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Washington University Presents 12 Student-Athletes With W Club Awards at 23rd Annual Banquet

St. Louis, Mo., April 27, 2009 – Twelve Washington University student-athletes were named the top performers in their respective classes for the 2008-09 school year at the 23rd Annual athletic department student-athlete banquet, as announced by the WU Athletics Department.

The **W** Club Distinguished Senior Awards and the Lucy and Stanley Lopata Rookie Awards, the Carl and Alice Briggson Sophomore Awards, and the Art and Marge McWilliams and the Stanley and Ann Rose Junior Awards were presented.

Established in 1989-90 by the school's athletic support group, the **W** Club Distinguished Senior Athlete of the Year Award is bestowed annually to a male and female athlete for his and her contributions to the athletic program at Washington University. Volleyball's **Nikki Morrison, Lincoln, Neb. (Pius X Central Catholic)** received the honor on the women's side, while teammates **Tyler Nading, Highlands Ranch, Colo. (Thunder Ridge)** and **Sean Wallis, Northbrook, Ill. (Glenbrook North)** of the men's basketball team were named as the men's winners.

As a national champion, a two-time University Athletic Association (UAA) champion, a three-time American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) All-America honoree and the 2009 UAA Most Valuable Player, Morrison enjoyed a tremendous career at Washington University. In 2008, she was selected as the UAA Most Valuable Player for the first time in her career, and earned first-team AVCA All-America honors for the second year in a row. Morrison led the Bears in kills (361) and hitting percentage (.380) in 2008, and finished her career ranked No. 10 in school history in both kills (1,276) and attack percentage (.357). Additionally, she earned AVCA National Player of the Week honors on Nov. 11, after tallying 52 kills at the UAA Championship to lead the Bears to their 19th conference title in school history. Morrison was a first-team all-UAA and AVCA all-Central Region selection in 2008.

Wallis capped off his senior year by leading Washington University to the 2009 UAA title and the Bears' second-consecutive NCAA Division III National Championship. He was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Wheaton Sectional and the Final Four after averaging 14.5 points and 7.0 assists per game during the Bears' run to the National Championship. For the season, Wallis averaged 11.1 points and a UAA-best and third in all NCAA Divisions 8.1 assists per game and shot a team-best 83.5 percent from the foul line. He was a finalist for the coveted Bob Cousy Award and was a first-team all-UAA and second-team *D3boops.com* All-America honoree. Wallis also set a few records along the way, achieving a new single-season assists mark of 251 and the all-time Washington University assist record of 566.

Nading capped an illustrious four-year career on the Danforth Campus by earning All-America honors and guiding Washington University to the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship. A first-team all-UAA, second-team *D3hoops.com* all-Region and fourth-team *DIII News* All-America honoree, he averaged 13.6 points, 5.8 rebounds and 2.0 assists per game while shooting 53.4 percent from the field in 2008-09. A four-time all-UAA and two-time All-America selection, Nading scored in double figures in 84 of his school-record 116 games played. He finished his career ranked first in steals (187), third in scoring (1,552), fourth in free-throws made (385), seventh in field goals made (587) and rebounds (650) and eighth in field goal percentage (.540). Nading guided the Bears to a 96-21 (.821) overall record in four seasons, three trips to the Final Four, two UAA titles and back-to-back NCAA National Championships.

Awarded for the 10th year, the Art and Marge McWilliams Junior Award was presented to women's basketball's **Janice Evans, Bolingbrook, Ill. (Neuqua Valley)** and **Libby Held, Potomac, Md. (Winston Churchill)** of women's soccer. The Stanley and Ann Rosen Junior Award was presented to three outstanding male athletes: men's swimming's **Alex Beyer, Seattle, Wash. (Seattle Prep School)**, men's basketball's **Aaron Thompson, Elida, Ohio (Elida)**, and **John Watts, Marietta, Ga. (Wheeler)** of men's tennis team.

Evans played an instrumental role in leading the Washington University women's basketball team to the 2008-09 UAA Championship and a berth into the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship game. She finished the season ranked second on the team in scoring, 8.5 points per game, and rebounding, 5.2 rebounds per game, and she earned first-team All-UAA honors for the second year in a row. Evans saw her scoring numbers improve when her team needed her the most, as she averaged a team-best 11.1 points per game over the final 17 games of the season, and reached double figures in scoring 10 times, three of which came during NCAA Tournament action. To cap off her remarkable season, Evans was named to the 2009 NCAA Division III Championship All-Tournament Team.

Held capped a tremendous junior season by being named a First-Team National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA)/adidas Division III Women's Soccer All-America selection. Also a first-team all-UAA and NSCAA All-Central Region selection, she started 20 games in the backfield for the Bears in 2008. Held was part of a Bears' defense that allowed just 19 goals all season, while posting eight shutouts. She led Washington U. to a 15-4-2 overall mark and its third-straight UAA title. The Bears advanced to the NCAA Sectional Semifinals for the third time in as many years, and finished the season ranked No. 8 in the NSCAA top-25 poll. Held, the seventh All-America selection in school history, has appeared in 60 career games with two goals and 13 assists for 17 points.

Beyer established himself as one of the most prolific swimmers in Washington University history when he won the 400-yard individual medley at the 2009 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving Championships. With an NCAA record-breaking time of 3:51.45 in the 400-IM, he became the only student-athlete at Washington University to hold an NCAA swimming record and just the third in school history to win an individual national title. Beyer posted runner-up finishes in the 500-yard freestyle and the 200-yard breaststroke at the NCAA Championship Meet, and also earned All-America honors in the 800-freestyle relay (third), the 400-freestyle relay (fifth) and the 400-medley relay (10th). He broke seven Washington University school records in 2008-09, holding the all-time best performances in the 200-freestyle, 500-freestyle, 200-breaststroke, 400-individual medley, 400-freestyle relay, 800-freestyle relay and 400-medley relay.

Thompson celebrated his third season on the Danforth Campus by being named a first-team All-America honoree and helping guide Washington University to the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship. The 2009 UAA Most Valuable Player, he

averaged a team-best 18.0 points per game and led the conference with 96 three-pointers made. A first-team NABC All-Region and *D3hoops.com* All-Midwest Region honoree, Thompson scored in double figures in 29-of-31 games played. He averaged 17.0 points and 7.0 rebounds per game at the Final Four en route to NCAA All-Tournament Team honors. Thompson enters his senior season ranked second in school history in three-pointers (220), sixth in three-point field goal percentage (.434), ninth in steals (129), 10th in free-throw percentage (.793), 11th in assists (269) and 16th in scoring (1,124).

Watts was named the 2009 UAA Most Valuable Player in April after leading the Bears to their first-ever conference title. He also became the Bears' all-time leader in singles victories in fewer than three full seasons on the Danforth Campus. A first-team all-UAA honoree at No. 1 singles and No. 3 doubles, Watts has posted a 33-4 mark in singles in 2008-09. He has also notched a 29-3 record in doubles, including a 14-0 mark with senior Nirmal Choradia at No 3. In the fall, Watts won the 2008 Wilson/Intercollegiate Tennis Association (ITA) Central Region Singles Championship for the third-straight year. For his career, he is 93-15 in singles and 75-16 in doubles for a combined overall record of 168-31.

Also being awarded for the 10th year, the Carl and Alice Briggson Awards are presented to the top sophomore male and female student-athletes, respectively, for their achievements through the first half of their collegiate careers. Cross Country and women's track and field student-athlete **Taryn Surtees, Chagrin Falls, Ohio (Kenston)** and men's track and field's **Ben Harmon, St. Louis, Mo. (Lindbergh)** earned the awards, each of whom received awards for their performance as freshmen in 2007-08.

Surtees has recorded a number of accomplishments in just her second season on the Danforth Campus. She led the WU women's cross country team to a second-place finish at the 2009 UAA Championships with a first-place overall individual finish, becoming the seventh student-athlete in school history to win the conference championship meet. Surtees went on to earn NCAA All-Midwest Region honors with a fifth-place finish at the NCAA Regional Championships, propelling the Red and Green to an at-large berth into the NCAA Championship field, where her 30th-place finish earned her cross country All-America honors for the first time in her career. At the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, Surtees ran on the Bears' eighth-place distance medley relay team, earning All-America honors in the event for the second year in a row.

Harmon has continued to establish himself as one of the most successful multi-event student-athletes in Washington University history. He capped off the 2009 indoor track and field season with a third-place finish in the pentathlon at the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships, in just the first year the event was included at the NCAA meet. It marked the second time in his career Harmon has garnered All-America honors. At the 2009 UAA Indoor Track and Field Championships, he took first place in two events, the high jump and the long jump, and was a member of the Bears' second-place 1,600-meter relay team. Harmon also won two titles at the UAA Outdoor Championships, taking first in the pole vault and long jump. He has automatically qualified to compete in the decathlon at the 2009 NCAA Outdoor Championships, an event in which he placed fifth in 2008.

Named in honor of two dedicated supporters of Washington University, the Lopata Rookie of the Year Awards were inaugurated in 1997 and are presented annually to one male and one female freshman athlete. This year, swimming's **Karina Stridh, Armonk, N.Y. (Byram Hills)** was named the women's winner and basketball's **Dylan Richter, Lincolnshire, Ill. (Adlai E. Stevenson)** was the men's recipient.

Stridh rewrote the Washington University record book in just her first season of competition. The 2009 UAA Women's Rookie of the Year broke four school records, in addition to winning a pair of UAA individual championships and garnering NCAA All-America accolades in five events. She won the 50-freestyle and the 100-freestyle UAA titles, and also earned All-UAA honors in the 400-freestyle relay, the 800-freestyle relay and the 200-medley relay. At the 2009 NCAA Division III Swimming and Diving

Championships Stridh was an All-American in five events: 100-backstroke (third), 100-freestyle (fifth), 50-freestyle (seventh), 800-freestyle relay (11th) and the 400-freestyle relay (14th). She holds the Washington University school record in the 50-freestyle, the 100-freestyle, the 100-backstroke and the 400-freestyle relay.

On a veteran-filled NCAA Tournament team, Richter made a strong impression during his first collegiate season at Washington University. A native of Lincolnshire, Ill., he appeared in 26 games before suffering a season-ending injury in the first round of the NCAA Tournament. As Washington U.'s sixth man, Richter averaged 5.7 points and 3.0 rebounds per game and shot 56.1 percent from the field. He scored 13.0 points and 5.5 rebounds per game en route to being named to the 25th Annual Lopata Classic All-Tournament Team. Richter scored a career-high 15 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field in a 93-86 victory over No. 13 ranked Illinois Wesleyan University on Dec. 6. He helped the Bears to a school-record 29-2 overall mark, its ninth UAA championship, and the 2009 NCAA Division III National Championship.