

Soar with the KSC Owl Club

The Keene State Owl Club, now entering its fourth year as the fund-raising arm for KSC athletics, is poised to play an even bigger role as the College gets ready to celebrate its Centennial.

Donations to the KSC Owl Club go to support each of our 18 intercollegiate programs. In most instances, funds from the Owl Club will be used for facility improvements and renovations. Last year, donations from the Owl Club went towards the purchase of new sound systems for baseball and softball and new field signage for all of our outdoor teams. In addition, the donations we have received have begun to allow us to web cast many of our sporting events. We are one of only two Little East programs supplying video broadcast, and it is your donations that make this possible.

While the general athletic budget adequately funds the necessities (uniforms, travel, recruiting, and game expenses) for each of our 18 programs, the funds that the Owl Club generates let us do the extra things that enable our student athletes to compete at the highest regional and national levels of Division III.

If you contributed to our success the past few years, we very much appreciate your support of Keene State athletics. If you are planning to contribute for the first time, we want to let you know that your contribution plays a major role as Keene State athletics continues its tradition of success.



Keene State Coaches Celebrate Centennial

If you're looking for a reason for Keene State's athletic success over the years, you'd do well to start with the Owls' coaching staff. Noted for their success and longevity, this current group of 11 head coaches has helped steer Owl teams to unprecedented accomplishments in Division III and the Little East Conference.

Under these remarkable coaches' guidance, Keene State teams have won frequent national recognition and many LEC championships, and All-American lists continue to grow. In a year in which Keene State gets set to celebrate its Centennial, Owl coaches, whose total years of service on the sidelines encompass more than 180 years, share some of thoughts and memories that have made Keene State a special place for them.

"The Centennial mean's I've been around here a long time," joked Keene State men's soccer coach **Ron Butcher**. Now in his 38th season, Butcher feels a turning point in KSC athletics coincided with the arrival of **Glenn Theulen** as men's basketball coach in 1968. (He later became baseball coach and athletic director.) The men's basketball team became a top NAIA power, and the men's soccer team soon followed. Several programs thrived in Division II, including men's and women's soccer and softball, and the entire program had a resurgence of success and support when it moved to Division III in 1997. "The Divisions and affiliations might have changed over the years, but Keene State has always fielded competitive teams," Butcher said. "The Centennial gives us an opportunity to celebrate that success."

Charlie Beach, who has coached skiing and softball and also served in the athletic training program, recalls Keene State's advancement in women's sports. "I got here in 1978, only six years after Title IX, and I've seen the women's program explode, not only with the opportunity to play, but with the quality of the athletes," he said. "The success of the athletic program is a direct reflection on the coaches and their commitment to excellence."

Amy Watson, the Owls' field hockey coach for the past 19 years, has seen many changes in her sport. "Back when I started coaching, everyone played on grass, and now we're playing on turf in one of the nicest stadiums in the conference," she said. "The athletic facilities in general have improved greatly since I've been here."

"This will be my 20th year, and I've really seen KSC grow in so many ways," said Owl women's basketball coach **Keith Boucher**. "You talk about stepping into the 21st century — this campus has really done that." Boucher says he recruits student athletes based on three major criteria: (1) the academic programs, (2) the conference and the level of competition, and (3) the campus environment. "At Keene State we have a triple threat as far as offering a total package," he said.

"Overall, I've seen some wonderful changes during my 22 years at Keene State," said women's soccer coach and former Owl All-American **Denise Lyons**. "Keene State has grown and become a fantastic institution and an easy sell as a coach. Once recruits visit Keene and see what the school has to offer and how beautiful it is, they want to come here."

Long-time cross country and track coach **Peter Thomas** has also been very impressed with the changes in the campus over the years. "Our alumni who come back just marvel at how beautiful the campus has become," said Thomas, a former KSC runner, who coached the first Owl teams to earn NAIA and NCAA championship berths. "The new building has made Keene State a great place to go to school. I wish I could do it over again."

Keene State athletic director **John Ratliff**, who arrived at Keene State during its transition to Division III and the Little East, is gratified by the overall success of the 18-team program. "What you're seeing is parity among all the teams and success year in and year out," he said. "The high level of play has fostered tremendous support from the College and the Keene community. It's second to none."

"We're a program that schools in the region want to emulate, and I think that speaks well for the coaches, student athletes, and administrators," Ratliff said.

"The Centennial is something special for me, not only as a coach and player, but also as a proud townie," said **Ken Howe**, getting set for his 23rd season as the Owls' baseball coach. "Seeing the whole athletic program grow to where it is today means a lot, not only to everybody here on campus, but also the people of Keene. I love Keene; it's my home town, and I bleed red and white."

The 2007 – 08 season marked another strong campaign for Keene State as a member of Division III and the Little East Conference. With the conclusion of the successful season, the Keene State Athletic Department would like to recognize the following accomplishments by its teams and student athletes:

- Demonstrated remarkable academic success: 49% of KSC student athletes had a spring GPA of 3.0 or greater; the overall student athlete GPA is greater than that of the general student body
- Recognized as the #1 NCAA Division III Public Institution in New England
- Won the Little East Commissioner's Trophy for the eighth consecutive year
- Won the fifth straight President's Trophy vs. Plymouth State
- Represented in 10 NCAA Tournaments: three teams (men's soccer, field hockey, and baseball) and seven individuals (men's and women's cross country, indoor and outdoor track, and women's swimming)
- Three individual national champions: Crystal Blamy (2), and Jennifer Adams.
- Fielded four ECAC New England Tournament teams (women's soccer, volleyball, softball, and lacrosse)
- Won five Little East Conference tournament championships (field hockey, women's cross country and swimming, men's indoor track, and baseball)
- Won three LEC regular season championships (field hockey, women's volleyball, and baseball)

How You Benefit by Joining the KSC Owl Club

In addition to the personal gratification you get from helping student athletes at Keene State accomplish their dreams of scholarship and success, joining the KSC Owl Club provides numerous benefits for its participating donors. Depending upon the amount of your donation, we offer the following benefits, but note that some of these reduce the tax deduction you might otherwise receive from your donation. You may choose to forgo accepting any of our benefit offerings, which makes your entire donation 100% tax deductible.

Gift Clubs

Benefits	Director \$1,000+	Coach \$500-\$999	Captain \$250-\$499	Starter \$100-\$249	Player \$50-\$99
Tax deduction	●	●	●	●	●
Donor recognition	●	●	●	●	●
Newsletter and decal	●	●	●	●	●
KSC T-shirt	●	●	●	●	●
KSC hat	●	●	●	●	
Two tickets for two to any 2008-09 regular season athletic event	●	●	●	●	
Two VIP season passes to 2008-09 regular season home games	●	●	●		
KSC golf umbrella	●	●	●		
One additional VIP season pass to regular season home games	●	●			
Two tickets to Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner	●	●			
One spot in KSC Golf Classic	●				
President's Reception	●				
Amount of gift that is non-tax-deductible	\$180	\$100	\$50	\$20	\$10

Getting the Job Done in the Classroom

When announcing the Keene State Scholar-Athlete honor at the College's annual awards dinner every spring, Vince Ferlini, the Owls' former NCAA faculty representative and longtime member of the KSC math department, would begin his presentation with the following statement: "It is no accident that the label 'student athlete' has the word 'student' coming first, since the primary responsibility of these young people at Keene State is academics."



Amy Dubois and Coach Amy Watson

Any student athlete will tell you how difficult it is to attend practices and competitions, both home and away, and still have the energy and focus to do well in the classroom. It is a remarkable achievement to excel in both academics and athletics.

While Amy Dubois, a member of the LEC championship Keene State field hockey team, was last year's recipient of the school's Scholar-Athlete Award and was also recognized as a District Academic All-American, many Owl athletes made the grade in the field and in the classroom.

The numbers speak for themselves. Forty-nine percent of KSC student athletes had a spring GPA of 3.0 or greater, and the overall student athlete GPA is greater than the general student body GPA.

Dubois, from Jefferson, N.H., who graduated last year and is now working as a field coordinator for Healthy New Hampshire Kids, topped the list of 103 student athletes and student athletic trainers who were named to the KSC All-Academic team.

In addition, 78 Owl student athletes were recognized on the inaugural LEC All-Academic team.

Several Keene State teams were also recognized for their athletic achievement during the year. The Owl field hockey program earned NFCA All-Academic team honors with 10 of its members named to the NFCA All-Academic squad. The Keene State women's soccer and men's cross country squads were presented with the Don Carle Award for having the highest cumulative GPA among Owl teams.

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- Coaches Club \$500 - \$999
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- Starters Club \$100 - \$249
- Players Club \$50 - \$99
- or a gift of \$ _____

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 - Men's Basketball
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 - Women's Soccer
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 - Women's Volleyball
- or -**
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The College may publicize this contribution.

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Please send KSC Owl Club gifts to:
KSC Development Office
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For more information, contact
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CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL

