Greetings! We hope you have all been enjoying your summers. We are excited to reach out to members of the GWAA community to highlight a few events as well as celebrate the accomplishments of our undergraduate athletes throughout the past academic year. Last fall, a new GWAA board was elected. Below are brief introductions for each member. The board members are honored to represent the GWAA community and we encourage you to reach out to them at gwaauchicago.edu if you would like to get involved!

**Eva De Laurentiis, AB’08 – Co-Chair**
Eva was a member of the women’s soccer team. She currently works as a Principal Analyst for the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA).

**Emily Benoit, AB’11 – Co-Chair**
Emily was a member of the women’s soccer team. After graduation she did Teach for America in Tulsa, OK and now she currently works as an Admissions Counselor at UChicago.

**Andrea McPike, AB’13 – Secretary**
Andrea was a member of the women’s swim team. She is currently consulting for a San Francisco-based non-profit called Juma Ventures and she will be starting at Booth in the fall.

**Joyce Du, AB’13 – Communications**
Joyce was a member of the women’s swim team. She currently works at Hyatt as a Business Analyst for their E-Commerce team.

**Kim Cygan, AB’13 – WAA Liaison**
Kim was a member of the softball team. She currently works as a Business Analyst at The Cambridge Group.

We continue to work to foster meaningful relationships between our alumni and support current female student-athletes. This year, GWAA partnered with WAA to create a mentoring program matching student-athletes with alumni working in their field of interest. This program is designed to allow current student-athletes to broaden their networking opportunities, and to give alumni around the country a chance to remain connected to the UChicago student-athlete community. So far it has been a great success!

50+ undergraduate athletes and over 100 alumni expressed interest in the program. If you would like to become a mentor for this program, please reach out to Kim Cygan (kcygan15@gmail.com).

Thank you for continuing to serve as strong female role models and for supporting the UChicago athletic community. Without you, we would not be where we are today. If you have questions, comments, or would like to get more involved, please reach out to us at gwaauchicago.edu. We hope to see you at an event in the upcoming academic year! Go Maroons!

**Eva De Laurentiis (Soccer ’08) & Emily Benoit (Soccer ’11)**
GWAA Co-Chairs
Hall of Fame/Homecoming 2014

A photo gallery from the 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame dinner can be found at the following link:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/uofcsid/sets/72157649791377869

Athletic Director
Erin McDermott

Kelly Humphry

Korry Schwanz

2014 Athletics Hall of Fame Inductees

The University Club

Homecoming Block Party
2014-15 Sports Highlights

UChicago women’s soccer started the fall in the national top 25 rankings and stayed there all season. The Maroons won their first seven games and eventually posted an overall record of 15-5-1. The stellar record earned the team a berth into the NCAA Division III Championship for the 14th time in program history under Head Coach Amy Reifert. The Maroons hosted the first four rounds of the tournament and picked up two victories to reach the round of 16. Senior midfielder Sara Kwan was named Third Team All-American by the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) at the conclusion of the season. Freshman forward Mia Calamari also established a new school record for season assists with 13.

The UChicago volleyball squad kept up its run of success with its fifth-straight appearance in the NCAA Division III Championship field. The Maroons posted a 26-13 record against one of the most challenging schedules in the country, including a nine-match winning streak in September. Head Coach Sharon Dingman and her assistant coaches were named UAA Co-Coaching Staff of the Year in Dingman’s debut campaign in Hyde Park. Junior outside hitter Maren Loe was named UAA Most Valuable Player and smashed the school record for kills in a season with 617. Her impressive statistics led to All-American status from the American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA). The Maroons set a school record for digs in a season with 2,575.

The Maroon women’s cross country team also reached its respective NCAA Championship for the fifth year in-a-row. UChicago received a stellar performance from junior Catherine Young, who finished 27th individually to garner All-American accolades for the second time in her career. That placing helped the team finish in 12th place at the national meet. At the NCAA Midwest Regional, four of UChicago’s runners earned All-Region status by virtue of finishing in the top 35 – Young, junior Brianna Hickey, junior Maggie Cornelius and freshman Megan Verner-Crist.

After a slow start to the season, the UChicago women’s basketball team went on a tear in conference play, winning 12-straight games by an average of 15.8 points per game. The Maroons were UAA co-champions and ended the regular season with a record of 18-7. Head Coach Carissa Sain Knoche and her assistants were also named UAA Coaching Staff of the Year. Five members of the team earned selection to the All-UAA team, including senior forward Claire Devaney (First Team), senior guard Morgan Donovan (Second Team), sophomore guard Stephanie Anderson (H.M.), senior forward Hannah Ballard (H.M.) and sophomore forward Britta Nordstrom (H.M.). D3hoops.com picked Devaney to the Second Team All-Region and she finished her collegiate career with the second-highest career field-goal percentage in program history (.547).
2014-15 Sports Highlights

Maroon women's swimming and diving maintained its place among the best teams in the country after placing 13th at the NCAA Division III National Championships. Nine All-Americans earned a total of 24 All-American honors at the meet. Sophomore Alison Wall led the way with five All-American finishes, while senior Jennifer Hill and sophomore Maya Scheidl tallied four All-American honors each. Prior to nationals, UChicago took third place at the UAA Championships. Over the course of the year, the Maroons broke seven school records. They have set new school marks in 21 out of 23 events since 2012.

UChicago women's track & field enjoyed a historic year as the team won the UAA Indoor and Outdoor Championships in the same season for the first time ever. It marked the program's fourth indoor conference title and first outdoor conference title. In total, the Maroons had 13 UAA Champions and 27 All-UAA performers. Junior thrower Nkemdilim Nwaokolo was voted the UAA Most Outstanding Field Performer at both the indoor and outdoor meets. Freshman runner Megan Verner-Crist garnered UAA Rookie of the Year honors in the indoor season. Head Coach Chris Hall and his assistants were named UAA Coaching Staff of the Year (Indoor and Outdoor). Eight Maroons qualified for nationals and five were All-Americans, including Nwaokolo, Verner-Crist, Michelle Dobbs, Brianna Hickey and Mikaela Hammel.

On the tennis courts, the Maroon women stretched their national tournament qualifying streak to seven-straight years. UChicago was nationally ranked throughout the season and ended up with a 13-12 overall record. While serving as hosts for a NCAA Regional, the Maroons advanced to the round of 16. UChicago took fourth place at the UAA Championships earlier in the year and had two All-Americans in senior Megan Tang and freshman Ariana Iranpour in both singles and doubles play. Tang was picked as the ITA Central Region Senior Player of the Year, while Iranpour was selected as the ITA Central Region Rookie of the Year. The duo teamed up to win the ITA Central Region Championship and eventually placed third at the USTA/ITA National Small College Championships in doubles.

UChicago softball concluded the 2015 season with a 15-19 overall record. The team's defense was stellar all season long and the team fielding percentage of .962 was the program's second-highest mark in the last 18 years. Junior outfielder Devan Parkison wreaked havoc on the base paths, tying a school record with 26 stolen bases. Six hitters batted over a .300 on the year, paced by junior infielder Kathleen Kohm's .358 batting average. She also led the team in RBI (20) and multi-hit games (11).
News and Notes

Graduate WAA Networking Night

Over 70 student-athletes joined 15 members of the Graduate WAA for the annual Networking Night on January 27 at Ida Noyes Hall. Keynote speakers, Jesse Meyer, AB’07 and Tara Ford, opened up the evening with remarks on their experiences as college athletes. Panelists Tara Levens (’12), Erin Pavlich (’04), Emily Walker Stockert (’05), and Siggy Nachtergaele (’09), along with other alumni who were present answered questions from students on how being an athlete at UChicago helped them in their professional endeavors.

Students received copies of the Networking Booklet that contains profile information of close to 250 alumnae. Please email Kim Cygan (kcyan15@gmail.com) if you would like your profile and contact information to be included in the booklet.

WAA Senior Reception

In lieu of challenging the senior WAA members to a friendly game of Whirlyball as we have in years past, this year we hosted a reception at Pork Chop Barbeque Restaurant in Hyde Park on May 20. With a slightly quieter setting, we sought to promote conversations about the role of the Graduate WAA and how students can get involved after graduation. About 25 seniors joined members of the GWAA board and GWAA team representatives for some pulled pork sliders, sweet tea, and good conversations. It was a great way to celebrate the seniors and welcome them into the alumni community.

Save the Dates

Friday, October 23 - Sunday, October 25:

Homecoming Weekend

Friday, October 23:

13th Annual Athletics Hall of Fame Dinner

The University Club of Chicago - 76 E Monroe St.
The 111th Annual WAA Banquet was held on May 12.

The Graduate WAA presented Edith Ballwebber Awards to:
Class of 2018 - Ariana Iranpour (Tennis)
Class of 2017 - Alison Wall (Swimming & Diving)
Class of 2016 - Maren Loe (Volleyball)
Class of 2015 - Tabbetha Bohac (Softball)

Ariana Iranpour:
Ariana was a NCAA qualifier in both singles and doubles, ITA Central Region Women's Rookie of the Year, 2014 ITA Central Region champion in doubles and runner-up in the singles draw at the 2014 ITA Central Region Championships. If that wasn't impressive enough, remember: she earned All-American status before ever taking a class at UChicago.
From her coach: “Words simply can't describe the type of young woman she is and what she means to the team and the program. I believe we've only seen some of what she will achieve at UChicago and that her best is still to come.”

Alison Wall:
This winner’s coach tells us that Alison “was the only UC swimmer at NCAAs who scored in more than one individual event and actually scored in all three of her events. There are very few swimmers in Division III that can say that! She was the biggest reason why our women’s team was in contention for another top-10 finish at NCAAs this year and we would definitely not be one of the top teams in DIII without her. In this season alone, she broke three school records and achieved four NCAA All-American honors and, having only competed two years, can already be considered the greatest and most decorated female swimmer in the history of Chicago Swimming & Diving! She has truly been an inspiration to her teammates through her dedication, determination, and work ethic. There are very few people that work as hard as she does and it’s one of the biggest reasons why she has improved so much during her time here, becoming one of the best swimmers in DIII.”

Maren Loe:
Maren played in every match. She set a new school record for kills in a match (30), kills in a season (617) and attempts in a season (1,840). She led the team in kills per set, was selected First Team UAA, UAA Most Outstanding Player, First Team All-Region, received All-American Honorable Mention, and was voted Team MVP.
In the words of her coach: “She’s the best player in our gym, she’s the best player in the UAA, and she is most often the best player in whatever gym we are competing! Her legacy will be longstanding with the records that she achieved this year and the impact she will have over her four years as a Maroon.”
Tabbetha Bohac:

In the words of her coach: “Tabbetha is the epitome of leaving it all on the field in her senior year – having the best year of her career overall; however, this effort is not unique for her. She has left it all on the field every time she has played in a Chicago uniform, and not only that, but every practice she has attended in her career. She starts the game looking dirtier than the rest of the team combined at the end of the game!

“Her stats this year on the mound, as a fielder and in the batter’s box are great and she led our team in several categories – but stats aren’t what matters to her. They never have. The team and the game, in that order, are the priority. She is deeply passionate about her teammates, the game, WAA and Chicago. Since her first year and each year following, she has been a quiet, hard-working, fun-loving leader; someone who is always the first to take the time to explain something to a newcomer, pick up a teammate with a special secret handshake – she has a different one for every single person on the team (and probably most of the WAA) – or set an example of unwavering positivity in the face of adversity. She has a quiet confidence about her that is based in her positive outlook, work ethic and true joy in life and the game.”

Heart of the Team Award: Eirene Kim

This award was established in 2014 to recognize a student who has had a significant impact on her team by providing life, spirit, guidance, enthusiasm, perseverance and a positive attitude during and throughout her career.

Eirene demonstrated exceptional skill, enthusiasm, perseverance, and a positive attitude throughout her career, but what she accomplished this year as in the face of a season-ending injury sets her apart from the rest.

From her coach: “In 30 years of coaching, what she did this season was the most inspirational experience I’ve witnessed. Coming into the season as the reigning Most Valuable Player in the UAA and on the team, she was set to be a repeat MVP and to establish a new school record in digs. All that changed when she tore her ACL vs. Carthage on September 26. After consulting doctors and our athletic trainer, she made the decision to forego surgery, rehab and try to play at the end of the season.

The inspiration she provided cannot be described with words or stats. The perseverance she displayed to rehab to the point of being able to play volleyball with a torn ACL was extraordinary. Our team was riddled with frustration and negativity about the season when she got hurt. Their spirits and desire to excel was at an all-time high when she returned.

She was our team captain, our leader, our strength, our soul. Every player on our team looked to her for guidance (even when she wasn’t playing). Her legacy in our program is not in numbers, but in heart, selflessness and courage. She is the epitome of our team motto, ‘Program Above Self.’”

From her teammates: “She embodies the most desirable qualities of a teammate – her work ethic, her friendship, her leadership, and her ability to see the best qualities in those around her. She is truly an irreplaceable leader, whose absence will be noticeable next year, but more importantly, her passion for her teammates and for the game are incomparable and truly irreplaceable.”
Blankets were awarded to 24 seniors and the following students received additional recognition.

**Team Most Valuable Athletes:**
- Basketball – Morgan Donovan ’15
- Cross Country – Catherine Young ’16
- Soccer – Nicole Mullen ’16
- Softball – Tabetha Bohac ’15
- Swimming & Diving – Jennifer Hill ’15
- Tennis – Ariana Iranpour ’18
- Max Davidson Award – Megan Tang ’15
- Track & Field (Indoor) – Nkemdilim Nwaokolo ’16
- Track & Field (Outdoor) – Nkemdilim Nwaokolo ’16
- Volleyball – Maren Loe ’16

**Mary Jean Mulvaney Scholar-Athlete Award:**
Mallory Morse ’15 – Soccer

**Patricia R. Kirby Award:**
Jenny Uehling ’15 – Cross Country & Track and Field

**Gertrude Dudley Medal:**
Sara Kwan ’15 – Soccer
Stay Connected with UChicago Athletics

Stay updated on all news at athletics.uchicago.edu.

In addition to providing news and information about varsity athletics, the site also provides details about the other offerings from Physical Education & Athletics such as facilities, summer camps, aquatics, personal training and wellness.

Social media enthusiasts can join about 2,900 other Maroon fans at: Facebook.com/chicagomaroons and approximately 1,900 followers at: Twitter.com/chicagomaroons

Both sites provide users an opportunity to connect with fellow UChicago Maroon supporters.