

Six LRU Cross Country Runners Earn All-Academic Honors

Written by Staff Reports

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Six runners on the Lenoir-Rhyne Men's and Women's Cross Country Teams earn 2011 USTFCCA NCAA Division II All-Academic status. USTFCCA is the United States Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. For the Lenoir-Rhyne women,

seniors Kate Griewisch (Banner Elk, N.C.) and Tiffany Payne (Painted Post, N.Y.) and sophomores Alyse Childress (Brevard, N.C.) and Ashley Kale (Maiden, N.C.) were named to the All-Academic Team.

Both Griewisch and Payne have been a part of two South Atlantic Conference Regular Season Championship squads (2008-09) while Griewisch is a three-time NCAA Division II All-American who has won the past three NCAA Division II Southeast Regional races.

Griewisch is also a four-time first-team All-SAC honoree (2008-11) and won the league championship race in 2009 and 2011.

An outstanding student as well, Griewisch is a three-time SAC Women's Cross Country Scholar-Athlete Of The Year (2009-11) and earned Academic All-American accolades last year in women's cross country and track and field.

Payne, meanwhile, is a three-time All-South Atlantic Conference honoree (2008-10) who earned first-team laurels in 2008 and 2009 and Kale finished sixth at this year's SAC Championship race to garner first-team all-league honors.

On the men's side for the Bears, sophomore Aaron Nelson (Mayodan, N.C.) and freshman Mike York (Kannapolis, N.C.) earned All-Academic status for 2011.

York finished third at the 2011 South Atlantic Conference Men's Cross Country Championship en route to first-team all-league honors and was named the SAC Freshman Of The Year.

Nelson, the Bears' No. 2 runner at the conference race, was named to the USTFCCA All-Academic Team for the second consecutive year.

To qualify for the USTFCCA All-Academic Cross Country Team in Division II, the student-athlete must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.25 or greater through the most-recent semester, completed at least 12 credit hours in the semester of cross country competition, and placed in the top 50 percent at the most recent NCAA National Championships or in the top 30 percent at the NCAA Regional Championships.

A total of 345 student-athletes represent 117 institutions on the women's side while 208 student-athletes for 101 schools represent the men's teams.