

Student Athlete of the Semester

Vanessa Davis

Women's Track and Field

Vanessa chose ASU of several Ivy League Schools and is majoring in Chemistry with a minor in Mathematics. Vanessa has aspirations of becoming the top surgeon in the universe. She is a member of the Barrett Honors College. Vanessa enjoys rock climbing, hiking, and playing the piano among other outdoor activities. Vanessa has always been very devoted to her academics earning 60+ college credits during High School. Vanessa was national ranked in the top 12 for pole vaulters and #1 in Arizona in High School. Last she she had two top 5 finishes and finished 10th at the PAC 12 Outdoor championship.

What motivates you to have such an outstanding commitment to the Sun Devil Way?

Having always been a dedicated student-athlete, I seek to exceed expectations and find purpose through perseverance. My desire to have a positive impact on the world we live in is what fuels my ambition. While this is by no means a simple task, a firm commitment to the Sun Devil Way establishes a solid foundation for one to succeed.

What advice would you share with the Sun Devil Family to inspire others to commit to upholding Sun Devils graduate in their own lives?

As humans, we all have different strengths and weaknesses. My advice to the Sun Devil family is to embrace this diversity so that we may learn from one another and innovate, because even the simplest idea can ignite a change in the course of the future.



Student Athlete of the Semester

Nick Ralston Football

Powerful athlete who excelled as a hard-nosed runner after originally coming to ASU as a linebacker. Will see time at fullback and on special teams in 2016. Made the most of his first career carry, taking it 12 yards to the house for his first career score in the opener against NAU (8/3). Rated the No. 65 running back prospect in the nation; rated by ESPN as the No. 119 running back recruit in the nation; listed by 24-7 Sports as the No. 121 running back recruit in the country. Rushed for nearly 6,000 yards with 94 rushing touchdowns in High School

What motivates you to have such an outstanding commitment to the Sun Devil Way?

I think the Sun Devil Way is crucial to future success. It sets a foundation of principles that allow you to maximize your potential if you live by them. By living the Sun Devil Way, you will see yourself getting better every day in all aspects of life.

What advice would you share with the Sun Devil Family to inspire others to commit to upholding Sun Devils graduate in their own lives?

I would say that if you live the Sun Devil Way, you separate yourself from 99% of the people in the world. You will see yourself living by principles that strengthen your relationships with your friends, teammates, family, and God. All of this makes the world a better place, so why not commit to the Sun Devil Way?



Student Athlete of the Semester

Corey Smith

Football

Brings outstanding size and physical potential to ASU and uses hands well and has frame to be prominent lineman. Looks to make the transition to offensive line this season. Listed by Rivals.com as the No. 33 weak side defensive end recruit in the country and rated by Scout.com as the No. 109 defensive end prospect in the nation. Chose ASU over reported scholarship offers from Arkansas, Cincinnati, Colorado, Florida International, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisville, Memphis, Miami (Fla.), Purdue, SMU, Southern Miss and Tulane.

What motivates you to have such an outstanding commitment to the Sun Devil Way in the classroom?

My family is what motivates to compete with passion on the field and in the classroom. My character and relentless effort exemplifies the Sun Devil Way.

What advice would you share with the Sun Devil family to inspire others to commit to upholding the Sun Devil Way in their own lives?

The advice that I would give to others is the success that you achieve in your life would be determined by similar characteristics as the Sun Devil Way. Upholding the Sun Devil Way will prepare you for your future endeavors.



Student Athlete of the Semester

Mia Rycraw Water Polo

Mia Rycraw is a redshirt Junior from Walnut, California and is majoring in Interdisciplinary Studies with concentrations in African American Studies and Anthropology. Mia is also pursuing a minor in Sociology. Mia is also the goalie for the Sun Devil Water Polo team and helped lead the team to an NCAA tournament appearance last season. Over the last year, Mia has significantly improved in the classroom, obtaining Scholar Baller status for the first time in the Fall of 2015. Since then, Mia's grades have steadily improved even more from a 3.17 in the Fall 2015 semester to a 3.27 in the Spring 2016 semester to a 3.87 in the Fall 2016 semester. This academic improvement is remarkable and Mia definitely put in the effort to make her academic goals a reality. In order to achieve her academic goals, Mia worked extremely hard with her academic mentor, arriving on time to her sessions and often staying late to finish her assignments. By putting forth this effort day in and day out, Mia reached her goal and is coming off of her best semester academically at ASU, finishing with 3 A's and 2 A-'s. Mia's hard work and determination were key factors in helping her achieve her goals. She truly captures the "Relentless" aspect of the Sun Devil Way!

What motivates you to have such an outstanding commitment to the Sun Devil Way in the classroom?

The main thing that motivates me to uphold such a commitment to the Sun Devil Way is the fact that I know that I am capable of doing so. I have learned to do things to the best of my abilities, which means being the best Sun Devil that I can be, as well as being the best version of myself.

What advice would you share with the Sun Devil family to inspire others to commit to upholding the Sun Devil Way in their own lives?

One thing to always remember is to always strive to be the best version of yourself. Do NOT compare yourself to other people, just stay focused on what you have to do and get it done.

