

MARCH 2015



#### ARI RICHMAN – HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY

Richman, a senior on the Hofstra Pride tennis team and President of the Hofstra Student-Athlete Advisor Committee (SAAC), has taken part in more than 25 community service projects as a student-athlete. Annually, he participates in the “Shake-A-Rake” program, which helps clear leaves and debris from the properties of elderly and disabled community members. Richman has helped raise over \$6,000 for the Special Olympics of Long Island, regularly visits local elementary schools to read to students and discuss the importance of education, and volunteers with the Long Island Children’s Museum’s Annual Gala. Richman’s humanitarian spirit is highlighted by his fundraising efforts for the “Making Strides Against Cancer Breast Cancer Walk” and organizing an athletic department wide project to fill shoeboxes with toiletries and hygiene items that were donated to a local shelter. Richman has been the recipient of the inaugural Hofstra Pride Community Service Award.

Academically, Richman has a 3.67 grade point average. He is a two-time Intercollegiate Tennis Association Scholar-Athlete (2012-13, 2013-14) and a three-time Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) Commissioner’s Academic Award recipient (2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14) with the hopes of receiving both of these honors again by the end of the school year. Richman will soon be graduating with a bachelor’s degree in Mass Media Studies.



#### KELLI BENJAMIN – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

Benjamin, a senior swimmer for the Texas A&M Aggies and 2013-14 SEC Women’s Swimming and Diving Community Service Team member, has amassed numerous hours of community service in College Station, Texas and the surrounding communities. Benjamin, volunteers at Anson Jones Elementary School in the ELL Reading/Writing classroom and Rock Prairie Elementary School’s 3<sup>rd</sup> grade classes. She is an Executive Volunteer for “SEC Move,” a program that emphasizes the importance of healthy living, nutrition, and the benefits of active living to 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders at Forest Ridge Elementary School. She volunteers to plant gardens and clean up yards for elderly community members. Benjamin was an organizer for “Aggies Can,” that collected over 12,000 pounds of canned goods and \$33,000 for the Brazos Valley Food Bank. Benjamin also finds time to participate in a program that encourages 2<sup>nd</sup> graders to wear a helmet while bike riding and

skateboarding, and participating in the “Aggies Athletes Involved (AAI) Coat Drive.” Academically, Benjamin is maintaining a 3.555 grade point average. She was named to the 2013-14 SEC Academic Honor Roll, the 2013-14 Athletic Director’s Honor Roll and Dean’s Honor Roll, and the 2012-13 Academic Honor Roll. Benjamin is also the President of the Texas A&M SAAC club.