



KNOX COLLEGE

2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

SUCCESS BY THE NUMBERS

Dear K Club Members,

What a year it has been—we are sure many of you feel the same way! Luckily, this year did provide some silver linings: our coaches and staff grew their cultural competency, this spring, 15 of our 18 NCAA Division III athletic teams returned to competition, and we enjoyed the success of a two-time NCAA DIII All-American in track and field.

We found new ways to connect with you...virtually at sport reunions hosted by our coaches and student-athletes, reminisced with Coaches Knosher and Prats, launched the *Learn From the Prairie Fire* for future Prairie Fire to practice their drills at home, and alumni shared career and life advice with student-athletes through *Forever Fire*. You responded; you joined us with your presence, your viewership, and your giving at our first ever 24 hour giving campaign. It was because of you that we surpassed our fundraising goal and finished the year stronger than ever before.

We are inspired by the resiliency shown by our student-athletes, coaches and staff. The commitment of Knox to support athletics in spite of a challenging financial environment is reassuring. Your gracious contributions are empowering. Together, this year laid a foundation for athletics at Knox to be stronger than ever before. Thank you for being the *Team Behind the Team*.

As we look back, we could not be more proud of our achievements, on and off the competitive fields of play during the past year, or more excited for what the upcoming season holds for Prairie Fire athletics.

As always, Go Fire!

Daniella Irlé
Director of Athletics

Crew Keller
Assistant Athletic Director,
K Club Engagement & Fundraising

ATHLETIC

2

NCAA Division III All-Americans

Derrick Jackson '22 (twice)

3

Individual Midwest Conference (MWC) Champions

Derrick Jackson '22 100m dash, Derrick Jackson '22 200m dash, 4x100m relay team Derrick Jackson '22, Tyrell Pierce '24, Yohanne Griffin '21, Tyrese Reed '21

2

Elite 20 Midwest Conference Awards

Charles Broomfield '22 & Kaitlyn Kashishian '23 recognizing the student-athletes, with the highest cumulative grade point average, participating in his or her respective sport's culminating championship or tournament

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC) All-Conference Performances

Patrick Matter '23 & Brendan Wise '23

2

ACADEMIC

4

St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC)

Academic All-Conference Performers

Jason White '21, Elliot Bainbridge '21, Phoenix Breese '23, Harrison Phillips '23

43

Midwest Conference Academic All-Conference Performers

5

Teams that posted GPAs of over 3.5

3.144

Average GPA for all Prairie Fire student-athletes

PRAIRIE FIRE ATHLETICS

FALL SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW



Due to COVID-19, these Prairie Fire fall teams competed against familiar Midwest Conference foes during the spring term.



Prairie Fire **football** hired Aaron Willits '08 in January as the new head coach. Willits returns to his alma mater having coached 21 all-conference performers, four all-region performers, and an All-American, while amassing a 62-28 overall record during his time as the offensive coordinator at Concordia College (MN).

Five **men's soccer** players scored goals as they netted 2-0 and 3-0 wins against Illinois College in their two games. With key contributors returning for fall 2021, this experienced group looks to continue to build upon the successes of previous years, along with seventh year Head Coach Brian O'Connor.



Prairie Fire **volleyball** is trending onward and upward with third year Head Coach Pat Barry. The young Prairie Fire team continues to improve, but will have to replace Mady Ferris who finished her career with a new Knox record for digs (1,897) and second all-time in the Midwest Conference for career digs per set (6.37).



In her third season at the helm, Head Coach Taylor Houck continues to prove that Prairie Fire **women's soccer** is one of the best in the Midwest Conference. In their two games, the team was led by Lydia Mitchell '22 and Michaela Thawley '22, each with two goals, in a 6-0 win over Illinois College.

PRAIRIE FIRE ATHLETICS

WINTER SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW



Due to COVID-19, these Prairie Fire winter teams competed against familiar Midwest Conference foes during the spring term.



Taking the reins in 2021-2022 for **women's basketball** will be Kira Mowen. With previous coaching stints at Monmouth University (NJ), University of

Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and Davidson College, and having played for Hall of Fame women's basketball coach Theresa Grentz at the University of Illinois, Mowen brings exceptional experience to the table as the Prairie Fire take aim on returning to MWC post-season play and well beyond.

Poised for a breakout season, **men's basketball** under the direction of second year head coach Ben Davis, competed in three games, notching one win, which came in the season finale against Cornell College.



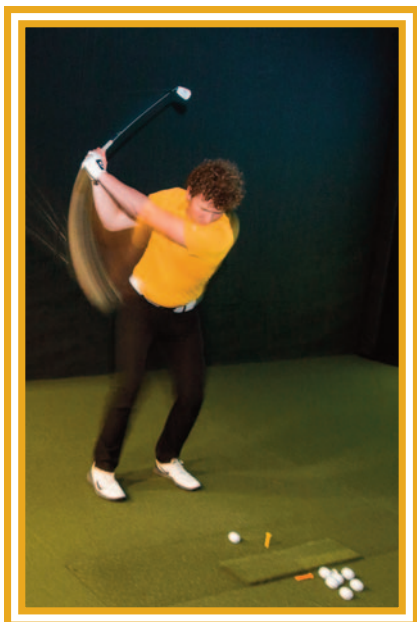
The **men's and women's swimming and diving** program had no competitions, yet worked hard in the water to refine their technique and build speed leading up to the 2021-2022 season. All the sophomores and first-years signed up for voluntary lifting sessions with Coach Gibbons which will pay dividends with fast swims when competition resumes.



In Prairie Fire **women's basketball**, newcomer Sarina Dacio '24 led the team with 15.7 points per game and helped lead the team to a 65-62 win over Lake Forest. First year Head Coach Kira Mowen will lead a team that boasts a strong core of 19 returners for the 2021-22 season.

PRAIRIE FIRE ATHLETICS

SPRING SPORTS YEAR IN REVIEW



The Prairie Fire men's **golf** team finished first or second in every competition this spring, concluded their season as runner ups in the St. Louis Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SLIAC). The women's golf team placed fourth at the SLIAC championship capping off a successful spring season.



Prairie Fire **men's and women's outdoor track and field** had one of the best seasons in recent times with 17 Knox Top-10 performances, 4 Midwest Conference champions, and an All-America honoree. A team effort at the MWC south division championship helped the men notch their highest point total since 1994, while the women achieved new heights with their highest point total since 2010.



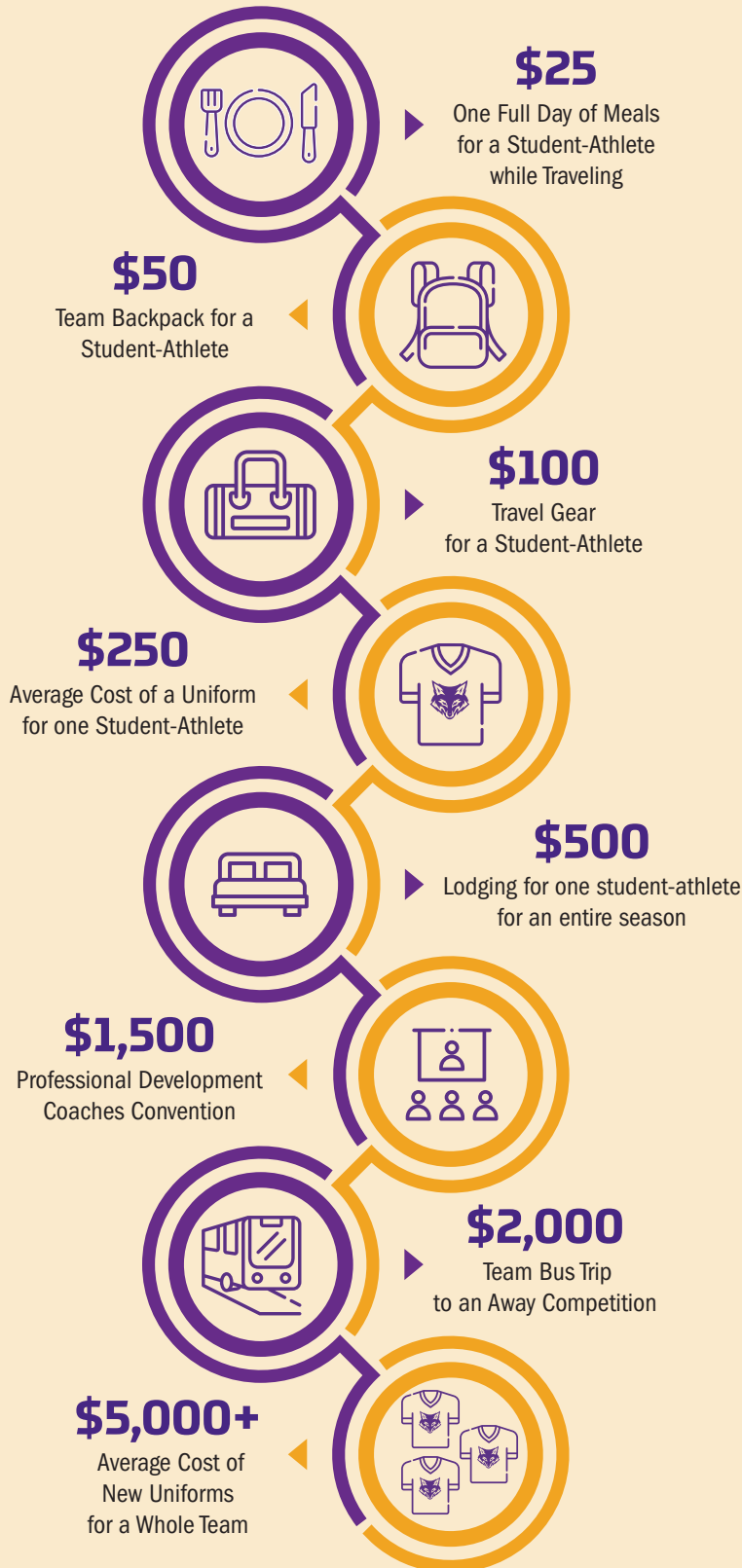
On the **baseball** diamond, the Prairie Fire ended the season with a win over Monmouth College to keep them out of the Midwest Conference postseason tournament. Graduating only two seniors, an experienced squad looks to be very competitive next spring.



Prairie Fire **softball** had a great roster of first years and sophomores, including pitcher Mimi Schweitzer '23 who helped lead the team to three wins over Monmouth College. The season saw the Prairie Fire record a win over the Scots for the first time since 2008, and a win over the Rams of Cornell College, the first since 1997.

K CLUB BY THE NUMBERS

IMPACT OF K CLUB ON PRAIRIE FIRE STUDENT-ATHLETES



WHY K CLUB GIFTS MATTER

The competition among NCAA Division III schools to earn the commitment of highly qualified student-athletes is intense. That is why K Club donations are crucial in helping us contend with other high academic schools across the nation.

While sport-specific gifts will always be accepted, **the goal of the K Club is to come together as the “Team Behind the Team” and donate to the larger cause—athletics as a whole. In turn this supports ALL of our student-athletes and ALL of our teams** by way of facility and branding enhancements, bolstered recruiting budgets, team equipment, and so much more.

K CLUB DOLLARS PROVIDE

- Facility Improvements & Branding
- Strengthened Recruiting Efforts of Future Prairie Fire
- Team Equipment
- Team Gear and Uniforms
- Regular Season and Postseason Team Travel
- Student-Athlete Meals
- Salaries for Coaches and K Club Coordinator
- **An Enhanced Student-Athlete Experience For All**

977

TOTAL DONORS

2020-2021 REVIEW

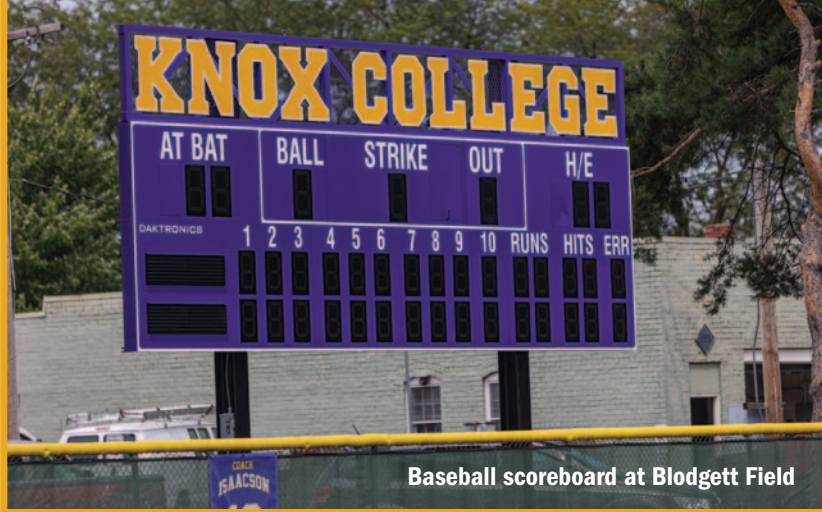
All Sport	\$192,871
Capital Projects	\$123,922
Sport Specific	\$ 54,194
	\$370,987

FOLLOW US:

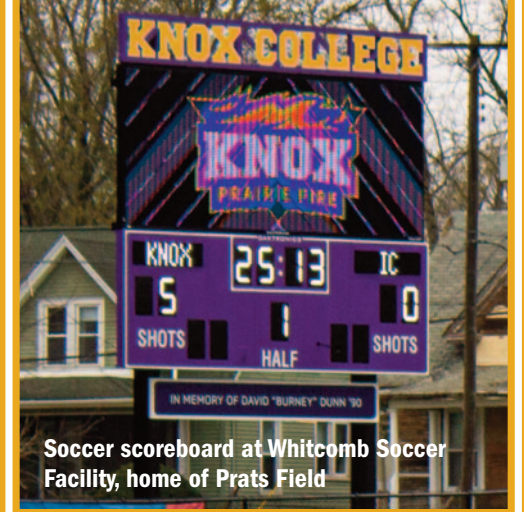


@KNOXPRAIRIEFIRE

K CLUB DOLLARS IN ACTION



Baseball scoreboard at Blodgett Field



Soccer scoreboard at Whitcomb Soccer Facility, home of Prats Field

ITEMS PURCHASED

- Soccer:** Scoreboard, brick archway
- Track & Field:** High jump & pole vault pits
- Baseball:** Scoreboard, storage shed
- Strength & Conditioning:** Six power racks
- Swimming:** Branding inside Lay Natatorium
- Basketball:** Shooting machine
- Multi-Sport:** SID Scorer's table
- Softball:** Scoreboard, storage shed



High jump pit at Turner Track



Softball scoreboard at the softball field



New weight equipment in the E. & L. Andrew Fitness Center

K CLUB ENGAGEMENT COUNCIL

The K Club Engagement Council are alumni letterwinners who promote school spirit, increase attendance at K Club events and reunions, build enthusiasm around Knox Prairie Fire Athletics, and encourage peer to peer engagement during K Club fundraising campaigns.

2020-2021 K Club Engagement Council Members:

David Anderson '89 (President)
Men's Basketball

Jordan Anderson '19
Football
Men's Golf

Laurel Andrew '86
Women's Swimming & Diving

Colin Davis '11
Baseball

Michael Gasparro '13
Men's Soccer

Chantal Heckman '14
Women's Basketball

Maurice McDavid '10
Football

Abdul Oganla '16
Men's Soccer

Amy Olson '91
Women's Soccer
Women's Swimming & Diving

Paul Shimotake '85
Men's Cross Country
Men's Swimming & Diving

Topper Steinman '70
Football

Geoff Ziegler '03
Baseball

FOREVER FIRE CAREER DEVELOPMENT SERIES

During its pilot season, *Forever Fire*, the virtual career series for student-athletes engaging with letterwinners, held nine sessions. Thanks to the nine alumni mentors who spoke on: entrepreneurship and sports management, business investing, social media marketing, ticketing, and television/radio media/project management. Approximately 70 student-athletes attended at least one session, while many attended multiple sessions.



2020 KNOX-LOMBARD ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Joe Metzka '96

Joe Metzka is one of the most dominant kickers and overall athletes in Knox football history. He graduated in 1996 after a spectacular career on the gridiron.

Joe was named All-American in 1993, 1994, and 1995 as well as Preseason All-American in 1994 and 1995. He holds the Knox record for most field goals in a career (22), field goal percentage (.733), most field goals in a game (5), longest field goal made (53 yards), most punts in career (220), and most punt yards in a career (7,627). He also holds the single season record for extra point percentage (1.000). He appears in the football record book 54 times. Joe was also named All-Midwest Conference a total of five times, three times as a punter and twice as a kicker. He was named first team All-Conference for four of the five.

Joe was also a four year letter winner on the track and field teams, where he threw javelin and spent time as a sprinter.



Derek Mortensen '14

Derek Mortensen finished his career as the all-time leading rusher for the Knox football team. He graduated in 2014 following a fantastic career as a running back.

Derek accumulated 4,016 rushing yards in his career and rushed for a Knox record 43 touchdowns. He holds the high-water marks in average yards per game (97.3), rushing attempts, most games over 100 yards (19), consecutive games over 100 yards, and consecutive games with a rushing touchdown. Derek also set single season marks for rushing attempts, rushing touchdowns, and most games over 100 yards. Altogether he holds 18 rushing and scoring records and ties for three more.

Derek was first team All-Midwest Conference in 2012 and 2013 and Honorable Mention in 2011. He was the Harley Knosher Male Athlete of the Year and voted Most Valuable Offensive Player in 2012-13. He was also named Midwest Conference Performer of the Week and Prairie Fire Performer of the Week multiple times. He was awarded the Tom Dean Award, the Most Valuable Player in the Turkey Bowl against Monmouth, in 2012-13 as well. He ran for 154 yards and a pair of touchdowns at Monmouth.



Michael Smith '96

Michael Smith was a major dual-sport threat for the Prairie Fire in the mid-90s. He graduated in 1996 and still holds records in both men's basketball and track and field.

Michael is the all-time assists leader for the Knox men's basketball team with 323. He is also third all-time with 140 assists in a season, a feat he accomplished in 1995-96. Michael was named first team All-Midwest Conference and Midwest Conference All-Tournament in 1996. He also won co-MVP, co-Most Valuable Senior, and was a co-winner of the Harley Knosher Award during his senior season when he led the team in assists and steals.

As a member of the track and field team, Michael was a three-time Midwest Conference Champion in Triple Jump and also was a member of the Outdoor Conference Champion 4x100m relay team in 1994. He still holds the school records in the indoor Triple Jump (45' 7 1/2") and Long Jump (22' 7 1/2"). Michael also finished in second place in the Long Jump at the Midwest Conference Outdoor Meet in 1994 and 1996. He was named team MVP in 1993 and 1996 as well as Greatest Contributor in 1996.



Mary Groll '92

Mary Groll was an exceptional all-around member of the Knox volleyball team. She graduated in 1992.

Mary was a team leader in hitting percentage, digs, passing percentage, kills, and block assists in her time on the volleyball team. She returned from a significant injury early in her career to become one of the strongest members of the team. Her ability to play multiple positions and be among the leaders in a wide variety of categories made her an extremely valuable asset on the court.

Mary was named to the All-Midwest Conference team in 1990 and 1991. She was also a team captain in 1990 and 1991, and co-Most Valuable Team Member in 1990. She helped lead the team to the semifinals and a fourth place finish at the Midwest Conference Volleyball Tournament in 1990 and 1991. The team also finished second to St. Norbert in 1989 in the Championship Pool.



Nominate a former teammate for the Hall of Fame by visiting knox.edu/nominatehof

2020-2021 K CLUB DONORS

(Gifts received as of June 30, 2021)

\$1,000 AND MORE YEARLY

Junichiro Adachi '81 &
Noel Dolan Adachi '82
Mark K. Allen '81 & Peg L. Allen
Teresa L. Amott & Ray B. Miller
Thomas L. Anderson '66 &
Sue Fuerst Anderson '71
David T. Anderson '89 & Caryn S. Anderson
Laurel J. Andrew '86 & Victor Onufrieff
Robert Roy Ayers
Anthony R. Balthazor '03 &
Alison Balthazor
Steve M. Baumgartner '77 &
Susan Baumgartner
Muhammed Becovic '90
Valerie J. Blevins '86 & John Anderson
Gene S. Brandt '72
Mary Mangieri Burgland '68 &
George G. Burgland
Bradley D. Coats '92 & Christine Coats
Jeffrey C. Cooper '86 & Donna M. Cooper
Craig Technical Consulting, Inc.
Mary Jannone Denoma '73 &
Terry A. Denoma '71
William E. Durall '72 & Margaret E. Durall
Chad Eisele '93 & Kathleen Eisele
Michael W. Erwin '03 &
Karen P. Moravek Erwin '05

Howell L. Evans, Jr. '68 & Keiko Evans
David P. Fridovich '74 &
Katherine Kodl Fridovich '76
Donald F. Harmon '88 & Teresa Harmon
Timothy L. Herring '79 & Elena White
Theodore W. Hesemann '70
Colleen Conway '71 & A. John Heyer '68
Laurence J. Msall '84 & Nicola Hill '85
Walter A. Hoyt III '68
Daniella J. Irle & Kristen Jezek
Gary L. Jacobson '77
David B. Ladner '69 &
Julie Stolarski Ladner '70
Todd A. Lanser '00 & Suzanne Holthaus
Dale J. Litney '66
Neil R. Magruder '06
Ryan M. Magruder '03
Keith E. Maskus '76 & Susan Rehak '75
John D. McMillan '72 & Cathy S. McMillan
Brian Michalowski & Kristin Michalowski
Delmar R. Morrison III '96
Thomas T. Neagle '04
Robert M. Nordgren '77
Donna Schwall Oberembt '79 &
Randall M. Oberembt '76
Bernard J. O'Connell '84
Amy Ragnini Olson '92 &
Steven M. Olson '91

Craig S. Owens '91
Clarence A. Parks '92
James R. Potter '63 &
Mary Jo Howe Potter '62
Jorge Prats
Eugene A. Procknow '76 &
Mary E. Procknow
Jeffrey B. Radakovich '84 &
Vicki L. Short
Yash A. Rana '92
Jack P. Reiners '56
Jon W. Ripperger '86
Robert K. Schmid '62 &
Barbara Cady Schmid '62
Darren W. Smith '93
Dan J. Spaulding '99 &
Elizabeth Holmes Spaulding '99
Wendy C. Spizzirri '99 & Dave Spizzirri
Craig M. Steele '76
Othmar T. Steinman '70 &
Carol H. Steinman
Michele Salvino Stelter '78 &
Thomas R. Stelter '77
Martha Thrasher Stroben '52
Valley Supply Co of Houma
Vanguard Charitable Endowment
Steven R. Walton '74
Benjamin C. Wetherbee '12

COREY MCKNIGHT '21

Corey McKnight, a senior from Aurora, Illinois, is a dual-sport athlete, playing center in football and throwing for the track and field team. He is an Integrative Business and Management major at Knox with a double minor in Spanish and Statistics. McKnight is a member of Beta Theta Pi fraternity, and enjoys playing video games and making himself and others laugh as much as possible.

He chose Knox because of the family aspect and small school atmosphere. McKnight says that being at a smaller school has benefitted him more in the classroom because he can build stronger relationships with his professors. He has also had the chance to meet more people.

When asked what McKnight loves most about his sport, he says, "My teammates. They will be my brothers for life, and there isn't another group that I would want to play with every Saturday more than those guys."



McKnight has served in a number of roles for Beta Theta Pi. He currently is risk manager, and also served in the same role during his sophomore year. He was the social chair last year, and also supported the Galesburg community by participating in Blessings in a Backpack, and the Food Recovery Network during his sophomore year.

During his time playing football, McKnight has taken on more of a leadership role on the team. His teammates ask him for advice and expect him to lead by example on and off the field. He tells first years to try new things and get out of their comfort zone. "Explore joining a fraternity or a club, and always try to expand your horizons and try something different than what you are used to doing," adds McKnight.

He believes that NCAA Division III gives players the opportunity to build actual relationships with their coaches and athletic department. "I feel that Division 3 gives players to not just be another "number" on the roster," adds McKnight.

UP TO \$999 YEARLY

James K. Adams '88
Mary J. Aguirre
Krista L. Ahlberg '11
Reed R. Allison '00 & Katie Allison
Joyce Tucker Allison '72 &
William W. Allison '72
Kristine Allmendinger-Goertz '02 &
Chris Page-Goertz '03
Jaclyn A. Anderson '09
Jennifer Anderson & Jason Anderson
Jordan B. Anderson '19
Kyle J. Anderson '93 & Amy D. Anderson
Jean Kester Anderson '54 &
Robert J. Anderson, Jr. '54
William E. Annen '91
Deborah A. Anthony & Arthur J. Anthony, Sr.
Aon Foundation
Robert K. Appleton '72 & Carol R. Appleton
Amanda Wollrab Archer '12 & Joel Archer
Katherine V. Stransky Arrayan '04
William V. Aslan '80 & Nancy A. Aslan
Susan Benn Attwood '76 &
Stephen A. Attwood
Jacob M. Ayers '07
Cynthia Bonifed Babington '81 &
James P. Babington '81
Carl G. Bailey '88 & Heidi Bailey
Mary Taylor Bailey '63 & John C. Bailey '63
Peter G. Bailley '74 & Lori Bailley
Jeffrey W. Baker '75 & Beth A. Zeiter
William A. Baker '92 & Blue Baker
Scott R. Baldwin '81 & Melany Baldwin
Brad Balgemann
Lee A. Balgemann '68 & Korky Balgemann
Mariah Barlow
Patrick M. Barry
Bryce C. Beal '19
Cory Bieber Beck '10 & Kevin M. Beck '11
Jessica L. Rainey Becker '99 &
Brent M. Becker '98
Brian K. Beeman '04 & Amie Beeman
Charles F. Behling
Deborah K. Beishir & Richard G. Beishir
Maureen H. Cole Beishir '08 &
Timothy C. Beishir '08
Andre R. Belanger '97 & Ashley G. Belanger
Bryan L. Bell '99
Jon Derek Bell '94 & Laura J. Bell
Robert L. Bennett '60 & Lynne Marie Bennett
Chris T. Bersted '66
Jonathan R. Betts '05
Amy B. Beuschlein '89 & Shannon Brannan
Shasta L. Rouch Birkey '96
Susan A. Blew '75 & Dennis Puglisi
Brynna Barnhart Blodgett '03

Linda Tyson Boecker '71 &
Theodore J. Boecker '70
Peter J. Bolan '90
Norma Britton Bonet '78 &
Donald J. Bonet '78
Katherine A. Drummond Bonstead '04 &
Cory D. Bonstead '04
Timothy M. Bopp '78 & Mary Anne Benden
Sylvia Faith Bowen-Bailey '20
Michael A. Boyd '86
Elizabeth A. Mushill Bozicevic '04
Jillian P Brackett & Tyler A. Brackett
Daniel W. Breed '74
Deborah L. Brees & Gary A. Brees
Edward W. Brees
Phoeniz Jade Breese
J. Matt Briggs '06 and Sara E. Briggs
Laurel Boynton Brill '92 & John R. Brill '90
Kayla Nicole Brown '18
Richard T. Brown '83 & Lisa Cleary Brown
Victor A. Brown '68 & Joyce A. Brown
Kelly M. Mortensen Bruce '97 & Mark Bruce
Jill M. Bucher & Robert W. Bucher
Kenneth B. Burdick '71 & Ruth E. Burdick
Michael D. Burke '72 & Cindy Burke
Raymond V. Burke, Jr. '77 & Connie J. Burke
Tighe L. Burke '09
Susan Culloden Burroughs '77 &
Kim D. Burroughs
Sara E. Burton '91
Sarah E. Byrd
Christopher D. Cain '75 & Mary M. Mallander
Daniel A. Calandro '77 & Janet Calandro
Del Camp '69
Chad A. Campanelli '97
Ryan W. Cannady '99 & Amy Cannady
Harry Hughes Carpenter '18
Serena R. Carpenter & Jerry D. Carpenter
Amber L. Felton Carroll '02 &
Robert B. Carroll '02
Steven M. Cheesman '80 & Kelly Cheesman
Mark K. Chelmowski '81 & Terri Chelmowski
Daniel T. Churilla '86
James R. Clark '09
Dawn Davies Clark '91 & Jeffrey D. Clark '82
Mary B. Clark
Sharon R. Clayton & Thomas W. Clayton, Jr.
Emily Cline
Virginia Mallow Close '68 &
Norman R. Close '68
Lynn W. Colburn & Charles M. Colburn
Christopher William Colburn '18
William H. Colby '77 & Kelley Andersen Colby
Rachel Clark Cole '12 & Michael Cole
Clare Brandt Colt '17
April Conway & Ryan D. Conway
Nancy McMaster '74 & Thomas M. Cooke '73



EMILY MCPARLAND '22

Emily McParland is a junior midfielder for the women's soccer team. She is president of the Chemistry Club, a student ambassador for admissions, and a member of the Scientific Journal Club. She intends to major in Biology, and minor in Neuroscience, Anthropology, and Sociology.

McParland chose Knox because of the wonderful people she met throughout the admission process. During her visit, she stayed overnight with women on the soccer team, and many of them ended up being some of her best friends. "I always felt so welcomed; Knox was just a place of love and community that I did not find anywhere else," says McParland.

Her favorite Knox memory was constructing a horse skeleton for her Comparative Vertebrate Anatomy class. "We identified and articulated an entire ten-foot-tall horse skeleton in under two weeks," she said.

McParland loves playing soccer most because of the bonds she has created with her teammates. She found her best friends through soccer, and loves the connection that she has with a teammate when she completes a pass with them. Soccer has always been something that has brought her joy and kept her busy. "As I got older, soccer has been one true constant in my life. It's something that, no matter what kind of day I am having, will guarantee to make me smile and forget about any other stresses of life," said McParland.



THAO LUONG '23

Thao Luong is a sophomore member of the Knox volleyball and track and field teams. An outside hitter for volleyball, and jumper for the track and field team, Luong intends to major in Biochemistry with a double minor in French and Health Studies, and is a Dare to Care Peer educator, SAAC representative, and AHEC Scholar.

"Volleyball is a sport in which you truly cannot succeed if you are missing a link," says Luong. "I love that interconnectedness and how you can't even lose focus for a second. For volleyball, as I've become more skilled, the way that I think about the game has changed. It's almost like playing chess at this point. You read the court, and are able to create a plan for victory. And that just makes it more fun!"

When asked about track, Luong said, "Track gave me back the feeling of doing individual sports again, so I loved seeing improvement based upon me. I'm still relatively new at the sport, but I've grown a lot in jumping. I used to have to focus solely on technique, but now, I am able to think more of just going all out and jumping as far as I can."

Luong chose Knox because of the people and tools and resources to help create an accomplished future. "I love how engaged the student body is with the campus, and how personalized my education feels. I know that if I am ever struggling with anything, there will always be someone there who is willing to help me. I also love all of the professional opportunities offered to students," says Luong.

Elizabeth J. Cooley '12
 Caroline G. Burgland Cormier '97 & Michael J. Cormier
 Kathryn Elizabeth Coseglia
 Charles H. Crain '73 & Sue Kobler Crain '78
 Patricia Crowder
 Jack Alexander Culbertson
 Zenda Cummings
 Allyson R. Curry
 John D. Curtin '09
 Charles R. Curtis '92
 Sarah E. Atkinson Custis '98 & David J. Custis '98
 Matthew A. Cutright '89
 Steve E. Czerwinski '82 & Ms. Selina C. Clow
 Kathryn McMorrow Czupyrnski '75 & Charles J. Czupyrnski
 Rochelle R. Dacio & David C. Dacio
 Thomas M. Daker '78 & Lorraine Orth Daker
 Michael V. Dale '99
 Tad Daley '78 & Kitty Daley
 Glen W. Dallman '65 & Janet Dallman
 Janet Pliszka Daugherty '79
 Charles W. Davis, Jr. '61 & Suzanne M. Davis
 James D. Davis, Jr. '06
 John C. Davis '11
 Victor J. Davis '86 & Vida Cross '88
 Jen Shipley DeBuhr '01 & Cory A. DeBuhr
 Herbert Decker, Jr. '50
 Deborah S. DeGraff '80
 Stephanie A. Hasan Detterline '98 & Alvin James Detterline IV
 Scott W. DeWitt & Nancy DeWitt
 George R. Diepenbrock '04
 Dawn M. Dietz & Jason A. Dietz
 Michael J. Dietz '68 & Susan L. Dietz
 Michael Alexander Dobin '18
 Sue Rowe Doe '79 & William W. Doe, III
 Doug W. Domenick '93 & Elizabeth Johnson
 David R. Dooman '99 & Aly Dooman
 Danica Beth Dosman '21
 Jaime L. Lewis Dougherty '04
 Sara E. G. Dreiser '10
 John H. Durocher, Sr. '82 & Teresa Durocher
 Jennifer E. Lee Dye '93 & Alexander A. A. Dye '95
 John E. Eagelston '85
 Nathan S. Easley '03
 Erin J. Jacoby Easter '00 & Steven B. Easter '99
 Abigail Elizabeth Ebener
 Janelle Curtis Eckdhal '01 & Eric J. Eckdhal '00
 David H. Eiss '64
 Angelique B. Effering
 Taliah Desjardins Ellis '19
 Angela J. Elstone & Paul R. Elstone
 Jennifer Huff Engelken '04
 Gerald M. Erjavec '76
 Alice Etienne
 Ron M. Etienne
 Miranda Lynn Fay
 Barbara Lee Fay '61 & William A. Fay '61
 Austin T. Finley '15
 Linda Sheely Fischer '77 & David G. Fischer
 Margaret Zepp Fisher '84 & Hal S. Fisher
 Colin R. Flaherty '97
 Kevin Erick Fletcher '96
 John T. Flood '71 & Carol N. Flood
 Donald C. Forti '06 & Megan Forti
 Joshua S. Fourdyce '99 & Angela Fourdyce
 David M. Freed '88 & Laura Freed
 Stephen P. Freese '74
 Joseph W. Frondorf '91 & Alisa Frondorf
 Jerome K. Fulton '62 & Mary Wills Fulton
 Galesburg Hospital Corporation
 Jennifer Lynne Gallas
 Cassandra T. Milleville '10 & Joseph E. Garbin '10
 Dave Gaskill
 Michael A. Gasparro '13
 Melissa Newburn Gathje '92 & John Gathje
 Tina Kimmit Gavlin '80 & Thomas A. Gavlin '80
 Anna Lynn Gerdes '19
 Andrew Joseph Gibbons & Carla L. Gibbons
 Fiona B. O'Brien Gill '95
 George Gilligan
 Arthur H. Gilster III '02 & Beth E. Conant '02
 Amanda C. Scripp Goodness '01 & Benjamin N. Goodness '02
 Hayle M. Gosnell '09
 Elizabeth V. Grana '06
 James W. Graunke '70 & Judith M. Graunke
 Andrew S. Gray '90
 Sandra G. S. Gray & Timothy M. Gray
 Charles E. Creekmore '71 & Dana M. Creekmore
 Diane E. Grierson
 Danielle A. Griffith '05
 Roger O. Griffith '63 & Joyce L. Griffith
 Kenneth R. Grimm '65 & Dorothy Grimm
 Amanda Gronsky
 Nancy E. Gruchala '96 & Sonia M. Matthews '97
 Christopher M. Gunderson '88
 Miles C. Gunderson '82 & Michelle Gunderson
 Elissa Bonaventura Gunning '69 & Daniel E. Gunning '68
 David Han '06
 Lonna E. Haley Hancock '04 & Matthew K. Hancock '02
 Matthew W. Hannam '98 & Allison Hannam
 Kathryn Knosher Harden '80 & Richard R. Harden '80
 Kenneth C. Harding
 Jennifer A. Haskell '11
 Dawn Lindel Hatch '78 & Robert Hatch
 Stephen A. Hawf '03
 Stephen T. Hayashi '68 & Keiko Hayashi

Matthew P. Hayden '98
 Chantal M. Heckman '14
 Frederick L. Heger, Jr. '79 &
 Eleanor Schlafly Heger
 Richard O. Hegg '73 & Linda Z. Hegg
 Catherine Kucik Heimann '70
 Kerry Heimann
 Kevin H. Heimann '02
 Lee D. Henderson '03 &
 Katherine L. Herinman
 Clare Elizabeth Hensley
 Jeffrey J. Herr '86 & Tracy Herr
 Jill R. Hersh & Fred S. Hersh
 Joyce M. Hertko '82
 Elizabeth Hickey & Christopher M. Hickey
 Colleen Higgins
 Lois & Henry Higgins
 Douglas J. Hill '77 & Cathryn Hill
 Michael T. Hill '06
 Norman E. Hillner '79 & Kathleen A. Hillner
 Cody Alexander Hipp '18
 Brenda M. Hipp & Scott J. Hipp
 Michael R. Hoane '90
 Jeffrey D. Hockett '81 & Laura Hockett
 Beverly B. Holmes
 Steven R. Holmes '80 & Brenda J. Holmes
 Allison M. O'Brien '02 & Jeremiah T. Holt '01
 Linda Houck & Terry Houck
 Taylor M. Houck
 Janet Watson Hoyne '70 &
 Andrew T. Hoyne '69
 Daniel J. Hrozencik '83
 James H. Hutchison '68
 Constantine Hvostik '74
 Holly Engelhart Isaacson '99 &
 Andrew T. Isaacson '99
 Patricia A. Isaacson & Thomas M. Isaacson
 Gary H. Jantho '89

Nicholas John Janulis '20
 Beatriz Jimenez '19
 Adam P. Johnson '02 &
 Brooke D. Mathews Johnson '00
 Christopher M. Johnson '04
 Eric Bayne Johnson
 Eric L. Johnson '67 & Joan S. Johnson
 Stanley L. Johnson, Jr. '84 & Saba Shibberu
 Lloy Brodnicki Johnston '94 &
 Mark K. Johnston '93
 Margaret E. Jordan '05
 Pamela E. Joseph '74
 Preston I. Justice
 Ann M. Kapoun '88
 Suzanne M. Claxton '04 &
 Donald J. Karas, Jr. '04
 Faith Kashishian & Mark Kashishian
 Stephen J. Kaszynski '76 & Marilyn Kaszynski
 Jared M. Katchen '10
 Helen C. Katz & Martin L. Katz
 Sarah B. Kaul '77 & Thomas E. Shirley
 Errol Brand Kaylor '18
 Crew M. Keller
 Charles M. Kernats '73
 Darren W. King '94 & Tacy Iverson King
 Melanie Potter King '77 & Kirk L. King '76
 Peter T. Klassen '67
 Kasey Rochelle Kleiner
 Klingner & Associates P.C.
 Harlan Knosher & Margaret Knosher
 Seth A. Kopf '04 & Karen L. Kopf
 Michael E. Kosanovich & Jane A. Kosanovich
 Kristen M. Koviekis '18
 Jill A. Krippel '13 & Justin M. Dingle '13
 Edward T. Kucera '70
 Zoe Y.S. Kudla-Polay '13 & Jacob B. Polay '15
 Danette R. Huecks & Nathan R. Huecks
 Jacob M. Kuhnline '07

Peggy J. Hurley & Mark D. Kunkel
 Michael P.A. Lane '02 & Daisy Lane
 Nathan C. Lanter '93
 Julie C. Larsen '04
 Benjamin C. Latimer '97
 Steven A. Laudel '79 & Cheryl L. Laudel
 Cammi Heimann Lawrence '95 &
 Doug Lawrence
 Miranda A. Gutzmer Lawrence '00 &
 Drew E. Lawrence '02
 Mark Lee
 James W. Leech II '71 & Kim Leech
 Sara N. Leverton '13
 Gwen L. Lexow '90 & Jennifer A. Jewell '92
 Anthony E. Liberta '55 & Susan Liberta
 Luis Mateo Liendo Patino
 William K. Lindburg '72
 Peter M. Loiselle '73 & Jane C. R. Loiselle
 Zachary S. LoMonaco '08
 Victor E. Longman '57 & June Wylie-Longman
 Armondo P. Lopez '58 & Jacquelyn Lopez
 Robin Losito '76 & Mark A. Holmes
 Diane Lotko-Baker & Donald Baker
 Robert B. Louthain '93 & Denise Louthain
 Gina Clemmer Lufano '93 &
 Richard S. Lufano '92
 Natalie T. Nguyen & Linh V. Luong
 Jacob Mitchell Ly '17
 James J. Lynch '97 & Teresa Veith Lynch '96
 Karen Lutgens MacKenzie '95 &
 Keith L. MacKenzie
 Sarah Roberts Mahsud '88 &
 Mahmoud A. Mahsud '86
 Alexandra Nicole Marcoullier
 David R. Marquardt '08
 Evan W. Massey '74 & Amy Massey
 Patrick Edward Mattar
 Matthew David McCaffrey '18

KAITLYN PIERCE '24

Kaitlyn Pierce is a first-year member of the swimming and diving team, track and field team, and cross country team. Pierce swims competitively in the 100 fly, and runs the 6k and mile. She intends to double major in German and Public Policy, is a Dare 2 Care peer educator, German tutor, and member of the German Club at Knox.

She chose Knox because the College truly seemed to value her as a person during the application process, and as she learned more about the academic programs offered, opportunities to play sports and strong community at Knox, she knew it was the place for her. "I knew it was somewhere I was going to succeed and be happy," added Pierce.



Pierce loves that as an NCAA Division III athlete, she still gets to be competitive and focus on becoming a better athlete. "It's not overwhelming, and I am still able to dedicate most of my time to academics and other campus activities," added Pierce.

When asked what she loves most about her sport, Pierce said that she loves the community. Everyone from her teammates to coaches to parents are so supportive, and some of her strongest relationships have originated from sports.

The transition from being a high school student to college student has changed Pierce's sense of self. "I am more independent, confident, and happier than I've ever been because I am able to fully be myself here," said Pierce.

W. Dudley McCarter '72 & Elizabeth D. McCarter
 Maurice J. McDavid '10 & Samantha R. McDavid '10
 Catherine L. DeDeVitt '79 & James R. Irwin
 Melissa M. McEwen & Timothy A. McEwen
 Robert S. McGregor '68
 Lynn Strand McIntosh '71 & Mark A. McIntosh '72
 David E. McKillip '74 & Dia G. McKillip
 Brooke A. McKinney '99
 Donna J. McKnight & Roy A. McKnight
 Kyle P. McLaren '02
 Stephanie D. McMillan
 Joseph J. McNamara '79 & Barbara McNamara
 Michael J. McNamara '79
 Kristin L. Miller '10 & Spencer G. McNeil '10
 Natalie A. McPherson & Terry W. McPherson
 Matthew J. McQuaid '88
 Elizabeth A. McRill '12
 McKenzie Erin Meadows '21
 Stephanie G. Medina & Robert Medina
 Thomas D. Meehan, IV
 Kimberly E. Sorensen Megli '08 & Kevin L. Megli '07
 Lisa Ptasienski Meinert '91 & Andrew R. Meinert
 Dean J. Mento '81
 Robert E. Mentzer, Jr. '71 & Becky Mentzer
 William M. Meyer '11
 Janelle Urish Meyers '94 & Gregg R. Meyers '93
 Richard C. Michels, Jr. '88
 Mekhala Prasad Middleton '00 & Robert K. W. Middleton '00

Richard E. Miers '73 & Kimberly A. Miers
 Elaine Miller
 Marchelle M. Miller & Micheal J. Miller
 Dustin J. Milliken '03 & Tiffany Delahanty Milliken
 Peter C. Mitchell '78 & Laurel Tyler
 Edie T. Mitsuuchi-Smith '80 & Martin E. Smith
 Robert J. Monroe '88
 James S. Montana III '87
 Julia A. Jones Morrison '78 & Joseph T. Morrison '79
 Eric J. Muehlbauer '84
 Michael A. Muro '77 & Nancy Muro
 David J. Murphy '90
 Lawrence Theodore Murray '18
 Janeen E. Naki-Woodard & Winston Woodard
 Benjamin H. Neale '01 & Brianne Nunn
 Jeremy P. Nelson '96
 Kristofor W. Nelson '98
 Shellie J. Nelson & Daniel V. Nelson
 David Newbart '90 & Jessie Fenske
 Pamela Ord Newton '77
 John C. Nicolau '81 & Kathryn B. Nicolau
 Ralph D. Norman '71 & Susan Kamp Norman '70
 Edward F. Novak '69 & Heather Novak
 Shane V. Nugent '84
 Daniel J. Nunez '04
 Caitlin Harrison O'Connell '13 & Michael E. O'Connell '14
 Annette Andresen O'Donnely '82
 Ashley E. Olson '09 & Liesl A. Pereira '10
 OSF Healthcare System
 Megan N. Owens '01
 Ikenna Chris Ozor '21

Michael E. Pankey '89 & Rosario Berrios Pankey
 Derek F. Papp '01
 Jennifer Larsen Park '04 & Brian Y. Park '04
 Matthew H. Parson '98
 Samantha Eggert Paul '10 & Christopher W. Paul '07
 Vincent J. Pavilionis '02
 Kurt E. Pearson '80 & Jodi McPhillips-Pearson
 Niamh Hannah Pemberton
 Jessica Nicole Petersen '18
 Matthew R. Petersen '85 & Tara Petersen
 Peter R. Petersen '81 & Pamela Petersen
 Annie E. Peterson '20
 Justin E. Peterson '04 & Rachel Peterson
 Zuri Newby Peterson '20
 Mary C. Spenceri Pipkins '91
 Rafael Anton Miranda Plaza '19
 David M. Plomin '86 & Kalpana S. Plomin
 Radina C. Pollock & Michael J. Pollock
 Michael W. Pope '64
 Casey L. Norton Powers '07 & Timothy W. Powers '07
 Jonathan G. Powers, Jr.
 Frederick C. Prillaman, Jr. '88 & Ewa Prillaman
 Daniel M. Provencher '88 & Theresa Provencher
 Abby A. Putnam
 Katharine Moon Raess '10 & Jordan R. Raess '10
 Arturo V. Ramirez '71 & Jo Ann Flores Ramirez
 James F. Ramsey '88
 Garrett Duke Rau '20
 Rebeka Reade & James J. Lyman
 Fred Reifsteck III '82 & Joyce Reifsteck

MAURICE MCDAVID '10

McDavid was a Prairie Fire four-year football and two-year wrestling student-athlete. During his football career at Knox, McDavid played on the defensive line. Prior to his senior year, he received the Midwest Conference Sportsmanship award for his junior season, and also received the Dean S. Trevor award at the spring sports banquet of his junior year. McDavid is now a principal in the West Chicago school district, and an assistant pastor at his church in DeKalb, Illinois.

Coach Andy Gibbons, who was Head Coach of the Knox Football team from 1996-2009 said that, "Maurice is one of the best people I know and have ever coached. He was always positive, enthusiastic, and a leader. I can never remember a day he was not setting the tone on the field with his positive attitude and energy."



While at Knox, McDavid majored in Elementary Education with a minor in History and Spanish. "Knox prepped me in obvious ways, but also in the way that it helped to form my social justice viewpoint of education. There were a lot of great conversations with people from all round the world, and with different viewpoints that allowed me to grow as a person with an appreciation for the variety of cultures represented in our public schools."

McDavid says he is someone who knows more than knowledge but one who knows how to learn. "When I was considering Knox, the admission office motto was, 'Are You Knox?' It was on t-shirts and on the walls. When I graduated in 2010, I took away an answer to that question. Yes, I was and still am Knox. I am someone who desires to help not only in my small corner of the world but the world itself. I am someone who, in the face of difficult times, knows how to get up and go back to the task at hand, whatever that may be."

Janelle R. Rettig '87 & Robin E. Butler '85
 James L. Rhodes '71
 Zachary M. Ricketts '11
 Malinda Heerwagen Riley '93 & Shawn E. Riley
 Jennifer Caitlin Ripka '17
 Amanda L. Ripley '01
 Monique D. Roberts '03
 Angela N. Rodriguez & Quentin R. Rodriguez
 Michael Rogina
 John A. Rosene '68 & Candace E. Rosene
 Mary Marselus Rosic '76 &
 George S. Rosic '74
 Christina L. Rosier '05
 K. Bradley Routon '68
 Duncan M. Rowles, Jr. '63 & Marian L. Rowles
 Craig M. Ruffolo '92
 Carl J. Rugh '05 & Nicole Anne Rugh
 Glenn W. Ruklic '76 & Diane Ruklic
 Susan R. Runyon-Davis '77 &
 Michael Runyon-Davis
 Gretchen F. Rusch & David R. Rusch
 Erin Elise Rutledge
 Martin D. Salazar '16
 Abbie Salzstein
 Annette Sams & Charles Sams
 James Saranteas '91 & Kristen Saranteas
 Gregory M. Saul '03
 Julie Scannell '91
 Debra A. Schabes & Adam J. Schabes
 Wendy Scherwat Ducourneau '72
 Sharon L. Schillereff '82
 Christine Sebek Schmidt '91 &
 James J. Schmidt '91
 Linda Balgemann Schmidt
 Kate P. Schneider '08
 David C. Schoenwetter '98
 Jacob D. Scholl '09 & Stacey Scholl
 Kimberly K. Schrader
 Brynne Downum Schroeder '13 &
 Michael L. Schroeder '13
 Kyle W. Schultz '06
 Michael M. Schwalbach '91
 Andrew C. Schwartz '01 & Christi Schwartz
 Jerrold C. Schwartz '69
 Paula F. Schweitzer & Timothy S. Schweitzer
 Scott A. Seeliger '01 & Jean Anne Seeliger
 Brady Lee Sember
 Steven L. Seward '68 & Joyce Seward
 Charleen Pyles Shakman '91 &
 Benjamin P. Shakman '90
 Daniel T. Shepherd & Ann H. Ford
 Drew W. Sherman '00 & Melinda Sherman
 Paul S. Shimotake '85 & Mieko Shimotake
 Donald L. Shriver '64 &
 Catherine Hardinger Shriver '66
 Jennifer Deacon Shriver '93 &
 Donald P. Shriver '93

Elizabeth Cockrell Shule '12 &
 Andrew J. Shule '11
 John Robert Shullaw '72 & Lara Shullaw
 Kobe William Shutter
 Vincent L. Singleton '03
 Dixon J. Slater '66 & Terry Slater
 Priscilla A. Wilkins Slaughter '01 &
 Seth Slaughter
 Lynne S.P. Smith & Ron Smith
 Michael C. Smith '96 & Ann Bisping Smith
 Rosie Tierney Smith
 Erik B. Smoy '14
 William W. Smythe, Jr. '65 &
 Margaret Gallager-Smythe
 Mary S. Souther '94
 Morgan C. Spanel '00
 Tammi M. Spring
 Sandra N. St. George
 Julia Lauren Steen '19
 Robert B. Steinman '77 & Janet Steinman
 Jeffrey J. Stelpflug '98
 Emily Ann Stevenson '18
 Laura M. Stevenson & Richard E. Stevenson
 Michael J. Stockov '08
 Susanna L. Stone '03 & Jacob W. Wright '03
 Deanna Keiko Stout '18
 Harrison E. Strauss '05
 Ronald L. Streibich '58
 Randell E. Strickland '90
 Jennifer L. King Stripe '06 &
 Benjamin D. Stripe '06
 Stacie Amelia Strombom
 Stacy A. Louck Sturgeon '88 &
 Steve C. Sturgeon
 Steven G. Sutker '83
 Nina Palmer-Sweeney '68 &
 William V. Sweeney '68
 Robert M. Szyman '79 & Mary Szyman
 Jeremy C. Tabor '03
 Eishin Takahashi '97 & Elizabeth A. Takahashi
 Philip J. Tallman '14
 Daniel Taylor '72 & Rosalind Taylor
 Vickie Johnson Fair '83 & Timotthy Fair '84
 Jack M. Templeton '69
 Krista A. Thomas '00
 Kathleen Mihalovic Thompson '77 &
 Glen G. Thompson '78
 Joe Thompson '65 & Edie Thompson
 Valerie Thorp-Rosenberg '80 &
 Robert W. Rosenberg '83
 James S. Tiernan, Jr. '76
 Dorothy J. Ambrogi Todt '05 &
 Brendan J. Todt '06
 Darin T. Traff '04
 Kenneth A. Turner '58
 Max R. Utsler '70



CHRIS MCTEAGUE '22

McTeague is a junior playing second base for the baseball team. He intends to major in Biology and minor in Business, and is also a SAAC representative and member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity.

He chose Knox because it provided him with the opportunity to continue playing the sport he loves while also receiving a world-class education. His favorite Knox memory is teammate Justin Woodard's walk off homerun against Cornell College during McTeague's first year at Knox.

McTeague's experience with baseball has changed over time. He has come to appreciate the relationships that playing baseball afforded him over the years, with both teammates and coaches. As a NCAA Division III student-athlete, he appreciates that his coaches and Knox are committed to his success as a student over his success as an athlete.

When asked for one tip McTeague would give an incoming first year Knox student, he advised, "Take a deep breath, slow down, and enjoy every second of your time here. It'll be gone before you know it."

Benjamin L. Van Vlerah '98 & Stephanie Van Vlerah
 John E. Vanderheyden '76 & Roxanne S. Vanderheyden
 Susan Dicks Vantrease '75 & E. Kyle Vantrease '73
 Camilla D. Vercellino
 Alexandra K. Vernon
 Shannon Kline Wachowski '16
 Cynthia J. Moore Waddell '87 & Glenn H. Waddell, Jr. '92
 Rory J. Wagner '72 & Katherine Wagner
 Hillary Hippen '90 & Michael Waldspurger '91
 Jane Crawford Walker '68 & Herbert D. Walker
 Cecilia A. Burkhead Ward '75 & Donald G. Ward, Jr.
 Alison Snyder-Warwick '00 & Chris Warwick '99
 Hunter James Webb
 Steven J. Weidert '75 & Denise K. Weidert

Mariola Dobersztyn Weithers '83 & Thomas M. Weithers
 Lawrence Eugene Welch & Beth Welch
 Evander M. Wells
 Andrew T. Wenk '94 & Paige E. Wenk
 Scott L. Westerman '84 & Gail Westerman
 Glenn H. Weyhrich '62
 Jason Owen White '21
 Robert S. White '65 & Linda B. White
 Scott A. White '87
 Andrew G. Wiemers '99
 Eric Z. Williams '85 & Adrian A. Payton-Williams
 Lisa S. Williamson '86
 Jordan W. Willits '14
 Logan Willits '11
 Tammara Willits & William R. Willits
 Eric C. Wilson '84 & Ellen M. Wilson
 J. Mark Wilson & Marsha Wilson
 Jeannine L. Norman Winczner '01

G. Trevor Winebright '57
 Brenden Michael Wise
 Michelle R. Wise
 Meredith Lynn Witherell
 Erica R. Witkowski
 Jamie A. Wollrab
 Stacy A. Womack '77
 David L. Wood '72 & Sandra Wood
 Michael P. Woods '81 & Melissa Woods
 John J. Wozniak '99
 Michael F. Wright '75 & Kathleen A. Wright
 Theodore S. Wright, Jr. '72
 Thomas G. Yarotsky '77
 Caroline Koch Young '90 & Kendall M. Young '88
 Nicholas Young '03 & Sara J. Young
 Gerald E. Zavorcka '94 & Amy Zavorcka
 Geoffrey N. Ziegler '03 & Joy E. Thiel Ziegler '01
 Michael L. Zielke '67 & Marsha Zielke
 Layne A. Zimmers '06

Pay it forward!

Complete the survey to let us know that you want to get involved with Prairie Fire athletics:

www.knox.edu/KClub-volunteer

LESLIE COMBS '94

Leslie Combs was a member of the Knox women's soccer team, and ran indoor and outdoor track. "I was recruited to play soccer, and fell in love with the College during my visit, when I got to spend time with the amazing women soccer players and other recruits," she said.

At Knox, Combs was a Sociology/Anthropology major and Women's Studies major. She was vice president of Mortar Board, Student Senate secretary, student representative to the Women's Concerns Committee, and co-refounder of Women to Women.

She received the Midwest Conference 1993 Women's Scholar-Athlete Award, which recognizes a female athlete for high academic achievement while lettering in two or more sports. Combs was also awarded the Knox Moller Cup and K-Cup Awards, and was named to the Academic All-Conference team in soccer.

"I loved being a part of the women's soccer team," said Combs. "The veteran women on the team were wonderful mentors to us when we were freshmen and sophomores, and were so much fun to be around. My teammates and coaches were among the best parts of the Knox experience for me. Our soccer coach Jane Stangl was also a great mentor, and I became her research assistant, exploring the sociology of sport. She pushed us hard and taught me a lot about the larger picture of women in sports."



During her senior year at Knox, Combs participated in the ACM Urban Studies program in Chicago, and after she graduated she moved to Chicago and utilized the contacts she made during that program to start working in politics and government. She joined Jan Schakowsky's Congressional campaign in 1997. Schakowsky won that election, and Combs has been the Congresswoman's District Director since 1999. "My time at Knox helped prepare me for this career in so many ways, and being able to participate and succeed in team sports in college helped build the person that I am today," says Combs.

As for her Knox track career, Combs said, "I didn't run track in high school, but Knox gave me the opportunity to join the indoor and outdoor track and field programs, an experience I wouldn't have had at many other schools. I started as a sprinter, but then found my way into the middle distances—the 800 and the 1500—where I thrived. The track team was like a family."

Playing soccer and running track showed Combs the power of practice and training, and gave her skills and values that she has used since college. "It also showed me that I could try and succeed in something that I hadn't even considered doing previously, and the benefits of trying new things," she added. "And, I got to experience the benefits of working with a team towards a shared goal, and enjoying it."