



RAZOR

ARKANSAS

2016-17 ANNUAL REPORT



By definition, a patch is a piece of cloth sewn on a garment as an ornament or insignia. By their very nature, patches also help to link independent pieces of cloth together – bringing continuity to the entirety of the garment.

For more than 460 Razorback student-athletes, and thousands more around the Southeastern Conference, the SEC Graduate Patch carries similar meaning and attributes. Not only does the patch recognize the ultimate achievement of the college experience, graduation, it seamlessly blends together the entire fabric of the student-athlete experience, including the pursuit of extraordinary excellence in academics and athletics.

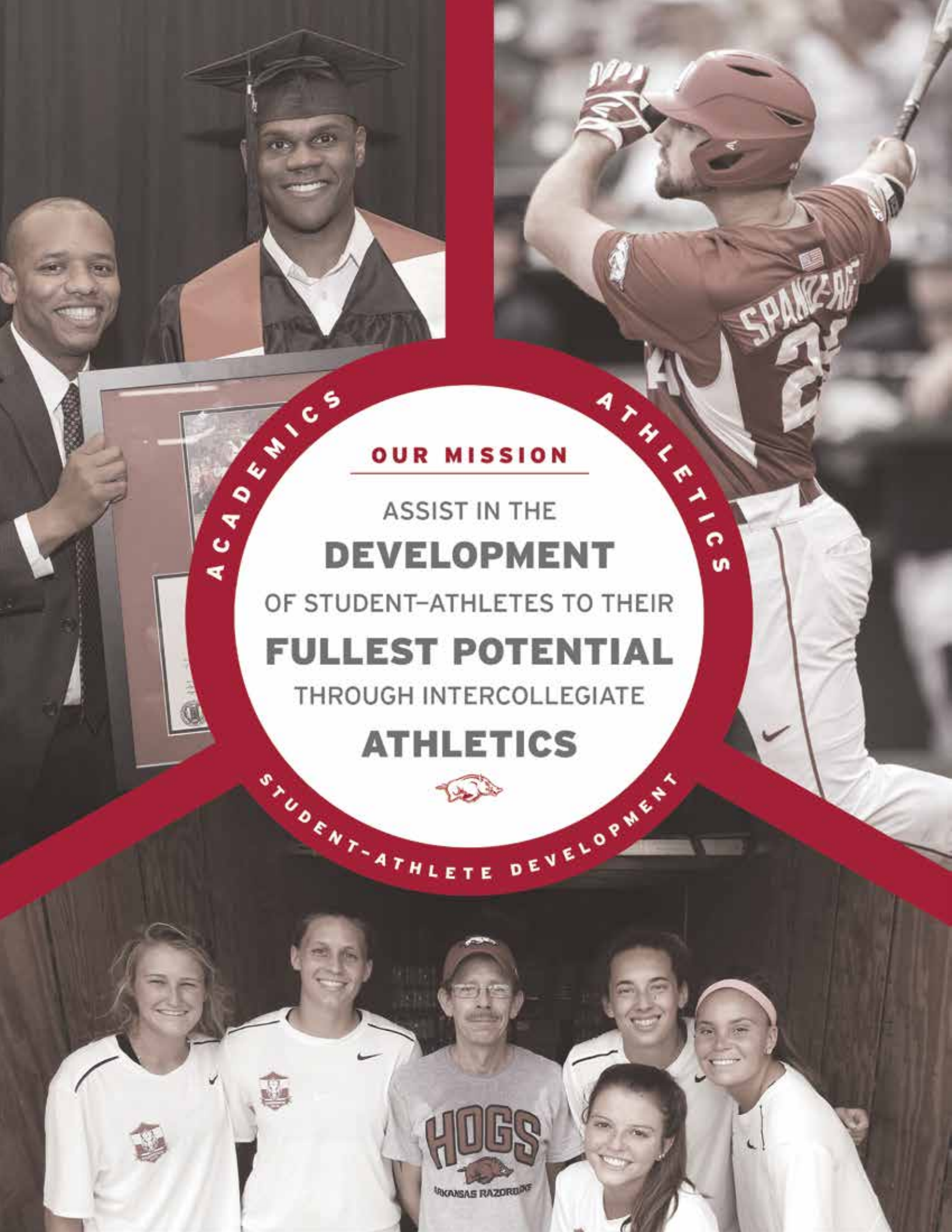
In 2016–17, Razorback Athletics set a new standard of excellence for the entire Southeastern Conference.

The Graduate Patch was an idea introduced by Arkansas and first worn by the Razorback Football team during the 2016 season opener. The SEC took notice of Arkansas' graduation patch, which was sewn onto the jerseys of football student-athletes to publicly recognize their completion of their academic degrees while still having athletic eligibility.

The SEC embraced this program and adopted a SEC Graduate Patch program on a league-wide basis in the fall of 2016. A total of 62 University of Arkansas student-athletes donned the SEC Graduate Patch on their Razorback uniforms in 2016–17.

Thanks to the loyal support of Razorback Foundation members and season ticket holders, we are making a difference in the lives of University of Arkansas student-athletes and helping to make the SEC the best conference in the Nation!





Contents



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

- pg 02 Voices // Brooks Ellis
- pg 04 Academic Achievement

STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

- pg 12 Voices // Taliyah Brooks
- pg 14 Student-Athlete Development

ATHLETICS SUCCESS

- pg 22 Voices // Dusty Hannahs
- pg 24 Athletics Success
- pg 32 Razorback Olympians

CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EVENTS

- pg 36 Championships and Events
- pg 40 Around the State

FINANCIAL REPORT

- pg 44 Financial Report

RAZORBACK FOUNDATION

- pg 50 Razorback Foundation

FACILITIES

- pg 54 Facilities Master Plan
- pg 56 Stadium Renovation and North End Zone Addition

STUDENT-ATHLETE RETROSPECTIVES

- pg 60 Voices // Rawleigh Williams III
- pg 62 Voices // Lindsey Mayo



BROOKS ELLIS

FOOTBALL
STUDENT-ATHLETE (2013-2016)

There I was. Sitting on a stage with such powerful people in the sport of football was the best part of being invited to the National Football Foundation Dinner in New York City. I met a lot of legendary college football players and coaches and other important people that helped shape the sport of football and it was crazy to think that I belonged in that room.

I was a finalist for the William V. Campbell Trophy, an award commonly known as the "Academic Heisman." I had so many people help me get to that point and to see my hard work pay off was a great honor.

These are prestigious national awards and I'm very thankful to have been a finalist and awarded a post-graduate scholarship. I enjoyed getting to know the other finalists. My roommate Karter Schultz is with the Cleveland Browns now. I talk to him every now and then.

“

I hope that people see what I did in the classroom and know that just because you play football doesn't mean that makes you who you are.

“

I have so many memories from that trip. The hotel we stayed in was incredible, the Waldorf-Astoria. We saw Times Square and the Rockefeller Center, it was Christmas time so the city was decorated and that was really cool. We saw One World Trade Center and Ground Zero which was very surreal and sad. We saw the Statue of Liberty from a distance and that was sweet. I didn't have enough time to see all that I wanted to but NYC is a great place to visit.

It was not just a long way from home, it was the culmination of my college journey. Along the way I needed help from my parents, coaches, teammates, friends, support staff and academic advisors. I tried to do as much as I could by myself, because I'm stubborn. I definitely needed help all along the way.

My family pushed me to do my best in both academics and athletics and it made me push myself because they were there with me the entire ride. The staff at the U of A is also a big reason I had success. They make sure

you're doing what you're supposed to do and encourage you to do better each semester on and off the field.

On the field, I worked every day to get better and did my best to do exactly what the coaches were asking. Academically, I put what I needed to into studying and if I didn't I would study even harder at the next opportunity.

I made sure that if I could knock something out right now then I should do that. That's how I approached a lot of it. The Athletics Department gave us time to study during the season and tutors if we needed them. The Jones Success Center provided great study areas and quiet spaces to really get some good studying in without it being too social like it sometimes is in the library.

Things didn't always come easy. I would get frustrated all the time. When I didn't get the grade I wanted in school or didn't do as well as I could've in a game, there was nothing I could do about it. So I just learned all I could from not doing so well and moved on to the next thing and tried even harder at it.

Coach Bielema was always challenging me. He knew my potential and pushed me to get uncomfortable. He forced me into situations that I absolutely hated but I knew that I would come out of it alive and a better person because of it.

My teammates were a huge help. Things get hard when you're practicing or going through workouts and having your teammates there for you makes it a lot more bearable. You know that you're not the only one going through it. After working together for so long you build a bond that you will do anything for your brothers and they will do the same for you.

The memories I've made have been incredible. I'd say all the people I've met and been around the last four years made it something I will look back on and cherish forever. On the field, I would have to say the best moment was when we shut out LSU and the crowd rushed the field. As a student, I will remember going to concerts put on by the university or Greek Life. Being able to enjoy them with my friends will be some of my best memories.

I hope that people see what I did in the classroom and know that just because you play football doesn't mean that makes you who you are. Football will end at some point and you have to be ready for when that day comes. For me, after my football career is done, I will

probably go to medical school. I'm not sure we'll see when it comes that time but I have a lot of things I want to do before I get settled down into school again.

To my teammates still left in the program, enjoy every second and make the most of the opportunity while you are still playing at Arkansas. Get off to a very strong start academically. It's much harder to come back and get your GPA up than to start strong, develop good habits, and keep a high GPA.

It's so cool to say you represent the entire state of Arkansas and I take that with a lot of pride and humility. It's the pride of the state and to be able to represent Arkansas and be a part of this great program will always be something I'm proud of.

The one thing that I always tell guys from other schools that stands out about our school is the fan base and how wild and crazy our fans are for the Hogs. None of what we do would be possible without such loyal fans. The impact of what the fans give to student-athletes is huge. Our facilities make our lives so much easier when it gets pretty difficult and it's all due to the people that support the Hogs.

Thank you for being so loyal and so crazy for the Hogs! We didn't get done what we wanted to as a senior class but I know the program is in great hands. Y'all are the best fans in the country!

Brooks Ellis Bio

The first Arkansas football student-athlete to earn Academic All-America honors twice in a career, Ellis was a four-time SEC Academic Honor Roll selection and was the SEC Football Scholar-Athlete of the Year. He was honored as one of 12 finalists for the 2016 William V. Campbell Trophy and a member of the National Scholar-Athlete Class. On the field, Ellis started 41 games and closed out his career with 31 straight starts, 290 tackles, including 22.5 for loss, 3.5 sacks, two forced fumbles, 13 pass breakups, and four interceptions. Ellis graduated in Fall 2016 with a degree in Kinesiology. Following his career at Arkansas, he signed a free agent deal with the New England Patriots.



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Razorback Athletics is dedicated to providing support and resources for Razorback student-athletes to help them reach their fullest potential. The foundational shift from turning student-athletes' focus from maintaining eligibility to achieving graduation has shown dramatic results in the first nine full years of a combined athletics program. The number of graduates have more than doubled, APR and Graduation Success Rates are at program high. Just as student-athletes are challenged

to begin their collegiate career with the end in mind, Razorback Athletics tailors its program to prepare student-athletes not just for graduation, but for the rest of their lives. **It all begins with a game plan, brought to life by the drive, focus and academic commitment of the student-athlete, resulting in classroom achievement and culminating with the ultimate goal of a college experience – graduation.**

THE RAZORBACK ATHLETICS ACADEMIC SERVICES STAFF WORKS IN COORDINATION WITH THREE POINTS OF EMPHASIS TO SERVE ITS STUDENT-ATHLETE CENTERED PURPOSE



Empower

Empower our student-athletes by utilizing a strengths-based approach and recognize that each student-athlete has a unique starting point and set of needs

Enhance

Enhance or add value to our student-athletes' lives by serving them and helping them grow academically

Equip

Equip our student-athletes to be successful in the classroom and for life after college



“

“Our Vice Chancellor and Director of Athletics has built a culture that promotes academic achievement for our student-athletes. There are constant reminders throughout the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center that point to graduation. The most notable example is the massive graduation stole hanging in the main entrance of the building. From the second you walk in, graduation is the focus.”

Dr. Charles Small

Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Services



The Office of Student-Athlete Success (OSAS) continues to receive national recognition for its innovative and impactful approach. Last fall, the University of Arkansas hosted the 2016 National Association of Academic Advisors for Athletics (N4A) Region II Conference at the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center. More than 75 participants from 23 different institutions attended the conference themed “The Pinnacle of Your Profession.”

N4A also recognized the University of Arkansas with its prestigious Model Practice Award (pictured above) for its Mobile Advising program. The N4A Model Practice Award is an award given annually to the university or college

that displays best practices in their academic and/or student-athlete development programming for student-athletes.

The Mobile Advising Program efficiently connects on-campus advisors from the Fulbright College of Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Health Professions with Razorback student-athletes in those respective colleges at one location over a two-day period. It fosters increased communication between student-athletes and their on-campus advisors, while enabling student-athletes to make informed choices of classes, while ensuring their continued progress toward graduation.



PROGRAM RECORD

3.25

DEPARTMENT GPA

15 CONSECUTIVE SEMESTERS WITH
A DEPARTMENT GPA OVER 3.0

It was a record-breaking year in the classroom in 2016-17! Razorback student-athletes combined for a program record 3.25 cumulative GPA. Achieving personal bests was again a focus for student-athletes and they responded. A total of 179 student-athletes earned a personal best in the spring, including a program record 72 earning a 4.0 for the spring semester. Arkansas led the way on the SEC Fall Academic Honor Roll and 68% of student-athletes made an honor roll in the spring. It all added up to a remarkable year of academic achievements for Razorback student-athletes.

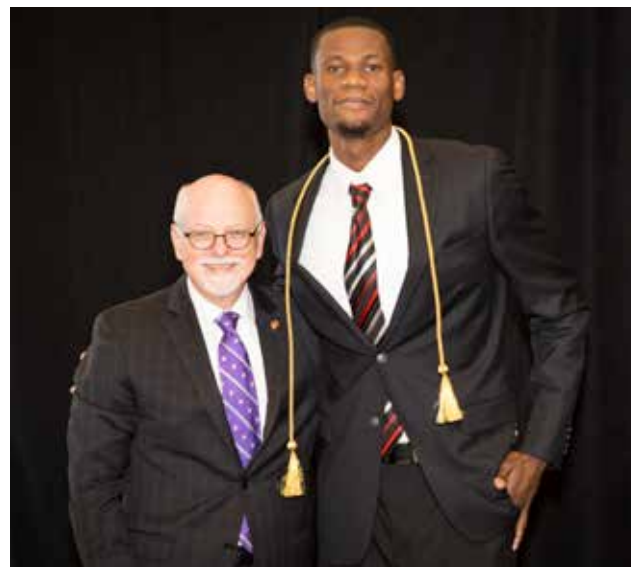
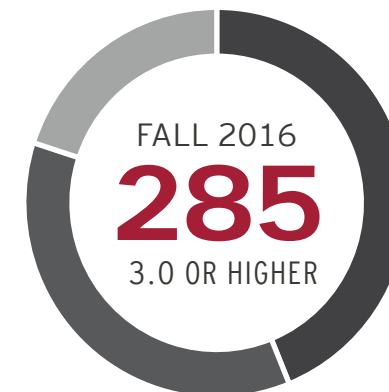
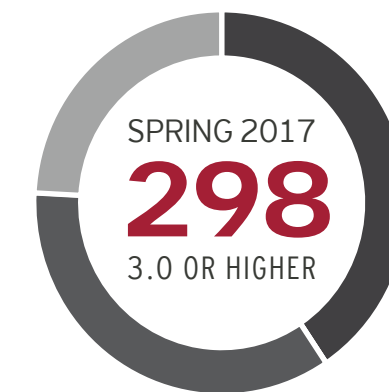
A RECORD-HIGH

72

STUDENT-ATHLETES EARNED A
4.0 TERM GPA
FOR SPRING

PERSONAL BEST

179

STUDENTS EARNED THEIR HIGHEST
TERM GPA DURING THE SPRING57
ACADEMIC
CHAMPIONS
(4.00)103
ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR'S
LIST
(3.50 - 3.99)125
RAZORBACK
HONOR ROLL
(3.00 - 3.49)285 STUDENT-ATHLETES (62%) EARNED A 3.0 OR
HIGHER FOR FALL 201672
ACADEMIC
CHAMPIONS
(4.00)105
ATHLETIC
DIRECTOR'S
LIST
(3.50 - 3.99)121
RAZORBACK
HONOR ROLL
(3.00 - 3.49)298 STUDENT-ATHLETES (68%) EARNED A 3.00 OR
HIGHER FOR SPRING 2017

FOR THE SECOND STRAIGHT YEAR, FOOTBALL LED THE CONFERENCE WITH

39

STUDENT-ATHLETES ON THE SEC FALL ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL
THE TWO-YEAR TOTAL NOW STANDS AT 79 HONOREES



GRADUATES

Much like its athletics counterpart, the evaluation of an academic game plan is ultimately judged by results. When student-athletes are finished with their run at the University of Arkansas, will their names remain behind on Senior Walk?

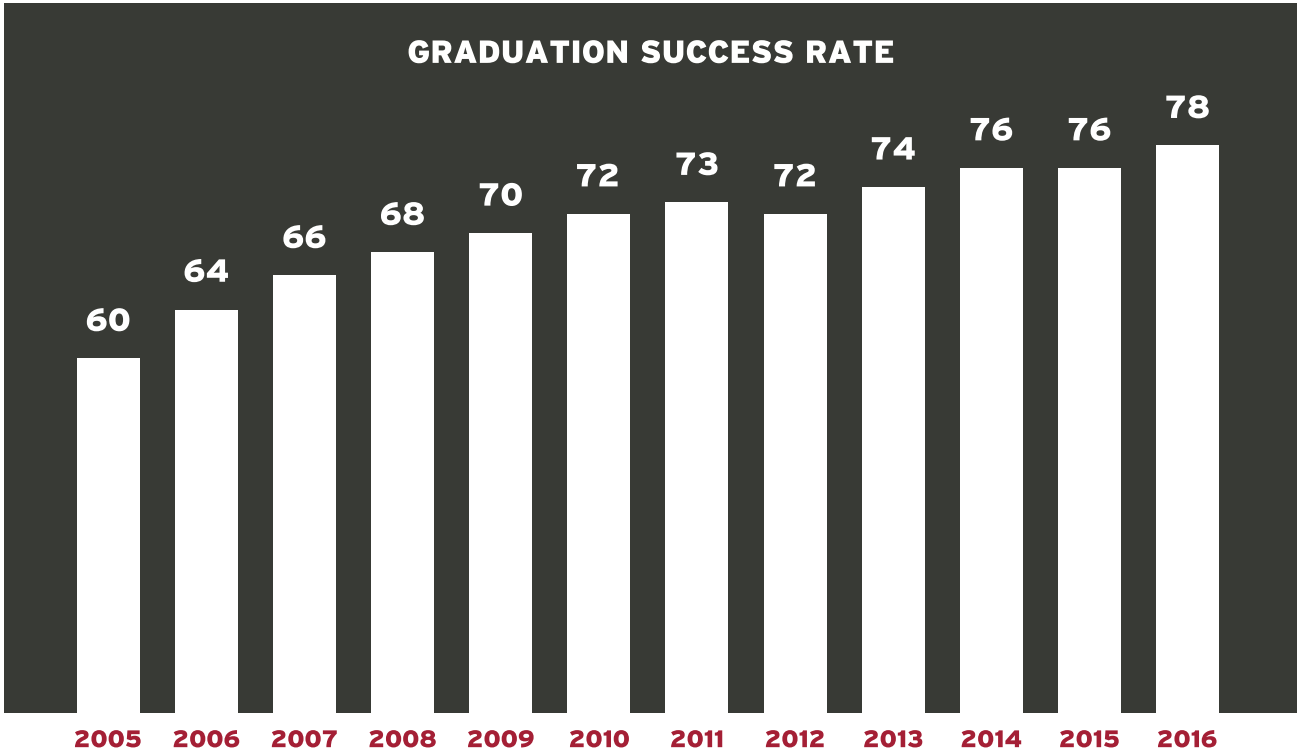
By all accounts, Razorback Athletics is meeting its mission better than ever before with an average of 100 student-athletes each year etching their names into

the hallowed pavement of this University of Arkansas tradition. From a program record Academic Progress Rate (APR) to an all-time best Graduation Success Rate, the metrics all confirm the academic game plan is working thanks to the efforts of our extraordinary student-athletes, the guidance and encouragement of coaches and staff and the vital role played by all those who support Razorback Athletics.

RAZORBACK STUDENT-ATHLETE GRADUATES

2007-08 | 37

2016-17 | 100



RECORD APR (ACADEMIC PROGRESS RATE)

977.8

MULTI-YEAR
AVERAGE RATE
(PROGRAM
RECORD)

13

TOTAL PUBLIC
RECOGNITION
AWARDS IN THE
LAST 5 YEARS

985.6

SINGLE-YEAR
AVERAGE RATE





PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

After graduating only 37 student-athletes a decade ago, Razorback Athletics now averages 100 student-athlete graduates each year. Above, the program's 2017 spring graduates pose in front of the graduation stole in the lobby of the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center.



TALIYAH BROOKS

TRACK AND FIELD
STUDENT-ATHLETE (2013-CURRENT)

The Razorback Student-Athlete Development programs has positively affected Razorbacks for years. From freshman leadership courses to senior level financial literacy seminars, we have been exposed to many different programs to help us in our lives after being Razorback student-athletes.

“

Once I leave the University of Arkansas, I will be prepared to enter the real world

“

I will be a fifth year senior this upcoming school year (2017-18). Although I have been through the highs and the lows of being a collegiate athlete, the student-athlete development staff and programs were always there for me to lean on and turn to. (Assistant AD for Student-Athlete Development) Marcus Sedberry played a huge role in my time here as a Razorback. He served as a mentor for me and has helped me with all different things from choosing a major my freshman year, to doing the Razorbacks at Work program to giving me advice on my Graduate school capstone project. He also assisted me developing some of my abilities to be a leader by helping me lead the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in my time as the SAAC President.

This created a positive impact on me because it helped me not only lead my peers, but also helped me outside

of athletics. I can speak in front of large crowds, I have done a better job teaching my public speaking course and I am a better-rounded leader.

As Razorback student-athletes, we are also able to give back to the community through various community engagement projects. Being able to help plan and participate in activities such as Razorback Relief: Operation Baton Rouge where we helped a neighboring state, Sweat Hogs where we visit local elementary schools and speak on the importance of healthy eating and exercise, and even events put on by SAAC such as the Senior Prom where we visit a local retirement home and have a “prom,” has allowed me to understand the importance of giving back to the community.

The community supports the Razorbacks in almost every aspect, so being able to put smiles on children’s faces, or being able to brighten up someone’s day because we could help them, brings joy to me, and reminds me daily how blessed I am to be a Razorback!

I have also participated in the Razorbacks at Work program where we job shadow at different companies around the Northwest Arkansas area. I was fortunate enough to shadow at Proctor and Gamble, and was able to ask employees questions that may help me when job searching, or choosing a career that might best suit me. As athletes, we are not always able to do internships or get job experience while in college, so having the opportunity to attend a job shadowing set up by our Student-Athlete Development staff, was an amazing experience, and one that could help me in the future.

Being able to participate in the student-athlete development programs has impacted my college career in a number of positive ways. Without the staff and the programs put on by them, I wouldn’t have the knowledge or abilities to do some of the things I now know.

Once I leave the University of Arkansas, I will be prepared to enter the real world and won’t feel as if I am lost or not know how to make my way. I will forever be grateful for those in the (Jerry and Gene) Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center, my coaches, and everyone that has impacted me while here at Arkansas.

Taliyah Brooks Bio

A nine-time All-American in indoor and outdoor track and field, Brooks represents the very essence of what a student-athlete can be. A four-time Arkansas record holder in the indoor and outdoor long jump, the pentathlon and heptathlon, she was the 2017 NCAA Indoor National Runner-Up in the pentathlon and an NCAA finalist in the long jump. The 2017 NCAA South Central Outdoor Field Athlete of the Year, she also finished in third place in the heptathlon at the 2017 NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Brooks was the 2017 SEC Outdoor heptathlon champion while earning runner-up honors in the 2017 SEC Indoor pentathlon. Brooks is president of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), participated in the SEC Career Symposium and is a member of the SEC Community Service team. She has already earned her undergraduate degree and is on target to earn her graduate degree also in Communications.



STUDENT-ATHLETE DEVELOPMENT

At the very core of Razorback Athletics mission is a commitment to equip student-athletes to succeed academically, athletically and socially through the vehicle of intercollegiate athletics. Academic growth and progress can be measured by GPA and progress toward graduation. Athletics growth can be measured by victories and championships. Both can be measured over a fixed amount of time whether it be a semester or the span of an athletics competition.

For the Office of Student-Athlete Development (OSAD), the return on investment in student-athletes has a longer arc of progress. The seeds planted today will provide some immediate yields, but will only fully blossom over a lifetime. In less than a decade, the University of Arkansas has gone from an institution with no formal student-athlete development program, to one that features a holistic and dynamic curriculum that serves as a

	1ST YEAR AWARENESS	2ND YEAR SKILL BUILDING	
CAREER DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Personal Branding• Decision Making• StrengthsQuest• 1 on 1 Career Coaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Career Exploration (Traditional Career, Graduate School or Pro Hog)• Resume Development• Interview Education	
	PRO HOGS: Agent, Contract, Financial Advisor, Life Style Management, & More		
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budgeting• Cultural Competency• Healthy Choices	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Credit• Cultural Competency	
	STUDENT-ATHLETE ORGANIZATIONS: SAAC, Leadership Academy,		
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book Hogs• Sweat Hogs• Lift Up America• Special Olympics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ALS Walk• Children Fun Run• Canned Food Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book Hogs• Sweat Hogs• Lift Up America• Special Olympics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shop with SAAC• ALS Walk• Children Fun Run• Canned Food Drive	



model for other institutions with its innovative and impactful engagement of more than 460 Razorback student-athletes. What sets the University of Arkansas apart from its peers is the comprehensive four-year curriculum offered to each student-athlete to equip them with the tangible skills and critical information that will prepare them for their collegiate careers and life after intercollegiate athletics. While most institutions offer

programming that provides a brief topical overview of various personal development areas, OSAD provides in-depth training to allow student-athletes to develop and hone those vital skills while on campus. The goal of the curriculum is clear. When student-athletes come to the end of their tenure at the University of Arkansas they should leave with at least three things: a college degree, countless memories and the skills to prepare them for personal and professional goals.

3RD YEAR APPLICATION	4TH/5TH YEAR EXPERIENCE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interview Training• Network Training• 1 on 1 Career Coaching• Career Service Learning• Job Shadow and Internship Program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Networking Dinners• Career Service Learning• Job Shadow and Internship Program
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salary Based Budgeting• Cultural Competency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human Resources• Cultural Competency
WHOLE Women's Empowerment, International Hogs, GeNext	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book Hogs• Sweat Hogs• Lift Up America• Special Olympics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shop with SAAC• ALS Walk• Children Fun Run• Canned Food Drive	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Book Hogs• Sweat Hogs• Lift Up America• Special Olympics <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shop with SAAC• ALS Walk• Children Fun Run• Canned Food Drive



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT

Just as a given sport requires a specific set of skills, Razorback student-athletes are trained in areas that will help them find success beyond their collegiate experience. OSAD programming focuses on three major areas of personal development including leadership and character development, health and wellness and financial education.

From these three focus areas, OSAD offers a wide variety of development opportunities teaching student-athletes applicable skills and equipping them with the tools they will need to succeed. Just as each student-athlete is different, the resources provided match the diversity of backgrounds and personal needs.

GeNEXT: 1ST GENERATION STUDENTS

For many Razorback student-athletes, attending the University of Arkansas is much more than an individual journey. The GeNext initiative is designed to provide a safe space and community for student-athletes who are the first in their family to attend and/or

graduate from college. Student-athletes connect with others who are also blazing the way for their families through education. Leadership, investing in yourself and maintaining character through trials are all topics shared in this supportive environment.



WHOLE WOMEN: WOMEN HELPING OTHERS LEAD AND EMPOWER

Whole Women creates an environment for female student-athletes to develop authentic relationships that promote empowerment, self-esteem and unity. The program provides guidance on everything from how to successfully transition from athletic to appropriate career attire to maintaining healthy support networks.

In 2016-17, participants also received career advice and job shadowing opportunities from Mindy Sherwood (pictured above), Proctor and Gamble Vice President – Global Walmart, and engaged in a goal setting workshop with Shun Strickland, life coach and CEO of Shun Strickland Enterprises.



INTERNATIONAL HOGS

The Razorback Nation is truly a blend of student-athletes from around the world. In 2016-17, Razorback student-athletes represented a total of 23 different countries. International Hogs provides an engaging environment where international student-athletes can celebrate their heritage and culture while learning about campus and community resources available to help them navigate their new home.



CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career development for student-athletes is a staple of programming at the Betty Brown Career Development Institute. Helping identify career interests, equipping student-athletes to build resumes and cultivating job interview skills has always been a part of the curriculum. Networking opportunities, job shadowing programs (pictured above) and interview training give student-athletes an opportunity to interact with prospective employers.

Beginning in 2016-17, OSAD launched the next step in

equipping student-athletes on the career development continuum – career placement. Razorback Athletics is committed to not only prepare student-athletes for a career, but to work alongside them to place them in the career they have chosen.

In its inaugural year, the student-athlete career placement program is already making a difference. More than 71% of fall graduates have secured jobs in their career field or have been accepted into graduate school with many others near placement as well.

71%*

as of June 30, 2017

Graduating Senior S-A Placement Rate (Fall Graduates)

61

Participants in Razorbacks at Work (Job Shadowing)

Graduating Seniors entering Graduate or Professional School

Junior student-athletes with summer internships

22



17





COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The privilege of being a Razorback student-athlete comes with the responsibility of engaging with your community and state. Learning how to give back to those around you is an integral part of the student-athlete experience. Razorback Athletics provides numerous opportunities for student-athletes to get involved and make a difference in the lives of others.



For the first time, community engagement priorities were identified helping focus volunteer hours into three primary areas:

1 SUPPORTING YOUTH LITERACY 2 SERVING UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES 3 PROMOTING HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

OSAD organized more than 1,500 hours of engagement for student-athletes, primarily focusing on the three commitment areas. Programs like Book Hogs, Sweat Hogs, Lift Up America and the Children Fun Run all aligned with those targeted engagement areas.

In addition, student-athletes and teams organized another 1,825 hours of community engagement. In all, Razorback student-athletes spent 3,356 hours giving back to their community.



COLLABORATION EFFORTS

Razorback student-athletes were actively engaged in helping shape policies and foster change within Razorback Athletics, in the campus community and the Southeastern Conference as well as nationally. Led by members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC), student-athletes provided valuable guidance on issues impacting student-athletes.

SAAC executive board members served on campus and athletic administrative committees including the athletics department's Sports Administrator Group (SAG), the Faculty Athletics Committee (FAC) and the Dean's Student Leadership Advisory Committee (D-SLAC).

Sophomore men's tennis student-athlete Branch Terrell was selected as one of two SEC student-athletes to the inaugural SEC Community Services Council. Terrell will serve alongside SEC Athletics Directors, Senior Woman Administrators and SEC staff to organize and implement league wide plans for community service initiatives and disaster relief outreach.

Razorback student-athletes also engaged with the University of Arkansas' Associated Student Government (ASG) on several initiatives including the 2nd Annual Hogstar Softball Game and Razorback Relief: Operation Baton Rouge. A total of 140 student-athletes partnered with local organizations to gather more than \$13,000 of items to be shipped to those impacted by the massive flooding in Louisiana.





PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

Razorback fans packed Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium throughout the 2016 football season. Arkansas played in front of four home sellout crowds including against Alabama.



DUSTY HANNAHS

BASKETBALL
STUDENT-ATHLETE (2014-2017)

My basketball dreams always revolved around the Hogs, dressed in Razorback cardinal and white, playing ball in front of a packed Bud Walton Arena.

Starting my college career at Texas Tech after high school was a tough two years for me, but coming from Little Rock and finally getting to play college basketball at my dream school has been amazing.

I've accomplished goals that I set out to do during my time as a Razorback and going to the NCAA Tournament to cap off my college career was awesome.

Looking back at my time here, everything happens for a reason. I would have loved to be here for four years, but God works in mysterious ways. I was able to come back to Arkansas and in two years score 1,000 points and help my team to the NCAA Tournament.

If you told me before coming to college that was the road I had to take to get back here, I would have done it all over again because these three years in Fayetteville have been the best three years of my life.

“

It felt so good to look back and realize I did everything I could and we succeeded.

“

It means a lot to me to represent the state I grew up in. I've always had a bunch of love for Arkansas. I was only away from the state for a total of two years in my life and representing Arkansas at this stage is what I've always dreamed of. Playing for the Razorbacks is one of the highest honors one can have if you're from Arkansas, and I was given that honor by my coaches and the coaching staff. I tried to do everything I could with it. For the rest of my life, I'm going to be proud of always being a Hog.

On Senior Day, I realized with our win against Georgia that we probably sealed our NCAA Tournament bid. I was just so excited after what we've been through this year and what I've experienced in my career that to finally know we were going to the NCAA Tournament was just unbelievable to me. I was in pure ecstasy that whole day and I was just super happy.

Senior Day was my highlight moment as a Hog. But at the same time, it's also sad that I'll never get to play at Bud Walton ever again. It was great to reflect and walk off the court with my team and hear a big, cheering crowd saying 'Thank you.' I felt it. It felt so good to look back and realize I did everything I could and we succeeded.

I want to be remembered as someone that worked hard and left everything on the court. That's all I've ever done my entire life – work

hard. I've gained confidence in my game and at the same time, I hope fans had a blast watching me as a really fun player on the court.

Dusty Hannahs Bio

One of the most prolific scorers in the Southeastern Conference, Hannahs helped lead the Razorbacks back to the NCAA Tournament in his senior season. Arkansas defeated Seton Hall before falling to eventual national champion North Carolina in the Round of 32. Hannahs was a second-team All-SEC selection and was on the Jerry West Award watch list. He played in all 36 games of his senior season leading the team in scoring with 14.4 points per game. Hannahs led the SEC and had the 10th highest free throw percentage in the country at 90.8 percent (108-119) and led the team in three-point field goals with 74. Hannahs tallied 1,047 points in his two seasons as a Razorback, becoming the 41st player in school history to eclipse 1,000 career points and fifth to accomplish the feat in two seasons. Hannahs graduated in December 2016 with a degree in supply chain management. He played his final semester of basketball with the SEC Graduate Patch on his Razorback uniform.



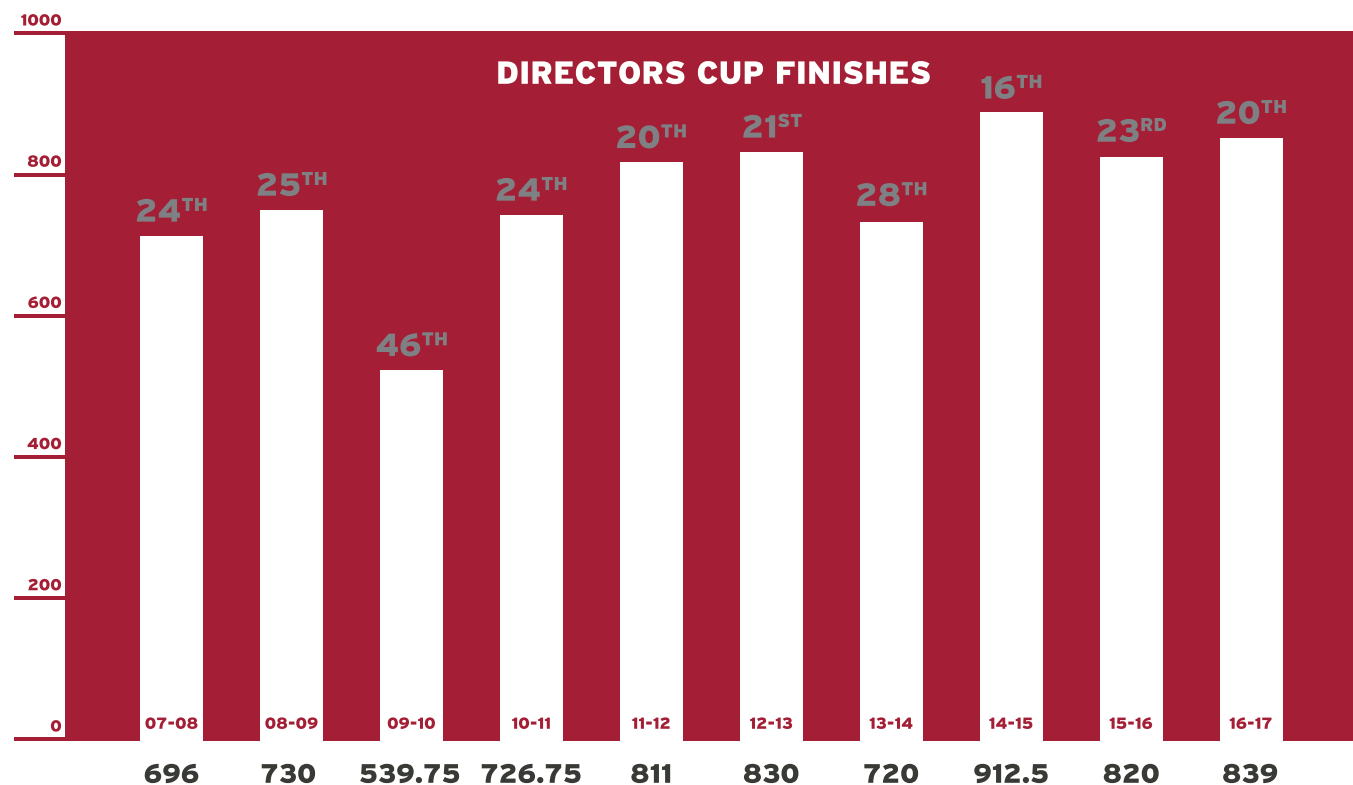


ATHLETICS SUCCESS

For a record third-consecutive year, Arkansas earned its way into the Top 25 of the final standings in the Learfield Directors Cup. The Directors Cup is a program that tracks the nation's most successful intercollegiate athletics programs for their performances throughout the year.

The Razorbacks earned 839 points, the second-most points in program history, on their way to a No. 20 finish. Arkansas has now finished in the Top 25 of the Directors' Cup in eight of the past 10 years, also a program record.

Arkansas was one of eight SEC teams to finish in the Top 25 and ranked second among schools with 19 sports or less.



DIRECTORS CUP BY THE NUMBERS

3

Arkansas advanced to its third-consecutive football bowl game in 2016 while earning Directors Cup points for the sixth time in the past eight years

8

Arkansas has finished in the Top 25 of the Directors Cup in eight of the past 10 years, marking a program best.

15

Consecutive years Women's Golf has scored Directors Cup Points. Gymnastics has scored points in 14 consecutive years.

16

Sport programs that scored Directors Cup points in 2016-17 (Tied program record)

19

All 19 Razorback sports have scored Directors Cup points since 2014, including 15 sports who have scored points multiple times in that span

50

Points scored by women's tennis in 2016-17, the most scored by that program since 2010-11

762.5

Average Directors Cup points scored by Razorback Athletics since 2007-08

839

Second-highest Directors Cup point total in Arkansas history (912.5 - 2014-15)

TOP 10 DIRECTORS CUP SCORING AVERAGE BY SPORT (SINCE 2007-08)

1

MEN'S INDOOR T&F | 79.95

2

WOMEN'S INDOOR T&F | 72.83

3

MEN'S OUTDOOR T&F | 67.15

4

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR T&F | 65.75

5

GYMNASTICS | 64.88

6

WOMEN'S GOLF | 55.88

7

BASEBALL | 52.80

8

MEN'S GOLF | 46.05

9

WOMEN'S XC | 45.90

10

MEN'S XC | 45.45



SEC DOMINANCE

Arkansas once again dominated the SEC men's and women's cross country track and field championships winning five of six events in 2016-17. The Razorback women captured their 10th consecutive SEC title and their third straight SEC Triple Crown by winning the conference team title at the cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field championships. The Razorback men's team won SEC titles at the cross country and indoor track and field championships.

Arkansas has now won a combined 19 of 24 SEC cross country, indoor and outdoor track and field team titles in men's and women's track and field since 2013-14. All other SEC schools have combined to win only five team titles in that same span.



The Razorbacks advanced to the tournament championship final in both the SEC Men's Basketball Tournament and the SEC Baseball Tournament in 2016–17. Arkansas was the only school to earn multiple appearances in tournament championship games inclusive of the sports of football, men's basketball and baseball. Arkansas also advanced to the SEC Soccer Tournament final.



Austin Allen led the Razorbacks to a thrilling 41–38 double overtime win at No. 15 TCU in the second week of the 2016 season. The Hogs capped the season with their third-straight bowl game appearance at the Belk Bowl in Charlotte, North Carolina.

FALL SPORTS

Arkansas started its fall competitive season in style earning a pair of wins over nationally ranked opponents in soccer and outlasting an old Southwest Conference rival in one of the college football season's most exciting games. It was a sign of things to come as the Razorbacks ended the fall with a pair of SEC team championships, the program's first NCAA Tournament hosting assignment and a bowl game.

FOOTBALL

- Razorback Football played the most competitive home schedule in its history in 2016, highlighted by the program's first win over SEC Eastern Division Champion and No. 11 Florida (31–10) in 34 years.
- Arkansas advanced to its third-consecutive bowl game under Coach Bret Bielema playing ACC Coastal Champion Virginia Tech in the Belk Bowl. The loss to Virginia Tech was the first for Coach Bielema at Arkansas after back-to-back bowl victories (2–1).
- Sophomore Rawleigh Williams III led the SEC in rushing during the regular season and finished fourth in rushing after the bowl games earning 1,360 yards on 245 carries for a 104.6 yards per game average.



CROSS COUNTRY

The men's cross country team earned 75 points by returning to the top five of the NCAA Cross Country meet for the first time in a decade. The Razorbacks' top-five team finish was their best performance since 2006. Arkansas has ranked in the Top 10 nationally in four of the past seven seasons. Arkansas women's cross country raced to a 19th-place finish at the NCAA Cross Country Championship, earning 55 points. Arkansas has now finished as a top-20 national cross country power five years in a row, dating back to its 14th-place finish at the 2011 national meet.



- Arkansas swept both team titles at the SEC Cross Country Championships for the 16th time in school history.
- Junior Alex George captured the SEC Men's Cross Country Individual title with a time of 23:24.90. George became the 12th Razorback to win the individual crown at the SEC Cross Country meet.
- Sophomore Devin Clark finished as the SEC runner-up in the women's race and helped her team win their fourth-consecutive cross country conference title.
- Arkansas earned a pair of Top 20 finishes at the NCAA Cross Country Championships. The men's team finished fifth while the women finished 19th in the team standings.

SOCCER

- Razorback Soccer turned in an historic season in 2016, earning a program-record 13–1 start, advancing to the SEC Tournament Championship game, the second round of the NCAA Tournament and finishing No. 19 in the final top-25 poll.
- The Razorbacks secured wins over two top-five programs (No. 2 Duke, No. 4 Florida) as well as eight SEC victories and a nine-game home win streak, both school records.
- Arkansas advanced to the NCAA Tournament for the third time in the past four years, the only three NCAA berths in program history.
- Senior Claire Kelly was named first-team All-SEC after leading the SEC in assists and assists per game. Kelly also was a team leader in assists and points, ranked second in shots and shots on goal, third in goals and game-winners.

VOLLEYBALL

- Under first-year head coach Jason Watson, Arkansas showed continued progress and finished the season winning six of its final nine matches, including four of its last five SEC matches.
- Senior outside hitter Danielle Harbin earned AVCA All-South Region Honorable Mention honors after averaging 4.78 points per set which ranked second in the SEC and 4.22 kills per set which ranked third.



WINTER SPORTS

A pair of SEC Indoor Track and Field titles and top-five national finishes and a run in the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament highlighted the winter competitive season for the Razorbacks. Arkansas also hosted post-season competition with an NCAA Gymnastics Regional at Barnhill Arena.

MEN'S BASKETBALL



- Recorded one of the best seasons in school history, ending the year with a 26–10 overall record including finishing tied for seventh for the most wins in the history of the program.
- Arkansas ended the season winning nine of its final 12 games, including a trip to the SEC Championship game and the round of 32 in the NCAA Tournament.
- The Hogs tallied a win over Seton Hall in their NCAA tournament opener before falling to eventual national champion North Carolina in the second round.



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

- The Razorbacks opened the 2016–17 season with a nine-game winning streak, including winning two games at the Nugget Classic in Reno, Nevada. Arkansas captured the tournament championship and senior Jessica Jackson was named the tournament MVP.
- Jessica Jackson finished her career with several notable accomplishments including ranking as one of four Razorbacks in program history to score 1,700+ points and grab 700+ rebounds, ranking among the NCAA and SEC leaders in points scored. After her collegiate career, she was invited to the WNBA's Los Angeles Sparks training camp.

MEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

- Arkansas earned points from 22 different scorers (individuals/relays) to win its 22nd SEC Indoor Track and Field title by five points in Nashville, Tennessee.
- The Razorbacks recorded yet another top five national finish (5th) at the NCAA Indoor Track and Field Championships.
- Senior Clive Pullen jumped his way back onto the top of the triple jump podium, earning the second NCAA national title of his career.



WOMEN'S INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

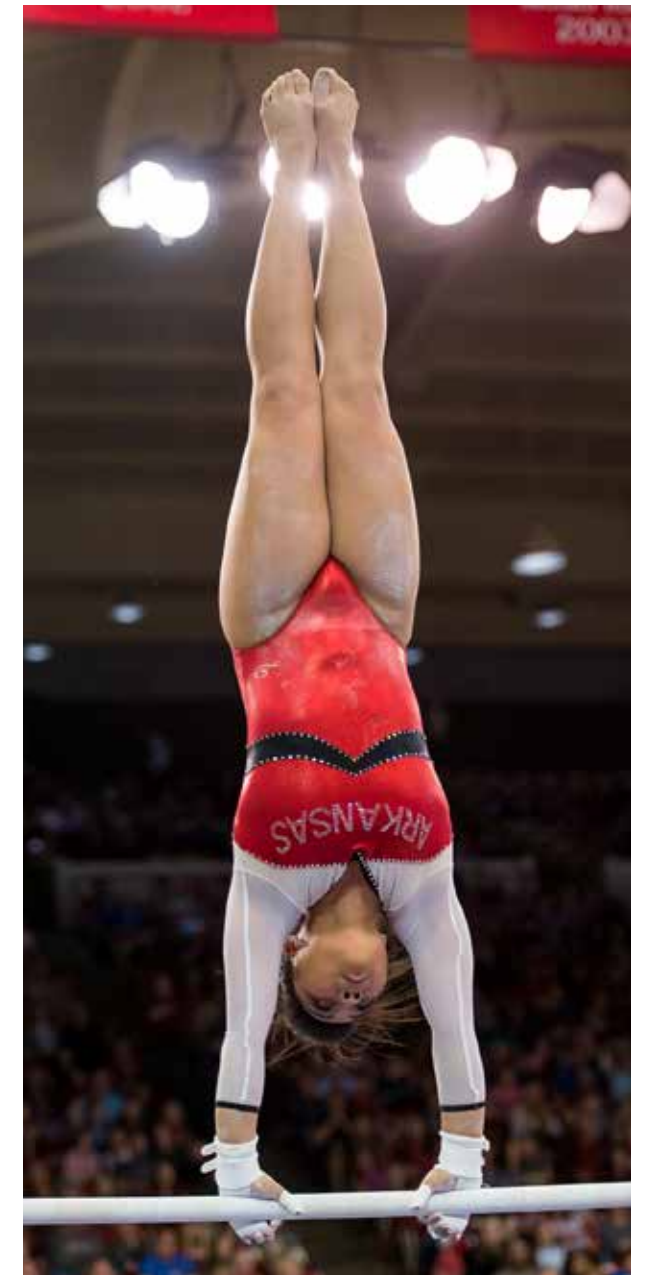
- Freshman Taylor Werner led the way with 18 points between the 3,000 and the 5,000 to help the Razorbacks win their ninth-consecutive SEC title overall with an impressive 12.5-point margin of victory at the 2017 SEC Indoor Track and Field Championships.
- Arkansas scored championship team points in four events, including 12 points in the pentathlon, to earn a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Championships.
- Junior Taliyah Brooks finished as the national runner-up in the pentathlon while the Razorbacks scored 8.5 points in the pole vault with three top eight finishers.

GYMNASTICS

- Arkansas fought through early season injuries and adversity to advance to the NCAA postseason for the 14th consecutive year. The Razorbacks hosted the NCAA Fayetteville Regional at Barnhill Arena. Arkansas finished third at the regional.
- Freshman Jessica Yamzon and junior Braie Speed advanced to the NCAA Championship as an individual all-arounder and vault specialist, respectively.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

- Arkansas won five dual meets in 2016–17, including its final four meets of the year. Within the streak, the Razorbacks earned the program's first dual meet win over Vanderbilt and extended its non-conference dual meet win streak to 26 consecutive meets with wins over Drury, Illinois, Houston and Kansas.
- Freshman Ayumi Macias was named to the SEC All-Freshman team. Macias was only the second Razorback freshman to qualify for the NCAA Championships as an individual in nine years competing in the 200, 500 and 1,650 freestyle.





SPRING SPORTS

When it comes to spring sport success, few in the nation can match the Razorbacks. Arkansas was one of only four programs in the SEC and only 10 programs nationally to advance as a team to NCAA post-season in baseball, softball, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf and men's and women's outdoor track and field. Another SEC Triple Crown from women's track and field and a NCAA Baseball Regional at Baum Stadium for the first time since 2010 made the spring season hard to forget.

WOMEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

- Arkansas polished off its third-consecutive SEC Triple Crown (cross country, indoor and outdoor championships) by blowing away the field at the SEC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. Arkansas won its 10th-straight SEC title overall and became the first SEC program to four-peat at the outdoor championships since 1987–91.
- Arkansas finished sixth in the NCAA team competition earning 38.2 team points. Junior Nikki Hiltz was national runner-up in the 1,500 meters as was sophomore Lexi Weeks in the pole vault. Junior Taliyah Brooks finished third in the heptathlon.



MEN'S OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

- Arkansas made a strong push on the final day to earn second place at the SEC Outdoor Track and Field Championships. The Razorbacks have now finished in the top two of the SEC Outdoor Track and Field Championships 23 times in 26 attempts.
- Coach Chris Bucknam's squad earned a spot on the podium for the fourth time in the past five years at collegiate track and field's final championships event, finishing in fourth place at the NCAA Outdoor Track and Field Championships.
- The Razorbacks racked up 33 team points in Eugene including, eight points from a trio of national runner-up finishes from Jack Bruce in the 5,000 meters, Clive Pullen in the triple jump and the Hogs' 4x400 Meter Relay team. The NCAA outdoor finish helped Arkansas clinch the USTFCCA John McDonnell Program of the Year Award.

BASEBALL



SOFTBALL

- Coach Courtney Deifel led her squad to a remarkable turnaround in her second season at the helm, including 31 victories and earning the program's first SEC Tournament and NCAA appearances in four years (2013).
- Senior Nicole Schroeder set a program single-season record and tied for the lead with 17 home runs, a figure that also tied for 17th in the NCAA. She was an NFCA All-South Region selection and also garnered a pair of SEC Player of the Week nods and a USA Softball National Player of the Week honor during her senior campaign.

- The Razorbacks posted a 45–19 record, a 19-game turnaround from 2016, on their way to an SEC Tournament Championship Game appearance and a selection as an NCAA Tournament Regional host.
- Arkansas hosted its first NCAA Regional since 2010 and the 45 wins marked the seventh 40-win season in the last 10 years.
- Sophomore catcher Grant Koch earned first-team All-SEC honors and freshman centerfielder Dominic Fletcher earned Freshman All-America honors by the National College Baseball Writers' Association (NCBWA) and Freshman All-SEC honors.



WOMEN'S TENNIS

- Arkansas posted an 18–10 record and made its second consecutive NCAA appearance, including earning the program's first NCAA opening round win (Wichita State) since 2011.
- Sophomore Ana Oparenovic and senior Shannon Hudson competed in the NCAA Tournament in singles, with Hudson making a Round of 32 appearance. Hudson also teamed with freshman Giulia Pairone in the doubles draw with the duo advancing to the Round of 16.



MEN'S TENNIS



- After their first NCAA appearance in a decade in 2016, Arkansas made it two NCAA appearances in a row with a berth in the NCAA Fort Worth Regional. Seniors Mike Redlicki and Jose Salazar advanced to the NCAA Tournament singles and doubles draws.
- Senior Mike Redlicki became just the third national indoor singles champion and fifth ITA national champion overall in school history when he won the ITA/USTA National Indoor Championships in November.

WOMEN'S GOLF

- Arkansas won the Maryb S. Kauth Invitational in San Antonio, Texas and earned a fourth-placed finish at the SEC Golf Championships on the way to its 16th NCAA appearance. The Razorbacks fell just a shot short from advancing as a team from the NCAA Columbus Regional, but sophomore Cara Gorlei tied for seventh individually and advanced to the NCAA Championships in Sugar Grove, Illinois.
- Junior Alana Uriell earned All-SEC second team honors while Summar Roachell was named to the SEC Community Service Team. The team was also recognized by the NCAA with the APR Recognition Award for its outstanding academic performance.

MEN'S GOLF

- The Razorbacks won two tournaments as a team, the Mountaineer Invitational (fall) and the Gator Invitational (spring) on their way to a postseason berth, at the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional.
- Freshman Mason Overstreet turned in a performance of a lifetime – recording a blistering final round to make a run at the individual title, before finishing as the National Runner-Up.
- Overstreet became the second player in school history to finish inside the top five at the National Championship, joining R.H. Sikes who won the program's only National Title in 1963.





(Photo Credit: Erich Schlegel / USATSI)

Sandi Morris holds the United States Flag following her runner-up finish (silver medal) in the women's pole vault in her Olympic debut.

RAZORBACK OLYMPIANS

A total of 17 current and former Razorbacks headed to Rio de Janeiro to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games last August. Of the 17, 14 competed in men's or women's track and field with three others representing their countries in the golf competition.

In fact, if the University of Arkansas were a nation unto its own, it would have boasted equal to or more Olympic entrants than the national teams of 113 nations. Razorback student-athletes combined for a pair of gold medals and silver medals.

The University of Arkansas has a rich history of sending current and former student-athletes to the Olympic Games. This year's Razorback contingent was made up predominately by former student-athletes. The only active Razorbacks competing were women's pole vaulter Lexi Weeks and men's triple jumper Clive Pullen.

With this year's class, 65 Razorbacks have competed in the world's most recognized sporting event providing extraordinary worldwide exposure for the University of Arkansas and the Razorback program.



LPGA star Stacy Lewis made a late charge on the final day of the women's golf tournament narrowly missing her first Olympic medal.

(Photo Credit: Rob Schumacher / USA Today Sports)



Lexi Weeks, Sandi Morris, Jarrion Lawson, Chrishuna Williams and Taylor Ellis-Watson attended the opening ceremonies at the Olympic Games in Rio.



(Photo Credit: Erich Schlegel / USATSI)

2015-16 Razorback captain Taylor Ellis-Watson rounds her first turn as the second leg of Team USA's 4-x-400 relay team. As part of the relay pool, Watson won a gold medal when her teammates won the final.



McLeod crosses the finish line in 13.05 seconds to win the 110-hurdles Olympic gold medal.

(Photo Credit: James Lang / USATSI)



(Photo Credit: Kirby Lee / USATSI)

Clive Pullen executes his second phase in the triple jump in the qualifying round.



(Photo Credit: Kirby Lee / USATSI)

Six-time NCAA champion Jarrion Lawson leaps to a finals-qualifying mark in the first round of long jump.



Veronica Campbell Brown (far left) takes a celebratory stroll down the track after earning a silver medal with Jamaica's 4-x-100 relay team.

SEC Nation made a return trip to Fayetteville last November for the Arkansas–Florida game (Arkansas 31–10). For the first time, the SEC Network pre-game show went live from the lawn of Old Main, the signature landmark on the University of Arkansas campus.





CHAMPIONSHIPS AND EVENTS

Arkansas is not only the Home of the Razorbacks, it is home to some of the nation's best attended games and special events. The Razorbacks hosted more than 225 athletics competitions and special events on campus in 2016-17.

The University of Arkansas once again ranked in the top 25 in attendance in football, men's basketball and baseball while drawing large crowds for other regular season and post-season events. In addition, special events like the HOGSPY Awards and the introduction of new women's basketball head coach Mike Neighbors made the University of Arkansas the place to be in 2016-17.

- Arkansas ranked No. 21 in the nation in football attendance, welcoming 487,087 fans to its venues including an average of 69,581 fans per home game
- Arkansas had four sellouts (Texas State, Alabama, Florida and LSU) of football home games during the 2016 season
- Arkansas averaged 6,604 students per home football game at Razorback Stadium in 2016, pushing overall student attendance to a record total of 39,623 (6 games). That total was more than a 55 percent increase from the overall student attendance in 2015.
- Razorback men's basketball ranked among the nation's best in attendance with 274,446 fans watching the Hogs at home in 2016-17. The Hogs averaged 15,247 fans for 18 home games at Bud Walton Arena.
- Baum Stadium was home to the second-most fans (289,421) in all of college baseball during the 2017 regular season.
- Arkansas recorded four home gymnastics crowds of more than 3,000 fans in 2017, including 4,222 for LSU and 5,456 for Alabama, the third-largest crowd in school history.



Arkansas hosted eight home crowds of more than 15,000 fans during the 2016-17 season, including 20,355 for the SEC opener against Florida and 18,247 for a Senior Day win over Georgia.



HOGSPY AWARDS

University of Arkansas Alumnus and ABC News Anchor T.J. Holmes hosted the sixth annual HOGSPY Awards at Bud Walton Arena. Holmes and members of the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) handed out more than 24 awards recognizing the best in athletics, academics, leadership and service learning within Razorback Athletics.



WELCOMING COACH NEIGHBORS

A crowd of more than 200 welcomed native Coach Mike Neighbors back to Arkansas as the ninth women's basketball coach in program history at a press conference at the Basketball Performance Center. Neighbors spent the past four years at Washington where he led the Huskies to the Final Four and coached the most prolific scorer in college women's basketball history.





When it comes to post-season play, the University of Arkansas campus has become one of the nation's prime destinations. Since the Razorbacks entered the Southeastern Conference in 1992, Arkansas has hosted 93 conference and NCAA regional and national competitions, furthering its national reputation for both its outstanding facilities and its role as a

championships host. In 2016–17, Arkansas hosted the SEC Cross Country Championships and four NCAA Championship events including the program's first NCAA Soccer Tournament home match (2–1 overtime win vs. Memphis). The Razorbacks were also chosen as a host for NCAA Regionals in baseball, cross country and gymnastics.

93 SEC, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP EVENTS HOSTED SINCE 1992

12 NCAA INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS HOSTED AT THE RANDAL TYSON TRACK CENTER

4 NCAA EVENTS HOSTED IN 2016–17 (NCAA CROSS COUNTRY REGIONALS, NCAA GYMNASTICS REGIONAL, NCAA WOMEN'S SOCCER FIRST ROUND, NCAA BASEBALL REGIONAL)

5 FUTURE NCAA PRE-DETERMINED CHAMPIONSHIPS AWARDED TO ARKANSAS IN MAY

1 ARKANSAS WILL HOST ITS FIRST NCAA MEN'S AND WOMEN'S GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS IN 2019



Arkansas hosted both the SEC Championships and an NCAA Cross Country Regional at AGRI Park in 2016–17. Both the Razorback women's and men's teams won the team titles at both events.



Leah McMoyle and her Razorback gymnastics teammates competed in NCAA Regional action in front of a home crowd at Barnhill Arena. It was the fifth NCAA Regional hosted by Arkansas, with a sixth scheduled for 2022.



NCAA REGIONAL HOST	TOTAL ATTENDANCE (GAMES)
ARKANSAS	67,704 (7)
LSU	62,881 (6)
TEXAS TECH	33,124 (7)
SOUTHERN MISS	29,550 (7)
CLEMSON	28,498 (7)
KENTUCKY	23,558 (7)
TCU	23,120 (6)
FLORIDA STATE	21,539 (7)
HOUSTON	20,340 (6)
OREGON STATE	20,058 (6)
LOUISVILLE	17,707 (6)
LONG BEACH STATE	16,670 (7)
NORTH CAROLINA	16,166 (6)
FLORIDA	14,124 (7)
STANFORD	10,128 (6)
WAKE FOREST	8,997 (6)



Seven years after hosting its last NCAA Regional, Baum Stadium was the site of the most-attended regional during the opening round of the 2017 NCAA Division I Baseball Championship. A total of 67,704 fans were in attendance for the Fayetteville Regional, a total which ranked first among the 16 host sites.



Arkansas will host its first ever NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships in 2019 at The Blessings. The two-week tournament will be televised by the Golf Channel.

FUTURE CHAMPIONSHIPS

In April, Razorback Athletics added another chapter to its championship hosting legacy when the NCAA awarded the University of Arkansas five future NCAA postseason championships, including the program's first NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships and its 13th NCAA Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships.

Arkansas will host the 2019 NCAA Men's and Women's Golf Championships (Women's – May 17–22, 2019; Men's – May 24–29, 2019) at The Blessings. It will be the first time Arkansas has hosted a final round

of an NCAA Championship, outside cross country and indoor and outdoor track and field. The Randal Tyson Track Center will welcome back the NCAA Men's and Women's Indoor Track and Field Championships on March 12–13, 2021.

In addition, Arkansas will be home to a 2019 NCAA Men's and Women's Cross Country Regional (Nov. 15, 2019), a 2022 NCAA Gymnastics Regional (April 2, 2022) and a 2022 NCAA Men's and Women's Outdoor Track and Field Preliminary (May 26–28, 2022).



AROUND THE STATE

It is something truly uncommon for intercollegiate athletics programs. From every region of Arkansas to the heart of the Natural State, fans are united by cheering on the Razorbacks. It sets us apart. It makes us stronger. Nothing brings this state together like the Razorbacks – it is the tie that binds.

Razorback Athletics takes tremendous pride in representing the University of Arkansas in the state and around the region. In 2016, the Razorback Foundation opened an office in Little Rock to serve those in the central, southern and eastern parts of the state.

Each year, Razorback Athletics schedules athletics competition and special events away from campus specifically to bring student-athletes and coaches closer to fans throughout Arkansas. In 2016–17, football, men’s basketball, baseball and women’s tennis all competed in Central Arkansas. It won’t be long before the Hogs return. The Razorbacks will help kick off the 2017 football season against Florida A&M at War Memorial Stadium in Little Rock on Thursday, Aug. 31 in a game nationally televised by the SEC Network.



Dewayne Duncan/Little Rock TD Club

Jeff Long, Bret Bielema (pictured above), Mike Anderson and Dave Van Horn are among those who travel annually to Central Arkansas to speak to various Razorback Clubs and other organizations.



A crowd of nearly 9,000 fans packed Dickey–Stephens Park for Razorback Baseball’s annual trip to Central Arkansas. Chad Spanberger hit a two–run home run to lead Arkansas to a 2–0 victory in front of the home crowd.



Dewayne Duncan/Little Rock TD Club

In each of the past three years, Razorback Athletics has partnered with the Little Rock Touchdown Club and the Arkansas and Texas Sports Halls of Fame to sponsor a Southwest Conference Hall of Fame awards luncheon in Central Arkansas. Former Razorback basketball star Sidney Moncrief was inducted in 2014.



Members of the 1970 Wichita State and Arkansas football teams held an emotional reunion as part of the Razorbacks’ game against Alcorn State at War Memorial Stadium. The reunion reunited the teams 46 years after they met for the first time on the field in Little Rock, just nine days after 31 members of the Wichita State football program and its traveling party were killed in a plane crash.



Arkansas’ men’s basketball team kept Razorback fans in a festive holiday mood with a 90–56 win over Sam Houston State at Verizon Arena. Hometown Hog Daryl Macon helped lead the Razorbacks to the victory and an 11–1 start to the season.



More than 2,500 Razorback fans were still on hand and loud deep into Monday morning to watch Arkansas close out Missouri State 11-10 in an NCAA Regional game at Baum Stadium. A late start and rain delay caused the game to end at 3:10 a.m.





FINANCIAL REPORT

As a growing number of Division I institutions face mounting financial challenges of maintaining competitive all-sports programs, Razorback Athletics continues to serve as a model of how academics and athletics success can be achieved by practicing fiscal responsibility with the program's financial resources, including the generous support of Razorback Foundation members and season ticket holders that

is received on an annual basis. This support is critical in funding the competitive and academic pursuits of Razorback student-athletes.

The formula is working. Arkansas is one of approximately 20 financially self-sustaining athletics programs in the nation while simultaneously finishing in the Top 25 annually in the Directors' Cup competition, a nationwide program gauging athletics success.

RAZORBACK ATHLETICS:

- › Is fiscally sound and financially self-supporting
- › Receives no state funding and does not charge a student fee
- › Provides more than \$3.5 million annually in funding back to campus
- › Has positioned itself to strategically invest in athletic projects and initiatives that are providing the returns highlighted in this annual report

STRATEGIC FISCAL PLANNING

Much like coaches prepare game plans for athletics competitions, Razorback Athletics works proactively to prepare and plan for future financial commitments that are needed to maintain the program's positioning among the SEC and the nation's elite programs.

When the NCAA passed legislation to allow institutions to provide student-athletes with additional financial aid up to the cost of attendance, Razorback Athletics was prepared to immediately provide that permissible benefit to student-athletes in all sports. Approximately \$1 million in additional financial aid is

now being provided to Razorback student-athletes each year.

The opening of the First Security Bank Sports Nutrition Center, inside the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center, coincided with additional NCAA legislation allowing intercollegiate athletics programs to expand sports fueling and nutrition for student-athletes. Razorback Athletics is investing \$3.4 million per year in sports fueling and nutrition, including \$1.5 million on the Sports Nutrition Center alone. More than 85,822 meals and fueling opportunities were provided to Razorback student-athletes in 2016-17.



DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM RENOVATION AND NORTH END ZONE ADDITION

Advance fiscal planning is also key to providing financial resources for the continued progress of the Razorback Athletics Facilities Master Plan. Last December, construction began on a \$160 million renovation and north end zone addition for Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium.

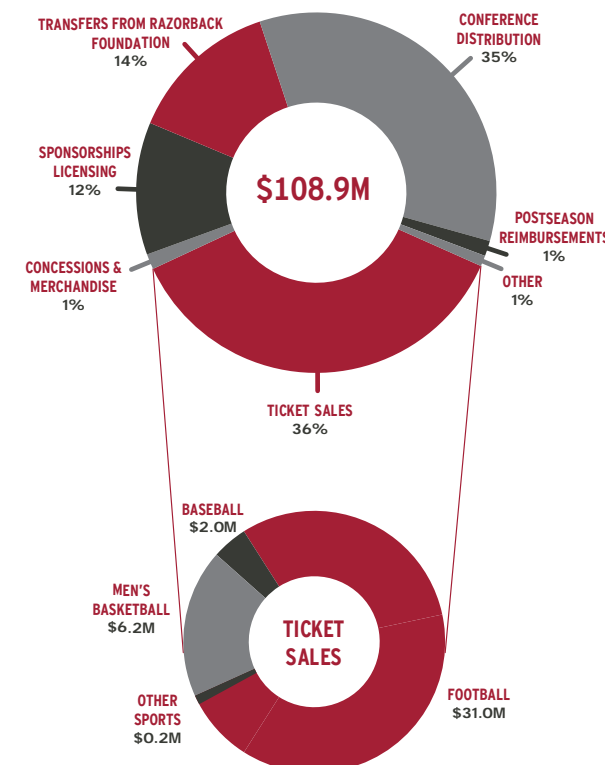
As part of that project, the University of Arkansas Board of Trustees approved a bond issue for \$120 million.

AS PART OF THE PLAN:

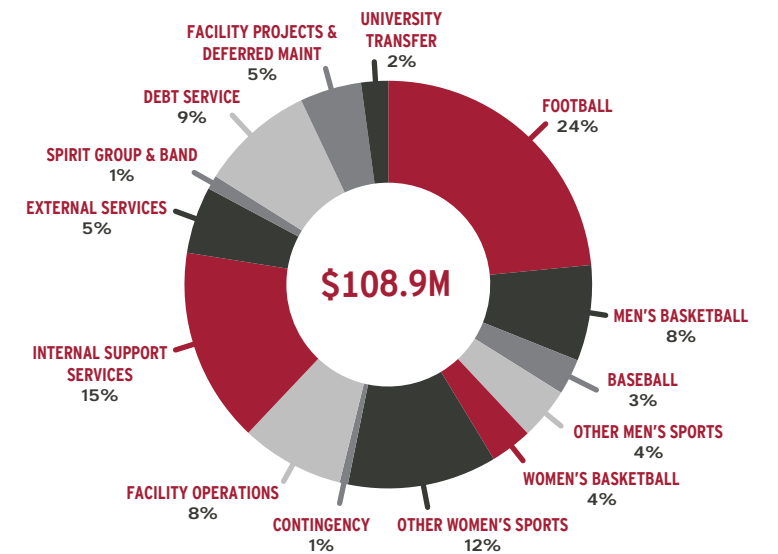
- › Stadium Bonds will be paid back over a 20-year period entirely with Athletic revenues and additional revenues available from the payoff of current debt
- › No University or state-appropriated funds will be used to payoff the stadium bonds
- › By strategically financing the project over 20 years, compared to a 30-year amortization, Razorback Athletics will save more than \$40 million

DEPARTMENT OF ATHLETICS FY2017 BUDGET

SOURCE OF REVENUE



ALLOCATION OF FUNDS

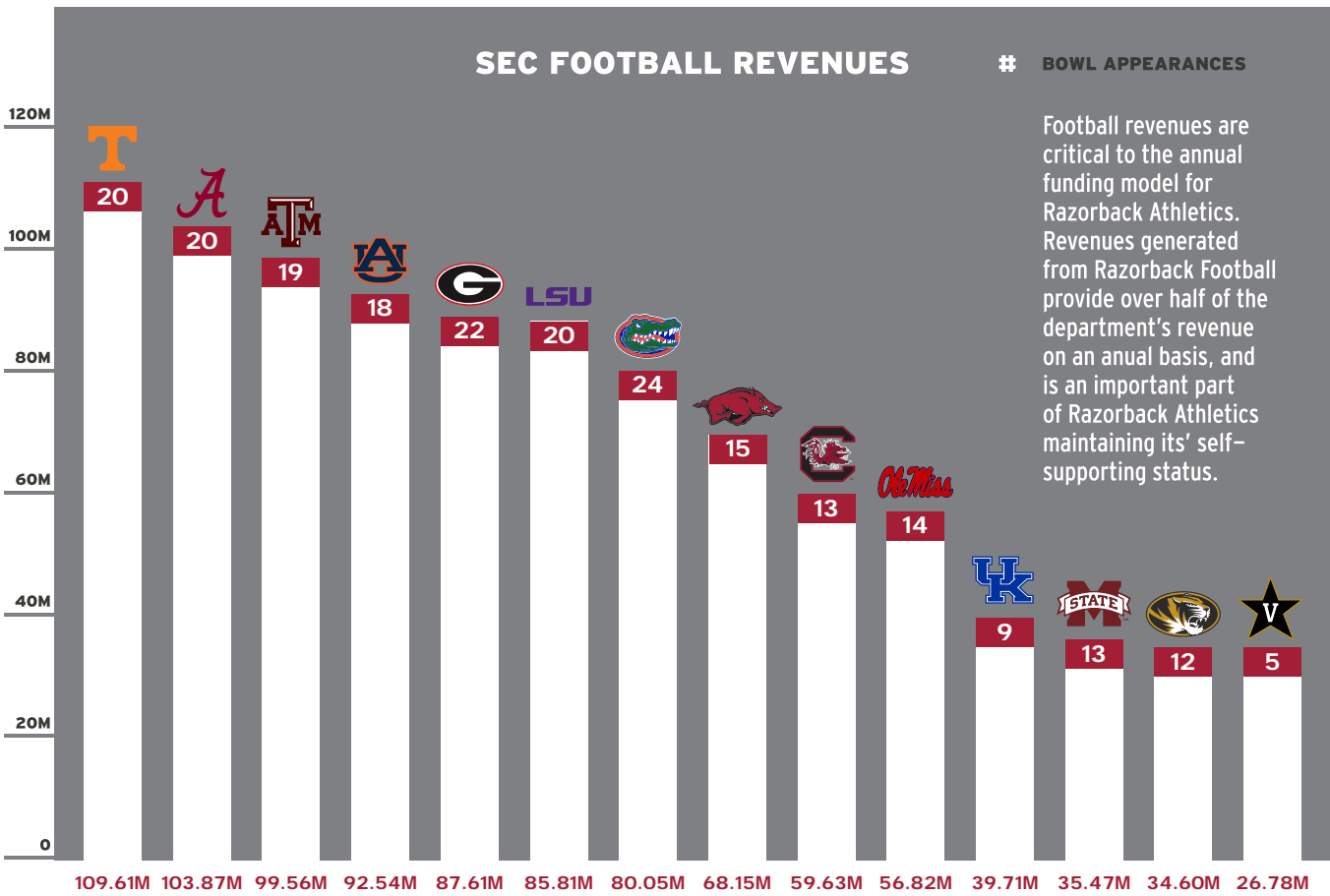
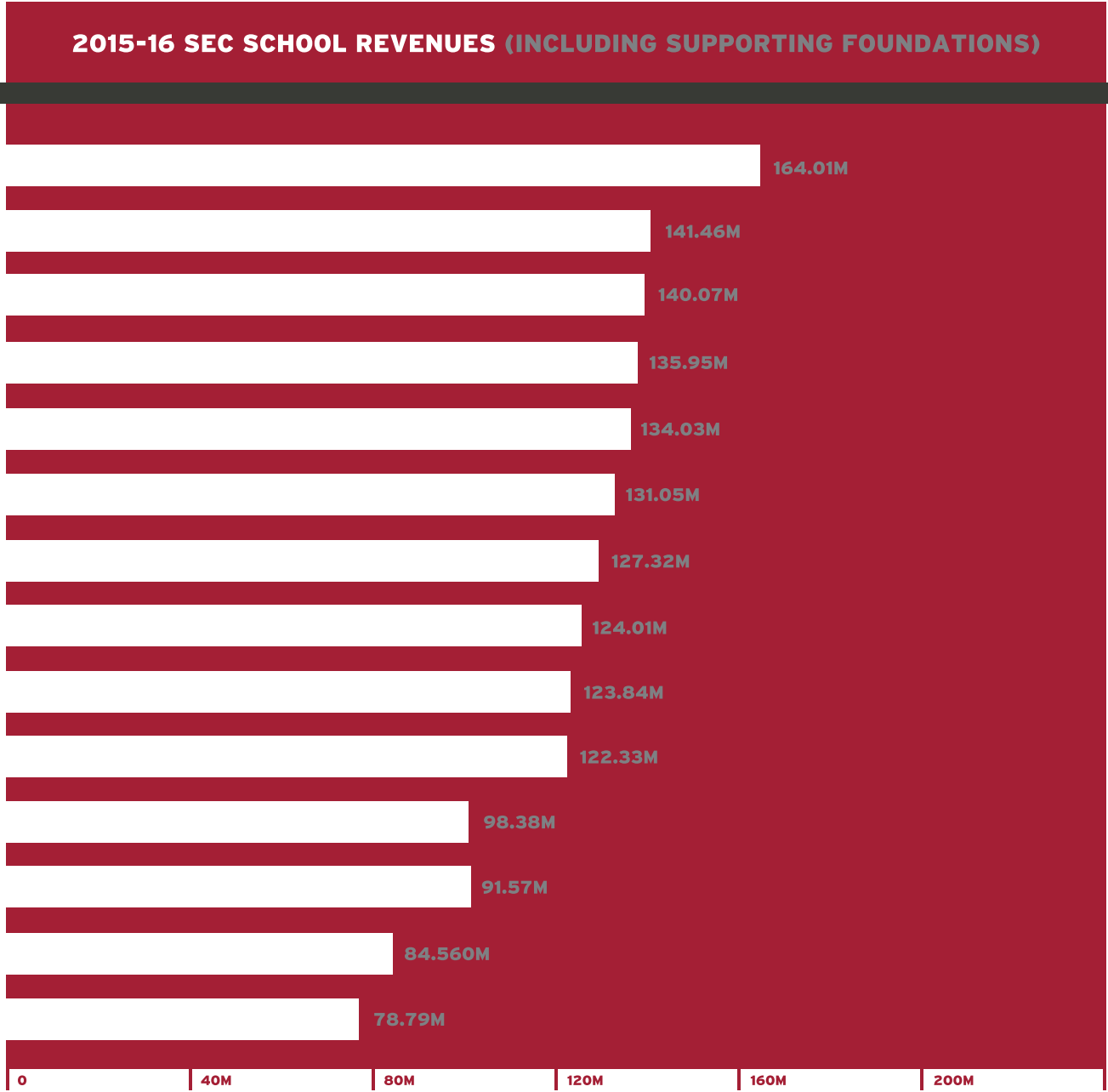


Razorback Athletics is investing \$3.4M in sports fueling and nutrition each year. Last year alone, Razorback student-athletes utilized the Sports Nutrition Center for more than 85,822 meals and fueling opportunities.



A decade ago when the University of Arkansas combined its intercollegiate athletics program, one of the primary goals of the department was to strategically grow support for a program encompassing 19 sports and more than 460 student-athletes. Arkansas was attempting to compete for championships while working with program support at a level in the lower quarter of the nation’s most competitive conference.

According to the most recent EADA report, which includes information from athletic departments and supporting foundations, Razorback Athletics has made significant progress in that regard thanks to enhanced revenues received through the Southeastern Conference and the continued support of Razorback Foundation members and season ticket holders, IMG College multi-media rights and licensing revenue. Razorback Athletics remains committed to providing student-athletes with the support they need to compete for SEC and national championships.



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Razorback Athletics solid financial position and continued investment in its program, also results in substantial economic benefits for Northwest Arkansas and the entire state. A recent independent economic impact study conducted by the Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Arkansas estimated that Razorback Athletics generates an annual economic impact of \$164.2 million, with another \$255.6 million being added to the economy from recent construction projects.

Based on a formula developed by the study, an estimated \$720,000 was generated in visitor spending by the NCAA Fayetteville Baseball Regional hosted last June at Baum Stadium, including an influx of \$68,456 in local and state sales tax. With dozens of other SEC and NCAA Championships scheduled for the future, Razorback Athletics will continue to provide significant residual economic benefits to the place it calls home.

Forbes Magazine recently (2015) ranked the University of Arkansas football program as the 12th most valuable program in the nation. The Razorbacks' \$80 million was based on revenue directed toward university programs, total expenditures, revenue generated to support other sport programs and economic impact of fans.



PHOTOS OF THE YEAR

A program record crowd of 3,010 packed Razorback Field to watch Arkansas upset No. 2 Duke 2-1 in August. The win was one of two Arkansas home wins over Top-five ranked teams (No. 4 Florida) in 2016.




RAZORBACK FOUNDATION

The mission of the Razorback Foundation, Inc., is to raise private gift support for Razorback Athletics at the University of Arkansas. The Foundation assists Razorback student-athletes by providing financial support for scholarships, facilities and various programs that enable them to realize their dreams of achieving a quality college education while participating in athletics on a nationally competitive level.


The Annual Fund is the lifeblood of that commitment. And thanks to the loyal support of Razorback Foundation members, the Annual Fund exceeded \$20 million for the sixth-consecutive year, providing vital financial resources to allow Razorback Athletics to compete for SEC and NCAA Championships.

For more information about membership levels, benefits and how you can support more than 460 student-athletes, please contact the Razorback Foundation at (877) 436-0013 or gohogs@razorbackfoundation.com. More information can be found on RazorbackFoundation.com.




ANNUAL FUND
\$20,400,000*

15,378
RAZORBACK FOUNDATION
MEMBERS



SIXTH STRAIGHT YEAR OF \$20M+ IN ANNUAL FUND



* PRELIMINARY UNAUDITED NUMBERS AS OF JUNE 30, 2017



DONALD W. REYNOLDS RAZORBACK STADIUM RENOVATION AND NORTH END ZONE ADDITION

In addition to its Annual Fund work, the Razorback Foundation has taken the lead in raising support for the ongoing renovation and north end zone addition at Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium. More than 13 months from the scheduled completion of the stadium construction in August 2018, a total of \$35.8 million of the \$40 million targeted for private fund raising for the project has been secured. Suites, loge boxes and club seats are still available for the north end zone addition. Contact the Razorback Foundation for more details.

PRIVATE GIFT SUPPORT FOR STADIUM
\$35,800,000

\$35.8M **GOAL \$40M**

89.5% OF GOAL



Throughout the year, the Razorback Foundation connects with its members and former Razorbacks through a variety of different events. In 2016–17, the Foundation coordinated more than three dozen events including a members only concert with Justin Moore, Razorback Foundation Member Appreciation tailgates and other membership exclusive events. The Foundation coordinates the two most attended special events of the year with the University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Honor and the Red Tie Dinner and Salute to Excellence.

Each fall, the Razorback Sports Hall of Honor welcomes a new class of former Razorback greats into the program's most hallowed club. In 2016, nine inductees were honored including former Razorback Football Coach Lou Holtz. The 2017 University of Arkansas Sports Hall of Honor Banquet is set for September 8, 2017 at the Fayetteville Town Center.

The Red Tie Dinner and Salute to Excellence, an annual recognition of the program's best student-athletes, celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2017. Six extraordinary Razorback student-athletes were recognized for their performance in the classroom and in athletics competition.



2016 UA Sports Hall of Honor Class (from left to right) Mona Rhodes Schreiber (daughter of Danny Rhodes), Gregory Lasker, Kenderick Moore, Tammy Kincaid Dustin, Slocum Pickell (great nephew of Tom Pickell), Christin Wurth-Thomas, Oliver Miller, Gena Rhodes (daughter of Danny Rhodes), Roddie Haley and Lou Holtz.

2016 UA SPORTS HALL OF HONOR CLASS

TAMMY KINCAID DUSTIN, SOFTBALL
RODDIE HALEY, MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
LOU HOLTZ, FOOTBALL
GREGORY LASKER, FOOTBALL
OLIVER MILLER, MEN'S BASKETBALL
KENDERICK MOORE, BASEBALL
TOM PICKELL, MEN'S BASKETBALL
DANNY RHODES, FOOTBALL
CHRISTIN WURTH-THOMAS, WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD

2017 RED TIE HONOREES

BROOKS ELLIS, FOOTBALL
MOSES KINGSLEY, MEN'S BASKETBALL
LINDSEY MAYO, SOCCER
JARRION LAWSON, MEN'S TRACK AND FIELD
AMANDA WELICK, GYMNASTICS
LEXI WEEKS, WOMEN'S TRACK AND FIELD



RAZORBACK CLUBS

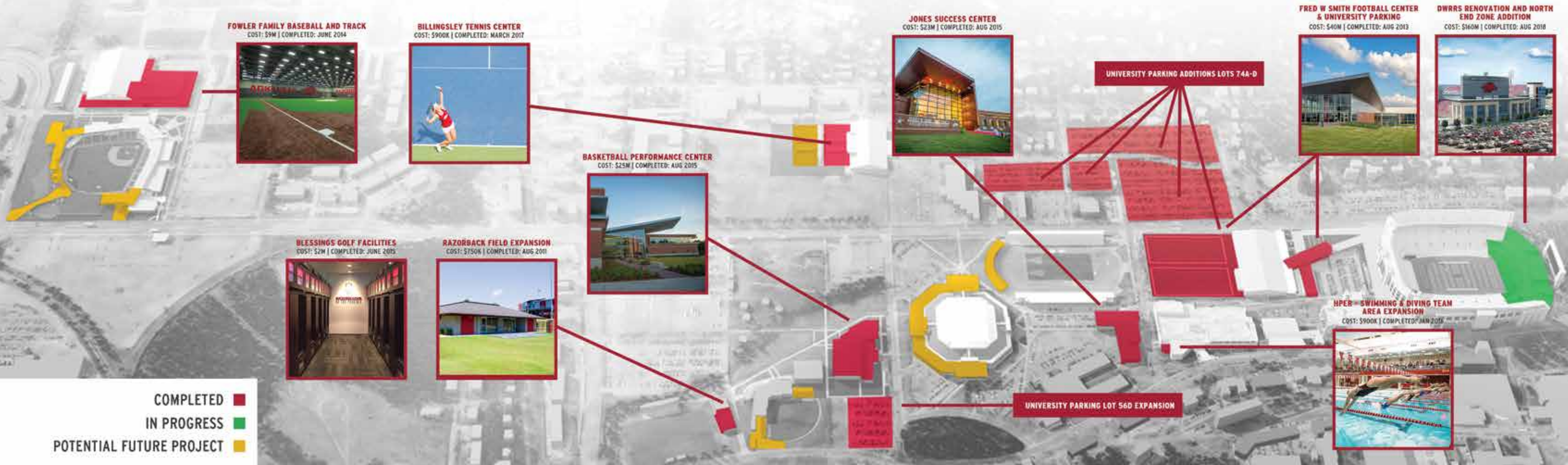
Razorback Clubs help bring the excitement of the University of Arkansas and its intercollegiate athletics program to fans throughout Arkansas and the region. Twenty-two Razorback Clubs meet annually with numerous events in Arkansas, Dallas, Memphis and Tulsa. Bret Bielema, Mike Anderson (pictured middle) and other Razorback coaches participate in these events designed to connect the Razorback Nation and build support for Razorback Athletics.



MOSAIC TEMPLARS CULTURAL CENTER EVENT

Last September, the Razorback Foundation partnered with the Mosaic Templars Cultural Center in Little Rock to sponsor an event "How the Razorback Athletic Experience Prepared Us for Life." The event featured a panel of former African-American Razorback student-athletes who competed in football (Muskie Harris), men's basketball (Allie Freeman), women's basketball (Celia Anderson) and men's track and field (Terry Prentice) at the University of Arkansas from 1973–2012. The program was moderated by University of Arkansas professor Gerald Jordan and included the student-athletes sharing how their time in Fayetteville shaped their lives.





FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

In October 2011, Jeff Long unveiled the Razorback Facilities Master Plan, a long-term vision designed to shape the future of Razorback Athletics. The comprehensive study outlined a strategic plan to address facility needs for all 19 of our sports over the next five, 15 and 30 years.

Less than six years since the Master Plan was introduced, thanks to the loyal support of Razorback Foundation members and season ticket holders, Razorback Athletics has already completed or initiated nine of the 14 projects outlined in the Master Plan. In total, more than \$260 million will have been invested into facilities that are integral to the development of student-athletes academically, athletically and personally as well as enhancing the Razorback fan experience. Additionally, Razorback Athletics has

invested more than \$4 million to build and enhance campus parking lots for the use of all University of Arkansas faculty, staff and students.

The addition of the Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center, the Fred W. Smith Football Center, the Basketball Performance Center and the Fowler Family Baseball and Track Training Center addressed vital needs directly tied to student-athlete development.

Now it is time to revisit our competition venues to provide an improved game day experience for the most passionate fans in the nation. The Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium Renovation and North End Zone Addition is well underway and will be completed in August 2018.

PROJECTS COMPLETED/IN PROGRESS (SINCE 2011)

Basketball Performance Center

Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium Renovation and North End Zone Addition

Fowler Family Baseball and Track Training Center

Fred W. Smith Football Center

George M. Billingsley Tennis Center Expansion (1 additional court and lights)

HPER – Swimming & Diving Team Area Expansion (Locker Room renovation, team meeting and satellite training room additions)

Jerry and Gene Jones Family Student-Athlete Success Center

Mary B and Fred W Smith Golf Center Expansion (locker room expansion, chipping/putting indoor built by Blessings Golf Club)

Razorback Field (Soccer) Locker Room Expansion

Razorback Road Parking Lots

OTHER PROJECTS COMPLETED

New Video Boards (Baum Stadium, Barnhill Arena, Bogle Park, Bud Walton Arena, Randal Tyson Center, John McDonnell Field)

Sound Systems (Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium, Bud Walton Arena)

Razorback Sports Network Control Room for Video Boards and SEC Network

Baum Stadium Ribbon Boards and Graphics

Bogle Park Indoor Facility Renovations

Bud Walton Arena Men's and Women's Team Locker Rooms

John McDonnell Field Renovations and Upgrades (Track surface replacement & McDonnell Plaza)

OTHER MASTER PLAN PROJECTS

Baum Stadium Expansion

Bogle Park Expansion

Bud Walton Arena Improvements

John McDonnell Field Expansion

5,000 Seat Competition Venue (Gymnastics and Volleyball)





STADIUM RENOVATION AND NORTH END ZONE ADDITION

The latest transformation of Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium is underway. Substantial progress has been made and the project is on target for its scheduled completion in August 2018. In December 2016, on-site work began with the razing of the Broyles Athletics Center. After extensive site work, the steel framework of the north end zone expansion began to take shape. Construction will continue throughout the 2017 football season.

Fans attending Razorback Football games this fall will be able to take advantage of an additional video board in the south end zone and a new video board in the north end zone, located closer to the stadium seating. The additions will help ensure every fan in the stadium has a clear view of all the action on the field.

For more information on the Donald W. Reynolds Razorback Stadium Renovation and North End Zone Addition visit DWRRS.com or contact the Razorback Foundation at (479) 443-9000.

COST

\$160 MILLION

PROJECTED COMPLETION

AUGUST 2018

CONSTRUCTION TIMELINE

On-site construction began in December 2016 and will remain underway throughout the 2017 football season. The project is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2018 football season.



PROJECT SUMMARY

North End Zone

The north end zone addition will include new suites, loge boxes, club seats, and club areas. The east and west concourses will connect to allow the flow of patrons around the stadium, as well as provide new concessions and restrooms. Expanded entrances will improve patron flow.

Stadium Updates

New public elevators will be installed at the northeast and northwest corners to service the existing east and west suites, club areas, and upper level seating. Existing suites and club areas will be updated. A new video board will be added at the south end of the stadium. Security and safety systems will be enhanced.

Frank Broyles Athletic Center

The Broyles Center will be rebuilt in the new north end to house the administrative offices.



IMPROVED GAMEDAY EXPERIENCES AT RENOVATED DWRRS

2017

- New Concessions & Catering Partner: Levy
- New & Improved Food Quality and Options
- New Low Priced Ticket Options
- Additional Video Board in South End Zone

2018

- More Seating Options
 - Suites
 - Club Areas
 - Loge Boxes
- Improved Home Field Advantage
 - Fans at DWRRS will be louder than ever with North End Zone seating additions
- Improved Accessibility
 - More Elevators
 - More Directional Signage
- Improved Fan Amenities
 - More Interactive Displays Reflecting History & Pride of State and Razorbacks
 - Wild Band of Razorback monument
 - All-Inclusive Food Options (North End Zone Clubs)

Razorback Softball turned in one the nation's biggest turnarounds in 2017, winning 31 games just one season after only winning 17. Arkansas earned trips to both the SEC Tournament and the NCAA Tournament for the first time since 2013. Coach Courtney Deifel was named the D1SoftballNews National Coach of the Year.



PHOTOS OF THE YEAR



RAWLEIGH WILLIAMS III

FOOTBALL
STUDENT-ATHLETE (2015-2017)

My dad always told me when I was little; “Don’t work to just be the guy in the jersey on Sundays. Work to be the guy in the nice suit that’s in the suite of the stadium making all the decisions.”

I had not thought about that message much until Sunday, Oct. 25, 2015. The day after my neck injury during my freshman season.

I never thought twice about playing again following my freshman year. The University of Arkansas medical staff and others I spoke to provided me all the information I needed to be fully confident in my decision to return to the field. I gained a lot from playing again during my sophomore season. Things that no one can ever take away from me. I led the SEC regular season in rushing in my first season as a starter. I threw a touchdown pass (thanks Coach Enos). I grew with my teammates. I stayed healthy. I proved to myself that I could do it at the highest level in the SEC.

Spring ball can be a grind. The 15 practices challenge you mentally and physically, but the opportunity to get better each day is something I’ve learned to never take for granted. This spring ball was extra special to me. I was getting to share the final weekend with my mom, dad, brother and sister.

For the 15th time this spring I suited up. I prayed in my locker and took the field by double-taping my chest twice before pointing to the sky.

An outside zone run to the left side. I’ve run that play literally hundreds of times in my college career. Maybe more.

This outside zone run to the left would be my last.

“

I remember thinking and then saying ‘Everything is coming back to me. I can feel my body. Let me get up please.’

“

Not again. I remembered the feeling. It didn’t last as long so I wasn’t as nervous, but I knew something was wrong. I knew that it was similar enough to the last time.

Everyone got to me quickly. When they tested my hand strength I could squeeze, but it was really weak and I could barely feel it. I was trying to calm everyone else down. I remember thinking and then saying “Everything is coming back to me. I can feel my body. Let me get up please.”

My family is the most important thing in my life. The first thing I thought when it all happened was the reaction of my mom, dad, sister and brother. I didn’t want them to go through this all over again. I just wanted to stand up to calm them down and show them that I was ok.

I’ve seen the replay. I saw a normal hit. That scared me. It shows me it doesn’t take a big hit at this point. Any little thing can trigger it. I also saw the reaction of my mom and my sister. That broke my heart. I can’t do this anymore. I want to be able to walk.

I’m moving onto the next chapter of my life. It’s tough to not be able to play football anymore because I’ve been playing since I was four years old. It wasn’t something I wanted to do or planned on having to do so early. I’ve prayed, listened to my doctors, my parents and my gut.

It still doesn’t seem real yet, but I really don’t have a choice. I’ve dodged the bullet twice. I realize that at the end of the day I want to live a normal life and be around my family.

The most fun I’ve ever had in my life has been being part of this team the last two years. Playing with my brothers, learning from coaches, the workouts, the preparation, the grind, the games ; we sacrificed a lot. Now that I can’t play anymore I wish I could sacrifice more.

Coach B has been someone I’ve looked up to since the day I met him. He’s always been there for me. I’m grateful to him for the opportunity to play football at the University of Arkansas and in front of the best fans in college football. I’m grateful for the opportunities I’m going to earn during the rest of my time here. I can’t wait to work under him and learn. I want to be a General Manager one day and he’s already helped me look into career paths to achieve my goals.

Thank you to the thousands of people who have reached out to me. I appreciate it more than I can ever explain. It’s inspiring to know people care about you not only because of your ability, but because of the person you are and what you stand for. I’ve used my gifts to play football, but my gifts aren’t just playing football. I can’t wait to give more.

“Don’t work to just be the guy in the jersey on Sundays. Work to be the guy in the nice suit that’s in the suite of the stadium making all the decisions.” That is now my goal. To be the guy in the nice suit in the suite. To do whatever I have to do to gain more knowledge about the game in all ways. Just like I did when I was a player.

I am very grateful. It is sad but I truly believe God has a plan for my life. I believe I’m going to be blessed more than I could ever imagine. Even though my plan isn’t going to happen, I know that his plan is better than my plan.

Rawleigh Williams Bio

In a brief, yet stellar collegiate football career, Williams made his mark on Razorback Football. As a freshman, he ran 56 times for 254 yards and a touchdown before suffering a neck injury against Auburn that sidelined him for the season. Williams went through an arduous rehabilitation and returned for his sophomore season, in which he was a three-time SEC Offensive Player of the Week and a first-team All-SEC selection while leading the league in rushing in the regular season. Williams finished his sophomore season with 1,360 yards and 12 touchdowns on 260 rushing attempts. Unfortunately, in the Razorbacks’ final 2017 spring practice, Williams suffered another health scare. After consultation with his family, coaches and medical staff he decided to step away from playing football for the Razorbacks. Since then, Williams has been active in working in the athletics department and later this summer will do an internship with the Dallas Cowboys during training camp in Oxnard, California. Williams is on target to graduate with a degree in Finance from the University of Arkansas.



LINDSEY MAYO

SOCCER
STUDENT-ATHLETE (2012-2016)

When I was young, I was always kind of fascinated by space. I remember when I would practice at home, late at night in my driveway and afterward I would just lay in my driveway and look up at the stars. Growing up, I had an interest in space, but I never actually thought I was smart enough to be one of the people who actually works in that kind of arena. I would watch these documentaries and listen to these people talk and they sounded so intelligent, so smart, and so far above my intellectual level. I never thought I could actually count myself in that number.

Then as I grew up, and especially as I came to Arkansas, I began to realize maybe I can be a part of that. If there is one thing athletics taught me, it is that you can achieve so much more than what you think because you have this created drive of what direction to go. When you have people around you, like I did at Arkansas who are willing to push you and are willing to say "no you can do more" you can realize all those things that were outside of you before. I thought that there was no way I could do that. I'm not that smart, I am not on that level, but people kept believing in me and challenging me.

“

Everyone fought so hard, scratched, kicked, you know the #NeverYield is absolutely true!

“

I found that I was able to reach those heights that were previously beyond my reach. So it really kind of came about my last year or two at Arkansas, when I thought "Hey, you know I can do this." And that's when I started networking, getting contacts with some people from my company and getting out on this journey to build a rocket.

One of the things that drew me to Arkansas was when I visited campus I met the academic staff, coaches, everyone involved at the university and they were 100 percent in for

the Razorbacks. I knew that they were always going to be on my side in a way that I hadn't encountered anywhere else. That was a really good feeling, and that's one thing that I really valued. I can honestly say that the Razorbacks are a family, and I believe that.

I didn't grow up in Arkansas or have any particular allegiance to all the teams prior to coming to Arkansas. When I first visited, driving from Memphis through Arkansas, you see the Razorbacks in people's front yards and on license plates. I was thinking, "Man, these people are enthusiastic if nothing else." No matter what part of the state, everyone was a Razorback.

I came to Arkansas during Coach Colby Hale's first season. When I was trying to decide where to commit, I was talking to other players, other coaches, and at the time Arkansas was not a very good team. I was talking to my coach and I told her that I wanted to go to Arkansas and she said, "You may not win a ton, but you'll at least have fun."

To me what was like "really, what?" So that really influenced my mindset. It seemed like Colby kind of had the same attitude of himself, like let's prove somebody wrong. Arkansas isn't someone to be taken lightly and we can build a quality program.

The first year was tough because you're trying to change things in a major way and that's hard. I think what I really treasure was when we got our first NCAA tournament berth my sophomore year. We were sitting there in the team room all together, and we were all sweating bullets. I don't think anyone had a dry shirt in the place. We were all so nervous. We were in the last quadrant. The draw kept going on and on and on and the number of teams left kept getting smaller and smaller. You could just kind of feel us deflating. Then finally, they said "this team you know is making history, Arkansas" and then everybody just exploded. Things went crazy. People started running laps around the room and around the field outside, because nobody knew how to handle the emotions of it. It was just such a good feeling to know all the hard work that we had put in had been noticed, had been rewarded.

We not only got the team's first NCAA Tournament berth, we then went to the Sweet 16 and lost in PKs. My junior year and senior year, we went to the NCAA Tournament and went to the second round. Being able to build that kind of program has been really valuable

to me and a really awesome time to be able to take something and build a culture.

Another game that embodies the soccer program identity and spirit was during my sophomore year in a game at the University of Tennessee. This one was unique, because we did not have a true goalkeeper. Our goalkeeper had gotten a concussion, so we played with a field player in goal against the No. 16 ranked team in the country and won. It was insane, I had never played a game where everyone fought so hard to make this crazy situation possible. I think they had a total of maybe four shots on goal the whole game. Everyone fought so hard, scratched, kicked, you know the #NeverYield is absolutely true! We are going to overcome these obstacles and we're going to win this game. That was one of my favorite games ever. I was so exhausted, but man that was so much fun.

Those games, where we were able to do something so special and really come out with results against quality teams under some pretty tough circumstances kind of leaves a good feeling for me and the girls that just graduated. We were able to leave the program in the hands of some really good girls that we trust and believe in. We feel like this program is on a good path and we believe we left it in the hands of people who can continue that and who aren't going to let it fall to the wayside. They're going to continue that tradition of excellence and make it better and strive to continue to move the program forward.

One of the things that I really valued about Arkansas was that they honestly do encourage you to make the most of yourself off the field as well as on the field. Because sometimes when you're playing college sports you're encouraged to make more of a priority of either academics or athletics over the other. But at Arkansas I was totally encouraged to undertake the best and the greatest challenge I could in both those areas. For example, I came into Arkansas wanting to be a chemical engineering major, then I decided to also be a member of the Honors College and graduate with honors in chemical engineering. Everybody was absolutely behind it and said, "Yeah that's great, go for it."

Then at the end of my sophomore year I also decided that I wanted a double major with physics. That was kind of a crazy thing, but my coaches, my academic advisors, they all said "Absolutely, we will do everything in our power to make sure that this works out and that you are able to do what you set out to do."



That was a really cool feeling that even though I was taking a lot on my plate. Everyone was there with me to guide me and help me along that path to ultimately graduate with those two degrees and get a great job. Being an engineering major it's kind of accepted that before you graduate you have to do an internship for what's called co-ops, which is where you work for a semester and then go to school for a semester. It was kind of understood that I wouldn't be able to do a co-op, because of athletics. But an internship was still an option, and that was a really important thing. When I expressed that to my coaches, they said "yes absolutely do whatever you need to do, because at the end of the day, while we want you here to play soccer and that is part of your goal, there's this whole other part of it that you need to take care of as well."

I was able to go and intern with a great company in Charleston, West Virginia during the summer of 2015. That turned into a really valuable experience that allowed me to really step into the industrial world, the real life job market and be prepared to be where I am now. At the end of that internship they were doing hiring events, where interns kind of have first pick of the company's job openings for the coming year. I got invited to one of these hiring events in Houston, this hiring event just happened to be on the day that I needed to be in Fayetteville to do my pre-season physical and lab work. I called my coach and I said "Ok, we might have a little bit of a problem." I explained the situation to him and he said "Go do the interview, that's what's more important. We will sort out how to get everything done so that you can be ready for pre-season, but go the interview that's more important."

Wow! I know at a lot of other places they would have said "well sorry you need to be here." I would have missed out on a really good job opportunities and networking opportunities. There are a lot of job fairs around Arkansas for all different types of majors and that was always something we were encouraged to do as well. Ultimately those contacts I made at those career fairs are what helped get me where I am.

The short explanation for what I do is I'm a rocket scientist. I am currently working for a company called Kord Technologies as a thermal engineer. I am basically contracted to Boeing, which is doing NASA's next greatest rocket called the Space Launch System. My job is to be able to look at certain aspects of the

rocket and be able to say this is going to work, no this isn't going to work and this is how it should change in order to make things work out. Right now I am based out of Huntsville, Alabama, but starting this summer, I am going to be sent on a 10-month assignment to New Orleans at the facility where they actually build the rocket and actually put all the pieces together. So I will actually be able to put my hands on things that are going to go in space, which is pretty cool.

Being a student-athlete is all well and nice, but if you don't have anybody behind you it's not nearly as fun or nearly as fulfilling as when you have a group of people behind you who support you and that have your back the whole way through thick and thin, good and bad. Having that kind of group of people that you know are there and you know are on your side makes everything, the whole experience so much better.

When it comes to our supporters, I think they're the best in the country and what they have done for student-athletes really changes our lives. I would not be who I am or where I am today without the amazing experience I had at Arkansas. I came into college as a very different person than I am today. My personality perspectives, my character perspectives, I am just all around a very different person. The experiences I had as a student-athlete that our supporters provide that has really made me someone I can be proud of. I have two amazing degrees that have opened amazing doors for me, I have a set of skills built from my experiences as a student-athlete that are very unique and very valuable that very few people can say that they have.

Not only that, but I have memories and friends for life that will be my best friends for the rest of my life. My teammates are going to be at my wedding, a lot of them are probably going to be my bridesmaids. It's those kinds of things that you can't put a number on, but it doesn't mean they're less valuable. That is absolutely priceless, to be able to take these experiences that these opportunities have given me and really make a life out of them.

So to all those who are carrying on the tradition as Razorback student-athletes, don't be afraid to go for it! When you're in the middle of being a student-athlete and you have so many responsibilities, so many things tugging at you, you might say, "I'm tired or I don't think I have time."

You are going to look back and you're not going to regret the things you did, you will regret the things you didn't go after or the things you didn't give 100 percent to really reach your goals. Whether its academic goals or an athletic endeavor whatever it is, don't be afraid to go for it, because more than likely you're never going to have the amount of resources and support that you do right there at Arkansas.

Secondly, I would tell you absolutely don't take a second for granted because the student-athlete experience is one that touches you for the rest of your life. You get to travel all over the country, play sports, get a great education, make amazing friends and relationships, and you have all these opportunities and all these people are just behind you. So absolutely enjoy it while you have it. It's easy to forget just how blessed you are and just how amazing what you're doing is. So take a deep breath, enjoy it and cherish it!

Lindsey Mayo Bio

Arkansas' all-time leaders in games played (90) and SEC game-winners (6), Mayo finished her outstanding Razorback soccer career by helping her team to three NCAA Tournaments (2013, 2014, 2016) and four SEC Tournaments (2012, 2013, 2014, 2016). She left Arkansas tied for fourth place for game-winning goals (8) in program history. Mayo maintained a 3.77 GPA while graduating with a dual degree in Honors Chemical Engineering and Physics. She conducted award-winning research on the emissions testing of non-catalytic wood-burning heating units in 2015. Mayo was a two-time member of Razorback Soccer's "Leadership Council" (2015, 2016) and a four-year participant in the Razorback Leadership Academy.



In February 2017, *U.S. News & World Report* ranked Fayetteville as the best city to live in the Southeastern Conference and the No. 5 city overall in the nation. The city's top-five overall ranking places the University of Arkansas at No. 1 in the SEC and No. 2 among all Power Five Conference institutions for the second year in a row.



ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS