Over $22 million raised in scholarship support since 1981

Scholarship dollars awarded for 2018-19: $961,949

2018-19 Scholarship Recipients: 50
(39 universities nationwide)

Total number of Swim With Mike scholarship recipients: 231

Total sports represented: 60

Total universities represented: 122

We could not have accomplished this without your help. Thank you!

Swim With Mike by the NUMBERS

COMING UP

Saturday, April 6 - 39th annual Swim With Mike, USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Friday/Saturday, April 5 & 6, 2019 - SWM Wheelchair Basketball Tournament presented by UBS in the Lyon Center at USC

Also in 2019:

Swim With Mike Rose Bowl Aquatics Center – March 29 - April 5 / 9th annual

Swim With Mike University of California San Diego - April 27 / 9th annual

Swim With Mike Hawaii - September 2 / 15th Annual (in conjunction with the 50th annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim)

Creating a New Life After Tragedy

How Swim With Mike is helping

Alumni Spotlight Claire Snow Award winner SC Swimmer returns to Grad School

Spring 2019 Newsletter

Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund
University of Southern California · Heritage Hall 2038 · Los Angeles, CA 90089-0602
Please check out our website at www.swimwithmike.org to learn more about our fundraising activities, or to join our team as a Campaign Director!
As we gear up for our 39th Annual Swim With Mike campaign, I would like to share my thankful gratitude to our entire Swim With Mike family – each and every one of you has made an enormous, and permanent, impact on the lives of our physically challenged athletes scholarship recipients.

SWM has been generously hosted at USC since its inception, including our expansion in 2000 when we expanded our efforts to help outstanding recipients outside of USC. Our USC family is also an integral part of our 39 years as they have graciously hosted our efforts and have been key to our successful ability to support our outstanding student scholars by providing their services. Every aspect of the successful planning and execution of our annual event includes a piece of USC. Many departments on the USC campus contribute their service and expertise to help us achieve our goals to ensure our fundraising dollars go directly to student support.

As we plan each year’s event we work closely with dedicated members in the Departments of Transportation, Public Safety, Facilities Management Services, Fire Safety, Parking, Hospitality, Gift Services and Annual Giving, Sports & Recreation, the Bookstore, Athletic Teams, the USC Trojan Marching Band, Traveler and the spirit teams.

Then, our faithful deans and their staff members support our efforts with ads in our annual yearbooks as well as educating our scholarship recipients. Student Affairs has been great, and we could not do all this without the tireless help of the USC Helenes and Trojan Knights and our student volunteer organization committee.

We all hope you will join us to celebrate our 39th year on April 6 at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center for a fun-filled day of expanded activities added to our usual offerings. It is a great day, and we would like you to meet our scholarship recipients, their families and friends. We are creating a celebration of our mission to recognize and honor our physically challenged students overcoming their tragedies with education to reach their full potential.

See you then,

Swim With Mike
Founder and Executive Director

An enormous and lasting impact.

In 1981 USC All American swimmer Mike Nyeholt was injured in a horrific motorcycle accident that changed his life forever. Teammates, friends and family created a “WAVE” of support and the “RIPPLE” surrounding Mike’s accident began what has been 39 years of Swim With Mike and the USC Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund.

There is no organization like Swim With Mike. We award scholarships to worthy applicants who have participated in organized, competitive sports, have been accepted to a four-year or graduate level institution of higher education, and who have sustained a life-changing accident or illness.

Our SWM family welcomes these incredible individuals – their families and friends – with open arms. In appreciation, they are inspired to pass it on. They host satellite events, hold fundraisers, raffles, walk-a-thons, become online Campaign Directors and more. They join our legion of dedicated volunteers, donors and friends who have embraced our purpose.

Such gracious efforts add to our wave of support, and directly affect our ability to fulfill our mission.

SWM activities have exceeded $1 million annually for the last four years. Just 15% of all monies raised go to administrative and event expenses. The rest goes to our scholarship recipients’ educational pursuits.

That’s because of you – the dedicated Swim With Mike Family who has embraced our mission.

So, we would all like to thank you. You have helped change the lives of so many young student athletes who faced despair and hopelessness when confronted by their tragedies.

This is how the ripple effect works … a drop, a ripple, a wave … let’s keep it growing.

On our Cover:

Swim With Mike recipient Spencer Fox is shown working in his USC Viterbi School of Engineering Lab. He holds the Yvonne Bogdanovich Swim With Mike Endowed Scholarship, and will be graduating in May with a dual degree of BS in Chemical Engineering and MS in Engineering Materials Science.

Spencer was active in basketball, soccer, baseball, surfing and Pop Warner football before he was injured in a 2010 snowboard accident. He has been a quadriplegic since then.
Dill Connolly was an All-American member of the USC Varsity Swim Team for four years, team captain in 2011 and set school records in the 100-yard and 200-yard breaststroke for the nine-time NCAA title team. He accomplished all this while pursuing his BS in Industrial and Systems Engineering, graduating in 2011.

From this he moved forward to become the Design Engineer at Pacific Precision Products, an Irvine aerospace company. Dillon was an experienced design engineer with a demonstrated history of working in the Aerospace Industry. He was especially skilled in product design, CAD (SolidWorks), developing creative solutions and process efficiency (product assembly line/ manufacturing efficiency).

Then, on September 13, 2014, Dillon’s world changed. He was visiting friends in Newport Beach when they decided to take a swim in the Pacific, just following a major storm. But, that major storm had drastically changed the sand pattern of a once familiar ocean floor causing changes in depth, especially a former four-foot-deep area.

Dillon dove, hit the sand and shattered his C5 and C6 vertebrae and severed his spinal cord 75% of the way through. Dillon was left paralyzed and instantly became a quadriplegic.

Dillon’s inherent will and drive has strengthened him through his rehabilitation efforts and he has reached a level where he is ready and able to take on a new challenge in his new life. “I would say that I am still an experienced design engineer. I am able to use the computer using my adaptive mouse that I use from my mouth. I still work on lots of projects and different prototypes. It’s actually one of the few things I can do on my own.”

This Fall 2019 he will be attending the USC Marshall School of Business to earn his MBA, with emphasis on Entrepreneurship. He has applied for a Swim With Mike scholarship, and we wish him well in this pursuit.

From one of Dillon’s USC Swim Teammates:

“Dillon was an incredible swimmer during his years at USC and an even better teammate, as shown by being elected team captain in 2011. His passion for being active was infectious. He is also extremely creative and chose to major in engineering as a result of that. Swim With Mike will allow him to further pursue that creative engine that he has and there is no doubt in my mind that he will do great things with the opportunity.”

Julian Borse, USC Swim Team 2009-2012

Dill Connolly, USC 2011

With the help of the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund and all its supporters, went on the achieve his lifetime dream of attending UCSD and earning a BS and a Masters in Biology as a premed student in 2014.

While he was pursuing these degrees, he was an active partner of the research team in the Mark Tuszynski Lab, the Center for Neural Repair, which is an elite group selected by invitation only. The lab focuses on the most cutting edge of stem cell research in the world.

The stem cell research on spinal cord injuries was just up Jake’s alley, and his Masters thesis, “Optimizing Trophic Support of Neural Stem Cell Grafts for Spinal Cord Injury” was a personal topic which continues to stimulate interest in the international medical research community.

Jake is planning to attend the 39th Annual Swim With Mike on April 6th at USC and is looking forward to meeting our new scholarship recipients as well as reuniting with his fellow alums, families, friends, volunteers and donors who make aspirations like Jake’s a reality.
Swim With Mike congratulates Yvonne on this duly deserved honor and thanks her for her tireless efforts on behalf of our SWM family. Her time, effort and generous support have all strengthened the culture of giving at every level of our Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship fund.

A California native, Yvonne was born and raised in San Pedro, attended Marymount High School in Palos Verdes and went on to Marymount (’61) which is currently known as Loyola Marymount University.

1961 was a busy year, because in addition to graduating from college, Yvonne Valich married Louis A. Bogdanovich and settled down to start a family.

Yvonne’s family has always been first and foremost in her life. Her four children are all proud University of Southern California alums – Debbie Bogdanovich Murray (’84), Laurie Bogdanovich (’87), Christine Bogdanovich Vidovich (’89) and Lou Bogdanovich (93).

USC is also the beneficiary of Yvonne’s family focus as she has established Endowed Scholarships in the names of each of her four children. Debbie, for USC Women’s Sand Volleyball; Laurie, for USC Women’s Soccer; Christine, for USC Women’s Basketball; and son Lou Bogdanovich has a locker named for him in the new USC Trojan Marching Band facility.

Yvonne’s five grand-children have also carried on with the family’s educational tradition. Tyler Murray, Drew Murray and Emily Vidovich have all earned college degrees. Anna Vidovich is currently a sophomore in the USC Stevens Institute of Technology as a Business Major and plays on the USC Women of Troy Soccer Team, Megan Vidovich is a high school junior where she is involved in the YMCA Youth and Government Program and working on her interests in singing, guitar, piano and writing music.

Yvonne first learned about Swim With Mike through Ron Orr, and the more she learned the more active she became. Her SWM endowed scholarship is currently held by Spencer Fox who will graduate this spring from USC Viterbi Engineering with an MS in Materials Science. Yvonne is a SWM Campaign Director and her annual “Phantom Fundraiser” always elicits a great response in support of our SWM mission. Also, each year she and her daughters generously donate silent auction items to our USC SWM event, in fact her daughters Debbie and Laurie are making jewelry to benefit this year’s campaign.

Swim With Mike is among the fortunate ones. Yvonne’s extensive non-profit community leadership activity is legendary in Southern California. She is also actively involved with USC Town & Gown, Beacon House, Boys & Girls Club of Los Angeles Harbor, Marymount University, and San Pedro Peninsula Cancer Guild benefitting USC Norris Comprehensive Cancer Center.

I like to know that I made a difference, and the USC Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund is making many life-changing differences.™

Swim With Mike 2019 Volunteer of the Year award recipient Yvonne Bogdanovich celebrates her birthday with family members and special friends as they sail the Adriatic Sea and explore their Croatian family heritage while just having fun.
Tod Spieker has been actively supporting the SW Masters Challenge since 1984 by matching all funds raised from participating swimmers. Each year since then he has increased this support, and more.

Tod started swimming for the Palo Alto Swim Club when he was eight years old, and won his first race at age 12. He would go on to swim at Menlo Atherton High School and become an All-American swimmer.

He was highly recruited by UCLA where he swam on a full scholarship for the varsity team, earning letters all four years while an NCAA All-American backstroker. His coaches remember him as “the hardest working kid on the team” and “dedicated and tough.”

At the same time that he was a dedicated athlete, he was also a member of the Beta Theta Pi fraternity, an organization that he still holds near and dear to his heart.

Tod graduated from UCLA with a BA in Geography in 1971, and during his senior year began taking Real Estate classes at Santa Monica City College. He received his real estate license in 1972 and began pursuing his future in that business with a couple jobs with major companies where he learned the basics of the apartment business: building costs, financing, locations and rent-to-value ratios.

Spieker Companies was launched in 1981 when Tod bought a 34-unit rental property in Campbell, California, and this venture has experienced phenomenal success. Today the Palo Alto based, wholly owned and privately held company is an investment and property management engine that has an inventory of more than 4,000 rental units and over 200 employees.

But, swimming continued to be a part of Tod’s life. In 1977 he discovered Masters Swimming in a big way. He burned his way through the FINA Masters world record books for the next quarter of a century and swam his way into the International Masters Swimming Hall of Fame in 2005. He would also be named to the International Swimming Hall of Fame in 2016. Although he has since stopped competing, he still swims before heading to the office. He attributes his years in swimming for providing him the lessons and tools that have made him successful in real estate, and as a father, husband and grandfather.

Swimming life has also bestowed him with the desire to give back. Over the years he actively and generously supported a variety of aquatic projects and organizations, with Swim With Mike and the Tod and Catherine Spieker Pavilion at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center being fortunate recipients of his generosity.

An Aquatics Festival
Join us for our extended pool party

W e hope to see you on April 6th when we will be celebrating our mission with a new look – an Aquatics Festival that will recognize and honor our physically challenged recipients who have overcome their tragedies and are pursuing their full potential. Our day will include the following activities and you will want to be part of it!

In addition to these activities, SWM Board Member Loretta Joseph and her crew will be filming a documentary leading up to our 40th Anniversary in 2020.

- Gates Open at 8am
- Free Parking
- Masters Workout
- Swim Clinics
- Pancake Breakfast for Masters Workout and Swim Clinics participants
- Dive Show
- Biggest Splash Contest
- BBQ
- Trojan Marching Band
- USC Song Girls
- USC Dance Force
- USC Football Player/Song Girl Relay
- Photos with Traveler
- General Store
- Silent Auction
- Raffle
- Massage Tent
- USC Yell Leader Alums’ 25th Anniversary Lap Challenge to break last year’s 7,936 lap record
- Wheelchair Basketball Tournament

Also on the USC campus April 6:
- Spring Football Showcase on Cromwell Field 10am
- USC Tennis vs Utah 12pm
- USC Baseball vs ASU 2pm (Kids Day)
- USC Volleyball vs UCLA 7pm
- Please refer to our Swim With Mike schedule at swimwithmike.org
The Campaign Directors
Raising Funds and Awareness for Swim With Mike

LA JOLLA VILLAGE “SIP AND SHOP” FUNDRAISER

Our La Jolla SWM Board members Betsy Thomas and Nancy Phillips know when to make a SWM statement in their town. J. Laughlin’s November opening in La Jolla Village gave Betsy and Nancy the opportunity to introduce the community to both SWM and the fabulous new store with their “Sip and Shop” event. Wine and appetizers were abundant, as was the shopping, and J. Laughlin contributed a percentage of sales to SWM at this November 27 event.

And there is more good news – Betsy and Nancy have secured J. Laughlin for another “Sip and Shop” event. Wine and appetizers were abundant, as was the shopping, and J. Laughlin contributed a percentage of sales to SWM at this November 27 event.

Thanks, Ladies!

ANDREW OUELLETTE’S 2nd ANNUAL VINEYARD VINES EVENT

Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipient Andrew Ouellette (University of Colorado, Boulder, Marketing 2021) held his 2nd Annual Campaign Event at Denver’s Vineyard Vines. The store graciously contributed 20% of all merchandise sales to Swim With Mike.

Thanks to Andrew for another successful effort in making an important Swim With Mike wave of support in Denver and for “giving back.”

TYLER VITIELLO’S GOAT YOGA IN NEW JERSEY

Campaign Director and SWM Scholarship recipient Tyler Vitiello (MA Industrial/Organizational Psychology, Montclair State University 2019) produced a Goat Yoga event to raise funds to benefit SWM. The event was October 27th – with a Halloween theme, of course – at the local high school.

Tyler and his mom, Christine, planned two successful sessions of yoga instruction with goats doing their part by encouraging participants throughout the activity. What a wonderfully fun and innovative way to bring SWM to New Jersey!

Many thanks to the Vitiellos for this SWM Campaign.

Have you made a difference?
Here are some ways!

There are many ways to donate to our Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. Here are some of the ways you can help us change the lives of our outstanding scholarship recipients and their future prospects of success.

The Centofante Anniversary Club - $3,900
Al Centofante started this funding at the 10th Anniversary of Swim With Mike to honor each anniversary with a $100 gift for every year the Fund has been in existence. In this, our 39th year, the donation level is $3900, and is in keeping with Al’s tradition. The Centofante Family Foundation matches all new increases and Club member gifts.

The Tod Spieker Masters Challenge
Tod Spieker will match all monies raised from swimmers participating in the Masters Challenge.

Sponsor a Lane at Our Satellite Events - $1,500
Sponsor a Lane at our USC Swim With Mike USC event and all SWM satellite events.

Lane Sponsor - $1,000
Sponsor a Lane at the 39th Swim With Mike USC event. Donations are recognized at the pool on the day of the event and in our Yearbook.

Swim With Mike 5th Annual Wheelchair Basketball Team Sponsor - $1,000
Be a Team Sponsor at our newly expanded Swim With Mike event.

The Miller Challenge - $390
The G. Willard Miller Foundation has contributed over $500,000 to SWM. Through the generosity of Stephen Miller and Board member Michael Thomas, the Foundation matches all $380 contributions; $10 for each year since our inception.

ENDOWMENTS
An endowment may be created with a minimum $100,000 gift. The principal remains intact while the interest funds generated are distributed to the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. The SWM Endowment Fund currently has more than $3.5 million; our goal is to reach $5-10 million to support our mission in perpetuity.

We are kicking off our 39th annual Fundraising Campaign to support physically challenged athletes and want you to be part of the fun as a Campaign Director.

As a Campaign Director, you will become our grassroots representative, reaching out to your online friends, schoolmates, neighbors, family and prospective sponsors to support your own fundraising campaign on behalf of our outstanding scholarship recipients.

Please visit the Swim With Mike website at swimwithmike.org to register – and while you are there, take a look at some of the other campaigns, such as the ones shown here, that are underway by other Campaign Directors. How about helping recruit another Campaign Director? Please let us know who we can contact by emailing us at swimwithmike@gmail.com.
Over $22 million raised in scholarship support since 1981

Scholarship dollars awarded for 2018-19: $961,949

2018-19 Scholarship Recipients: 50 (39 universities nationwide)

Total number of Swim With Mike scholarship recipients: 231

Total sports represented: 60

Total universities represented: 122

We could not have accomplished this without your help. Thank you!

Swim With Mike by the NUMBERS

COMING UP

Saturday, April 6 - 39th annual Swim With Mike, USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Friday/Saturday, April 5 & 6, 2019 - SWM Wheelchair Basketball Tournament presented by UBS in the Lyon Center at USC

Also in 2019:

Swim With Mike Rose Bowl Aquatics Center – March 29 - April 5 / 9th annual

Swim With Mike University of California San Diego - April 27 / 9th annual

Swim With Mike Hawaii - September 2 / 15th Annual (in conjunction with the 50th annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim)

Creating a New Life After Tragedy

How Swim With Mike is helping

Alumni Spotlight Claire Snow Award winner SC Swimmer returns to Grad School

Spring 2019 Newsletter