

## **AU track and field standouts Graudons, Ross earn academic honors**

8/11/11

ALFRED, NY - A pair of Alfred University track and field stars have earned national recognition for their work in the classroom. U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) recently released its All-Academic teams for the 2010-11 year. AU sophomore-to-be Rebecca Graudons (Mayfield, NY/Mayfield) was named to the women's team, while Shawn Ross (Ticonderoga, NY/Ticonderoga), a 2011 AU graduate, was named to the men's team. To qualify for the USTFCCCA All-Academic Track and Field Team, the student-athlete must have compiled a cumulative grade point average of 3.30 or higher and have met an NCAA automatic or provisional qualifying mark in an individual or relay event at some point in either indoor or outdoor seasons. Graudons was champion in the pole vault at the Empire 8 and New York State outdoor championship meets this spring, earning First Team all-conference honors in the former and Rookie of the Meet honors in the latter. She set new school and meet records with her vault of 3.55 meters at the state championships, automatically qualifying for the NCAA Division III championships. Graudons would go on to place ninth and 17th, respectively, in the pole vault at the ECAC and NCAA outdoor championships. During the winter 2010-11 indoor season, Graudons was second in the pole vault at the Empire 8 championships and was second and sixth, respectively, in the pole vault and high jump at the state meet. Ross earned First Team Empire 8 honors by winning the shot put at the conference outdoor championships, and set a new school record (15.65 meters, NCAA provisional qualifier) in winning the shot put at the state outdoor championships. Ross, who also took third in the javelin at the E8 meet, would go on to finish fourth in the shot put at the ECAC championships. Ross earned Second Team all-conference honors this winter with his second-place finish at the conference indoor meet, with a then-school-record toss of 15.47 meters. Ross would go on to place second and 14th, respectively, in the shot put at the state and ECAC championship meets.