tylus Field sideline, Okolie turned, blew by three Houghton College defenders in seemingly effortless fashion, and fired off a right-footed rocket that found the bottom corner of the goal.

The origins for what has become his signature footwork date back much further—nearly 15 years ago on the treacherous gravel and sand fields of Beriga, a suburb of Lagos, Nigeria. That is where he grew up, honing his skills and fighting through injuries from playing soccer in the streets and on other inferior surfaces.

“I developed my footwork by playing on sand because it helped me get faster and control the ball in different situations,” Okolie said. “It increased my speed because sand pulls you back and forces you to keep moving forward with the ball.”

Poor playing surfaces were just the beginning of the challenges Okolie faced growing up in a country ranked third in the world for the highest population of extremely impoverished people. The house he grew up in—and the one his parents still inhabit—was robbed when he was six, and he became accustomed to consistent violence in his everyday life.

“I actually had gotten used to it,” Okolie said. “It’s just where I grew up, so I had to get used to it to survive.”

After graduating from King’s College High School at the age of 15, Okolie came to a crossroad in his life—continue to pursue his dream of playing soccer or attend college in Nigeria, where his parents would have forced him to drop the sport and focus on school.

“I always figured on going to college in Nigeria, and I remember saying to myself, ‘I’m done with soccer,’” he said.

All of that changed when he caught the eye of the MTN Football Scholar Program and F&M men’s soccer alumnus Tom DeMaio ’10, the program coordinator.

MTN Football Scholar program provides a platform for Nigeria’s best student-athletes to earn scholarships to American universities. After locking down the best SAT score in his group, and with the help of DeMaio and the program, Okolie was admitted to Mercersburg Academy, a highly selective college preparatory boarding school in Pennsylvania.

After a year at Mercersburg, Okolie had begun his adjustment to life in America and was ready for college. DeMaio pointed him in the direction of his alma mater, and it wasn’t long before Okolie had decided that Franklin & Marshall was a perfect fit.

“I felt a bond with the soccer team as soon as I stepped foot on campus,” he said. “I enjoyed the environment and immediately felt part of a family.”

A major draw for Okolie was the Peer Advising Leadership (PAL) groups created by head coach Dan Wagner. The support system made the newcomer feel more connected to the program. Players are placed into small PAL groups, each having senior leaders who in turn report to alumni leaders and members of the coaching staff.

“There is a strong bond within the program that players stick to and stand by,” Okolie said. “We obviously want to win games, but there is more to it than just winning games.”

In recent years, the program has become synonymous with winning, and last season was no exception. But a season-ending loss to Calvin in the Sweet 16 was difficult for Okolie and his fellow Diplomats to endure. Many felt the better team did not win on that day in Gambier, Ohio. Okolie believes he and the team will only get better in 2016-17.

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“I’m expecting to hopefully be an All-American next year and help win an NCAA championship with Coach Wagner and my teammates.”
It’s 4:45 a.m.

Little is happening at Franklin & Marshall College, but across campus, alarms announcing a new day are beginning to ring. These alarms belong to members of the rowing team, and the call to rise represents only the first test that their sport will throw at them today.

For Jamie Davidow, a junior from McLean, Va., and her teammates, escaping a comfortable bed before the sun rises is commonplace. “Although sometimes it feels crazy early, morning practices are one of my very favorite things about being on the rowing team,” Davidow said. “Seeing the sunrise over the Susquehanna River is pretty special to me.”

Having passed the first test of the day just by making it to practice, a new set of physical and mental challenges await. The demands of competition, in the form of synchronized efforts with teammates to propel your boat as fast as possible, are obvious. The strength, stamina and teamwork necessary to succeed are enormous.

However, “physical fitness is only half of the battle,” Davidow said. “You have to be able to get through the anxiety of 6K ergometer testing (stationary rowing machines used to decide which rowers are in the top boat) or a boat passing you during a race.”

The team returns from the river just in time to face the daily obstacles that all F&M students face. Classes fill out the middle of the day before the team reconvenes in the afternoon to lift weights. By the time the rowers have left the weight room, they have devoted more than 12 hours to class and practice.

That is why Davidow’s extensive list of extracurriculars is so impressive. She represents the rowing team on the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC), is the public relations chair for the Phi Sigma Pi honors fraternity and is a disc jockey for WFNM. She is a member of the Environmental Action Alliance, a leader for the Freshman Outdoor Orientation Trip (FOOT), and serves as a leader for transfer-student orientation (she transferred from Colorado College after her freshman year). She finds time to actively support discussions at the Alice Drum Women’s Center, too.

It is hard to imagine succeeding at all those pursuits, but the junior government major is up to the test. Last spring, she was one of 27 females in the region named to the Mid-Atlantic Rowing Conference (MARC) All-Academic team, which requires selectees to have a GPA of at least 3.5 and compete in 75 percent or more of varsity contests. She has been named to the Dean’s List each semester at F&M, and is a member of the Delphic Society.

“All of my activities have taught me the art of time management,” Davidow said. “I absolutely thrive off of being busy.”

As a sophomore transfer last fall, Davidow came to the rowing team with no experience in the sport. By the spring, she was a fixture in seat two of the first Varsity 8+ boat. She competed there for all of the team’s races, including a victory at the Kerr Cup. At the end of the spring, she earned Novice All-MARC honors for her remarkable opening season.

Second-year head coach Kendall Mulligan said Davidow’s attitude is the main contributor to her immediate success. “Jamie’s determination, athleticism, and positivity have aided her in achieving her goals and finding success on this team,” Mulligan said. “She approaches challenges with confidence and works to improve each day, taking all coaching, even from her teammates.”

Mulligan’s praise is particularly appropriate. From sunup (or before) to sundown, Davidow faces the mental and physical rigors of rowing, the everyday challenges of life at F&M, a multitude of extracurricular commitments, and still manages to lead in each arena. In every activity, a new challenge awaits.

It just so happens that the first challenge is a 4:45 a.m. alarm.
A.J. Koikoi

Coming out of St. Paul’s High School in Maryland, A.J. Koikoi was a three-year starter and two-time all-conference selection as a defensive end on the football team with aspirations of playing at the next level. That dream came true when he enrolled at Franklin & Marshall College in fall 2012 and made an immediate impact, appearing in 11 games and registering 3.5 tackles for a loss. But coaches, teammates and spectators of the program quickly realized there was much more to Koikoi than meets the eye.

“He was a person on our team that guys could follow, and the adversity that he faced at times, whether here at F&M or at home, made him a person that others could look to for advice,” head coach John Troxell said.

After making a splash in his first year and gaining muscle in the weight room in the offseason, Koikoi became a starter as a sophomore and responded with a career-high 44 tackles, including 4.5 sacks. The defensive lineman finished his collegiate football career with appearances in 40 games for the Diplomats, totaling 128 tackles, 16.5 sacks, 23.5 tackles for losses and two forced fumbles.

Adversity soon followed success. Koikoi was forced to leave campus in the spring of his junior year because of financial hardship.

“Instead of giving up on my dream of becoming the first of my family to graduate college, I overcame my circumstances by working hard to make the money I needed while also taking on the extra coursework needed to graduate on time,” Koikoi said.

His hard work ethic paid off when he returned to the College and became a two-time All-Centennial Conference Second Team selection. He continued to mature away from the football field, as well, teaming up with other members of the African-American community on campus to take a stronger stance regarding many of the social issues that impact African-Americans on college campuses nationwide.

“Students find themselves apprehensive to support a cause like the Black Lives Matter movement, but it’s important to remember that all lives matter,” Koikoi said. “We are at a critical time in our history where we need to focus on the key issues as opposed to glossing over them with all-encompassing rhetoric, and hopefully we can reach a point where we can understand each other and fight for, instead of against, each other.”

Continuing to defy the one-dimensional label that is often, and unfairly, placed on student-athletes, Koikoi decided that when his senior year ended for football he was going to add “multi-sport collegiate athlete” to his growing resume. He became a member of the Diplomats’ men’s lacrosse team in the spring, returning to a sport he played during high school. But the rules of the game had changed, and so had Koikoi, who is now 6-foot-2 and 276 pounds.

“Even though some of my lacrosse IQ and skills had deteriorated, I cherished the opportunity Coach Todd Cavallaro gave me playing this awesome, ever-changing sport at the collegiate level.” Koikoi achieved his goal of graduating on time with a self-designed degree in Culture and Cognition, which is a combination of psychology and Japanese and international studies.

The F&M graduate recently accepted a fellowship through Princeton University that will fulfill another lifelong dream—traveling halfway across the world to Kurashiki, Japan, where he will teach English to students at the Seishin Catholic School.

“After making it through the first round of interviews and speaking with former fellows and program directors, I knew I found the perfect situation that suits me best,” Koikoi said. “I want to learn more about their culture, and my hope is that they will love learning about my Liberian roots and passion for football and lacrosse.”
The men’s pole vault was underway, and the women were on deck. All eyes were on the event’s odds-on favorite, a first-year Diplomat from Lancaster Catholic High School.

The pressure was justified. Just three months earlier, Swisher had broken Franklin & Marshall College’s pole vault record during her first collegiate competition at Haverford’s Jack Pyrah Invitational.

But this was her first conference championship appearance, and Swisher needed some encouragement.

“I vividly remember one of my senior teammates, Sylvia Zohrabian ’13, coming over and talking to me,” Swisher said. “She was amazing at calming my nerves and getting me comfortable with the meet. I’m not sure how I would have performed if she had not been there to talk me down.”

Apparently, Zohrabian’s encouragement helped. Swisher cleared a height of 11 feet, 10 inches in the event, securing gold by besting the next competitor by four inches and beginning a run of eight consecutive conference championships, both indoor and outdoor—a string of dominance unmatched in the 23-year history of the conference.

Six out of Swisher’s eight CC championships were won by more than a foot. Only one other student-athlete in conference history has won eight titles. Swisher has made what is arguably the sport’s most difficult event look easy—but don’t let her unparallelled success fool you. Nothing about pole vaulting is simple.

“It is a rigorous event,” Swisher said. “Not only do you need the endurance of a runner, but you also need a great deal of strength and body awareness.”

Swisher has continued to get better year after year. She set the program’s indoor record seven times and outdoor record nine times. When her career came to an end, she was a five-time NCAA qualifier and a three-time All-American, with her best finish coming at the 2015 NCAA indoor championship during her junior year, where she tied for fourth.

At both the indoor and outdoor CC championship during her senior season, Swisher produced the best performances of her career with heights of 12 feet, 6 inches and 12 feet, 7.25 inches. She was recognized as the conference’s Outstanding Field Performer for the indoor season and was honored by the College with the distinguished Karvasales Outstanding Senior Athlete Award.

According to track & field head coach Carl Schnabel, Swisher’s success can be attributed to the work she puts in behind the scenes and her incredible personal makeup.

“Heart is truly the bedrock of what drives Rebecca,” he said. “Add that to her work ethic and sheer determination and you wind up with the formidable athlete she became.”

Student-athletes like Swisher are rare, Schnabel said.

“During a coach’s career, if they are fortunate enough, they may have an athlete or two that both defines who they are as a coach and reinforces why they entered the profession,” he said. “I have been coaching for nearly 30 years, and Rebecca is such an athlete for me.”

Coming out of Lancaster Catholic, Swisher also considered attending Bucknell and Lehigh. Her choice to stay local was more of a result of the people she met, rather than the institution’s proximity to home.

“The decision came down to the members of the team,” she said. “The coaching staffs of all three schools seemed wonderful. However, I enjoyed my time with the student-athletes of F&M more than the other two schools.”

Now that Swisher has graduated, she will put to use her degree in biochemistry (she minored in philosophy) to use as an associate scientist at Lancaster Labs. She plans to continue her vaulting career as an assistant coach with the Diplomats next season and, eventually, earn a doctorate in biochemistry.
2015 Athletic Hall of Fame

Last fall, Franklin & Marshall College inducted seven new members into its Athletic Hall of Fame. Jerome Allen Taylor ‘83, Anjali Ponni Rajkumar ’02, Brad Ramsey ’88, Wendy Somers ’85, Ed Woge, Bruce Cobb ’77, Bob Kaithern ’75 and the 1952 Men’s basketball team were honored at an October ceremony in the Alumni Sports and Fitness Center.

The class was the 34th to be inducted since the F&M Athletic Hall of Fame was formed in 1969, and raised the number of members to 234 individuals and 13 teams.

HERE IS A SNAPSHOT OF EACH NEW INDUCTEE:

Jerome Allen Taylor ‘83, Basketball/ Baseba

Taylor was a rare two-sport athlete at F&M, excelling in basketball and baseball. He helped lead the basketball team to the 1980–81 Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship and finished his career with 1,339 points, good for 12th in program history, while his 546 career field goals place him 10th. His postseason accolades include Eastern College Athletic Conference (ECAC) Rookie of the Year in 1980–81, All-MAC South Team in 1981–82, and All-ECAC South Team and All-District Second Team in 1982–83. In baseball, Taylor ranked second on the team in RBIs as a sophomore and was a team captain during his senior year. He also was named the Outstanding Male Senior Athlete in 1982–83.

Anjali Ponni Rajkumar ’02, Women’s Squash

Rajkumar is a four-time All-American, one of only three players in program history to accomplish that feat. She was the co-recipient of the 2002 Michael Karvasales ’35 Women’s Senior Athlete of the Year award after finishing her season ranked 11th in the nation with a 20-5 record, fifth-best in program history. Ponni Rajkumar ended her career with a 58-25 record, giving her the third-most wins in program history.

Brad Ramsey ’88, Football

A four-year starter at running back, Ramsey graduated as F&M football’s all-time leading rusher. His 1,986 rushing yards remain the fourth-best in program history. He recorded 18 rushing touchdowns and 504 rushing attempts in his career. Ramsey captained the 1987 team that went undefeated in Centennial Conference play to earn its second consecutive conference championship, before picking up the school’s first postseason victory with a win over Kean in the Eastern College Athletic Conference championship. His 697 rushing yards during his senior campaign remains in the top 20 of the program.

Wendy Somers ’85, Women’s Swimming

Somers wrapped up her swimming career with three All-America accolades, placing sixth in the NCAA in the 50-yard backstroke (28.59) in 1982–83. She tied for fourth in the 50-yard freestyle (24.86) and placed eighth in the 100-yard backstroke (1:02.79) in 1984–85. She was a co-captain during her senior season and was twice named team MVP. When she graduated, her 28.59 mark in the 50-yard freestyle was the school record and remained No. 1 for nearly 20 years.
Ed Woge, Women’s Cross Country Coach

Woge guided the program to an NCAA National Championship in 1985. During his tenure as head coach, he developed four All-American runners and captured five straight Middle Atlantic Conference championships (1982 through 1986). Woge also led his team to three consecutive NCAA Mideast Regional championships.

Bruce Cobb ’77, Men’s Lacrosse

Cobb led the 1977 men’s lacrosse team that won a Middle Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship and played one of the most difficult schedules on record. His 69 points (20 goals, 49 assists) as a senior shattered F&M’s single-season record of 55 and helped him earn first team All-Middle Atlantic Conference and team MVP honors. At his time of graduation, Cobb’s 109 career points ranked fourth, while his 89 career assists were first all time.

Bob Kaithern ’75, Football

One of the most prolific receivers in the history of F&M football, Kaithern finished his career as the school record holder in touchdown receptions (21), total touchdowns scored (21) and career points (130), all of which still place in the top five. When he graduated, his 88 career receptions and 1,043 receiving yards ranked second in program history. Today, both marks are in the top 20 on the all-time list. Kaithern was twice named All-Middle Atlantic Conference, was an Eastern College Athletic Conference All-Star and earned All-America honors in 1974. As one of the team’s captains in 1974, Kaithern set a school record with three touchdown receptions against Muhlenberg, a mark that still stands.

1952 Men’s Basketball Team

Coached by the legendary Woody Sponaugle, the 1951-52 men’s basketball team went 16-3 and set the national collegiate scoring record, averaging 83.4 points per game. The team scored more than 100 points in three games and featured a squad that was remarkably tall for the era (average height of 6 feet, 4 inches. F&M secured a memorable 79-76 win against the U.S. Naval Academy, pulling off the upset over a highly touted squad with several All-Americans.
Giving Back

Giving back in an essential aspect of being a Diplomat. Each year, through numerous volunteer programs, Franklin & Marshall College student-athletes dedicate their time and effort to the community. Here are a few highlights from 2015–16:

**Track-or-Treat**

Student-athletes from all 27 varsity sports teams hosted the annual Track-or-Treat event, an indoor Halloween celebration that provides Lancaster youths with a safe environment to trick-or-treat. Kids were treated to candy and prizes, a fun house, games, face painting and fresh-popped popcorn.

**Tip-off and Terry Greene Tournaments**

Joining forces with the Lancaster Rotary, the Department of Athletics and Recreation raised $26,800 for local charities through the 2015 F&M Tip-Off and Terry Greene Memorial basketball tournaments. Proceeds supported the United Way’s Summer Youth Initiative, School District of Lancaster’s recently opened refugee center and other nonprofit organizations in the Lancaster area. The 13-year partnership has raised more than $375,000.

**Go 4 the Goal**

The baseball program completed its most successful campaign to date, raising more than $5,000 to support kids battling cancer in Pennsylvania through their online fundraising page, easily surpassing its goal of $1,000. Go4theGoal Foundation is a nonprofit organization founded in 2006 by Dr. Richard and Beth Stefanacci, whose oldest child was diagnosed with Ewing’s Sarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer.

**Lauren’s First and Goal**

Members of the football team and coaching staff volunteered at the annual Lauren’s First and Goal camp in June, helping to raise more than $120,000 through registrations and donations. Now in its 13th year, the camp has helped the nonprofit to raise more than $1.6 million for pediatric brain tumor research.
**Little Dips Diaper Drive**

The football team donated 8,136 diapers to the Water Street Ministries Shelter in November, enough to provide children from needy families with diapers for two months. The diapers were collected Oct. 31 when the Diplomats defeated Susquehanna, 16-7.

**Tennis and Squash ACES**

The two ACES programs—Athletics, Community, Excellence and Scholarship—combined athletic training and mentoring to help develop the leadership and intellectual potential of hundreds of Lancaster middle-school and high-school students.

**Cancer Awareness**

Multiple teams, including field hockey, volleyball, men’s and women’s soccer, men’s and women’s basketball, baseball, and women’s lacrosse held game-day fundraisers to benefit such organizations as Colleges Against Cancer, the Kay Yow Cancer Fund and the American Cancer Society.

**4L Day**

The College’s Athletic Leadership Council (ALC) and Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) hosted the fourth annual Lancaster-Lebanon League Leadership Workshop for more than 80 local high school student-athletes from 20 Lancaster-Lebanon League member schools. The ALC /SAAC organized and presented a variety of sessions on the topic of leadership, giving participants an opportunity to exchange information and ideas on the subject. Participating student-athletes were placed in random groups and worked through a series of exercises before being broken up into smaller groups to discuss their experiences. Exercise topics included communication, goal setting, the types of leadership and leaders, personal and team values, and how to conduct oneself on and off the field.

**TeamWork**

During the 13th annual TeamWork event, hundreds of Diplomats from F&M’s varsity athletic teams, Greek organizations and club teams grabbed rakes, shovels, plastic bags, gloves and clippers, then headed out into the community to sweep trash and beautify the neighborhood. There were more than 30 projects, including yard cleanup for neighbors who were unable to do the work themselves.

**Wharton Elementary College Day**

Members of four women’s teams—soccer, field hockey, volleyball and basketball—volunteered their time and athletic expertise during Wharton Elementary School’s First Friday College Apparel Day. The Diplomats discussed the importance of academic rigor, studying and goal setting with the students of the school.

**Basketball Giveaway**

In December, the Diplomats donated 750 basketballs to more than 15 different organizations just in time for the holidays. The basketballs, which were used for coach Glenn Robinson’s 900-win photo shoot, were distributed by members of the men’s and women’s basketball teams, as well as their coaches.
The Franklin & Marshall College Diplomats hosted 172 home events in 2015–16, including 18 Centennial Conference and NCAA postseason contests. F&M competed in more than 488 games, meets and matches overall.

The Department of Athletics and Recreation’s communications office continued to enhance the fan experience by offering in-depth online content and broadcasting more events in high-definition than ever before, with improved graphics and exceptional camera angles.

More than 160 home events were streamed live, reaching the largest audience in the history of the department. A record 36,589 viewers and listeners tuned in for Diplomat sporting events through the site’s online portal, an average of 230 per contest and an overall increase of 33 percent from 2014–15. An additional 8,103 users viewed contests on demand.

GoDiplomats.com totaled more than 2.5 million site visits on the year, an average of 210,521 per month. Visitors logged 34.6 million page views, an average of 2.9 million per month, as the athletics communication staff published 935 stories on F&M student-athletes and teams.

A record 116 videos were posted on the Athletics and Recreation YouTube channel, including preseason videos for all 27 sports, as well as single-game recaps and season-summarizing highlight reels. The channel registered 52,550 total views, a 14 percent increase over the previous year, and fans logged an estimated 111,985 minutes of viewing time—an average of 2:08 per video.

Fan support at a glance:

160 events streamed live
2.5 million GoDiplomats.com site visits
116 videos posted to YouTube
34.6 million GoDiplomats.com page views

Diplomat Athletic Club Giving Continues to Grow

Giving to Franklin & Marshall College via the Diplomat Athletic Club (DAC) totaled a record $655,969 during the 2015–16 fiscal year, which ended June 30. It is the third consecutive year DAC donations have topped $600,000. Annual contributions to the fund have grown strongly and consistently, increasing 41 percent since 2012.

A record 2,239 Franklin & Marshall College alumni, parents and friends—an increase of 9 percent over the previous year—gave their support to DAC, which has provided more than $4.5 million in financial assistance for the College’s athletic and recreation programs since its inception in 2002.

“All of us involved with Franklin & Marshall Athletics are humbled by the generosity of the Diplomat Athletic Club members,” said Patricia S.W. Epps, director of Athletics & Recreation at F&M. “Thanks to the dedication of our student-athletes, the expertise of our coaching and support staff—combined with the loyalty of our alumni, family and friends—we can all celebrate this tremendous accomplishment.

“What is most gratifying is that the number of donors has continued to increase throughout the years. We greatly appreciate all of our supporters.”

DAC’s mission is to foster excellence in F&M athletics by expanding opportunities for student-athletes to develop leadership skills; cultivating loyalty among student-athletes, alumni and friends; and raising funds to enhance the caliber of F&M’s athletic programming.

“This year’s record accomplishments represent a true championship team-level effort,” said DAC Chairman Al Ingraham ’72. “Those team members include athletic staff and coaches, scholar-athletes, advancement staff, alumni, parents of current and former scholar-athletes, and friends of F&M Athletics. To everyone involved, I say thank you from the bottom of my heart.”
HONORS LIST / conference, regional and national

Field Hockey
LAUREN EASTMAN ’16
NFHCA Academic Squad
CC Academic Honor Roll
BRIDGET FALCONE ’17
Longstreth/NFHCA All-South Region Second Team
All-CC Second Team
MARIA GUARISCO ’16
NFHCA Academic Squad
CC Academic Honor Roll
BRIDGET FALCONE ’17
LAUREN EASTMAN ’16
HONORS LIST
MARY KATE OLSON ’16
EMILY NAGLE ’19
TAMARA MILLS ’16
CC Sportsmanship Team
EMILY NAGLE ’19
NFHCA Academic Squad
MARCH KATE OLSON ’16
Longstreth/NFHCA All-America First Team
Synapse Sports All-America Second Team
Longstreth/NFHCA All-South Region First Team
All-CC First Team
ECAC Mid-Atlantic All-Star Second Team
NFHCA Academic Squad
CC Academic All-Centennial Team
CC Academic Honor Roll
ANNE HORSLEY ’18
All-CC Honorable Mention
KATHERINE KISTLER ’17
NFHCA Academic Squad
CC Academic Honor Roll
ANNE HORSLEY ’18
NFHCA Academic Squad
CC Academic Honor Roll

Volleyball
ALLISON EDELSTEIN ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
ELLIE EZEKIEL ’17
All-CC First Team
CC Academic Honor Roll
KATIE FOREMAN ’16
CC Sportsmanship Team
CASSIE GARISON ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
ALYSSA SANCHEZ ’16
All-CC Honorable Mention
Men’s Cross Country
IGNACIO PICADO FALLAS ’17
CC Sportsmanship Team
JAMES HAMILTON ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
J.T. PAGANELLI ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
Women’s Cross Country
CAROLINE KEARNEY ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
RACHEL WEISS ’16
CC Sportsmanship Team
JULIA ZIELINSKI ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
Men’s Basketball
JULIA ZIELINSKI ’16
CAROLINE KEARNEY ’17
MORGAN GRAY ’16
OLIVIA BENDIT ’16
Women’s Cross Country
J.T. PAGANELLI ’17
BRANDON FEDERICI ’18
ECAC South Defensive Player of the Year
ECAC South All-Star First Team
WYATT FABIAN ’18
All-CC Second Team
CONNER FINN ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
CC Sportsmanship Team
DEVON MALFITANO ’16
All-CC First Team
All-Mid-Atlantic Region Third Team
ECAC South All-Star First Team
DAVE MARTIN ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
UGO OKOLIE ’19
All-CC Second Team
All-CC Rookie of the Year
All-Mid-Atlantic Region First Team
VINCE PERRY ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
MATT REGUEIRO ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
EMILY WETZ ’16
CC Sportsmanship Team
SARAH HADDON
CC Academic Honor Roll
Men’s Swimming
ERIC LANG ’18
All-CC First Team (200 IM)
JACK CURRIE ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
REBHNI RABAH ’16
CC Sportsmanship Team
Women’s Swimming
BECCA MEYERS ’17
NCAA All-American (1650 free)
JULLIAN ABUS ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
ALYSON CAMPBELL ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
KATHERINE KIDDER ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
TAYLOR MATEJA ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
KATIE SCHICK ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
Men’s Squash
VEIGA DE ALMEIDA ’16
CSA Scholar Athlete
Men’s Wrestling
RICK DURSO ’16
EIWA Academic Achievement Award
Men’s Indoor Track & Field
JAXON CHEN ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
ADAM FISHEBEIN ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
BRAD KRELL ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
TIHOMIR NEDYALKOV ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
JT PAGANELLI ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
RAMON WILLIAMS ’18
CC Academic Honor Roll
Women’s Indoor Track & Field
OLIVIA BENIT ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
MORGAN GRAY ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
CAROLINE KEARNEY ’17
CC Academic Honor Roll
JULIA ZIELINSKI ’16
CC Academic Honor Roll
Men’s Rowing
DILLIAN DECARO ’16
Varsity All-MARC
TREXLER HIRN ’18
Academic All-MARC

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RYAN PAULEKAS '19
Novice All-MARC

DAWEI REN '18
Academic All-MARC

Women's Rowing
TERESA CHAPPELL '18
CRCA All-America Second Team
Varsity All-MARC
Academic All-MARC
CRCA Scholar Athlete

KATHERINE COUSART '16
Varsity All-MARC

ALLISON HOFFMAN '16
Academic All-MARC
CRCA Scholar Athlete

LEAH ISSOKSON '18
Academic All-MARC
CRCA Scholar Athlete

ERIN SMITH '17
Novice All-MARC

Men's Golf
STEPHAN COLODNY '17
GCAA All-Region First Team
All-CC First Team
CC Sportsmanship Team
GCAA PING All-America Team

DANIEL FURMAN '16
All-CC First Team

BRAD LANKLER '17
GCAA All-Region First Team
GCAA PING All-America Team

Women's Golf
KATHLEEN SMITH '16
All-CC Team

MEGAN WHITTIER '19
CC Sportsmanship Team

Baseball
MIKE ANDROCONIS '18
All-CC Second Team

LUKE BENGEL '17
CC Academic Honor Roll

CORY HECHT '17
CC Academic Honor Roll

DAVID IACOBUCCI '17
All-CC First Team
Academic All-Centennial
CC Academic Honor Roll

ANDREW MASCIS '18
All-CC First Team

RYAN OBRECHT '16
CC Sportsmanship Team

BRET PONIROS '16
CC Academic Honor Roll

LUKE SEIB '16
CC Academic Honor Roll

Softball
MELISSA BOLLMEYER '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

SAM BURNS '18
All-CC Second Team

SAMANTHA CLEMENS '19
All-CC Second Team

CRYSTAL GOOD '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

TAYLOR LONG '19
All-CC First Team

KARLY NEWCOMB '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

ERIN RUSSELL '18
All-CC First Team

ISABEL SCHAEFER '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

KELLY VAN O' LindA '17
CC Sportmanship Team

KATIE WENGER '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

KATHLEEN ZOGRORSKI '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

Men's Tennis
INGO FLORES '17
All-CC Honorable Mention
(Doubles)
CC Scholar-Athlete of the Year
Academic All-Centennial
CC Academic Honor Roll

DOUG KAPLAN '16
All-CC First Team (Singles)
All-CC First Team (Doubles)

VASANT RAJAMANICKAM '18
All-CC Honorable Mention
(Doubles)

JACK ROTHMAN '18
All-CC First Team (Doubles)
All-CC Second Team (Singles)
Academic All-Centennial
CC Academic Honor Roll
CC Sportmanship Team

WILL SAMUELS '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

Women's Tennis
ALLYSAN BREICE '17
All-CC Honorable Mention
(Doubles)

TARA BUCHNEY '17
CC Academic Honor Roll

EMILY GRUENBERG '16
All-CC Second Team (Doubles)

GAVRIEL RUBENSTEIN '19
All-CC Honorable Mention
(Singles)
All-CC Honorable Mention
(Doubles)

NICOLE RUSSO '16
All-CC First Team (Singles)
All-CC Second Team (Doubles)

Men's Lacrosse
MICHAEL BOSSIDY '16
All-CC Honorable Mention

JACK GLADSTONE '16
CC Sportsmanship Team

MIKE RAMA '17
CC Academic Honor Roll

SEAN ROGERS '18
USILA All-America Third Team
All-CC First Team

MIKE WASIK '18
All-CC Honorable Mention
Academic All-Centennial

READ ZIEGLER '18
All-CC Honorable Mention

Women's Lacrosse
SAMANTHA BLEICH '16
IWCLA All-America First Team
IWCLA All-Region First Team
CC Offensive POY
All-CC First Team

SARAH BOZZO '17
IWCLA All-Region Second Team
All-CC First Team
Academic All-Centennial
CC Academic Honor Roll
NCAA All-Tournament Team

VANESSA BUDD '17
IWCLA All-America First Team
IWCLA All-Region First Team
All-CC First Team

CAROLINE DORAN '16
North South All-Star

GABBY FRANK '17
All-CC Honorable Mention
CC Sportmanship Team

TAYLOR FREUD '17
CC Academic Honor Roll

DANIELLE HARRINGTON '18
All-CC Honorable Mention
NCAA All-Tournament Team

ANASTASIA MERNER '16
IWCLA All-Region First Team
All-CC First Team

PAIGE MORIARTY '18
IWCLA Attacker of the Year
IWCLA All-America First Team
IWCLA All-Region First Team
CC Offensive POY
All-CC First Team

ALY SALIBA '18
CC Academic Honor Roll

GRACE SALIBA '16
IWCLA All-America Second Team
IWCLA All-Region First Team
All-CC First Team
A week later, with an 82-72 win over Washington, Robinson passed Knight for the third spot on the NCAA Coaches Victory List.

“Surpassing 900 victories is an incredible accomplishment for any coach and beyond the tangible wins, I congratulate Coach Robinson for sustaining excellence for more than four decades at Franklin & Marshall,” Krzyzewski wrote. “He has served as a tremendous role model for our profession as his players consistently achieve not only on the basketball court, but in the classroom and community as well. He certainly means a lot to basketball in the state of Pennsylvania and beyond.”

For Robinson, the wins are a testament to the great players, assistant coaches and members of the F&M community he has been fortunate enough to work with over his 45 years at the helm of the Diplomats men's basketball program. After all, he has not been the one to score a point or collect a rebound in the last four-and-half decades.

The road to 900 did not get off to a great start back in 1971. As a 25-year-old, Robinson was charged with the task of rebuilding an F&M program that previously went through seven consecutive losing seasons. It took only three years to turn the program around with a 13-11 mark in 1974, the program’s best record since a 13-6 performance in 1959. Robinson went on to set the school mark in 1976 with a 17-8 record. He broke it again in 1977, notching 22 wins, and in 1979 raised the standard once more with 27. In 1991, his team triumphed 28 times, and in 1996 it recorded a still all-time-best 29 victories.

Robinson said the main reason for his success is, without a doubt, the personnel he has worked with. He has coached 17 men to 25 All-America honors.

“He’s truly one of college basketball’s best coaches at any level.”

Robinson’s list of accomplishments is remarkable. In 2015–16, he picked up his 26th 20-plus-win season and has averaged 20 wins a season for his entire career. He has earned Coach of the Year honors from the conference and the National Association of Basketball Coaches Coach of the Year a dozen times and in 2009, was named D3Hoops.com and Basketball Times Coach of the Year for guiding a young Diplomats squad to the Final Four.

During the last 45 years, his teams have made 23 NCAA appearances, 16 trips to the Sweet 16 and won 15 conference titles. His teams have logged 10 Elite Eight and five Final Four appearances and played in a national title game.

Perhaps the most impressive accomplishment—and one that means the most to Robinson—is that of the almost 280 student-athletes he has coached, all but three have earned a degree.