



WSSU photo

### Before the next leap

Graduating athletes at Winston-Salem State University join Director of Athletics Tonia Walker, middle, in a photo as the students prepare to move on.

## WSSU announces athletes on spring Dean's List

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

The Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) Department of Athletics is proud to announce that 92 student-athletes finished the spring semester and were recognized on the Dean's List.

All 12 varsity athletic programs, along with the cheerleaders, were represented among the 92 student-athletes, with at least two student-athletes for each program.

The football team led the way with 24 honorees, while the women's volleyball team had nine, tops among the women's programs. Students are eligible to



be named to the Dean's List at the end of each semester based on a student's status as a full-time student (12 semester hours and above). Dean's List honors are awarded only to those students who earn a scholastic grade point average of 3.0 or higher in 12 or

more credit hours of graded coursework at WSSU in an academic semester, with no grade below C and no incomplete (I) grades on the report.

"In order to be a student-athlete, it takes dedication and time management in the classroom and on the fields of competition. WSSU Athletics takes much pride in providing

the athletes the resources and tools necessary to succeed," says Director of Athletics Tonia Walker.

"We are thankful for the strong partnership of the UCALL (University College and Lifelong Learning) staff, their time and effort to monitor and guide our student-athletes academically. This type of academic success speaks to

the coaches and athletic staff who are constantly supporting their teams in the classroom and being a part of positive encouragement for their Winston-Salem State University education", added Walker.

For the list of athlete's go to <http://www.wssurams.com/general/2015-16/releases/20160607pbke.z0>.



Wiggins

Douglas

## 2 at WSSU awarded NCAA Degree Completion Awards

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

INDIANAPOLIS — Two Winston-Salem State University student-athletes have been awarded the NCAA Division II Degree Completion Award, to allow them to complete their baccalaureate degrees in 2016-17.

Women's cross-country and track & field runner Danisha Wiggins, along with men's football player Michael Douglas, were granted the awards.

Danisha Wiggins, who is one of the most decorated cross-country runners in WSSU history, was a three-time All-CIAA runner, and was a member of the two-time WSSU Rams Indoor Track & Field Champions.

Michael Douglas, was a member of the CIAA Champion WSSU football team. Douglas was eighth on the team in tackles in 2015, with 38 tackles, one sack, three

and half tackles for a loss and one fumble recovery.

The NCAA established the Division II Degree Completion Award Program in 2001 to provide deserving student-athletes financial assistance for them to complete their first baccalaureate degree. Candidates will be students who have exhausted their athletic eligibility and have received athletic financial aid. The selection process for the national award emphasizes the academic performance of the student-athlete. Other factors considered are financial circumstances, athletic achievement and involvement in campus and community activities.

To date, nearly \$4 million has been given to about 1,000 deserving student-athletes. Of those student-athletes who have received the award since its inception, 94 percent have earned their undergraduate degree using this program.

## Honors thesis projects provide students with high-impact learning opportunities

SPECIAL TO THE CHRONICLE

tored by Chad Markert)

Five Winston-Salem State University (WSSU) exercise physiology students were the first to graduate with honors through their major at the university's commencement ceremony.

To earn the honors designation, the students, Donald Brown, Dara Green, Kenya Raynor, Malik Miller, and Tevin Taylor, each worked with a faculty member to complete a rigorous thesis project over the course of the last academic year.

The project paired students with faculty mentors to identify a problem, propose and complete an investigation, and report their findings. The topics of research included:

\*Norms for collegiate strength and conditioning training programs (Donald Brown mentored by Kevin Ritsche)

\*The effects of music on exercise heart rate recovery (Dara Green mentored by Jesse Pittsley)

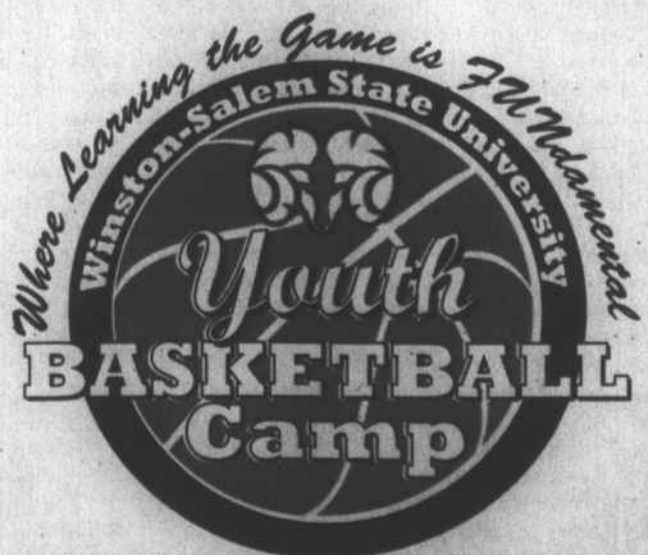
\*Inflammation following exercise and caloric restriction (Kenya Raynor men-

\*Health behaviors of WSSU students based upon their major (Malik Miller mentored by Amanda Price)

\*Time to exhaustion following consumption of Gatorade Chews (Tevin Taylor mentored by Mike McKenzie)

"These types of high-impact experiences allow students to solve real-world problems while honing the skills they will need when they enter the workforce or continue their education," said Mike McKenzie, associate professor of exercise physiology.

The students involved in the project, who graduated on May 13, all have plans to work or continue their education after graduation. Brown will continue his education in strength and conditioning at the University of Miami. Green and Miller have been accepted into WSSU's highly competitive doctor of physical therapy (DPT) program, while Taylor plans to pursue his DPT at Duke University. Raynor will spend two years with Teach for America.



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For more information, contact A&T Coach Andrew Brown at 336-750-3359 or by email at [brownae@wssu.edu](mailto:brownae@wssu.edu). To Register, visit [www.wssurams.com](http://www.wssurams.com)

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