

Collegiate Running Association

2015 Annual Report





COLLEGIATE RUNNING ASSOCIATION

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2015 Overview

2015 was another successful year for the Collegiate Running Association (CRA). In just its second year, the CRA doubled its number of national championship events, hosting four, including two road races, a trail race, and a mountain race. In addition to an increase in the number of events, the CRA also doubled the amount of prize money given throughout the year, as there was \$32,000 available for college students in 2015 compared to \$16,000 in 2014.

The four national championships hosted by the CRA in 2015 were:

March 28, 2015: [Collegiate 10K Road Race National Championships](#) in Richmond, VA

June 13, 2015: [Collegiate Trail Running National Championships](#) (10.55K-1/4 Marathon) in Indianapolis, IN

July 25: [Collegiate Mountain Running National Championships](#) in Bend, Oregon

November 22: [Collegiate Half Marathon National Championships](#) in Norfolk, VA

Additional events and partnerships in 2015

On September 5, the Collegiate Running Association sponsored the [2015 USATF-Virginia Cross Country Championships](#) at Pole Green Park in Mechanicsville, VA. The race was open to the public with USATF awards presented to USATF-Virginia members.

In support of expanding opportunities for college students, the Collegiate Running Association created and became the presenting sponsor of the 2014 & 2015 Cross Country Only National Invitational. This unique event provides an opportunity for NCAA D1, D2 and D3 cross country programs without a complimentary track & field program to compete on a more level field of competition. The races saw modest growth in 2015 with 9 college teams participating. The CRA also partnered with the Milestat.com High School Invitational to host the events on the same day. The Milestat.com High School Invitational is largest high school cross country meet in Virginia bringing together 3,400 high school runners representing 107 high schools.

The Collegiate Running Association also announced three partnerships in 2015. The most recent partnership announced is with RecoFit, a high performance compression gear company based out of Boulder, Colorado. Read more about that partnership here: [RecoFit](#). Earlier in 2015, the CRA and the [American Trail Running Association](#) announced a partnership in order to help grow the number of college students competing in Trail and Mountain Running. The third partnership in 2015 was with the [U.S. Trail Running Conference](#) that was held in Estes, CO in October.

CRA 10k ROAD RACE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



For the second consecutive year the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K served as the Collegiate 10K Road Race National Championships with \$10,000 in prize money available to college students. More than 2,000 college students representing over 100 colleges and universities competed in the CRA's largest national championship event. 2016 U.S. Olympic Marathon Team hopefuls Kellyn Taylor (Coconino College/AZ) and Tyler McCandless (Penn State University/PA) were victorious and took home \$2,000 each for the efforts. Taylor, who was also the defending champion from 2014, pursues a Fire Science Degree and also ran a 2:28 in her marathon debut in 2015. McCandless, the runner-up from 2014, finished his PhD in Meteorology in the fall of 2015 from Penn State University. Both Taylor and McCandless will be competing in the upcoming USA Olympic Marathon Team Trials in Los Angeles, CA. In fact, in the last 2 years 12 U.S. Olympic Trials Qualifiers have competed as collegians in this event.

The Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10K will once again host the [2016 Collegiate 10K Road Race National Championships](#) on April 9, 2016.

CRA TRAIL RUNNING NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS



The inaugural Indiana Urban Wilderness Run in Indianapolis, IN hosted the first ever Collegiate Trail Running National Championships on June 13. Students from 20 colleges and universities competed for a \$6,000 prize purse on a course that featured it all: single-track trail, grass, limestone path, mud, log jumps, and a couple of hills. Mara Olson (Butler University/IN) and Joseph Gray (Calvary Bible College/CO) were victorious over the ¼ Marathon (10.55k) race distance. Olson, a multiple time All-American at Butler University, will continue to pursue her running career as she enters medical school. Gray, a 19- time Team USA member and 9-time US National Champion, continues his education part-time while focusing on the U.S. Olympic Team Trails, U.S. Mountain Running Team and international races.

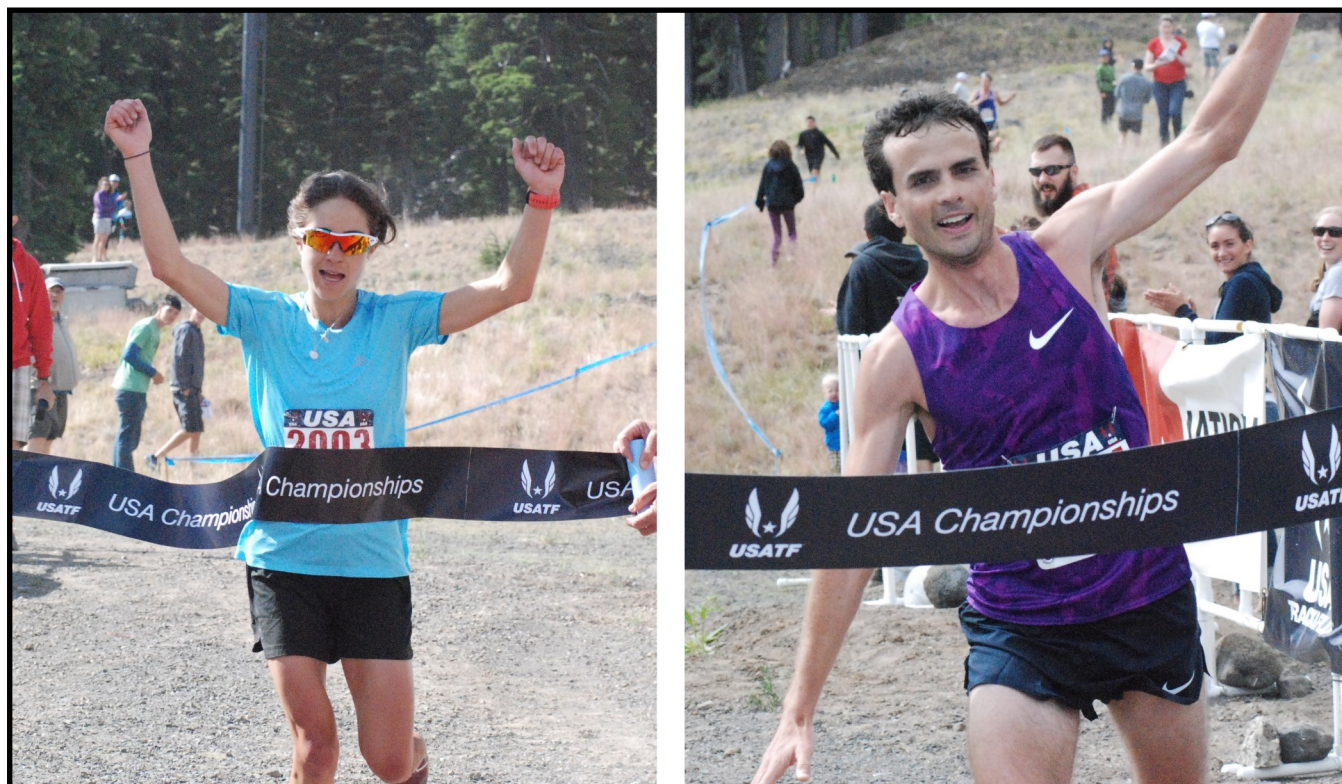


A very exciting part about this race was that it was actually the first public event to utilize a recently completed section of urban trails along the Fall Creek and White River corridors in downtown Indianapolis. The event will continue to benefit the preservation and enhancement of the Urban Wilderness Trail in the future.

CRA MOUNTAIN RUNNING CHAMPIONSHIPS

For the second consecutive year the Collegiate Mountain Running National Championships were held within the USATF Mountain Running Championships, this time in Bend, Oregon. This race format provided an opportunity for college students to compete for the Collegiate and USATF national titles simultaneously, race their way onto the US Mountain Running Team, and compete for both collegiate and open prize money.

CRA's Mountain Running Championships attracted the best collegiate mountain runners in the country as more than 50 students representing 30 colleges and universities raced for a \$6,000 prize purse set aside specifically for collegiate runners. Collegiate runners swept the top male and female spots as Patrick Smyth (University of Utah/UT) and Morgan Arritola (Central Oregon College/OR) won both the U.S. and Collegiate titles. In doing so Smyth and Arritola, along with Collegiate Runner-Up Joe Gray qualified to represent team USA in the 31st World Mountain Running Championships in Casette Wales on September 19, 2015.



CRA HALF MARATHON CHAMPIONSHIPS

On November 22, 2015 the first ever Collegiate Half Marathon National Championships were held within the Harbor Lights Half Marathon in Norfolk, VA. In its second year, this event is one of the fastest growing Half Marathon Races in the U.S. Over 300 college students competed for the \$10,000 prize purse reserved for college students. Julie Patterson, a PharmD/PhD student in Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Science at VCU (VA), cruised to victory in the women's championship, while UVA (VA) McEntire School of Commerce student Brandon Lord won a very competitive men's race. Patterson and Lord each picked up \$2,000 for their victories.



Looking ahead to 2016

The Collegiate Running Association is looking forward to another successful year in 2016. The CRA will once again host four national championship events. The first event will be the 10k Road Race Championships which will take place on April 9, 2016 in Richmond, VA as part of the Ukrop's Monument Avenue 10k. The race will once again offer a \$10,000 prize purse to the top college finishers.



The CRA also aims to increase membership and visibility through more exciting partnerships and sponsorships in 2016. With over 2,000 members from 47 states, membership is strong but we will continue to seek more support. Remember, membership is FREE and open to ALL, not just college students.



To learn more about the Collegiate Running Association or sponsorship opportunities, visit www.collegiaterunning.org or contact us at info@collegiaterunning.org. Follow us on social media [Twitter](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [RunnerSpace](#) / [Pinterest](#)

A THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

The Collegiate Running Association is grateful for the support of our generous founding members. These individuals have helped get us off the ground and running.

The non-profit Collegiate Running Association continues to seek out contributions from those that believe in our mission. With your help, we can provide and expand opportunities for college students that enjoy running.

If you are interested in making a donation, click [HERE](#) or email us at info@collegiaterunning.org



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