“Being a student athlete is something that I think myself as well as many other athletes take great pride in. It’s something that not only symbolizes working hard in the gym and on the court, but also in the classroom as well.”

Missy Harpenau, a senior in the Health Education program of the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services (CECH), maintains a college GPA of 3.2 while leading the Bearcat Volleyball Team to a second place finish in BIG EAST regular season play. CEAS is pleased to recognize Missy Harpenau as the Scholar-Athlete of the Month for November.

Missy, a Cincinnati native, has always known she wanted to be a Bearcat. She says, “Being a bearcat is something I’ve always wanted, something I looked at all my life.” After playing under coach Denise Harvey at Mother of Mercy High School, it seemed like a perfect fit for her to move on to UC. Staying close to home and already having experience with coach Reed Sunahara took the edge off the sometimes stressful transition from high school to college. When she did however need a helping hand, Missy turned to her teammates, coaches, and fellow students for guidance and support, and still does.
As with all student athletes, balance becomes a way of life. Missy states, “Being a student and an athlete is all about time management.” Balancing school, athletics, and a personal life may seem daunting to most, but to Missy, it all came easy. She advises other students who are struggling to follow her lead to always utilize the people around you. “Ask questions, there are always people around who are willing to help you. Your coaches, your other teammates... their firsthand experience is a big benefit.”

As an outside hitter, meaning the one who hits the blocks on the front left side of the court, Missy must have good ball handling skills, be a good passer and digger, and be able to kill a perfect set-up.

Missy’s legacy at UC is nothing short of impressive. She began her volleyball career at UC in 2008 as a freshman, during which she was named Big East Freshman of the Week three times. In the away match with Connecticut, she had nine service aces tying for the second-most service aces in a match in UC history!

As a Sophomore Missy didn’t show any sign of slowing down. In 2009 she had arguably the best performance of the season against Louisville with 12 kills and eight digs. Also that year, Missy was named second team all-Big East and was selected as an AVCA honorable mention All Northeast. Through her junior and into her senior year, Missy continues her outstanding performance becoming the sixth UC player in history to record 1,000 kills and 1,000 digs in a career.

Missy earned her first Player of the Week honor of the 2011 season based on the weekend sweep of Marquette and Syracuse. During these two matches, Missy recorded 27 digs and averaged 3.57 kills per set. This is the second Player of the Week award of her career.

Missy is energized with the possibility of earning a BIG EAST championship for the Bearcats as the team prepares for conference and NCAA tournament action. The Bearcats currently hold the longest home winning streak in the nation with 48 consecutive wins at Fifth Third Arena.

After graduation, Missy is considering working in the fitness field concentrating on health promotion. She would also like to continue with volleyball by becoming a coach.

The College of Engineering and Applied Science Honors Scholar-Athletes

Dean Carlo Montemagno of the University of Cincinnati’s College of Engineering and Applied
Science and Bob Arkielpane, Interim Director of the UC Athletics Department announced that the college is sponsoring the UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month award in the 2011-2012 academic year. This is the fourth year that CEAS has sponsored this honor.

Each month of the academic year, the College of Engineering and Applied Science, CEAS, recognizes a UC scholar-athlete who has demonstrated success both in the classroom and in an athletic arena. To be eligible for the award a scholar-athlete will have completed 2 years of education at UC, have a defined major, a cumulative grade point average (or GPA) of 3.25 or better, be in good standing, and have achieved athletic success.

"CEAS is pleased to recognize scholar-athletes from across the university who stand out both academically and in athletic competition. Their dedication, competitive fire and ability to balance the demands of classroom, athletics and life parallel our own students," stated Dean Montemagno. "Our students balance work and class schedules on a daily basis and are rewarded with top jobs upon graduation."

On behalf of the College of Engineering and Applied Science, I am honored to announce that CEAS recognizes Missy Harpenau as the UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month. Missy is the starting outside hitter on the Volleyball Team. She is an outstanding competitor on the court and a leader in the classroom with a strong GPA in Health Education in the College of Education, Criminal Justice and Human Services. Missy Harpenau has earned our acclaim.

"With a college GPA of 3.2 and her solid performance on the court, Missy Harpenau continues to prove that scholarship and athletics do go “hand-in-hand”. Her dedication to excellence during our matches and in class is a model for all of our student-athletes," affirms Mr. Arkielpane.

"It is an honor to have one of our collegiate partners, the College of Engineering and Applied Science, stepping forward to recognize our scholar-athletes."

Each UC Scholar-Athlete of the Month is awarded a clock during the Athletics Recognition Banquet in the spring. Additionally, a tribute to each scholar-athlete is made by the college during a home game of each active sport that month.