Sustained success remained a staple of the Southern Connecticut State University men’s basketball team during the recently completed 2015-16 campaign. Under the direction of first-year head coach Scott Burrell, the 2016 ECAC Division II Coach of the Year, the Owls qualified for the NCAA Tournament for the third consecutive season. Southern finished with 22 victories and also won the Northeast-10 Conference Southwest Division title for the third year in a row.

The Owls were ranked as high as No. 2 in the national polls during the year, which matched a program-best.

Several outstanding individual efforts also highlighted the campaign. Senior Desmond Williams earned All-America honors from two separate organizations after a year in which he averaged 22.5 points and 9.8 rebounds per game. He narrowly missed out on becoming the first Owl in almost 40 years to average a double-double. Williams was also named the Regional Player of the Year by the Division II Conference Commissioner’s Association, as well as the ECAC Player of the Year and the Northeast-10 Conference Player of the Year.

Junior Michael Mallory continued to etch his name in the school’s record books after a standout season. Mallory collected 214 selections to the fall, 2015 Northeast-10 Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll. Simply put, our student-athletes are thriving at a high academic level, and I salute them on their achievements!

The winter season produced great excitement on campus thanks to the outstanding performances of our squads. The men's basketball team qualified for the NCAA Tournament for the third straight year – a program first – and also won the Northeast-10 Conference Southwest Division title for the third year in a row. First-year head coach Scott Burrell was named the ECAC Division II Coach of the Year after leading the team to 22 victories.

Our women's basketball team, under the guidance of first-year head coach Kate Lynch, won 19 games and reached the semifinals of the NE-10 Tournament.

Rochefort, Mullin Collect ECAC Gymnastics Year-End Honors

Senior Jennifer Rochefort of the Southern Connecticut State University gymnastics team was recognized as the 2016 Eastern College Athletic Conference Division II Gymnastics Scholar-Athlete of the Year at the conclusion of the 2016 championship meet. In addition, Owls’ assistant coach Linda Mullin was selected as the ECAC Assistant Coach of the Year.

Rochefort has enjoyed a tremendously decorated career for her work both in the classroom and in the gym. Academically, she is a member of the Honors College who is an early education Major with minors in psychology and Spanish. She holds a 3.905 cumulative GPA. In addition, she is a three-time ECAC All-Academic Team pick, and will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Strong Campaign for Women’s Basketball in 2015-16

The arrival of former Owls’ All-American Kate Lynch on the Southern Connecticut State University sidelines resulted in Southern’s best season on the court in five years. The Owls won 19 games and reached the semifinals of the Northeast-10 Conference Tournament, where they lost to the eventual champion Bentley.

Senior Jackie Beathea capped her Southern career with a host of accolades. She earned All-ECAC, All-Region and All-Northeast-10 Conference honors. Beathea departs as Southern’s career leader in rebounds — the only player in school history with more than 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds. She is also among Southern’s career leaders in blocked shots, field goals made, free throws attempted and free throws made. Beathea finished this season with averages of 12.5 points and 12.9 rebounds per game.

Fellow classmate Danielle Powell earned a selection to the All-Northeast-10 Conference squad after averaging 12.4 points and 4.9 rebounds per game. The scoring average was a career-best for Powell, who also departs ranked second on Southern’s career list in blocked shots.

Lynch Honored as WBCA Thirty Under 30! Recipient

Southern Connecticut State University head women’s basketball coach Kate Lynch (right) has been recognized by the Women’s Basketball Coaches Association as a 2016 recipient of its Thirty Under 30! Program. She was formally honored at the organization’s annual convention in Indianapolis on April 2.

Lynch guided the Owls to a 19-11 record in her first season at the helm of her alma mater this winter. SCSU reached the semifinals of the Northeast-10 Conference Tournament. Under Lynch’s watch, the Owls had their best overall finish and post-season showing in five seasons. She took over as head coach at SCSU in the summer of 2015 with previous head coaching stops at Molloy College and the Community College of Rhode Island.

Lynch recorded her 100th victory as a head coach with a triumph over Assumption on February 28.
Former Southern Connecticut State University men’s gymnastics coach Abie Grossfeld has been selected for induction as part of the Eastern College Athletic Conference’s Hall of Fame, Class of 2016. He will be formally recognized at the organization’s annual Hall of Fame gala on April 15 at the Matrix Conference & Banquet Center.

Grossfeld was a three-time head coach of the United States men’s gymnastics team (1972, 1984 and 1988) and an assistant for the men’s squad in 1964 and the women’s squad in 1968. Grossfeld served as head coach at SCSU from 1963-2004. He was a 2015 recipient of the Frank Bare Award by the International Gymnastics Hall of Fame.

Grossfeld served as head coach for the 1984 U.S. Olympic gold medal team, including the U.S. men’s only Olympic team gold medal. He was also the personal coach of Peter Kormann, who became the first U.S. man to win an Olympic medal in 44 years with a bronze medal on floor exercise in 1976.

Grossfeld also served as head coach for the U.S. men’s gymnastics team at five World Championships and two Pan American Games, including the 1987 Pan Am Games when the men won the team gold medal. The U.S. national coach for men’s gymnastics from 1981-88, Grossfeld coached the first U.S. men’s team that defeated the USSR in 1982.

While at SCSU, Grossfeld was a three-time National Coach of the Year who led the men’s gymnastics team to three NCAA championships (1973, 1975, 1976). He coached 29 individual NCAA champions, 126 All-Americans and four Nissen Award winners.

As an athlete, Grossfeld represented the USA internationally from 1952-67. He competed in two Olympic Games (1956, 1960), two World Championships (1958, 1962) and three Pan American Games (1955, 1959, 1963: the U.S. won the team gold all three years). At the University of Illinois, he won four NCAA titles and seven Big Ten Championships, as well as the Big Ten Medal of Honor. Additional honors include: National Coach of the Year for USA Gymnastics (1984) and the NCAA (1973, 1975 and 1976); USA Gymnastics Hall of Fame (as an athlete, coach and contributor); and the first and only American to achieve the status of FIG Master Coach (2000).

Rick Leddy, who served Southern Connecticut State University and its athletic department for parts of five decades, has been selected for induction in the College Sports Information Directors of America Hall of Fame. Leddy will be formally inducted at the organization’s annual convention in Dallas, Texas on June 13.

Leddy, also a member of the SCSU Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, adds another honor to an impressive career. He began as Southern’s sports information director as a student in 1969, and continued until his retirement in 2007. He added the title of associate director of athletics in 1993. During his career, he developed athletic guides for women’s sports teams and developed the Southern athletics Web page. He also trained and developed many students and assistants who went on to work in the field of sports information. As director, he was responsible for publicity, game coverage, athletic guides, compilation of statistics and conference and NCAA reporting for all of Southern’s athletic teams.

He received numerous awards for his work, including the 2004 Clifford Wells Appreciation Award from the National Association of Basketball Coaches, the College Sports Information Directors Association Distinguished Service Award, the Football Writers Association of America Outstanding Press Box citation and the Eastern College Athletic Conference Sports Information Directors Association’s Irving T. Marsh Service Bureau Award. He was also inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2004.

In addition to his work at SCSU, Leddy served as public relations director for the National Association of Basketball Coaches while at SCSU. Following his retirement in 2007, he maintained that role with the NABC and now serves as Senior Director of Communications. He is responsible for communications, including public and media relations, publications and website operations. He serves as the official spokesperson for the NABC, is the NABC contact for Samaritan’s Feet and also assists with the production of events at the NABC Convention, including the Guardians of the Game Awards Show and Champions Luncheon. Leddy is also the secretary for the NABC Board of Directors, a position he has held since 1985.

Annual Owl Golf Classic Set for May 23 At Lake of Isles

The 2016 Annual Owl Golf Classic will take place on Monday, May 23 at the Lake of Isles North Course at Foxwoods Resort and Casino. This event provides an opportunity for alumni, fans and friends to support and encourage the academic and athletic growth of Southern’s student-athletes. All proceeds from the tournament will be used for student scholarships and program enhancements for the Athletics Department.

For more information, or to register, contact Doreen Cammarata-Gilhuly at 203-392-8824.
A record-setting total of 214 student-athletes from Southern Connecticut State University have been named to the Fall, 2015 Northeast-10 Conference Commissioner’s Honor Roll. In order to be eligible for selection, a student-athlete must have met and/or exceeded a minimum 3.0 semester grade point average (on a 4.0 scale) during the Fall, 2015 semester.

That figure was part of another outstanding academic semester for the Owls, one in which all student-athletes combined for an average GPA of 3.03. Eleven of the 19 Southern Connecticut programs also exceeded a 3.0 semester GPA.

The Northeast-10 is an association of 15 NCAA Division II colleges and universities located in New England and New York that are committed to supporting balanced academic and athletic opportunities for more than 6,000 student-athletes. Each year, 4,000 of those student-athletes compete in Conference championships in 24 sports, making the NE-10 the largest DII conference in the country. Leading the way in the classroom, on the field and within the community, the Northeast-10 is proud of its comprehensive program and the experience it provides student-athletes.

Owls Earn National Academic Team Recognition from NFHCA

For the ninth year in a row, the Southern Connecticut State University field hockey team has been recognized with National Academic Team honors from the National Field Hockey Coaches Association. The National Academic Team Award recognizes those institutions that achieved a minimum GPA of 3.0 during the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

In total, the Owls were one of 22 programs at the Division II level to be recognized with this honor.

Thirteen Members of Field Hockey Team Named to NFHCA National Academic Squad

Thirteen members of the Southern Connecticut State University field hockey team have been named to the National Field Hockey Coaches Association’s National Academic Squad. The National Academic Squad program recognizes those collegiate student-athletes who have achieved a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.30 through the first semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

The 13 student-athletes are: Emily Allen, Lauren Anderson, Madison Cole, Kimberly Driscoll, Zoe Fanolis, Kassi Hansen, Bailey McGinnis, Alicia Morgan, Colleen Murphy, Vienna Pallisco, Natalia Prukalski, Ashley Sanzaro, and Jacqueline Touzos.

SCSU Athletic Department Places Record-Setting 214 Student-Athletes on NE-10 Commissioner’s Honor Roll

Two Owls Recognized by USTFCCCA

Senior Michael Lee of the men’s indoor track and field team and assistant men’s and women’s cross country/track and field coach Joe Van Gilder were recognized by the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association with year end honors.

Lee was selected as the East Region Field Athlete of the Year, while Van Gilder was selected as the East Region Women’s Assistant Coach of the Year.

Lee claimed both the New England and Northeast-10 titles in the long jump during the winter and was All-New England in the triple jump as well. Lee also collected All-Region accolades in both events.

Van Gilder, in his fourth year coaching the sprints and relays at SCsu, led his athletes to success at the national, regional and conference levels. Among his four qualifiers to the NCAA Championships was the national leader in the 200 meters, Shattajah Wattely. He also coached the New England champion 4x400 relay.
Nine Owls Capture All-America Honors

The winter season featured nine student-athletes who captured All-America honors within their respective sports:

- Katherine Crochet  Women’s Swimming
- Desmond Williams  Men’s Basketball
- Adriana Carrasco  Women’s Indoor Track and Field
- Crystle Hill  Women’s Indoor Track and Field
- Georgette Nixon  Women’s Indoor Track and Field
- Shatajah Wattely  Women’s Indoor Track and Field
- Tresley Dupont  Men’s Indoor Track and Field
- Michael Lee  Men’s Indoor Track and Field
- Michael Mallory  Men’s Basketball

Owls Well-Represented Among Northeast-10 Major Award Winners

The winter season featured seven student-athletes and one coach who received year-end honors from the Northeast-10 Conference:

- Katherine Crochet  Women’s Swimming; Swimmer of the Year
- Raymond Csverko  Men’s Swimming; Swimmer of the Year
- Desmond Williams  Men’s Basketball; Player of the Year
- Austin Carter  Men’s Basketball; Defensive Player of the Year
- Crystle Hill  Women’s Indoor Track and Field; Field Athlete of the Year
- Michael Lee  Men’s Indoor Track and Field; Field Athlete of the Year
- Jack Brown  Men’s Indoor Track and Field; Field Rookie of the Year
- Tim Quill  Men’s Swimming; Coach of the Year
- Tim Quill  Women’s Swimming; Coach of the Year

Nine Gymnasts Named to ECAC All-Academic Team

Nine members of the Southern Connecticut State University gymnastics team were selected to the ECAC All-Academic Team for their efforts in the classroom:

- Kathleen Aberger
- Abigail Bensley
- Adriana Carrasco
- Dean Bhatt
- Tiffany Coleman
- Kylyn Dawkins
- Rachel De La Torre
- Crystle Hill
- Ryne Griesenauer
- Kelly Guneson
- Kathryn Heacox
- Kiara Kallaway
- Katherine KrajciK
- Nicole Pruchnik
- Michelle Quero
- Caylee Richardson

Twelve Owls Earn Academic All-Conference Honors

Twelve student-athletes from Southern Connecticut State University were named to the Northeast-10 Conference Academic All-Team — five during the fall and seven in the winter — for sustained excellence academically and athletically within their respective sport.

During the fall season, the Owls honored were: Adriana Carrasco (women’s cross country), Crystle Hill (women’s cross country), Dean Bhatt (men’s cross country), and Ryne Griesenauer (football.)

During the winter season, the Owls honored were: Adriana Carrasco, Crystle Hill, Kathryn Heacox, Kiara Kallaway, and Sarah Vaughan (women’s indoor track and field), Luke Velez (men’s indoor track and field) and Katherine KrajciK (women’s swimming and diving).

To be eligible for selection to the academic all-conference teams, a student-athlete must have met and/or exceeded the following minimum requirements: 1) participated in at least half of the team’s competitions and be either a starter or significant contributor; 2) achieved a 3.30 cumulative grade point average (on a 4.0 scale); and 3) completed at least one academic year at his/her current institution. The Northeast-10 Academic All-Conference teams are chosen by a vote of a committee of athletic administrators and Faculty Athletic Representatives (FAR).
Men’s Swimming and Diving Program Continues Reign of Dominance

A stellar championship run continued for the Southern Connecticut State University men’s swimming and diving team this winter.

The team claimed its 12th Northeast-10 Conference title in the past 13 years in the event held from Feb. 4-7 in Worcester, Mass. Senior Raymond Cswerko was selected as the Most Outstanding Swimmer for his individual efforts.

Men’s Basketball

Continued from Page 1

season in which he averaged 23.0 points per contest. Mallory was named All-America, All-Region, All-ECAC and First-Team All-Northeast-10 Conference.

Classmate Austin Carter captured Northeast-10 Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors. He averaged 9.8 points and 7.7 rebounds per game, while also ranking second in the NE-10 with 64 blocks (2.1 per game).

Freshman Joey Wallace was also selected to the Northeast-10 All-Rookie Team. He averaged 7.7 points and 4.2 rebounds a game for the Owls.

ECAC Gymnastics

Continued from Page 1

be a three-time USA Gymnastics All-American Scholar-Athlete and a three-time Division II Athletic Directors Association Academic Achievement Award recipient. She is also serving as a team captain for the second straight year. She is also a multiple qualifier for USAG Nationals.

Mullin captures ECAC Assistant Coach of the Year honors for the fourth time in her coaching career. She was previously recognized in 2008, 2012 and 2014.

Mullin was also the National Assistant Coach of the Year in 2010. Thanks in part to Mullin’s efforts, the Owls set multiple new program team records along with a new individual record on the beam this season. SCSU also defeated Temple for the first time in program history.

Athletic Department Hosts 2016 'Girls and Women in Sport' Day Event

The Southern Connecticut State University Athletic Department hosted its annual 'Girls and Women in Sport’ Day on Saturday, February 6. Nearly 150 youngsters took part in the festivities, which started with a series of clinics with Owls’ coaches and more than 150 student-athletes. The participants also enjoyed a complimentary lunch and a meet-and-greet and autograph session with SCSU student-athletes. This year’s event was sponsored by the Connecticut Army National Guard and the Tim Greer Insurance Agency.

SCSU has hosted this event for nearly 20 years now, and it is the second-largest event among any college athletic department in the state of Connecticut.