# COACHES



BRICHT · RUDY · INCERSOLL BARBER · TAYLOR · REWALT

## DEBBIE TAYLO

has proven to be one of the best developers of young talent

in the Colonial Athletic Association, and looks to further that reputation in her 11th year at the helm of the Tribe with another highly regarded recruiting class. The winningest basketball coach in school history for both men and women, Taylor continues to guide the program to new heights, recently graduating the winningest class in program history.

Under her direction, W&M has produced outstanding scholar-athletes both on the court and in the classroom who have continued to shatter the Tribe record books and make their mark in the highly competitive CAA. Taylor's athletes have won 27 total All-CAA awards, including nine all-rookie selections, five all-academic honors, and the 2007-08 Dean Ehlers Leadership Award

2008-09 saw two Tribe players join the conference elite as junior Tiffany Benson became the second W&M player to be named CAA Defensive Player of the Year while standout freshmen Taysha Pye was honored as a CAA all-rookie team selection. In addition, senior Dani Kell earned first-team all-aca-

demic honors from the CAA, and alongside classmate Courtney | women's league. Portell, graduated having led W&M to the most wins ever in a four-year period.

Under the tutelage of Taylor and her staff, Tiffany Benson evolved over the course of the past two years from merely a gifted defensive player into a dominant threat on both ends of the floor. Benson has led the conference in offensive rebounds each of the past two years, and held a +2 margin in total rebounding over all other players in 2008-09 while also ranking 10th in the league at 12 points per game. She enters her final season needing only 27 blocks to become the CAA's all-time leader, and has averaged 70 per season in her career.

Freshmen Janine Aldridge and Taysha Pye had outstanding rookie campaigns. Aldridge didn't miss a single shot for the first 26 minutes of the conference opener against Towson, knocking down her first six field goals and finishing the day 6-9 from beyond the arc for 22 points. Her deadly shooting remained constant throughout the year, and she broke the College's 15-yearold freshman records for three-pointers made and attempted (55-155) in a season.

Pye appeared in every game last season, but truly an-

The 2007-08 squad set an unprecendented 20 school records. The win against Georgia State on January 17 made Taylor the winningest coach in school history with 93 career victories, and she would finish the season with 99 wins, setting the stage for a historic 2008-09.

In 2006-07, W&M won 19 games, the second-most in school history, and three members of the Tribe were recognized with all-conference honors. Highlighting the group was forward Kyra Kaylor, who was selected to the All-CAA First Team for the second consecutive season. The Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, native averaged 14.8 ppg and 9.1 rpg, while ranking among the league's best in numerous categories.

Undoubtedly, the individual honors were impressive, but what the team accomplished collectively during the 2006-07 season was far more significant. Statistically, the Tribe established itself as one of the nation's top defensive teams by limiting the opposition to just 35.5 percent shooting, a figure that ranked 13th in the country. Offensively, the squad was incredibly effective beyond the arc and ranked 23rd in three-pointers made per game (6.3) and 26th in three-point field goal percentage (36.0).

#### 2006 CAA COACH OF THE YEAR

### 1 CAA PLAYER OF THE YEAR 9 CAA ALL-ROOKIE SELECTIONS 2 Defensive Players of the Year

27 Total All-CAA Honors

"This is a very exciting time to be a part of Tribe women's basketball. This program has tremendous potential and we are just beginning to take off. We are building something really special here. As a coach, it is exciting and rewarding to work with the quality of student, athlete, and person that this program attracts."



nounced herself over the final month of play with a 19.1 scoring average in 11 games, and five outings of 20 points or more. She won three of the final five Rookie of the Week awards, including both the Rookie of the Week and Player of the Week awards on March 2.

2007-2008, the third straight season with double digit wins, was the climax for two of the program's greats both of whom graduated with more than 1,000 career points.

One of the top players in the program's history, Kyra Kaylor's success throughout her career is a testament to Taylor's ability to recruit and develop outstanding talent. Kaylor graduated as the school's all-time leader in points (1.873) and rebounds (1,124), and also holds 11 other school records. Her career totals also make her one of just three women's basketball players in conference history to total more than 1.800 points and 1.000 rebounds.

The 2005-06 CAA Player of the Year, Kaylor was named first-team all-conference each of her last three years, and was awarded the prestigious Dean Ehlers Leadership Award in 2008, the first for any Tribe player male or female. The Dean Ehlers award, first presented following the 1994-95 season, is named in honor of a former James Madison athletics director, and is awarded each year to a male and female basketball player in the CAA who best exemplifies the highest standards of leadership, integrity, and sportsmanship both on and off the court.

Devin James also graduated in 2008 surpassing the 1.000-point barrier in the first game of her senior campaign. James finished her career with 1,348 points, the fifth-highest total in school history. In 2009, she signed a professional basketball contract with Kusg Leimen in Germany's second-division In Taylor's 11 years, Tribe recruits have come from 14 U.S. states, three Canadian Provinces, and Israel.



"We have a GREAT family! I love our players and our staff. They are an exceptional group of people with strong character and a tireless work ethic. I am fortunate everyday to be around such a unified, selfless group who support, challenge, and bring out the best in each other."



The success of 2006-07 built upon what was accomplished during the 2005-06 campaign. That edition of the Tribe earned the nation's second-best turnaround (+11 wins) and registered the program's best record at 15-13 since the 1998-99 season. Additionally, the Green and Gold's 11 conference victories were a school record, besting the previous mark of nine. Taylor was honored as CAA Coach of the Year joining Kaylor, the league leading scorer and rebounder, W&M's first CAA Player of the Year.

Under Taylor's leadership, guard Jen Sobota finished her career in 2003 as one of the top players in school history. Sobota broke nine school career records, including points scored with 1,511 and games played and started (113).

Taylor, a 1986 graduate of the College, is the fourth Tribe head coach since the program went to the Division I level in 1984

During her first season, Taylor implemented Team Tribe, a kids' club that provides fan support for women's basketball. In nine years, Team Tribe has grown to more than 450 members.

According to Taylor, "Community support is vital to our team's success. Team Tribe provides our players with an opportunity to interact with and act as role models for young people in the Williamsburg area."

"William and Mary basketball is about unity, about family, about personal growth," Taylor said. "It is the goal of the coaching staff to create an environment that provides an opportunity for our players to challenge themselves academically, athletically and personally. We want to build a national-caliber program with highly motivated student-athletes through which we can help reinforce and develop the skills necessary for their success after college."

**DEBBIE TAYLOR** 

A former Tribe letter winner in both basketball and lacrosse, Taylor arrived in Williamsburg on June 1,1999 after a stint in the Southeastern Conference as an assistant coach at the University of South Carolina and in the Big East at West Virginia University.

Head Coach • 11 years at W&M • William and Mary, 1986

Upon graduation from William and Mary, Taylor accepted her first coaching position at Trinity Episcopal School in Richmond, Va. During her six seasons at TES, she won two conference titles and led the Titans to the 1991 Virginia League of Independent Schools championship.

In 1992, Taylor was hired as the assistant boy's varsity basketball coach at Goochland (Va.) High School. At that time she was one of only two females to coach boys' basketball in the state. She was promoted to head coach the following year and in 1994 guided the Bulldogs to their best season in a decade.

Taylor also coached AAU basketball from 1988 to 1995, leading the James River Rapids (Richmond, Va.) to several national tournaments and the 1995 Virginia state championship.

At William and Mary, Taylor earned a bachelor of science degree in kinesiology and was a two-year team captain for the basketball team. She graduated as the College's all-time leader in career assists and steals.

Taylor, who resides in Williamsburg, enjoys boating, reading, playing the piano, and visiting with her family in her spare time. She has four sisters: Laurie, Kathy, Pam and Jennifer; four nieces: Kaitlyn (22), Olivia (9), Alexis (6) and Eden (4); and two nephews: Kenny (19) and Roman (9). She is the daughter of Ed and Ruth Taylor of Fredericksburg, Virginia.



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2009-10 Tribe BASKETBALL

\_ 2009-10 Tribe BASKETBALL T

#### Assistant Coach • 5 years at W&M • New York University, 2002

Having helped guide William and Mary to the best four-year stretch in school history, Meg Barber enters her fifth year on Debbie Taylor's staff and third as the top assistant and recruiting coordinator. Barber has been instrumental in landing some of the most talented recruiting classes in Tribe history. Highlighting her efforts are last season's Rookie of the Year finalist, Taysha Pye, as well as this season's highly touted freshman class, including the 12th ranked forward in the 2009 recruiting class according to *ESPN HoopGurlz*, and the Washington D.C. Gatorade Player of the Year.

In addition to recruiting, Barber's responsibilities include post development, opponent scouting, scheduling, assisting with conditioning, and practice planning. She is also the program's liason to compliance and the director of the William and Mary Basketball Camp.

Prior to joining the Tribe staff, she spent three seasons at Utica College in New York as an assistant coach. At Utica, Barber was responsible for film breakdown, scouting, team defense, as well as coordinating recruiting visits. Additionally, Barber monitored Pioneer student-athletes in their academic progress, while assisting in game scheduling. She was also responsible for a variety of communications activities and was the co-director for the Utica College Girls Basketball Camp from 2002 to 2004.

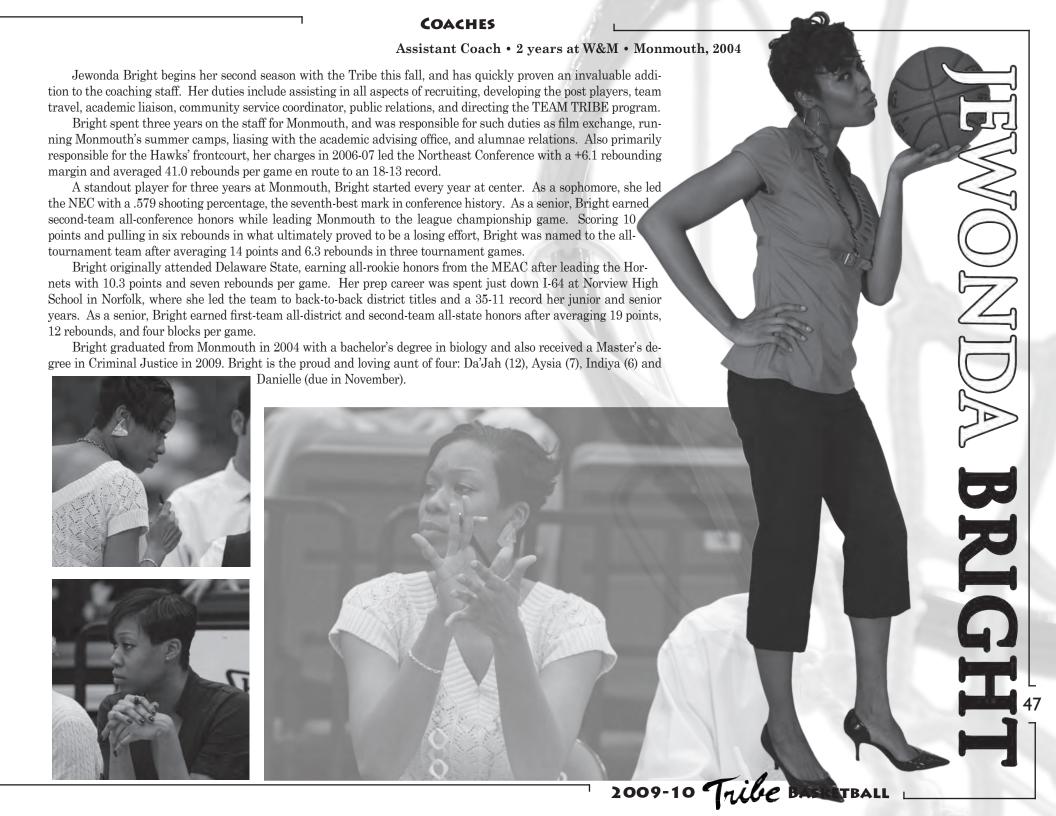
Barber enjoyed a standout career at New York University, where she graduated in 2002 with a bachelor of arts degree in economics. A four-year member of the Violets women's basketball squad, she helped lead the team to NCAA Elite Eight appearances in 1999 and 2001, as well as two ECAC Metro Championships. She was named the ECAC Metro Most Outstanding Player in the 2000 and 2002 seasons. Barber played in every game during her four-year career, starting in all but two of those games. She is ranked seventh on the Violets' career scoring list with 1,228 points.

A native of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., and a fan of the New York Giants and New York Mets, Barber resides in Williamsburg. In her spare time she enjoys reading, golfing, and spending time with friends and family. She has two sisters, Kim and Anne, and is the daughter of Bud and Ellen Barber. She is the proud and loving aunt of her delightful nephew Connor.









Assistant Coach • First year at W&M • Dartmouth, 1999

Erin Rewalt is new to the Tribe staff this season, and will be responsible for coaching the guards, recruiting, scouting, overseeing strength and conditioning, budgeting, and alumni relations in her first year as an assistant coach.

Rewalt comes to Williamsburg from New York City after five years with the General Electric Company (GE), where she completed the two-year Experienced Commercial Leadership Program and spent three years in GE Commercial Real Estate as Associate Director of Joint Venture Equity Acquisitions. Prior to joining GE, Rewalt completed her MBA at Dartmouth's Tuck School of Business, graduating in 2004.

Rewalt graduated from Dartmouth with a bachelor of arts in government in 1999, after a very successful four-year career with the Big Green. She earned All-Ivy League honors every year, starting with a spot on the all-rookie team in 1995-96, and an All-Ivy honorable-mention selection as a sophomore. Each of her final two seasons resulted in All-Ivy second-team honors, and she captained the 1998-99 squad to the Ivy League title and a spot in the NCAA Tournament. She led Dartmouth in rebounding each of her last three seasons, and currently ranks among the top-ten all-time at her alma mater in rebounds, free throws attempted, and free throws made.

A native of Michigan, Rewalt graduated from Cardinal Mooney Catholic as the salutatorian of her class and a first-team all-state selection in both basketball and softball. She enjoys traveling, skiing, reading, and spending time with friends and family. She has two brothers and two sisters-in-law: Joe, Wendy, Jason, and Jeanne; two nieces: Jordan (12) and Lauren (1); and two nephews: Garrett (10) and Reagan (6). She is the loving daughter of Jim and Sandi Rewalt of Richmond, Michigan.

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Will Ingersoll is in his second year as the Tribe's Director of Basketball Operations, and fifth year with the program overall after spending three years as a student assistant on Taylor's staff. His responsibilities include helping run the film exchange and assisting with travel coordination.

As an undergraduate, Ingersoll served a practice player for the Tribe and assisted the team with various drills. He also organized the scout team for W&M. Outside of his time with the team, Ingersoll was a four-year starter on the W&M club basketball team. Prior to attending the College, he played basketball for four years at Standley Lake High School in Denver, Colorado.

A 2008 graduate with a major in finance and concentration in accounting, Ingersoll is enrolled in the MBA program at the Mason School of Business.







Williamsburg native Jacob Rudy returns home this winter to join Coach Taylor's staff as the team intern in 2009-10, responsible for assisting the full-time staff in making the program run smoothly and efficiently.

Rudy comes to the College after spending the past year working in several roles for noted basketball coach and entrepreneur Boo Williams. Included in that year was serving as the director of the Boo Williams Summer League high school team camp, recruiting the participating schools as well as managing the day-to-day operations of the camp.

After a four-year playing career at Walsingham Academy, Rudy attended Elon University in North Carolina and graduated with a bachelor's degree in history in 2008. He was involved with several organizations while in college, including a year as a manager for the men's varsity basketball team. Rudy was invited to join Phi Alpha Theta (the history honor society) in 2005, and helped to found Elon's chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon, serving in several leadership roles with the fraternity.

Rudy is currently enrolled in ODU's Master's in Education program for Sports Management, and expects to receive his degree in December.

Claudette Canady has been working at the College for 21 years and is the Administrative Assistant for both the men's and women's basketball programs.

Coming from an athletic family, she is a former all-district basketball player and MVP at West Point High School in Virginia. Her brother, "Duke" Thorpe had a fine career at West Point High School where his jersey (No. 33) was retired, and the student section was named after his jersey number. He also enjoyed an outstanding career at Virginia Tech. Her sister, Lisa, also had a fine basketball career at West Point as well as her daughter Leslie and nephew Andre. Her niece Jacquelyn and nephew Elliott are also active in sports in Florida. In the past, Claudette has traveled with the men's team to Hawaii twice, New Orleans, Kansas, Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico.

Outside of basketball, she enjoys cooking, working in the yard, sewing, is the Church Clerk and Secretary of Mt. Nebo Baptist Church in West Point, Va., and also sings in the church choir.

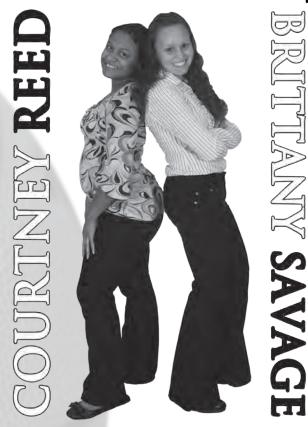


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Courtney Reed is in her first season as a manager with the Tribe women's basketball team this winter, and will be jointly responsible for various duties in practice as well as helping with video taping and on the bench at games both home and away.

Reed, a sophomore from Cumberland, Virginia, is a kinesiology major in the premed track at William and Mary, with future plans to become a doctor. Also on her list of future accomplishments is to travel internationally, with Ireland, Japan, and France at the top of her list.

Beyond the court, Reed enjoys spending time with family and friends, exercising, reading, and going to the movies.



Brittany Savage began her training to become a team manager last winter, and has far exceeded all goals set for her by the coaching staff.

A native of Chantilly, Virginia, Savage is a sophomore majoring in kinesiology. After graduation, her goals include medical school with an eye towards becoming a pediatrician. As part of her training for the future, Savage spent the summer working as a classroom assistant in a day care facility.

Beyond the court, Savage's interests include arts and crafts, babysitting, interacting with animals, and church.

Dakarai Calhoun is in his second year at William and Mary's assistant equipment manager, and works with the Tribe basketball staff and the operations crew to ensure that practices and games run smoothly and professionally.

Calhoun also works with all 23 intercollegiate teams to maintain an accurate inventory of the College's uniforms and equipment. Several additional assignments fall under his supervision during the fall with the Tribe football team, where he assists with day-to-day operations of the equipment room as well as practice coverage, laundry, and game-day operations.



DAKARAI CALHOUN

Calhoun is a 2008 graduate of Florida A&M University with a degree in political science and a minor is graphic design. He served a five-year stint as an Assistant Equipment Manager in his time on campus with the Rattlers football program. During his college days Calhoun also completed an internship with the Jacksonville Jaguars during the team's preseason camp in 2005.

Calhoun resides in Williamsburg with his fiancé, Rica Hudson, who is currently pursuing a law degree from William and Mary. Pamela Mason took over full time duties of the College's compliance office on April 1, 2006, and she was promoted to Assistant AD for Compliance and Educational Services in July 2008. Previously, she served as the Associate Director of Development for two years.

Under Mason, the compliance office works with the NCAA Eligibility Center to determine initial eligibility of all incoming freshmen and continues to monitor student-athlete eligibility throughout their college careers. Mason is also responsible for educating all student-athletes, coaches, staff and boosters on the NCAA rules.

Mason graduated from Southern Methodist University in 1994 as a marketing major, with a minor in psychology. She continued her education at the College and earned a JD and an MBA in four years (1996-2000). She is a member of the Bar in both Virginia and North Carolina.

A native of Marion, Ohio, Mason brings a diverse range

As Director of Academic Support, Jason Simms acts as an academic advisor to the College's varsity athletes and is currently in his third year at William and Mary. Simms assists student-athletes in maintaining excellence in the classroom, scheduling classes, and assisting in future planning.

Simms brought a diverse background to the William and Mary Athletic Department from his work at Salisbury University. He acted as the Associate Dean of Admissions as well as the Director of Minority Recruitment. In regards to athletics, Simms worked as the Admissions Athletics Liaison and an Assistant Men's Basketball Coach for the SU Sea Gulls.

As an assistant basketball coach for Salisbury University, Simms advised and scheduled classes for athletes during registration periods, monitored mandatory study hall sessions, and provided academic guidance throughout the semester for athletes. During his work as the admissions-athletic liaison, he coordinated relationships between teams, coaching staff, and the enrollment management, as well as assisted the Director of Athletics with NCAA compliance and eligibility requirements.

PAM

MASON

of athletic administrative experience to the position. Prior to arriving in Williamsburg, Mason worked as the Assistant Director of Compliance at James Madison University from 2003-04, where she assisted in many facets of the department's day-to-day operations. Mason served as the primary Compliance Officer and Sports Information Director for the University of North Carolina, Pembroke during the 2001 and 2002 athletic seasons.

Her first position out of college came with the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, as she served as the Marketing and Media Relations Assistant with the team's nationally acclaimed cheerleading squad from 1993-96. A varsity cheerleader at SMU, Mason also served a three-year stint as William and Mary's cheerleading coach while she was pursuing her graduate degrees.

Mason and her husband, Monty, a 1989 graduate of the College and chairman of the Tribe Club, reside in Williams-

burg with their daughter, Taylor Anne.



JASON SIMMS

Simms was also a member of the Board of Directors for Kids of Honor in Cambridge, Md., providing guidance to elementary and middle school-aged first generation college-bound students.

Simms attended Frostburg State University, graduating in 1994 with a B.S. in Business Administration. An excellent student athlete himself, he was a member of both the basketball and baseball teams at FSU from 1990-1994. He acted at team captain of the basketball team during the 1993-1994 season and received the team MVP award. Simms also captained the baseball team during the 1994 season while earning the baseball team MVP award in 1993 and 1994.

He earned his Masters of Education in Guidance and Counseling in 2002 from the University of Maryland - Eastern Shore. Since then Simms has been a member of the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA) as well as an active member of the National Association of Athletic Academic Advisors (N4A).

Simms resides in Williamsburg and enjoys working out and playing golf in his spare time.

J.C. Poutsma grew up in Oak Ridge, Tenn., and attended Furman University, where he received a B.S. in Chemistry in 1991. He obtained a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Purdue University in 1997.

After a two year post-doctoral research appointment at Stanford University, he joined the faculty of William and Mary in 1999 as an Assistant Professor. He was tenured in 2005, and promoted to become the Margaret Hamilton Associate Professor of chemistry.

He teaches general, analytical, physical, and computational chemistry classes and his research interests include energetics of amino acids and fragmentation studies of small peptides.



J.C. POUTSMA

In 2008, J.C. was named a Professeur Invitee to the Unversite Pierre et Marie Curie, and in 2006, was selected as a Henry Dreyfus Teacher Scholar. J.C. also won a CAREER Award from the National Science Foundation in 2004, an award given in support of the early career-development activities of those teacher-scholars who most effectively integrate research and education within the context of the mission of their organization

J.C. began serving as women's basketball faculty liaison during the 2006-2007 academic year. He has been a fan of women's basketball dating back to his high school days in Tennessee, where he went to high school with former WNBA star and U.S. Olympian Jennifer Azzi.

Olympian Jennifer Azz

The Colonial Athletic Association celebrates its 25th Anniversary in 2009-10 with memories of a proud and storied past and visions of an exciting future.

Regarded as one of the nation's top collegiate conferences, the CAA encompasses five of the nation's nine largest metropolitan areas with a geographic footprint that stretches from Boston to Atlanta. The conference has produced 16 national team champions in five different sports, 33 individual national champions, 12 national players of the year, 12 national coaches of the year and 12 Honda Award winners. Just as impressive, however, are the honors accumulated away from competition, which include five Rhodes Scholars and 20 NCAA post-graduate scholars. In 2008-09, the CAA had more than 1,700 of the league's 4,000 student-athletes received the Commissioner's Academic Award after posting at least a 3.2 grade point average while lettering in a varsity sport. The conference ranked in the top 10 in the nation in 12 of its 23 sports in the latest APR report released by the NCAA.

The landscape of the conference stretches along the majority of the East Coast, and includes six of the nation's top 25 media markets – New York (1), Philadelphia (4), Boston (7), Atlanta (8), Washington, D.C. (9) and Baltimore (25). The number of television homes in the CAA market exceeds 20 million.

The CAA currently sponsors 23 sports with the addition of a 12-team football league in 2007 and women's rowing in 2009. Male athletes compete for championships in baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, lacrosse, soccer, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and wrestling. Female athletes battle for conference titles in basketball, cross country, field hockey, golf, lacrosse, rowing, soccer, softball, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field and volleyball. In 2008-09, 28 teams earned NCAA Tournament berths and 45 student-athletes received All-America honors.

The conference has made its presence known nationally in men's basketball with a league-record five teams advancing to postseason play in 2008-09. Conference champion VCU made its third NCAA Tournament appearance in the last six years, while George Mason reached the postseason for the seventh time in a decade in the NIT. Old Dominion, making its fifth straight postseason trip, captured the inaugural CIT championship, while James Madison made the CIT semifinals. Northeastern reached the quarterfinals of the CBI. In 2006, George Mason captured the nation's imagination by becoming the first mid-major program since 1979 to reach the Final Four, knocking off powerhouses Michigan State, North Carolina, Wichita State and Connecticut along the way. The Patriots were ranked No. 8 in the final ESPN/USA Today Top 25 poll, which was the highest ever for a CAA team.

The CAA has had at least three women's basketball teams participate in post-season play for the past four seasons. Drexel captured its first CAA championship in 2009 and was joined in the NCAA Tournament by VCU, giving the league multiple teams in the Big Dance for the second time in three years.

CAA CHAMPIONSHIPS	
William and Mary	95
James Madison	57
Old Dominion	47
George Mason	43
Virginia Commonwealth	36
UNC Wilmington	32
Hofstra	24
Towson	9
Georgia State	7
Delaware	4
Northeastern	3
Drexel	1

James Madison earned a post-season berth for the fourth year in a row in the WNIT. Perennial power Old Dominion, which has won three national championships (1979, 1980, 1985) and was national runner-up in 1997, claimed an NCAA-record 17 straight CAA titles before seeing its incredible streak come to an end last year.

The conference also excels in many other sports. CAA squads have combined to win 10 field hockey national titles since the championship began in 1981. Delaware and Towson have each reached the Final Four of the NCAA Men's Lacrosse Championship. Three women's soccer teams have reached the second round of the NCAA Tournament for the past two seasons and at least one men's soccer team has advanced to the final 16 of the NCAA Championship in five of the last seven years. In men's cross country, William & Mary placed 16th nationally as a team in 2008 and Georgia State's Mark Steeds earned All-America status after a 12th-place individual effort. On the mat, ODU's Ryan Williams was one of three wrestling All-Americans after finishing as the national runner-up at 141 pounds. The CAA has sent multiple teams to the NCAA Baseball Championship in nine of the last 12 years and has had 12 or more players selected in the last seven Major League Baseball drafts. The conference also boasts numerous All-Americans in tennis, golf, track and field and swimming and diving.

CAA member institutions are committed to excellence in the classroom. The Colonial Academic Alliance was created in 2002 by the league's presidents with a goal of expanding their partnership to all aspects of university life outside of intercollegiate athletics. Among the programs already established are an undergraduate research conference, coordination of study abroad programs and granting visiting academic status to student-athletes traveling to an away contest so that they have access to libraries, academic resource centers and computer labs.

In 2002, two faculty members from CAA institutions were awarded academia's most coveted distinction – the Nobel Prize. John B. Fenn, a research professor in the Department of Chem-

istry at Virginia Commonwealth University, received the Nobel Prize for chemistry, and Vernon Smith, a professor of economics and law at George Mason University, shared the Nobel Prize in economic sciences.

Commissioner Thomas E. Yeager has guided the CAA since its inception. The conference traces its roots back to 1983 when three of its current members- George Mason University, James Madison University, and the College of William and Mary - were aligned with East Carolina University, the United States Naval Academy and the University of Richmond as a basketball league (ECAC South). During the next two years, the league added 11 sports, acquired two new members (the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and American University) and decided to form a new association. The transformation from ECAC South to CAA took place on June 6, 1985.

Charter members George Mason, James Madison, UNC Wilmington and William and Mary were joined by Old Dominion University in 1991 and by Virginia Commonwealth University in 1995. The conference added the University of Delaware, Drexel University, Hofstra University and Towson University in 2001. Georgia State University and Northeastern University became members of the conference on July 1, 2005.

Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, the CAA takes great pride in producing student-athletes who stand out on the playing field and in the classroom.

