

## Vanier College's Mikella Lefebvre-Oatis signs with UCLA



Montreal, December 4, 2015. **Vanier College's Director General Mr. Normand W. Bernier is pleased to announce that Mikella Lefebvre-Oatis, a first-year Vanier College Sport-Études student in the Social Science Law and Society Major, recently signed with UCLA for a track and field scholarship. The university scholarship is valued at over \$60,000 a year and will stand Mikella in good stead through her studies at UCLA, one of the most recognized schools for track and field (high jump).**

"I am very proud of Mikella's accomplishment and I offer my heartfelt congratulations to her and her family. Her success is a wonderful example of how the Sport-Études program supports young athletes who are devoted to their studies and their sport. I wish her well in her future studies and athletic achievements," said Mr. Bernier.

Seventeen-year-old Mikella is a high jumper who ranked first, worldwide, in 2012, among female high jumpers born in 1998. She was also the 2012 Canadian Midget Champion and won a Bronze medal at the 2013 Canadian Junior Championships. This past summer, she won gold at both the Junior National Championships and Youth National Championships. She was also named Female Youth Athlete of the Year for 2015 and was on Team Canada for the World Youth Championships.



Mikella comes by her athletic talents naturally being the daughter of Victor Oatis who was a Wide Receiver for the Colts in the NFL in the mid-80s and is a member of the Northwestern State Hall of Fame. Having been a track and field athlete himself before turning to football, her father is well placed as Mikella's coach.

Mikella is thrilled with the scholarship and the prospect of studying at UCLA. "It's amazing," she says. "I visited UCLA last spring and again in the fall where I met the team and the coach. And although I had offers from other universities, that visit confirmed my choice. I felt comfortable at UCLA. It's where I want to be." Mikella will complete her 2<sup>nd</sup> semester at Vanier in winter 2016 then leave for UCLA for fall 2016.

Her ultimate goal is to become a lawyer. "I'm a mix. My mother is Québécoise and my father is Afro-American from the South so I grew up in two cultures and two nationalities. As well, my mother's work took her all over the world so we were always looking at maps and talking about where she'd been. Then in high school we had exchange students from many other countries and hearing about their lives got me thinking about how I might help others. That's when I decided I wanted to be a lawyer specializing in international relations. I'd love to work at the United Nations someday."

Given that Mikella seems to achieve what she sets her mind to, chances are she will succeed in doing exactly that.