



SPORTS NEWS

Presidents' Athletic Conference
Joe Onderko, Information Director
102 Old Main, Market Street
New Wilmington, PA 16172-0001
(724) 946-6357 FAX (724)946-7187
Web: www.pacathletics.org

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Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) to Add Chatham College as 10th Member in 2007-08

NEW WILMINGTON, Pa. - The Presidents' Athletic Conference (PAC) has announced the addition of Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pa., as the 10th member of the conference, beginning in the 2007-08 academic year. The members of the PAC Presidents' Council voted unanimously to accept Chatham's application for membership during a conference call last week.

"The addition of Chatham to the PAC is an historic event, as it marks the first time in the 50-year history of the conference that a single-gender undergraduate institution has been accepted for league membership," said **Timothy R. Thyreen**, President at Waynesburg College and Chair of the PAC Presidents' Council. "The members of the PAC Presidents' Council have tremendous respect for Chatham, and we look forward to having them join the conference."

Chatham is an NCAA Division III active member which currently competes in the Atlantic Women's Colleges Conference (AWCC). The Cougar athletic department sponsors seven women's varsity sports and opened its new Athletic and Fitness Center (AFC) on campus in 2004. The team mascot is the Chatham Cougar.

"On behalf of the Chatham community, we are honored to be accepted to the President's Athletic Conference, and look forward to building relationships with our new varsity partners," said **Esther L. Barazzone**, Ph.D., Chatham president. "Like Chatham, the current and future members of the conference are committed to developing strong athletic programs within an environment of academic quality. We know that our young women will positively contribute to the Conference and represent Chatham well, both on and off the field."

The addition of Chatham continues an unprecedented period of growth for the PAC, which has seen the conference welcome four new members in the past nine months, resulting in total conference membership growing from six schools to 10 within the next two years. In April of 2005, the conference welcomed Thomas More College of Crestview Hills, Ky., (formerly an NCAA Division III independent) as the league's seventh member. Saint Vincent College, an NAIA school in Latrobe, Pa., was accepted for PAC membership as the league's eighth member in July and will begin playing a full conference schedule in the 2006-07 academic year. Another current NAIA member, Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pa., was accepted to the PAC in September and will begin playing a full league schedule in 2007-08.

In addition to the new members, the other conference members are: Bethany College in Bethany, W.Va.; Grove City College in Grove City, Pa.; Thiel College in Greenville, Pa.; Washington & Jefferson College in Washington, Pa.; Waynesburg College in Waynesburg, Pa.; and Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pa.

"I join the rest of my colleagues in the PAC in welcoming Chatham College to the conference," said **Joe Onderko**, who was hired in January as the PAC's first full-time executive director. "Chatham has a long tradition of academic excellence, while its commitment to fielding a competitive varsity athletics program is evidenced by the new campus athletic facility and the recent hiring of full-time coaches for the first time in the program's history."

"Aligning with the PAC will enhance the athletic experience of our student-athletes and will continue to raise the bar for our athletics program overall," explained **Amy Buxbaum**, Chatham athletic director. "We are delighted to become a part of this conference with its rich history and commitment to academic and athletic excellence."

Chatham College provides its almost 1,500 students - both undergraduate and graduate - with a solid education built upon strong academics, public leadership and global perception. Chatham also offers graduate studies, continuing education, online learning and certification programs for women and men. It is one of the nation's oldest colleges still awarding traditional undergraduate degrees solely to women, since its founding in 1869. The 35-acre arboretum campus is located on historic Woodland Road in the Shadyside section of Pittsburgh. For more information call 800-837-1290 or visit www.chatham.edu

Founded in 1955, the Presidents' Athletic Conference continues its mission of promoting intercollegiate athletics and the pursuit of academic excellence. The PAC remains a unique organization in this day of high pressure intercollegiate athletics. With academics at the center of each member's philosophy, the PAC is built on the principle that an athletic program is a part of college life, but not an entity in itself.

The PAC annually crowns champions in 19 sports (10 men, nine women). In 2004-05, the conference had 18 teams represent the conference in postseason play, including 12 in NCAA championship events. The conference is scheduled to receive automatic qualification (AQ) status for NCAA championships in the 2007-08 academic year.