



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Diverse: Issues In Higher Education announces the 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Athletes-of-the-Year

FAIRFAX, Va. — ***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*** magazine is pleased to announce the 2018 Arthur Ashe Jr. Male and Female Athletes of the Year.

Male:

Blaise Taylor, Arkansas State University, Football, Winner

Justin Zhang, University of California, San Diego, Tennis, 1st Runner-Up

Jevon Carter, West Virginia University, Basketball, 2nd Runner-Up

Female:

Haley Clark, University of Georgia, Basketball, Winner

Kennedi Harris, University of Missouri, Gymnastics, 1st Runner-Up

Samantha Kokoska, University of Washington, Soccer, 2nd Runner-Up

Of the more than 1,000 scholar-athletes nominated, ***Diverse: Issues In Higher Education*** has named Taylor and Clark its 2018 Arthur Ashe, Jr. Male and Female Sports Scholars-of-the-Year, for best exemplifying the highest standards of scholarship, athleticism and humanitarianism.

In addition to their athletic ability, students named Arthur Ashe Jr. Sports Scholars must maintain a cumulative grade average of at least 3.2, be at least a sophomore academically, and be active on their campuses or in their communities.

Ranked sixth in the SEC with 3.9 assists per game, senior starting point guard **Clark** maintains a 3.9 GPA in financial planning. She serves myriad organizations in her local community and has travelled internationally to distribute shoes to young children.

A standout on the football field, **Taylor**, also a senior, carries a 4.0 GPA in business administration. Highly invested in working with at-risk youth, he and his sister created a non-profit organization called “The Power of 1 or 2” to work with underprivileged children.

Both athletes balance community service and the rigors of top-tier NCAA intercollegiate play with academic achievement at the highest level. They will be profiled in the [April 5, 2018 edition](#) of *Diverse*.

Winners in each individual sport category are also selected for the annual Ashe edition. This year’s Sports Winners are:

- Chase Almendarez, Baseball, University of Houston–Victoria
- Jevon Carter, Basketball (M), West Virginia University
- Haley Clark, Basketball (W), University of Georgia
- Julia Bond, Bowling, University of Nebraska–Lincoln
- Britni Love, Cheerleading, Oklahoma State University
- John Alvarino, Crew (M), George Washington University
- Tara Montgomery, Crew (W), San Diego State University
- Elizabeth Collins, Equestrian (W), Oklahoma State University
- Maria Gomez, Field Hockey, University of Louisville
- Blaise Taylor, Football, Arkansas State University
- Taylor Osborne, Golf (M), Hampton University
- Hanna Netisingha, Golf (W), Southern Illinois University Carbondale
- Chandler Eggleston, Gymnastics (M), University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
- Kennedi Harris, Gymnastics (W), University of Missouri
- Jake Clifford, Ice Hockey (M), Arizona State University
- Leah Lum, Ice Hockey (W), University of Connecticut
- Stanny Gilbertson, Lacrosse (M), Hobart and William Smith Colleges
- Michelle Staggers, Lacrosse (W), Duke University
- Claire Zanti, Rifle (W), North Carolina State University
- Mariano Cepeda, Soccer (M), Holy Family University
- Samantha Kokoska, Soccer (W), University of Washington
- Madeline Herrera, Softball, University of Houston-Victoria
- Ross Brown, Swimming & Diving (M), Washington University in St. Louis
- Danielle Bordes, Swimming & Diving (W), University of Connecticut
- Justin Zhang, Tennis (M), University of California, San Diego
- Lidia Yanes-Garcia, Tennis (W), Austin Peay State University
- Stanley Davis, Track & Field (M), Hampton University
- Simone Charley, Track & Field (W), Vanderbilt University

- Andrew Zhu, Volleyball (M), New York University
- Tola Itiola, Volleyball (W), Baylor University
- Diana Carballo, Water Polo (W), Marist College
- Noah Braun, Water Polo (M), George Washington University
- Ian Morken, Wrestling (M), Menlo College
- Marina Doi, Wrestling (W), King University

Diverse: Issues In Higher Education is the nation's only news magazine dedicated exclusively to diversity issues in higher education. Visit www.DiverseEducation.com/Ashe for more info.

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