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--Dec. 10, 2008-- Ruth Peterson/Roy W. LeClere Awards

MWC Student-Athletes Honored For Academic Excellence

RIPON, WIS. -- Lawrence University senior **Lisa Ritland** and Grinnell College senior **Henry Reich** were named the 2008-09 Midwest Conference Ruth Peterson and Roy W. LeClere Award winners, respectively. The Peterson/LeClere Awards are presented to the MWC male and female student-athletes who posted the highest grade point averages during their junior years while lettering in at least two league sports. **Ruth Peterson** is the former Commissioner of the Midwest Athletic Conference for Women, who went on to serve as the Co-Commissioner of the MWC. Peterson, who was a Beloit College alum and employee, passed away in October of 2006. **Roy W. LeClere** was a collegiate sports enthusiast whose passion for the MWC led friends and co-workers to originally sponsor the award as a memorial in his honor. Ritland is the second consecutive Viking to win the Peterson Award after **Catherine Marinac** did so a year ago while Reich becomes the first Pioneer to win the LeClere Award since **Bradley Rudhoff** in 2000-01.

Ritland is a Mathematics major that has managed a 3.7 grade point average while participating in three sports: women's tennis, indoor track and field, and outdoor track field. She also happens to be the co-captain of all three and was the tennis representative for the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee for over two years. Ritland has been on the Dean's List every semester since 2006 and is a member of the Mortar Board, the College Senior Honor Society. She is the Vice President of Students' War Against Hunger and Poverty, an active volunteer group at Lawrence. Last spring, Ritland missed part of the outdoor track and field season to study abroad in Senegal for 10 weeks and then was certified in August as a TEFL Teacher (Teaching English as a Foreign Language). In her spare time, she also manages to volunteer as an English Tutor at the Fox Valley Literacy Coalition.

Reich maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average while double-majoring in Mathematics and Physics. The cross country and indoor track and field athlete was selected to receive a Rhodes Scholar interview, but turned it down to compete in the NCAA Division III Cross Country Nationals which were on the same day. He was an All-Conference performer all four years in cross country and was also named All-MWC in outdoor track in 2008. Reich was an individual cross country champion this past season en route to being named All-Regional, a feat he accomplished in 2006 as well. Outside of academics and athletics, Reich was the founding member of the Grinnell College Jazz Night that performs weekly on campus. He plays jazz violin for the group. Reich also directed and produced the photography of the film "Later Than It Seems", a drama awarded first prize at the Cedar Rapids Independent film festival.



Grinnell College's
Henry Reich



Lawrence University's
Lisa Ritland

--Past Peterson/LeClere Award Winners--

Year	Ruth Peterson	Roy W. LeClere
2008-09	Lisa Ritland, Lawrence	Henry Reich, Grinnell
2007-08	Catherine Marinac, Lawrence	Russell Geisthardt, Lawrence
2006-07	Emma Reuschel, Illinois College	Andrew Winters, St. Norbert
2005-06	Martha Dantuma, Ripon	Anthony Welty, Monmouth
2004-05	Casey Moore, Knox	Dustin Meyer, Illinois College
2003-04	Jessica Moser, Lawrence	Mike Poremba, Carroll
2002-03	Karin Kedrowski, Ripon	Brandon Johnson, Lake Forest
2001-02	Julie Kacmarcik, Ripon	Joe Zemaitis, Lake Forest
2000-01	Dawn Huber, Carroll	Bradley Rudhoff, Grinnell
1999-00	---	---
1998-99	Martha Vest, Illinois College	Jason Kesslering, Knox
1997-98	Tina Keck, Illinois College	Andrew Broadwell, Grinnell/ Ryan Stufflebeam, Knox
1996-97	Jaylyn Bunning, Beloit	Kevin Lannon, St. Norbert
1995-96	Brenda Erdman, Beloit/ Terry Vieth, Knox	Todd Wenck, Coe
1994-95	Christine Stanton, Monmouth	Josh Rosen, Beloit
1993-94	Leslie Combs, Knox	---
1992-93	Linda Guckenberger, Carroll	Brent Sands, Cornell/ Kyle Dettbarn, Cornell
1991-92	Kimber Houston, Illinois College	Brian Kendall, Knox
1990-91	Colene McElmeel, Cornell	Eric Kirchner, Knox
1989-90	Laura Rosene, Knox	Brent Thurness, Monmouth
1988-89	Kathy Shimon, St. Norbert	Todd Hawkins, Illinois College/ Jeff Zucchi, St. Norbert
1987-88	Tammie Nelson, Monmouth	Bob Monroe, Knox
1986-87	Marla Clay, Monmouth	Jim Robidoux, Coe
1985-86	Angela Grable, Illinois College	Jim Montana, Knox/ Rick Roberts, Knox
1984-85	---	Brad Lentz, Cornell
1983-84	Karen Friedrich, Monmouth	Curt Brown, Cornell
1982-83	---	John Ward, Cornell

