FOR RELEASE: Thursday, May 26 – 12 noon (ET)

HAYLIE McCLENEY OF UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA HEADLINES CoSIDA ACADEMIC ALL-AMERICA® DIVISION I SOFTBALL TEAM

AUSTIN, Texas – Senior outfielder **Haylie McCleney** of the University of Alabama headlines the 2016 Academic All-America® Division I softball team as selected by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

McCleney has been selected as the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-American® of the Year for Division I softball, marking the second consecutive year McCleney earned that honor. She is the first repeat Academic All-American® of the Year for Division I softball since 2011 and 2012 (Louisiana's **Ashley Brignac**), as well as only the third two-time Division I (or University Division) Academic All-American® of the Year since the softball program debuted in 1988 — Tennessee's **Lindsay Schutzler** was the first in 2006 and 2007.

A human performance exercise science major with a 4.0 G.P.A., McCleney also is a three-time first-team CoSIDA Academic All-America® choice, having previously made the top squad in 2014 and 2015.

A native of Morris, Alabama, McCleney has paced Alabama to its 12th consecutive NCAA Super Regional appearance this season, leading the Crimson Tide in batting average (.453 – second in SEC/12th in nation), slugging percentage (.741 – fourth in SEC), on-base percentage (.609 – leads SEC/fourth in nation), runs scored (72 – leads SEC/fifth in nation), doubles (5), triples (5 – third in SEC), walks (53 – second in SEC/seventh in nation) and stolen bases (20).

McCleney is among 10 finalists for the USA Softball National Player of the Year Award, in addition to being a National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) first-team all-South Region selection, a first-team all-SEC pick and a SEC All-Defensive Team choice this season.

Nearly half (14) of the 34 members on the 2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America® NCAA Division I softball teams have at least a 3.90 G.P.A., with seven student-athletes sporting a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. The 11 members of the Academic All-America® NCAA Division I softball first team have an average G.P.A. of 3.80.

In addition to being this year's Academic All-American® of the Year, McCleney is among a group of five student-athletes who are multi-time Academic All-America® choices, with University of Oregon senior pitcher **Cheridan Hawkins** joining McCleney as a three-time honoree. The other repeat Academic All-America® student-athletes in 2016 are University of Illinois senior infielder **Allie Bauch**, Auburn University junior infielder **Kasey Cooper** and Mercer University senior catcher **Natalie Shiver**.

Hawkins has appeared on all three Academic All-America® teams during her career, collecting third-team accolades in 2014 and first-team plaudits last year. Cooper earned her second consecutive first-team citation, while Bauch received second-team honors this year after making the first team in 2015. Shiver rounded out this year's two-time Academic All-America® honorees, receiving second-team recognition for the second consecutive season.

CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division I Softball Team

The CoSIDA Academic All-America® Division I softball first team includes four student-athletes with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A., led by McCleney and Cooper. Joining Cooper as a first-team infielder with a 4.0 G.P.A. is North Carolina Central University senior **Jenny Tracy**, while University of Oklahoma sophomore pitcher **Paige Parker** also posted a 4.0 G.P.A. while earning her place on the first team.

University of Michigan graduate student **Sara Driesenga** joined Parker in earning the nod as the pitchers on the Academic All-America® first team, with Northern Illinois University senior catcher **Emily Naegele** serving as the battery mate on the first team.

Along with Cooper and Tracy, the rest of the CoSIDA Academic All-America® first-team infield includes University of Utah junior **Hannah Flippen** and University of Nebraska graduate student **Mattie Fowler**, while University of Oregon senior **Koral Costa** and University of Missouri senior **Emily Crane** completed the first-team outfield. University of Florida sophomore **Kayli Kvistad** also made the Academic All-America® first team as its designated player.

The Academic All-America® second team is led by three-time selection Hawkins and two-time honorees Bauch and Shiver. University of Alabama junior **Sydney Littlejohn** joins Hawkins in the second-team circle, throwing to Shiver.

Bauch heads up the Academic All-America® second-team infield that also features San Diego State University senior **Samantha Camello**, Southern Illinois University junior **Shaye Harre** and Western Carolina University senior **Taylor Sigmon**. The second-team outfield includes Jacksonville State University senior **Ella Denes**, Baylor University graduate student **Linsey Hays** and University of Louisiana junior **Kassidy Zeringue**, while UNC Greensboro senior **Nicole Thomas** is the second-team designated player.

Three other student-athletes with a perfect 4.0 G.P.A. — Charlotte graduate student pitcher **Lexi Betancourt** and sophomore infielder **Haley Pace,** and La Salle University senior outfielder **Kendra Heyer** — lead the Academic All-America® third team. Purdue University senior **Lilly Fecho** and Betancourt are the third-team pitchers, while University of Washington senior **Kimberlee Souza** is the group's catcher.

Due to a tie in the voting, there are five members of the Academic All-America® third-team infield. Along with Pace, Lehigh University senior **Morgan Decker**, Northwestern graduate student **Andrea Filler**, Omaha senior **Sydney Hames** and Oklahoma State University sophomore **Vanessa Shippy** complete the five-player unit.

Heyer joins University of the Pacific senior **Sara Anderson** and Youngstown State University junior **Sarah Dowd** as outfielders who earned Academic All-America® third-team honors this year, while Northwestern graduate student **Amy Letourneau** rounds out the 2016 third team as its designated player.

The NCAA Super Regionals that begin Thursday, May 26, will feature 12 members of the CoSIDA Division I Academic All-America® Softball Team from 10 of the 16 competing teams including **Haylie McCleney** and **Sydney Littlejohn** (Alabama), **Kasey Cooper** (Auburn), **Kayli Kvistad** (Florida), **Kassidy Zeringue** (Louisiana) **Sara Driesenga** (Michigan), **Emily Crane** (Missouri), **Paige Parker** (Oklahoma), **Koral Costa** and **Cheridan Hawkins** (Oregon), **Hannah Flippen** (Utah) and **Kimberlee Souza** (Washington).

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Jeff Schwartz, North Dakota State University (jeff.schwartz@ndsu.edu)   (701) 231-8332
Academic All-America® Committee - Vice Co-Chair for Publicity/Communications

Chris Masters, University of Notre Dame (masters.5@nd.edu)   (574) 631-8032
Academic All-America® Committee - Coordinator of Publicity

2016 CoSIDA Academic All-America®
Division I Softball Team

FIRST TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Sara Driesenga	Michigan	Gr.	Hudsonville, Mich.	3.75	Master of social work
P	Paige Parker	Oklahoma	So.	Independence, Mo.	4.00	Arts & sciences planned program
C	Emily Naegele	Northern Illinois	Sr.	Oak Forest, Ill.	3.90	Pre-physical therapy
IF	Kasey Cooper (1)	Auburn	Jr.	Dothan, Ala.	4.00	Mechanical engineering
IF	Hannah Flippen	Utah	Jr.	Bonita. Calif.	3.68	Human development & family studies
IF	Mattie Fowler	Nebraska	Gr.	Tucson, Ariz.	3.80	Finance (undergrad.)/MBA (grad.)
IF	Jenny Tracy	North Carolina Central	Sr.	La Grande, Ore.	4.00	Business
OF	Koral Costa	Oregon	Sr.	San Pedro, Calif.	3.71	Cinema studies
OF	Emily Crane	Missouri	Sr.	Troy, Mo.	3.60	Graphic design
OF	Haylie McCleney (1) (#)	Alabama	Sr.	Morris, Ala.	4.00	Human performance exercise science
DP	Kayli Kvistad	Florida	So.	Lake City, Fla.	3.65	Communication sciences & disorders

SECOND TEAM

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Cheridan Hawkins (1) ($)	Oregon	Sr.	Anderson, Calif.	3.82	Family & human services
P	Sydney Littlejohn	Alabama	Jr.	Rusk, Texas	3.78	Human performance exercise science
C	Natalie Shiver (2)	Mercer	Sr.	Leesburg, Ga.	3.98	Sports business/finance
IF	Allie Bauch (1)	Illinois	Sr.	Schaumburg, Ill.	3.78	Mathematics
IF	Samantha Camello	San Diego State	Sr.	Temecula, Calif.	3.98	Psychology
IF	Shaye Harre	Southern Illinois	Jr.	Nashville, Ill.	3.88	Animal sciences
IF	Taylor Sigmon	Western Carolina	Sr.	Catawba, N.C.	3.98	Communication sciences & disorders
OF	Ella Denes	Jacksonville State	Sr.	Pisgah, Ala.	3.88	Exercise science & wellness
OF	Linsey Hays	Baylor	Gr.	Brock, Texas	3.62	Sport management
OF	Kassidy Zeringue	Louisiana	Jr.	Lutcher, La.	3.91	Exercise science (pre-phys. therapy)
DP	Nicole Thomas	UNC Greensboro	Sr.	Irvine, Calif.	3.67	Kinesiology

THIRD TEAM *(five infielders listed due to tie in voting)*

Pos.	Name	School	Yr.	Hometown	GPA	Major
P	Lexi Betancourt	Charlotte	Gr.	Garner, N.C.	4.00	Kinesiology (grad.)
P	Lilly Fecho	Purdue	Sr.	Carol Stream, Ill.	3.74	Mathematics
C	Kimberlee Souza	Washington	Sr.	Waialua, Hawai'i	3.69	Anthropology
IF	Morgan Decker	Lehigh	Sr.	Jamison, Pa.	3.73	Behavioral neuroscience
IF	Andrea Filler	Northwestern	Gr.	Fort Wayne, Ind.	3.43	Sports administration
IF	Sydney Hames	Omaha	Sr.	Bennington, Neb.	3.87	Deaf education/elementary education
IF	Haley Pace	Charlotte	So.	Winston-Salem, N.C.	4.00	Accounting
IF	Vanessa Shippy	Oklahoma State	So.	Coeur d'Alene, Idaho	3.91	Marketing & finance
OF	Sara Anderson	Pacific	Sr.	Woodinville, Wash.	3.91	Social sciences
OF	Sarah Dowd	Youngstown State	Jr.	Pottstown, Pa.	3.89	Psychology
OF	Kendra Heyer	La Salle	Sr.	Bothell, Wash.	4.00	Speech language pathology
DP	Amy Letourneau	Northwestern	Gr.	Laguna Niguel, Calif.	3.41	Finance

Academic All-American® of the Year: Haylie McCleney, Alabama

(1) = **2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America**® first team
(2) = **2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America**® second team
(3) = **2015 CoSIDA Academic All-America**® third team
(#) = **2014 CoSIDA Academic All-America**® first team
($) = **2014 CoSIDA Academic All-America**® third team