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## Northeast Conference Announces 2014 Fall Scholar-Athletes, Academic Honor Roll & Commissioner's Honor Roll

**Somerset, NJ** -- Two student-athletes from Central Connecticut, LIU Brooklyn and Saint Francis University, along with one each from Robert Morris, Sacred Heart and Wagner make up the 2014 Fall Scholar-Athlete award winners for the Northeast Conference (NEC). The outstanding group of honorees are led by a repeat award winner in LIU Brooklyn women's volleyball player **Annika Foit (Hausach, Germany/Robert-Gerwig Gymnasium)**, four Capital One Academic All-Americans and seven recipients with 3.90 or better grade point averages.

All scholar-athlete award winners must have earned a minimum of 60 semester hours at their institution, maintained a minimum cumulative grade-point-average of 3.20 and participated with distinction as a member of a varsity team.

Along with the scholar-athletes, the NEC announced its fall Academic Honor Roll, consisting of 649 student-athletes with a 3.20 or better grade-point average. The 649 honorees represent an 11.7 percent increase from the 2014 fall season. There were also 140 student-athletes named to the Commissioner's Honor Roll, recognizing those superior student-athletes with a 3.75 or better grade point average.

Central Connecticut senior **Patrick Hubbell (North Haven, CT/North Haven)** is the latest in a long line of Blue Devils to claim the men's cross country scholar-athlete award, joining recent honorees Craig Hunt, Andrew Hill, Sam Alexander and Ry Sanderson. Hubbell won the NEC Men's Cross Country individual championship in dominating fashion, covering the 8K Stanley Quarter Park course in 25:22.58 as the Blue Devils won their sixth straight team title. The two-time NEC Athlete of the Week also won the CCSU Mini Meet and finished third at the Ted Owen Invitational. Hubbell, a North Haven, CT product, has compiled a 3.25 grade point average as a Mechanical Engineering major.

Central Connecticut senior **Elizabeth Eberhardt (Thomaston, CT/Thomaston)** is the co-winner of the women's cross country scholar-athlete award. Running on her home course, Eberhardt crossed the tape first at the NEC Women's Cross Country Championship in 17:27.57, three seconds ahead of the pack. She also placed seventh at the CCSU Mini Meet, eighth at the Ted Owen Invitational and 34th at the New England Championships. Eberhardt, who hails from Thomaston, CT, was honored as the NEC Athlete of the Week on October 28. A Marketing major, Eberhardt finished the fall semester with a 3.80 grade point average.

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Saint Francis U senior **Kylie Jackson (Apollo, PA/Kiski Area)** is the co-recipient of the women's cross country scholar-athlete award. Jackson placed second overall at the 2014 NEC Women's Cross Country Championship with a time of 17:30.85, just three seconds off the pace. In doing so, the Apollo, PA native helped the Red Flash to a third place overall finish. A two-time NEC Athlete of the Week, Jackson was the top Red Flash finisher in five-of-seven races over the fall. She won the Bucknell Bison meet to start her senior campaign, then took first in SFU's own Father Bede Invitational meet two weeks later. Jackson also placed fourth at the Ted Owen Invitational in late September. Jackson is a Political Science major who maintains a 3.90 grade point average.

Sacred Heart senior running back **Sean Bell (Medford Lakes, NJ/Bishop Eustace)** wraps up his senior year with his selection as the co-scholar-athlete award winner in football. Bell had a career year in helping the Pioneers to a second straight NEC championship. He rushed for 550 yards and three touchdowns, including a 112-yard effort on 15 carries in Sacred Heart's FCS Tournament game at Fordham on November 29. He also compiled 186 receiving yards and caught a touchdown during his senior campaign. Bell finished his career with 1,131 yards and six touchdowns. In December, Bell became the first Sacred Heart football player to be tabbed a Capital One Academic All-American, earning second team honors. A Business major with a 3.91 cumulative grade point average, the Medford Lakes, NJ native has earned Dean's List distinction each semester at Sacred Heart and twice finished semesters with a perfect 4.0 GPA.

Robert Morris junior offensive lineman **Nick Faraci (McDonald, PA/South Fayette)** collects co-scholar-athlete accolades in football. Faraci, a center, has started 33 consecutive games for the Colonials, the longest active streak on the Robert Morris offense. He helped RMU rush for at least 160 yards in three games this past season, including a 214-yard effort against North Dakota. Faraci, who coordinates the pre-snap calls for the Colonials, earned the role of captain in multiple games over the course of the 2014 campaign. The McDonald, PA capped his junior year by being selected to the Capital One Academic All-America second team. He previously became the ninth RMU football student-athlete to earn multiple Academic All-District honors. The Nursing major plans to attend medical school upon graduating. Faraci currently possesses a 3.93 grade point average.

Saint Francis U senior midfielder **Pablo Medina (Monterrey, Mexico/IMG Academies)** is one of two recipients of this year's men's soccer scholar-athlete honor. Medina provided the creative spark in the Red Flash attack this season, finishing first in the NEC and fourth in the nation with 11 assists on the year. The 11 assists established a new SFU single-season record and he ranks second all-time at the school with 19 assists over the course of his career. Medina played an essential role down the stretch of the season, helping the Red Flash to their third consecutive NEC playoff appearance and a berth in the NEC title game. He was tabbed to the NSCAA All-Northeast Region first team and was tabbed an ECAC All-Star after collecting first team All-NEC honors. An Accounting major, Medina finished the fall semester with a 3.91 cumulative grade point average.

LIU Brooklyn senior striker **Brice Merwine (Carlisle, PA/Carlisle)** is this year's men's soccer co-scholar-athlete award winner. Merwine led the Blackbirds to their first NEC Tournament appearance in 10 years, ranking second in the conference and ninth in the nation with 12 goals on the year. An All-NEC first team and NEC All-Tournament selection, Merwine also ranked second in the league in both goals (0.71) and points (1.41) per game. The two-time NEC Player of the Week scored three-game winners in 2014, and posted four multi-goal games to help LIU to a 4-3 record in conference play. For his efforts on the field and in the classroom, Merwine was named to the Capital One Academic All-America second team. As part of his academic study, the Carlisle, PA native participated in the 2013 Summer Undergraduate Research Institute in Experimental Mathematics at Michigan State University's Lyman Briggs College. He was one of only 15 college students chosen to take part in the prestigious event. Merwine is a Mathematics major who carries a 3.93 grade point average.

Wagner redshirt senior **Katie Marcy (Bellmore, NY/John F. Kennedy)** collects this year's NEC women's soccer scholar-athlete award. Marcy helped lead the Seahawks to their first-ever NEC Tournament appearance, anchoring a suffocating Wagner defense that allowed just two goals in league play. A two-time NEC Defensive Player of the Week, she led the conference with a 0.74 goals against average and nine shutouts, and ranked second on the circuit and 12th nationally with an .869 save percentage. Against NEC competition, her numbers were off the charts, posting a 0.24 GAA and .956 save percentage. Marcy, a Bellmore, NY native, majors in Education. She has compiled a 3.93 grade point average.

It's back-to-back women's volleyball scholar-athlete honors for LIU Brooklyn senior **Annika Foit (Hausach, Germany/Robert-Gerwig Gymnasium)**, who wrapped her star-studded career as one of the NEC's all-time greats. The first student-athlete in league history to earn three NEC Player of the Year honors, Foit helped guide the Blackbirds to yet another undefeated conference season and finished her four years with an incredible 65-3 mark (.956) against NEC schools. She paced the league in kills (4.16) and points (4.68) per set in the regular season as the Blackbirds claimed their fourth consecutive NEC regular season championship. Foit recorded 18 double-doubles, five 20+ kill matches and was named NEC Player of the Week on four different occasions. The four-time All-NEC first team honoree and 2011 NEC Rookie of the Year, she finished her career ranked second on LIU Brooklyn's all-time kills list (1,747), fourth in aces (151) and sixth in digs (1,149). At season's end Foit was tabbed a Capital One/CoSIDA First Team Academic All-American a year after earning second team accolades. She maintains a 3.94 grade point average majoring in Biology and is a four-time member of the NEC Academic and Commissioner's Honor Roll.

### 2014 Northeast Conference Fall Scholar-Athletes

Sport	Name	School	Cl	GPA	Major
Men's Cross Country	Patrick Hubbell	Central Connecticut	Sr	3.25	Mechanical Engineering
Women's Cross Country	Elizabeth Eberhardt	Central Connecticut	Sr	3.80	Marketing
	Kylie Jackson	Saint Francis U	Sr	3.90	Political Science
Football	Sean Bell	Sacred Heart	Sr	3.90	Business
	Nick Faraci	Robert Morris	Jr	3.93	Nursing
Men's Soccer	Pablo Medina	Saint Francis U	Sr	3.91	Accounting
	Brice Merwine	LIU Brooklyn	Sr	3.93	Mathematics
Women's Soccer	Katie Marcy	Wagner	R-Sr	3.93	Education
Women's Volleyball	Annika Foit	LIU Brooklyn	Sr	3.94	Biology

### About The Northeast Conference

Now in its 34th year, the Northeast Conference is an NCAA Division I collegiate athletic association consisting of 10 institutions of higher learning located throughout six states. Media coverage of the NEC extends to four of the largest markets in the United States - New York (#1), Pittsburgh (#23), Baltimore (#27), and Hartford/New Haven (#30). Founded in 1981 as the basketball-only ECAC Metro Conference, the NEC has grown to sponsor 22 championship sports for men and women and now enjoys automatic access to 14 different NCAA Championships. NEC member institutions include Bryant, Central Connecticut, Fairleigh Dickinson, LIU Brooklyn, Mount St. Mary's, Robert Morris, Sacred Heart, St. Francis Brooklyn, Saint Francis U and Wagner. For more information on the NEC, visit the league's official website ([www.northeastconference.org](http://www.northeastconference.org)) and digital network ([www.necfrontrow.com](http://www.necfrontrow.com)), or follow the league on Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Instagram and Google+, all @NECsports.