

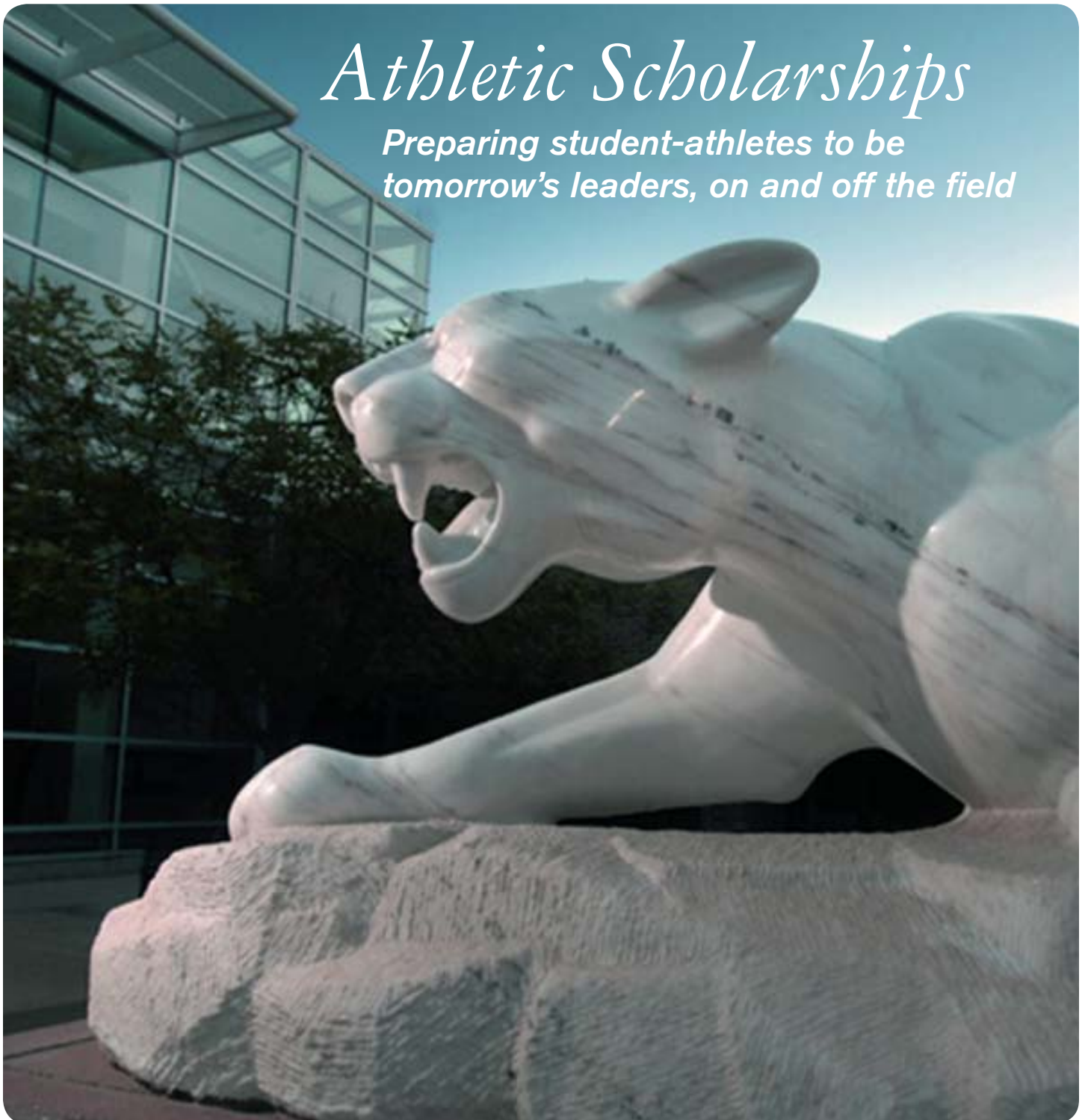
Creating Futures

University of Colorado *at Colorado Springs*



Athletic Scholarships

*Preparing student-athletes to be
tomorrow's leaders, on and off the field*





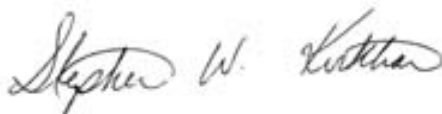
UCCS's athletics program is about **creating an all-around winning college** experience that will develop the whole individual.

There's a reason we use the expression "student-athlete."

Though we pride ourselves on our competitive spirit and always set our sights on winning, it's our philosophy that lessons learned on the playing field are as important as those taught in the classroom. That's why athletics at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs isn't on the sideline—it is front and center, and it enhances our academic programs and contributes to an all-around winning, educational experience.

We're proud that in recent years our athletics program has gained both momentum and visibility. As a result, an increasing number of promising student-athletes are eager to be part of it. But many need financial support that we are unable to provide because our scholarship program is significantly underfunded compared with peer university programs.

That's why we have an urgent need to increase private giving that will sustain and grow our athletic scholarship program. Your gift can help take us to the next level, and enable us to develop more student-athletes into tomorrow's leaders.



Athletic Director Stephen W. Kirkham

College Athletics: A Win–Win for Campus and Community

It's not only student-athletes who benefit from a strong athletics program. Competitive sports teams breed excitement and generate enthusiasm campuswide. This contagious spirit spills over throughout our entire community, eager to show Mountain Lions pride.

Participation in campus sports—as a player or spectator—also forges strong connections and loyalty to UCCS. And fond memories of sporting events, indelibly etched in one's memory, can foster strong, lasting alumni ties.

Athletics can also have a positive economic impact on the Pikes Peak region, as fans and families of visiting teams attend our sporting events, spending dollars in local restaurants and hotels.

It's Not Just Sports— It's Training for Life

Student-athletes' personal development is enriched by their experiences on the playing field, track, or court. After all, much of what happens in sports is preparation for life.

Athletes quickly learn that a strong work ethic and a goal-oriented mindset are prerequisites for success, and that being a team player can be all-important. In sticking with grueling training regimens, student-athletes learn perseverance. Poise under pressure is developed as judgment is tested by split-second decisions. Good sportsmanship and ethical conduct are other lifelong values reinforced through athletics—and they're rewarded by employers who consider these traits a competitive edge.



A Program That is Growing Strong



Sports have been a part of UCCS since its early days. But the program's momentum and growth has accelerated within the last five years, during which time the UCCS Mountain Lions earned its share of accolades, particularly in golf, cross-country, and track.

The UCCS men's cross-country team took 17th place in the 2008 national championships.



A Few Recent Accolades

Golf Coach Phil Trujillo was named Coach of the Year by the Rocky Mountain Athletics Conference and the Northwest Region in 2008. *(upper left)*

UCCS men's golf team finished 12th in the 2008 Division II championships last spring, with Tyler Bishop ranking first. *(top center)*

Women's cross-country runner Shannon Payne finished an impressive third in the 2008 national championships—even after recent knee surgery. *(right)*

The Secret to Recruiting Success: Scholarships

Our athletic standing within Division II is strong today, but our future depends upon our ability to successfully recruit the most qualified young athletes. To do so, we must offer strong scholarship support.

The sober reality is that while our peers are expanding their scholarship programs with private support, we compete with only one-third the amount of scholarship resources, ranking near last among our peer schools.

The fact is we need to boost our scholarship support to be more attractive to promising athletes and more competitive among Division II schools. As a donor, you can help us do both.

Our Accomplished Student-Athletes Study, Compete, Work and Volunteer

Our bright, gifted student-athletes impressively juggle both on- and off-field commitments. With a cumulative GPA over 3.0, they have outperformed the general student body for five years running. This compares to a campuswide 2.9 GPA and a GPA of 2.6 nationally.

When they're not on campus or in training, you'll find our student-athletes in the community, donating time and talents to local schools and nonprofit organizations, or working part-time jobs to help pay for their education. Such experiences provide life lessons, and enhance UCCS's reputation in the community.



Our student-athletes volunteer in the community in a variety of ways, from helping area youth develop reading skills to raising money for special causes.

A Legacy Gift that is Leveling the Playing Field

At UCCS today there are nearly an equal number of men and women student-athletes. Additional scholarships would enable us to attract more quality athletes who are academically and athletically gifted.

Dr. Glenn Williams moved to Colorado Springs with his wife, Joan, following an esteemed career in higher education spanning three decades. During that time, Dr. Williams witnessed first-hand the positive benefits that athletics offer to young adults. He respected the dedication and the discipline that athletes bring to their sport and valued the inherent opportunities offered to develop teamwork and leadership skills.

When his wife, Joan, passed away in 2005, Dr. Williams considered options for paying tribute to this strong, independent woman. Following his passion to support college

athletics with a particular interest in leveling the playing field for women athletes, The Glenn D. and Joan R. Williams Endowment for Women's Athletics was born. It will provide a scholarship to a female athlete annually.

"Joan would be proud to know her legacy is helping contribute to the success of talented young women," reflected Williams. "And personally, I look forward to watching the UCCS Mountain Lions make their mark."

UCCS is proud to have Dr. Glenn Williams rooting for the home team!



The Mountain Lions women's softball team was named an All-Academic team by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association.

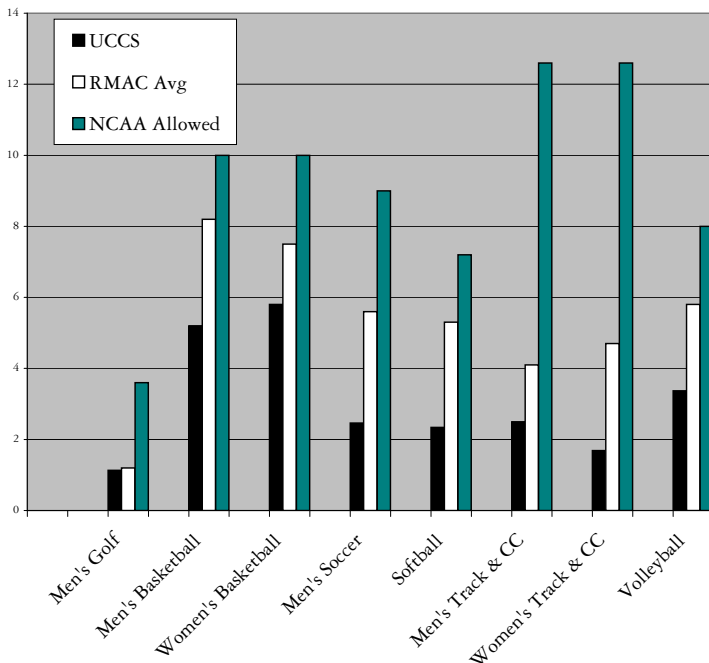


Momentum for the Long Term

The Compelling Need for Scholarship Support

Currently at UCCS, scarce scholarship dollars are distributed with the goal of assisting as many students as possible. Of our 193 student-athletes, 69 percent receive scholarship assistance—but on average, it covers just 29 percent of a student’s total costs. We cannot currently provide any full scholarships.

This is in stark contrast with our more generously-funded peer schools. UCCS ranks 10th of the fourteen schools in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) in scholarship dollars awarded and also significantly lags both the RMAC and NCAA in number of scholarships awarded across all sports (see illustration below).



The Realities of Funding for Higher Education

There is a funding crisis in higher education, particularly in Colorado, which ranks 48th nationally in state funding per resident student. Worse, things are not expected to improve.

Still, UCCS has been able to maintain excellence and grow in stature. It’s in this spirit that we’re determined to expand our athletic scholarship program and provide more student-athletes with a high-quality education. The only way we’ll achieve this goal is with additional private support.

Funding our scholarship program to the maximum level permitted by NCAA Division II guidelines would require an additional annual investment of \$750,000. This would enable us to fully fund the 74 scholarships we are allowed, and make it possible for more student-athletes to pursue their athletic passions at UCCS.

We're proud of the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) championships to our credit and the fact that we're known as a strong contender. Several of our student-athletes have also been named to the NCAA Division II All-Americans and the Academic All-Americans.



How You Can Help

You have the opportunity to help propel a program on a trajectory to success by partnering with UCCS Athletics in developing the leaders of tomorrow. Our goal of \$750,000 will help us fund our athletic scholarship program up to the maximum amount allowed by the NCAA.

Help us rise to the challenge and preserve our place as a Division II conference leader by supporting our scholarship program, knowing that all contributions will help develop student-athletes into better individuals.

To learn about the many ways you can make a gift:

Contact

Bob Boettner

UCCS Assistant Development
Director for Athletics

1420 Austin Bluffs Parkway
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
(office) 719- 255- 5103
(cell) 719- 433- 1870
bob.boettner@cufund.org
www.cufund.org

“Competing as a Mountain Lion athlete enriched my entire college experience. **It opened doors and gave me opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise** – and my athletic scholarship made it all possible.”

– Shannon Payne, '09, Psychology

