
“M” CLUB DEAN SMITH AWARD



2006 DEAN SMITH AWARD RECIPIENTS

Dean Smith (left) poses with 2006 medal recipients Brittany Cheney, Jason Jacobe, and Kirby Davis. The awards are made annually during halftime of a Maine basketball game at Alfond Arena.

The “M” Club, beginning in 1993, created the Dean Smith Award. It goes to a male and female student-athlete with selection based on academic and athletic achievement. In 1990, Smith was captain of the basketball team and leading scorer in America East. He compiled the highest grade point average among electrical engineering students over four years and was awarded the prestigious NCAA Walter Byers Postgraduate Scholarship. Only two such awards are presented annually by the national organization, one to a male student and one to a female student. The recipients have combined the best elements of mind and body to achieve academic distinction and promise to be future leaders in their fields of service.

The “M” Club initiated the Dean Smith Award based on the NCAA model. To be eligible, the student must have demonstrated high academic and athletic ability, be of outstanding character, completed at least one year at the University, and earned at least one varsity letter. The recipients are nominated by their coaches and selected by the “M” Club’s Board of Directors. On occasion, awards have gone to three students in a single year.

RECIPIENTS

1993

Sean Cheetham (baseball)
Christina Strong (basketball)

1994

Paul Kariya (ice hockey)
Debra Smith (softball)

1995

Ross Fichthorn (football)
Jennifer Stinchcomb (field hockey)

1996

Christopher Collins (basketball)
Patricia McCormick (cc/track)

1997

Michelle Lefevre (softball)
Todd Williamson (football)

1998

Cindy Blodgett (basketball)
Johanna Riley (track)
Ted Sherry (soccer)

1999

Vanessa McGowan (cc/track)
Joseph Moody (cc/track)

2000

Danielle Burke (field hockey)
James Leger (ice hockey)

2001

Kristi Carver (basketball)
Philip McGeoghan (football/track)

2002

Jennifer Johnstone (field hockey)
Martin Kariya (ice hockey)
Gray Shaneberger (ice hockey)

2003

Martin Kariya (ice hockey)
Viktoriya Rybalko (track)

2004

Frank Doyle (ice hockey)
Rebecca Ouellet (field/ice hockey)

2005

Kim Corbitt (basketball)
Aaron Isaryk (baseball)

2006

Brittany Cheney (softball)
Kirby Davis (cc/track)
Jason Jacobe (soccer)

2007

Matthew McGraw (baseball)
Tal Shpaizer (swimming)



WOMEN'S "M" CLUB

Although women's athletic activities were confined to campus programs between 1931 and the early 1970s, a non-varsity "M" was awarded to those whose participation was at the highest level. In 1941, a Women's "M" Club was organized to strengthen bonds between members. Members of the first group were, front row, l-r, Sec. Gloria Miniutti, Lorraine Mimitre, Virginia Weston, Blanche Conlan, and Shirley Ashman. Second row, l-r, Dora West, Pres. Alma Hansen, Beatrice Gleason, Agnes Walsh, Helen Wormwood, and Elizabeth Gammons. Back row, l-r, Ina Henry, Miriam Adesko, Lois White, Marion Hines, Shirley Mitchell, Tr. Frances Donovan, Elinor Ward, Isabelle Garvin, Martha Hutchins, Corinne Comstock, and Arlene Webster. Absent, Mary Young, Vice-Pres. Barbara Savage, Mary Bates, Helen Mehann, and Constance Philbrook.



WOMEN'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION COUNCIL — 1953

Although intercollegiate athletic activity ceased in 1931 and did not reappear until the early 1970s, there was still plenty of sports programs for women during the 1930s, 40s, 50s, and 60s under the direction of Helen Lengyel, Marion Rogers, and Eileen Cassidy. Women were involved in gymnastics, modern dance, field hockey, riflery, basketball, volleyball, and badminton, among others. The Women's Athletic Association Council helped to organize and oversee the competitions. Members of the Council in 1953 were, front row, l-r, Gwenyth Bryant, Ellen Pfiefer, Jane Wiseman, Constance Lewis, Ruth Johnson, Mary Small, Margaret Thompson, and Grace Libby. Second row, l-r, Barbara Arnold, Joan Gillette, Alice Rinehart, Cynthia Nelson, Anita Ramsdell, Mary Jane Keith, Marjorie Mealey, Jane Bacon, Linda Blackwood, Joanne Sturtevant, Jane Ingraham, Mary Alice Hastings, and Rachel Smith. Back row, l-r, Shirley Bostrom, Mary Bigelow, Elizabeth Pierce, Mary Litchfield, Joan Geddy, Muriel Verrill, Patricia King, Nancy Witham, Janet Bishop, and Barbara Knox.