OUR 40TH ANNIVERSARY!

Swim with Mike
Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund

Swim With Mike scholarship recipients gather at 2019 event held at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Saturday, April 10, 2021

Founded and Hosted by The University of Southern California
Truly inspiring
We celebrate your commitment to helping physically challenged athletes through the Swim with Mike Scholarship Fund.

First virtual Swim With Mike

Streaming live on Facebook and YouTube

Saturday, April 10, 2021
4 PM Pacific Daylight Time

Visit Swimwithmike.org for more information
April 10, 2021

It's almost mind boggling to think we're celebrating our 40th Swim with Mike event this year.....

When I first rolled onto the pool deck at the Industry Hills Aquatic Center back in 1981, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and support of friends and family. Fast forward to today, and those feelings have been multiplied by what we call our ripple effect.

When Ron Orr and Mara Hunter Redden called on my family, friends and swimmers from across Southern California to “Swim for Mike”, they had no idea that 39 years later their intent to help me overcome a physical tragedy in my life would morph into an ongoing event that over the past years has accomplished the following:

- $25,000,000 Total raised since inception
- $1,065,096 Total scholarship dollars awarded in 2020-2021
- 55 Current scholarship recipients in 2020-2021
- 46 Universities Nationwide
- 201 Alumni Scholarship Recipients
- 256 Total scholarships granted
- 60 Total sports represented
- 132 Total universities represented

I'd like to thank the University of Southern California, President Carol Folt and Athletic Director Mike Bohn for participating in today's event and their continued support of the USC Physically Challenged Scholarship Fund and our primary fundraising event Swim with Mike. We cherish our relationship with USC and look forward to the many years ahead.

Thanks to all the volunteers, our Board of Directors, student staff, swimmers, and donors who come out year after year to make our effort such a success. Without you, none of the above would have been achievable.

And finally, a special thanks and congratulations to all of our recipients, and their families, both past and present who continue to inspire us with their incredible strength and fortitude in overcoming their own personal tragedies and through advanced education have, or will, achieve their life’s full potential. You have, and will continue to inspire all of us to achieve ours too!

Sincerely,

Mike Nyeholt

Swim With Mike Mission Statement

To provide financial resources for the advanced education that paves the way for physically challenged athletes to overcome their tragedies and realize their full potential.

Established in 1981, Swim With Mike was started following what was planned as a one-time event: a Swim-a-thon organized by former teammates of Mike Nyeholt. Mike, a three-time All American swimmer at USC who graduated in 1978, ranked ninth in the U.S., 13th in the world and a competitor in the 1976 Olympic trials, was paralyzed from the chest down following a motorcycle accident in January 1981.

The first event was held in March of 1981 as Swim For Mike, to raise money to purchase a specially equipped van for Mike. The Swim-a-thon was highly successful, raising $58,000; significantly more than was needed for the van. At Mike’s suggestion, the excess funds were used to create the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund, the only one of its kind in the country.

Since 1981 Swim With Mike has become an annual event held at Uytengsu Aquatics Center at USC. In addition to annual events at USC Swim With Mike fundraisers have been held at UCSD, Hawaii, The Rose Bowl Aquatics Center, UCSB, CAL, Stanford, University of Arizona and Roll With Cole at the University of Richmond have held satellite Swim With Mike events to raise money for the USC Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund.

Potential recipients are located through media outreach, USC community members, Swim With Mike Board members and supporters, rehabilitation facilities, hospitals and the USC Admissions and Financial Aid offices. When volunteers come across information about newly injured athletes, they make initial contact to introduce the Scholarship Fund and determine the possible interest in pursuing or continuing university education.

Eligibility requirements for scholarships our applicants must:

- Have participated in organized athletics prior to the illness or injury
- Have suffered an illness or injury resulting in a physical disability which, substantially limits every day activity (e.g. paralysis, blindness, cancer, amputation, head injury)
- Meet the admission requirements of a four year or graduate level institution
- Make satisfactory progress towards their degree after college acceptance
- Maintain a minimum GPA of 2.5 cumulative and be “in good academic standing”
- Demonstrate financial need

For more information visit:
www.swimwithmike.org or email swimwithmike@gmail.com
April 4, 2020

Dear Swim with Mike family and friends,

As Swim with Mike celebrates its 40th anniversary, it’s a privilege to honor your outstanding work. Your dedication means so much to so many, especially the physically challenged athletes whose lives have been changed by your kindness and generosity. Your support also speaks to the leadership of Mike Nyeholt and the countless volunteers who donate their time and energy every year to make this event a great success.

Working with each other, and for each other, you’ve made a major difference. You have my deep appreciation for everything you’ve done—and continue to do—for hundreds of student-athletes across the globe. I hope you enjoy the 40th year of Swim with Mike at USC.

With gratitude,

Carol L. Folt
President

April 4, 2020

To our USC Swim With Mike family:

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the 40th Annual Swim With Mike Anniversary event at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center.

The USC Trojan Family has proudly supported the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund since its 1983 inception. Swim With Mike has become an integral part of the USC Family, and especially the Athletic Department.

When I was introduced to this program, I was very impressed with the fantastic legacy you all have created...

- Total of 253 outstanding scholarship recipients at 131 nationwide universities
- 64 scholarship recipients at 47 nationwide universities for the 2019-20 academic year

Those statistics can only be accomplished by incredible teamwork and dynamic leadership.

Your volunteer base has been extraordinary in their loyalty and hard work to further the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund’s mission and, on behalf of USC, we applaud their efforts.

As Chairman of the Swim With Mike Board of Directors, Mike Nyeholt has guided the progress of the program’s mission in partnership with its Founder, Ron Orr. USC greatly appreciates your amazing work.

I join my USC colleagues in congratulating Swim With Mike for 40 years of success!

Mike Bohin

Fight On!
Swim With Mike Board of Directors

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Mike Nyeholt
Retired Senior Vice President Sales and Marketing of Capital Group Companies, Los Angeles

Founder & Executive Director
Ron Orr
Associate Executive Director Rose Bowl Aquatic Center.

Event & Volunteer Coordinator
Mara Redden
Volunteer fundraiser and event planner

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Former USC Assistant and Rosebowl Game Sports Information Director

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Kathleen DeCristo
Former Assistant Director of Development - University of Southern California Athletics

Amir Ekbatani
Entrepreneur & Alumni Scholarship Recipient

Nick Enriquez
Attorney Advisor, Social Security Administration Office of Disability San Bernadino, Alumni Scholarship Recipient

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President - Kaico Sports

Swim With Mike Board of Directors

Daryl Holmlund
Teacher - Long Beach Polytechnic - Alumni Scholarship Recipient

Nate Higgins
Broker with Windermere Group One - Alumni Scholarship Recipient

Todd James
Retired Senior Vice President at Capital Group

Jennifer Johnson
Senior Attorney - The Law Office of Jennifer R. Johnson

Loretta Abdun-Nur Joseph
Educator/Business Owner/Specializes in Fundraising for Non-Profit Organizations

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Swim With Mike Board of Directors

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Development and Communications

Cindy Somer

Torn Fusion Productions proudly presents
Swim With Mike
The Documentary

Coming Soon

For more information about how to watch the Swim With Mike documentary, visit swimwithmike.org and sign up for our newsletter. We will be releasing information as it becomes available.
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($100 for each year of Swim With Mike, currently $4,000)
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Marianna & David Fisher
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2021 ENDOWMENTS

Endowment funds that our program will be funded in perpetuity, as the principal remains intact while the interest funds generated are distributed to the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. An endowment is created with a minimum $100,000 which may be paid over a five year period. Our Swim With Mike Endowment Fund is currently more than $3.5 million which generates $175,000 in annual scholarship support; our goal is to support our mission in perpetuity.

THE YVONNE BOGDANOVICH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This endowed scholarship was established in 2013 when Yvonne Bogdanovich generously contributed $250,000 to guarantee one of our scholarships in perpetuity. Yvonne's generous gift will go far in ensuring that her family will continue to support physically challenged athletes for generations to come.

Current recipient: Myles Molnar - USC

ROSEMARY KRAEMER RAITT ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rosemary Kraemer Raitt Foundation Trustees Cheryl Hammond and John Kraemer have made three generous gifts to the Swim With Mike Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund by establishing three endowed scholarships which will provide funds in perpetuity to three of our highly qualified scholarship recipients. Each year, we will have three Rosemary Kraemer Raitt scholars representing the Foundation.

Current recipients: Kale Hyder - Johns Hopkins University
Corben Brooks - UCLA Law
Brad Bauer - Missouri

MARYLYN MIKOS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Marilyn Mikos Endowed Scholarship will guarantee one of our scholarships in perpetuity and will ensure that her family will continue to support physically challenged athletes for years to come.

Current recipient: Andrew Donnellan - University of Arizona School of Law

HERB NOOTBAAR ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Long-time USC philanthropist and friend Herb Nootbaar generously established an endowment fund for our Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. Herb’s endowment will greatly strengthen the future of Swim With Mike as the funds are invested in perpetuity and only annual interest is spent from the account.

Current recipient: Dillon Connolly - USC

PATSY DEWEY AND FAMILY PHYSICALLY CHALLENGED ATHLETES SCHOLARSHIP FUND ENDOWMENT

Long-time Swim With Mike friends, Patsy Dewey and her family endow two scholarships for a physically challenged athlete in perpetuity through Swim With Mike. Patsy is well-known for her generous support of USC Athletics and the Libraries.

Current recipients: Chase Wagner - USC
Alex Ruiz - USC

THE FURNISS FAMILY AND FRIENDS SWIM WITH MIKE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

In recognition of Bruce’s 2018 SWM Claire Snow Award for Volunteer of the Year, the Furniss family established The Furniss Family and Friends Swim With Mike Endowed Scholarship. The Furniss brothers - Bruce (USC 1979) Chip (USC 1973), Steve (USC 1976) and Craig (USC 1981) well exceeded their goal.

Current recipient: Austin Brotman - Stanford University

MAYER-LEAHY ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

The Mayer-Leahy Scholarship Endowment was established by a gift of $250,000. All income generated from this endowment will go to a USC Swim With Mike Scholarship.

Current recipient of this Scholarship is: Jake Javier - Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

THE AMIR EKBATANI ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Swim With Mike alum Emir Ekbatani (USC MBA 2016) generously established an endowed scholarship intended to help other physically challenged athletes as he was helped by the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. This gracious act of paying it forward will ensure that this scholarship will endure in perpetuity and that one of our highly qualified students will be awarded this honor annually.

Current recipient: Kelly Sakaguchi - UCLA

THE SHAWNA MARI HUNTER ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Shawna, Mara Hunter Redden’s sister, gifted a Swim With Mike endowed scholarship upon her death in 2017. SWM had always held a special place in Shawna’s heart and she truly supported the mission and life-changing impact that our Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund has provided to so many.

Current recipient: Kendra Muller - Taylor University of San Diego School of Law

THE JENNIFER WALSH ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

This endowment was established in the memory of Jennifer Walsh who was a recipient of Swim With Mike in 1993. In 1994 Jennifer lost her battle with Osteosarcoma Cancer. Jennifer’s family began this endowment in 1994 and each year contributors have the opportunity to donate to the Walsh Endowment.

Current recipient: Gaby Martinez - USC

THE MARA HUNTER REDDEN SWIM WITH MIKE ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP

Mara was a co-founder of SWIM WITH MIKE Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund in 1981 and has organized every USC Swim With Mike event for 40 years. In addition to her loyal volunteer work, she has now created an endowed scholarship which will be awarded to a deserving, qualified student in perpetuity.
2021 ENDOWMENTS

WILL AND LINDA GASSETT OPERATING ENDOWMENT
Will and Linda Gassett made the initial gift of $100,000 to establish the Swim With Mike operating endowment. The income from this endowment is used for the operation of Swim With Mike.

THE KARIN LARSON EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHAIR
This endowment was established in 2011 when Karin Larson generously contributed $500,000, the largest single donation in the history of the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. This gift established an endowment for a Swim With Mike Executive Director position, in perpetuity.

2021 CHALLENGES AND CLUBS

THE MILLER CHALLENGE
To date, the G. Williard Miller Foundation has contributed over $500,000 to the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. Through the generosity of the chairman, Stephen Miller and the inspiration of Mike Thomas, the Miller Foundation matches all donors who contribute $400 annually or $10 for each year of Swim With Mike.

THE ANNIVERSARY CLUB
The Anniversary Club was started by Al Centofante at the 10th Anniversary of Swim With Mike to honor each anniversary of the event with a $100 gift. A gift for the 40th Swim With Mike is $4,000 donation.

THE TOD SPIEKER MASTERS CHALLENGE
The Tod Spieker Challenge matches monies raised from all swimmers participating in the Masters Challenge.

Past & Present Recipients, SWIM Brunch 2019

SWIM Board of Directors, SWIM Brunch 2019
SILENT AUCTION PRIZES

AMUSEMENT/ENTERTAINMENT
Aquarium of the Pacific
Automobile Driving Museum
Comedy & Magic Club
The Comedy Store
Irvine Lanes
Japanese American National Museum
Disneyland Park Hoppers
LA Zoo
Medieval Times
Oue Skyspace
USS Iowa
Pacific Park/Santa Monica Pier
Rage Ground
Richard & Karen Carpenter Performing Art Center
Rose Bowl Aquatic Center
Santa Monica Beach Club
SeaWorld San Diego
SkyDive Santa Barbara

HANDBAGS & ACCESSORIES
Merle Norman Gift Basket
MudPie Makeup Bag
My Wallit Wallet
Ashley Schenkein Jewelry

MUSEUMS
Broad Museum
Museum of Tolerance
Natural History Museum

RESTAURANTS & MORE
Art’s Deli
Bistro Garden
Brent’s Deli
Duke’s Huntington Beach
Elmers
Hennessey’s Tavern, Redondo Beach
Miceli’s Restaurant
LA City Fire Station #15
O’Charley’s
Pink’s Famous Hot Dogs
Red Onion
Shin Sen Gumi Restaurant
Wally’s Desert Turtle
Western Bagel

WINE & ACCESSORIES
Orrefors Decanter
Flask Mittens
Wine Purse
Waterford Marquis Stemless
Glasses
Callaway Vineyard Tour & Tasting
Herman Story Magnum
PRP In-Home Wine Sampling Experiences
Talley Vineyards Tour & Tasting
Makers Mark custom engraved whiskey bottles
SWM Wine Decanter

PHOTOGRAPHY
Figge Photography
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MISCELLANEOUS
Teeth Whitening
Custom Macrame Décor
Autographed Sugar Ray Leonard Gloves
Marble Cutting Board
French Press with Coffee

THEATRE & TRAVEL
Aquarius Casino
Blue Dolphin Inn
Catalina Express
Catalina Island Co.
Hotel Metropole
InterContinental Stephen F. Austin Hotel
Island Packers
Marriott Ko Olina
WigWam Arizona

PREVIOUS WINNERS

President Gerald & Betty Ford
1988
Merlin Olsen
1989
Anita De Frantz
1990
Betty White
1991
Billy Shoemaker
1992
Rafer Johnson
1994
Dave Taylor
1995
Christopher Reeve
1996
Tommy Lasorda
1997
Wallis Annenberg
1998
Lynn Swann
1999
Mara Hunter Redden
2000
Jason Sehorn
2001
Rod Dedeaux
2002
Rodney & Holly Robinson Peete
2004
Kevin Sorbo
2005
Cody Unser
2006

President Gerald Ford has been deeply missed by Swim With Mike. His involvement dates back to two years after his son, Steven, started swimming at the event. In 1988, at the 8th Annual Swim with Mike, President Ford was named the first Honorary Chairman of the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. This honor is now known as the President Gerald and Betty Ford PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE AWARD, recognizing philanthropic individuals.

Ford was a key part of one of the best memories of Swim With Mike. In order to kick off the 8th Annual Swim event, Mike Nyeholt visited Ford at his home in Palm Springs and gave him swim lessons. Mike’s shirt read, “I Swim with Gerry”, and Ford’s read, “I Swim with Mike”. This Classic event will be a part of Swim With Mike history forever.

Ford left a legacy. He may be gone, but he will not be forgotten. His spirit will live on with the Swim With Mike family forever.

... And much more!!!
Joe Barber  
Southern Connecticut State University  
Summer 2021

Joe was born in Boston but spent most of his life in Madison, Connecticut. Through the years he played rugby, hockey, baseball, and was on Daniel Hand High School’s cross country and swimming and diving teams. Joe achieved the level of Eagle Scout in 2015 and was active in his church choir and the Exchange Club. His favorite sport was football and he played Defensive End for three years as well as youth football. In August of 2015, just four days prior to the beginning of his senior year football practice Joe and his friends were hanging out at the Surf Club in Madison. A simple dive into the ocean from the rocks resulted in a C-5 Spinal Cord Injury. After surgery he was able to return to school and graduate with his class walking with the aid of his cane. Joe’s teammates kept him involved and updated on the team’s progress. Joe was able to return to school for his final semester and through months of rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Denver, through the years he played rugby, he was able to return to school and graduate. Joe was able to return to school and graduate with his class.

Nicholas Balenger  
William and Mary Law  
Spring 2020

Nicholas is from Oceanside, California where he grew up and fell in love with sports. He enjoyed baseball, soccer, basketball, tennis and snowboarding. Through the years he played rugby, he was able to return to school and graduate. Joe was able to return to school for his final semester and through months of rehabilitation at Craig Hospital in Denver, through the years he played rugby, he was able to return to school and graduate with his class walking with the aid of his cane. Joe’s teammates kept him involved and updated on the team’s progress. Joe was able to return to school and graduate with his class.

Corben Brooks  
UCLA  
Spring 2023

Corben grew up playing football, basketball, and golf. He planned to play football at the United States Coast Guard Academy and become a rescue helicopter pilot. However, during a game, Corben tackled another player and landed awkwardly. After surgery, Corben awoke to a diagnosis of C5-6 Quadriplegia. Thanks to Swim With Mike, Corben received a Bachelor’s from USC in 2017 and a Master of Health Administration in 2019. Corben’s desire to empower disabled individuals has led him to the UCLA School of Law. As a lawyer, he intends to use his experience to effectively advocate for the disabled community.

Josh Brewer  
University of Arizona  
Fall 2022

Josh was born in Ethiopia. His family was very poor but he learned at an early age to triumph over obstacles. He loved sports especially running, the national sport. He was very competitive although he was unable to join a private club. When Josh was eight years old his father died of HIV which had ravaged many in his African nation. Josh was left an orphan with no means of support so he took to the streets where he begged and scavenged for food in dumpsters in order to survive. At the age of ten he was hit by a train and was almost left to die when he lost both legs above the knee and his right arm below the elbow. After four months in a run-down hospital he was blessed when a family from Washington State adopted him and moved him to the USA. He was soon introduced to wheelchair basketball by the ParaSports organization in Spokane, WA. After years of training, eventually, he excelled and was honored to represent the USA in the 2016 Paralympics where he won a silver medal. An opportunity to play for the University of Arizona and pursue a degree in economics followed.
and sustainable building design.

As the Dominican Republic had limited medical resources, things went from bad to worse and she was shuffled from emergency room to emergency room and doctor to doctor with no one able to diagnose or treat what was happening. She was paralyzed from the chest down. Days later Joseline was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis, an autoimmune disease leaving him paralyzed at T-11 dashing his athletics dreams. During Logan's freshman year in high school, the track and field coach encouraged him to look into the school's wheelchair track and field program. He jumped at the opportunity and began training. He was very successful and won state championships. After that, he picked up wheelchair softball. In August of 2016, Logan was invited to attend a wheelchair basketball camp at Auburndale. This led to Logan having the opportunity to attend his dream school, Auburn University where he made and excelled on the wheelchair basketball team and graduated with his Bachelor's degree. Logan's teammate Mackenzie Johnson suggested that he apply for a Swim With Mike scholarship which will allow him to pursue his graduate degree while continuing to play wheelchair basketball for Auburn.

Kyle Carpenter
Azusa Pacific University
Summer 2020

Kyle started riding BMX bicycles at the age of 5 and competed all over the western USA. At 14 he transitioned into motocross and at 17 was a highly successful sponsored professional. At the age of 19 he went to a local track to practice and landed badly on a 100 foot jump resulting in a L-1-2 incomplete spinal cord injury. After multiple surgeries followed by extensive rehabilitation he learned to live life in a wheelchair where what were once the simplest of tasks had to be relearned or adapted. Kyle knows that his days racing professionally are over but he has transferred that energy into pursuing a bachelor's degree in nursing where he hopes to work in a neurological unit helping those with similar injuries and challenges. He has been successful as a motivational speaker and has volunteered to work with recently injured patients who have suffered similar injuries. Kyle is thrilled to be a part of the Swim With Mike Family.

Logan Caudle
Auburn University
Summer 2021

Logan started baseball at the age of four and at the age of seven played in the Dizzy Dean world series tournament and made the all star team every year. At the age of thirteen he was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis, an autoimmune disease leaving him paralyzed at T-11 dashing his athletics dreams. During Logan's freshman year in high school, the track and field coach encouraged him to look into the school's wheelchair track and field program. He jumped at the opportunity and began training. He was very successful and won state championships. After that, he picked up wheelchair softball. In August of 2016, Logan was invited to attend a wheelchair basketball camp at Auburndale. This led to Logan having the opportunity to attend his dream school, Auburn University where he made and excelled on the wheelchair basketball team and graduated with his Bachelor's degree. Logan's teammate Mackenzie Johnson suggested that he apply for a Swim With Mike scholarship which will allow him to pursue his graduate degree while continuing to play wheelchair basketball for Auburn.

Joseline Castillo
Drexel University
Spring 2022

Growing up in the Dominican Republic Joseline participated in multiple sports. In February of her junior year in high school Joseline had the highest GPA in school and a great future before her. She woke up one morning with the strange sensation of tingling up and down her legs. Within hours things went from bad to worse and she was shuffled from emergency room to emergency room and doctor to doctor with no one able to diagnose or treat what was happening. She was paralyzed from the chest down. Days later Joseline was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis. As the Dominican Republic had limited medical resources the family looked to find the help. Joseline needed to recover her function and health as best she could She moved to Washington D.C. where her aunt lived and started physical and occupational therapy at Kennedy Krieger Institute where she made great strides regaining the ability to walk with crutches. Joseline is attending Drexel University and majoring in Architecture with the goal to create accessible and sustainable building design.

Abigail Curtis
Liberty University
Spring 2021

Abigail was always an active child participating in ballet, cheerleading, soccer, t-ball and cross country. In February of her junior year in high school she was diagnosed with idiopathic scoliosis when she was 17 years old. By September of 2012, she had a spinal fusion performed. During the operation, an error occurred. Abigail came out of the surgery with a spinal cord injury that resulted in a loss of motor function from the waist down. After intensive physical therapy, Abigail has been able to regain her ability to walk. However, due to the damage done during the surgery she is unable to participate in the sports she once loved. Instead of participating in the sports above, she became involved in her high school and Cross Country team so that she could remain involved in sports. Abigail also became involved in community service at her local library. She was inducted into the National Honor Society and Spanish Honor Society. She participated in an early college program at Central Virginia Community College while continuing with physical therapy to improve her motor function. She is now attending Liberty University to become a Registered Nurse with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

Dillon Connolly
University of Southern California
Spring 2021

Dillon exemplified the term student- athlete at USC where he was an All American swimmer team record holder and Olympic Trials qualifier in the 100 and 200 breaststroke and team captain, as he pursued a degree in Industrial and Systems Engineering, graduating in 2011. Post grad he continued to stay active and in shape while living in Newport Beach and working as a design engineer at an aerospace company in Irvine. One day, simply diving into a wave in Newport, Dillon hit a sand bar and broke his neck at the C4-C5 level. His friends and family were shocked that this could happen to this elite swimmer while in his element. As Dillon was in the hospital his friends and family surrounded him with love and support and Ron Orr let him know that the Swim With Mike Family was here for him when he was ready. Four years later Dillon was ready to pursue his Masters in Entrepreneurship (MSEI) and combine this with both his Industrial Engineering and product-design experience to start and run a company that makes products for the disabled community.

Andrew Donnellan
University of Arizona
Spring 2023

Drew was a sixteen year old gymnast in Tucson, Arizona when he over rotated on a front flip and broke his neck, becoming a quadriplegic. Since then, Drew has thrived despite his disability. He graduated with his high school class and then, with Swim With Mike's help, graduated with honors in four years from the University of Arizona in 2012. After graduation, Drew went on to work two jobs and live independently in his own home. He organized local Swim With Mike fundraisers both during and after his undergrad. He is studying Disability Law at the University of Arizona.

2020-2021 Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipients

Zack Collie
California State University, Fullerton
Fall 2022

Zack was an active kid who loved to ride dirt bikes, snow board and surf and was on the Yorba Linda High School wrestling team. He is the oldest of four children and was accustomed and that would affect his baseball performance. As a high school freshman, Ruben started on the Varsity Baseball team as a second baseman and later a shortstop. He played year round, including during football season and was team and league MVP as well as captain during his junior and senior years. On to Cuesta College where he was a member of the baseball team but was forced to redshirt due to a hinge fracture to his ulna. On a day off he went to the beach then a backyard pool to relax with friends. A dive into shallow water resulted in immediate paralysis. He remained conscious while his friends pulled him from the pool as he instructed them how to stabilize his neck as he had learned in EMT training. While using his athletic training for rehabilitation he earned two degrees at the community college before moving on to UC Davis to pursue a degree in Managerial Economics.

Ruben Casas
UC Davis
Spring 2021

Ruben, a talented athlete, excelled at baseball, starting at eight years old. Later on, his mother reluctantly allowed him to add football as she was worried he would hurt himself and that would affect his baseball performance. As a high school freshman, Ruben started on the Varsity Baseball team as a second baseman and later a shortstop. He played year round, including during football season and was team and league MVP as well as captain during his junior and senior years. On to Cuesta College where he was a member of the baseball team but was forced to redshirt due to a hinge fracture to his ulna. On a day off he went to the beach then a backyard pool to relax with friends. A dive into shallow water resulted in immediate paralysis. He remained conscious while his friends pulled him from the pool as he instructed them how to stabilize his neck as he had learned in EMT training. While using his athletic training for rehabilitation he earned two degrees at the community college before moving on to UC Davis to pursue a degree in Managerial Economics.
Jessica grew up in Louisiana as the youngest of five children. She played high school varsity basketball and softball until one day in May 2003 when she was in a horrific automobile accident. At 16 years old she suffered a spinal cord injury at the T2/T3 level resulting in paralysis. That didn't stop her from helping with coaching duties or graduating as class valedictorian. In 2008 she transferred from LSU to Cal State San Marcos to attend Project Walk. She completed her Bachelor's degree in 2011 and moved on to San Diego State University and graduated with a Master's degree in Exercise Physiology and Nutritional Science in 2014. Jessica began teaching Kinesiology as an adjunct instructor at CSUSM and SDSU in 2015 and at the University of Saint Katherine as an Assistant Professor of Kinesiology and Academic Advisor in 2016. In 2010 she met her new husband, Israel, at the church they both attended. After 5 years of friendship, they began dating and were married in November 2016. Currently, she is pursuing a PhD in Health/ Human Performance from Concordia University, Chicago and is part of the UCSD SWM team.

Morgan Dunningan
Davidson College
Spring 2021

Morgan has an athletic gene pool. Her grandfather was an All American hockey player, her grandmother a talented figure skater and her father played college football and basketball. She played soccer and took dance until one day a cervical spinal cord tumor left her paralyzed from the chin down and dependent on a ventilator to breathe. The tumor went undiagnosed for six months and was due to be surgically removed the day after it caused the paralysis. She spent many months in-patient doing rehabilitation with years of follow up. While her friends were playing soccer, lacrosse or softball, Morgan was riding her FES therapy bicycle and going to physical therapy. She was on a mission to improve her locomotor skills with the hope to walk again one day. Morgan excelled in school, graduating with a 4.1 GPA and achieving membership in the National Honor Society. That hard work has paid off and Morgan has recovered to the point where she can walk without crutches. She continues to beat the odds and will be successful at whatever comes her way.

Phillip Evans
University of Arizona
Spring 2023

Prior to 2013, Phillip was an average male from Australia and life was good. He had a great job and he was playing Australian Football at a high level. Prior to that, he played cricket, tennis, soccer, netball, volleyball and swim at the beach nearly every day. On September 16, 2013 he was in a single car accident that landed him in the hospital under sedation and resulted in a T11-T12 spinal cord injury and paralysis from the chest down. He was sure that he would eventually walk out of the hospital but those hopes were soon dashed when he rolled out to great changes in his life. He couldn't return to work as the building and worksites were not accessible and perhaps the worst was he could not play sports. Depression and anxiety nearly took over but with the help of friends he returned to the football team as a coach. Later he was introduced to wheelchair basketball and was able to train with Paralympians which provided the opportunity to attend and play for the University of Arizona where he achieved a 4.0 GPA in his first year.

Kia Fujii
Hackensack School of Medicine
Spring 2023

At a very young age, Kia had developed a passion for various different sports such as running, gymnastics and swimming. She trained every morning before school and made it to the state championships in swimming.

2020-2021 Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipients

Jessica Duhon Rodriguez
Concordia University, Chicago
Spring 2021

Deborah Ede-Reddout
University of North Texas
Spring 2022

Alex Goldmeier
William James College
Spring 2024

Kia Fujii
Hackensack School of Medicine
Spring 2023

Phillip Evans
University of Arizona
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Alex Goldmeier
William James College
Spring 2024

Alex was an athlete his entire life, playing on his golf and tennis teams in high school and skiing and playing intramural soccer in college. Besides his love for sports, Alex has always been passionate about Psychology and the human mind. He received his B.S. in psychology from the University of Vermont, and had multiple internships working in the field. Unfortunately, while skiing on Presidents Day, February 19 th, 2018, Alex had a catastrophic ski accident, hitting a tree and breaking nearly everything in his body. He sustained a subdural brain hematoma, a shattered face, broken ribs, a broken collarbone, broken wrist, punctured lung, lacerated kidney, and a C6 Spinal Cord Injury leaving him paralyzed from the chest down. Nevertheless, this hasn’t stopped him from pursuing his dreams of becoming a Clinical Psychologist. He has found that through adversity comes growth. Like many Swim With Mike scholarship recipients, Alex went to Craig Hospital for rehabilitation, where he was recommended to apply for the SWM scholarship. He hopes that his real-life experience and Doctoral degree will allow him to make a difference by helping others who have also experienced traumatic events.
from the sidelines. #70 on the football roster at Cal Poly and while he cannot to help progress the field of regenerative medicine. Jake is college for a year of rehabilitation Jake changed his major in a clinical trial where ten million embryonic stem cells were diving into a pool. Paralyzed from the chest down he was for their football and engineering programs. On the day Psychology at Grand Canyon University.

He works as a physical education teacher in Salt Lake City, College and completed his Masters in Teaching. Currently he pushed his first half marathon and has since competed in over 25 wheelchair marathons. His biggest accomplishment in distance competition came in 2016 on the ten year anniversary of his accident when he was able to complete an Ironman triathlon in Louisville, KY. Ben attended Bethel College and completed his Masters in Teaching. Currently he works as a physical education teacher in Salt Lake City, UT. While working full time Ben is pursuing his PhD in Psychology at Grand Canyon University.

Kale serves as a great example of a student-athlete. Starting in first grade he started in competitive sports and went on to participate in cross country, baseball and track. His greatest success was in basketball where he played in high school prior to June 17, 2015 when he woke with what he thought was a minor injury or fatigue. The next day he felt better but later in the afternoon the symptoms progressed rapidly and after being rushed to the emergency room and a battery of tests he was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis an inflammatory disease of the spinal cord suffered by only 1400 people in the U.S each year. He missed nearly his entire sophomore year but kept up with his studies with a newfound enthusiasm for academic excellence. Kale was awarded the Iowa Governors Scholar Award, National Honor Society President, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society as well as other academic awards. Kale spends his time outside the classroom as a member of the disability advocate group at Hopkins, a scientific researcher at the medical center, and an admissions office volunteer.

In September of 2006, he was in a motorcycle accident that caused him a T 5-6 Paraplegic. After 5 weeks of intense inpatient therapy, he refocused his life and his goals and started training in different sorts of adaptive sports. Within 7 months he pushed his first half marathon and has since competed in over 25 wheelchair marathons. His biggest accomplishment in distance competition came in 2016 on the ten year anniversary of his accident when he was able to complete an Ironman triathlon in Louisville, KY. Ben attended Bethel College and completed his Masters in Teaching. Currently he works as a physical education teacher in Salt Lake City, UT. While working full time Ben is pursuing his PhD in Psychology at Grand Canyon University.

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Myles Molnar
University of Southern California
Spring 2024

Myles played baseball and soccer but in the fourth grade he was introduced to wrestling and that became his passion. In 2015 after seventh grade the family moved to Abu Dhabi UAE and Myles attended an American International School. On January 21, 2017 while participating in a school wrestling practice he suffered a spinal cord injury which resulted in dislocation of his C5/C6 vertebrae. Emergency surgery and months in rehabilitation hospitals followed. Myles graduated from his hometown high school on time with his peers despite adversity. Through the Swim With Mike scholarship Myles plans to pursue a career in Applied Mathematics.

Kendra Muller
University of San Diego
Spring 2022

During the summer before high school Kendra’s goal was to make the varsity soccer team. She made the team and won the cross country state championship as well. On May 22, 2011 following her freshman year Kendra’s life changed drastically when a column of bricks holding up the hammock she was lying in collapsed and fell on her. In the hospital for three months unable to walk she couldn’t breathe, talk, eat or sit up in bed. Painstakingly relearning the most basic of tasks taught Kendra that she could do much albeit differently and her drive and spirt helped her achieve a 4.0 grade point average and she was admitted to many schools before settling on BYU. She served as a student body officer at Riverton High School, President of her church youth group and was a member of the National Honor Society. At BYU she helped organize an annual SWM fundraiser. Kendra graduated from BYU in the Spring of 2019 with a Bachelors degree in Neuropsychology, married and moved to San Diego to attend Law School.

Andrew Ouellette
University of Colorado Boulder
Spring 2021

Growing up Andrew tried about every sport imaginable, ultimately focusing on lacrosse which was his best and favorite sport. He was selected varsity team captain junior and senior years at East High School. Andrew excelled in the classroom, with a particular talent for graphic design. He spent summers lifeguarding at the local pool, once using those skills at a Colorado mountain lake where he jumped in to help an injured adult. On track to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in 2016, Andrew’s plans changed July 3, 2016 when he dove under a wave in Mexico, hit a sandbar, and sustained a spinal cord injury. Andrew was fortunate to be revived on the beach and quickly transferred back to Denver. After three weeks in the ICU Andrew spent months completing rehabilitation at Craig Hospital. As he gained strength and independence, Andrew decided to get on with college plans but opted to stay closer to home than Cal Poly. He was admitted to the University of Colorado in Boulder to pursue an undergraduate Business degree in Marketing with hopes of using his graphic design talents.

Heidi Pearson
Boise State University
Spring 2024

Heidi grew up playing basketball, volleyball, and track and field at Rimrock High in Idaho. She placed first in discus at the Western Idaho Conference Championship her junior year. That summer she worked as a lifeguard, taught swimming lessons and was a hydrology intern for Boise State University. On June 23, 2019, Heidi drove off a remote dirt road over a steep embankment. Heidi’s back was broken between T11-T12 and the surgeon told her that she couldn’t breathe, talk, eat or sit up in bed. Painstakingly relearning the most basic of tasks taught Heidi that she could do much albeit differently and her drive and spirt helped her achieve a 4.0 grade point average and she was admitted to many schools before settling on BYU. She served as a student body officer at Riverton High School, President of her church youth group and was a member of the National Honor Society. At BYU she helped organize an annual SWM fundraiser. Kendra graduated from BYU in the Spring of 2019 with a Bachelors degree in Neuropsychology, married and moved to San Diego to attend Law School.

Matthew Parks
East Carolina University
Spring 2023

Matthew was an outstanding athlete and played many sports but football was his favorite. He thrived in the tough team atmosphere. He made varsity as a freshman after working hard all summer in the weight room and on the field. He was a starter at safety in his sophomore season and college teams were scouting him. Plans changed when on January 8, 2017 he was in a sledding accident that resulted in a spinal cord injury and paralysis from the chest down. Matthew spent three months in the hospital in Atlanta 240 miles away from home but his friends traveled often to visit and support him. Matthew returned home from the hospital on a Saturday and returned to school on the following Monday. His teachers and his friends were extremely supportive in helping him keep up with school. When the next football season started he went to every home football game and took team photos. Matthew credits his physical fitness from football training and the support of those around him with his ability to rehabilitate his body post accident.

2020-2021 Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipients

Ronan Nelson
University of San Diego
Spring 2022

Ronan was born in Okinawa, Japan when his Marine dad and nurse mom were stationed there. The family eventually settled down in Encinitas, California and Ronan started playing rugby, inspired by his Irish family. As a high school freshman he gave up soccer for football and rugby becoming the first freshman on varsity rugby in his high school's history. On April 7, 2012 Ronan’s life changed forever during a rugby game in one play gone wrong. Ronan was tackled and his C5, C6 and C7 vertebrae were crushed, causing a spinal cord injury. During surgery to repair the trauma done to his vertebrae, Ronan had a stroke causing a lack of oxygen to his brain. Being forced to the sideline Ronan worked hard at his rehabilitation, but wanted to return to the game he loved, so he started coaching for his high school and club team followed up by a position at UCLA as Rugby Media Manager and as a national writer for RugbyWrapUp. Ronan graduated UCLA in 2018 and moved on to Law School at University of San Diego.

Chris O’Brien
George Washington
Spring 2021

Chris spent most of his life in the pool and on the seas as a competitive sailor. Chris captained his high school swim team both his junior and senior years while serving as a volunteer firefighter Prior to concentrating on the water sports he played soccer, baseball and lacrosse. Chris went on to compete for the College of Charleston’s NCAA Division I swim team as a freshman as he majored in Communications with a goal to become a firefighter after graduation. On July 27, 2011, following his freshman year, Chris was injured by diving into a sandbar while on vacation with his buddies, fracturing the C4 and C5 vertebrae, and resulting in paralysis from the neck down. After his injury Chris became involved with peer support groups for individuals with similar disabilities, and eventually started working as an Independent Living Advocate. Chris studied Government, with a minor in Psychology at Harvard and later moved on to the Elliott School of International Affairs at George Washington University, to pursue a Masters of Security Policy Studies with a concentration in US National Security.

Heidi Molnar
Walden University
Spring 2021

Rio was an active kid who loved skiing and started playing basketball in the 2nd grade. In high school he was varsity team captain for two years and while in college he coached JV basketball winning two Idaho State Coach of the Year awards. In 2014 he graduated from Boise State as a registered nurse and soon began working as a traveling nurse which placed him in some incredible areas for outdoor activities. On April 16, 2018, Rio was skiing at Squaw Valley in California when he hit a bump, took a fall and landed on the top of his head. During his initial 10 day hospital stay, he was diagnosed with a C-4-6 fracture resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. He was admitted to Craig Hospital in Denver where he has been doing rehabilitation. Four months after the accident Rio was admitted to Walden University in the Nurse Practitioner program. He realized that his disability would make it difficult to practice nursing as before so he switched his emphasis to a Master’s program for Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner.
Since the age of 10 Jim was into sports starting with track, transitioning to swimming, triathlon and then getting into long-distance obstacle course races. He graduated from Ramona High School in 2008 with a 3.5 GPA then went on to a career as a power lineman apprentice. Every day he would find himself climbing to the top of 50 foot power poles, surrounded by high voltage live electricity while completing mathematical calculations in his head. After a fall that resulted in a T6 complete spinal cord injury he realized he needed to change course and enrolled at Saddledom Community College taking prerequisites for mechanical engineering. Encouraged by friends and family he focused on his fitness and sports activities. Jim lost weight, SCUBA dives and uses his mountain handcycle to go on hikes with friends. He married his girlfriend Carrie who was admitted to the University of Oregon while he was admitted to nearby Portland State University in Mechanical Engineering. He intends to go on and complete his Master’s as well.

shown a relentless and fearless persona. During the fall of her junior year of high school, she started to experience abdominal pain after being tackled multiple times during her high school’s annual powder puff game. The new symptom was found to be from the compression of spinal fluid on her spinal cord which caused a cyst. She had her first spinal surgery in Cleveland, Ohio in order to remove the cyst. AnnaLee had her second spinal surgery due to further compression which caused a foot drop. After two surgeries and graduating from high school, AnnaLee had eight more surgeries in Miami, Florida, all to relieve spinal compression. In between surgeries AnnaLee stayed committed to her aspirations of becoming a physician by enrolling in online classes. Again due to spinal compression, all of which had caused abdominal pain, spinal headaches, right foot drop, and immense back pain, AnnaLee had her last five surgeries in Grand Rapids, Michigan. AnnaLee, being surgery free for around two years now, is ready to regain her independence, with the help of her walker, as a student at Louisiana State University.

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AnnaLee Rose
Grand Valley State University
Spring 2021

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Kelly Secor
Metropolitan State University
Summer 2021

Growing up in Summit County, Colorado gave Kelly many opportunities to participate in sports such as mountain biking, ski racing and ice hockey. In 2007 she started to experience unexplained symptoms which led to years of medical tests and misdiagnoses. In 2009 she was diagnosed with Lyme Disease as well as other chronic illnesses including gastroesophageal reflux, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, and food allergies. During high school she traveled the US to receive specialized treatment including nine surgeries. She returned home two years later finishing up high school with her class and competing on the swim team. In 2013 Kelly’s mom passed away as a result of stage four metastatic breast cancer. The loss affected Kelly greatly as her mom served as her primary caregiver. Kelly attended Regis University, but her health quickly declined and led her to be in the hospital 14 times. In 2015 a viral infection led Kelly to be bedridden and lose the ability to walk. After years of rehabilitation Kelly is now getting her Bachelor of Arts in Therapeutic Recreation and a minor in Psychology.

Ellie Shepard
University of Denver
Fall 2020

As a child Ellie was always in motion. Her desire to be active manifested itself in high school water polo and swim team as well as cheerleading. She graduated from Notre Dame High School in 2009 then went on to complete her B.A. in Environmental Studies from Santa Clara University. Ellie took every opportunity to explore the world, traveling throughout the nation and the world, often solo. She went on to study for a D.C. in choirpractic when a year and 1/2 into the program her career as a choirpractor was cut short when a diving accident resulted in C-6 tetraplegia and paralysis from the chest down. Determined that she would walk again she intended to return to school and her career as a practicing choirpractor. It was a sobering and dark realization that she would not walk again and would not have the manual dexterity to practice her chosen field. The only option was to look for other career options and has chosen social work. Since her accident, Ellie has lived life to the fullest and has continued to be active in a myriad of sports activities and adventures. She wants to do more and wants to empower others to do the same.

Blake Steinbeck
Calista State University San Marcos
Fall 2020

Blake grew up with a huge passion for sports as he played baseball, basketball, lacrosse, roller hockey, and mountain biking. During the summer before his junior year of high school in 2015, he noticed that the vision in his right eye was very slightly blurry and thought that it was nothing. After going to the doctor, it led to many more doctor appointments and tests that ended up diagnosing him with Lebers Hereditary Optic Neuropathy in October of 2015. His other eye got involved in March of 2016 and his vision progressively went from perfect to around 20/800 causing him to lose most of his central vision. Since his vision loss, Blake has kept mountain biking by using a guide in front of him, and he started playing blind hockey, riding BMX, surfing, and playing the guitar. Blake continued to take difficult classes in high school and graduated with over a 4.0 GPA and also became a leader at the Jr. High group at his church. He has been determined to stay positive and do the things that he loves and not let his vision hold him back.

2020-2021 Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipients

Daniel Smuts
University of Missouri
Spring 2024

Danny grew up in North San Diego County playing soccer and baseball. His family emphasized the importance of education as an avenue to building a successful future and he took that to heart. As he entered the 11th grade, the summer before his freshman year of high school, Danny suffered a spinal stroke at the T7 level during a soccer game. This left him completely paralyzed below the rib cage. He spent 7 weeks in the hospital and ended up starting high school in a wheelchair wondering how he would contribute to society in this state. During his sophomore year he was invited to join the San Diego wheelchair basketball team. He started out a rookie but quickly advanced his skills in his 3rd season Danny received an official recruiting visit from the wheelchair basketball coach at the University of Missouri. An opportunity to play at the college level and pursue a degree was something he could not turn down so he headed cross country to pursue his dreams of teaching future generations of students.

Aaron Stant
Ohio State University
Spring 2023

Aaron developed a passion for the water when he began competitive swimming. He spent his time training and traveling to swim meets and looked forward to a successful high school swimming career. At a summer meet his times were slower than expected. Hebrushed it off but during the winter season his challenges increased. He started a race and immediately knew something was wrong. His lungs began to burn and he needed help getting out of the water. A neurologist gave him the bad news that he had spinal muscular atrophy. His competitive swimming career was over, but he started coaching youth swimming for the very team he swam for. Before Aaron also competed on the golf team. After his diagnosis he decided to stick with it even with the challenges he faced. Aaron is pursuing a degree in Architecture with a minor in Disability Studies at Ohio State University and is the second Swim With Mike scholarship recipient to attend this prestigious school. He will concentrate his studies on historical and modern architecture and architecture Swim With Mike for him giving the opportunity.

Chase Wagner
University of Southern California
Fall 2020

Chase was born in Fresno and spent time playing organized sports like baseball, soccer and spent a lot of time in the nearby Sierra Nevada Mountains skiing and snowboarding in the winter and kayaking, wakeboarding and mountain biking in the summer. When he was ten years old his Mom got a new job in Southern California and the family packed up and moved to Orange County. He adapted quickly to surfing, skiboarding and skateboarding. As a teenager Chase was introduced to competitive paintball which he was very skilled at. He played baseball but eventually ended up concentrating on soccer. On to San Francisco State for college where Chase majored in Cinema Production receiving his B.A. in 2013. Three years later Chase was in an automobile accident that resulted in an incomplete spinal cord injury at the T-5 level. Chase plans to attend USC or American Film Institute to complete his Masters degree in TV and Film production.

Thomas Venos
University of Alabama
Spring 2022

Thomas is from Canada and started playing soccer at five. He played year round since his final season his team won the league cup. His second sport was baseball and he was a pitcher. He also participated in basketball, track, wrestling and volleyball at his high school and skied with his family. At the age of 16 Thomas was in a dirt bike accident that resulted in paralysis from the waist down. While a patient at G F Strong Rehab Center he was introduced to adapted sports, first basketball and then tennis. His strong arm from baseball translated quickly to a strong serve in tennis and less than two months after his injury Thomas was given the opportunity to play against some of the best juniors in the world. He went on to train with the Canadian National team and led the Canadian Junior team in the World Team Cup. Thomas chose the University of Alabama for their strong academic programs as well as their varsity level wheelchair tennis team. With support from Swim With Mike Thomas hopes to reach all of his athletic as well as academic goals.

Mark Wilbourne
University of Colorado Boulder
Spring 2023

Mark grew up playing all of the “ball” sports but in high school he found his true calling in track like his older brother Mark learned to love the longer events and went out for cross country the next fall. He qualified for the state championship, placing 24th and then pursued marathons. He ran the Boston Marathon twice with a best time of 2:53. He decided to add swimming to his repertoire even though he could barely dog paddle. He built up to a mile and since he could already bike so he signed up for a triathlon scheduled for a month later. He won his age group and was immediately hooked and set his goal for an Ironman and entered. Unfortunately six months before the race he was on a training ride, a car pulled in front of him and before he could slow down he crashed into it head first at 20 mph resulting in paralysis. As Mark was a senior in high school he already had plans to attend Colorado to study Aerospace Engineering and compete on the CU triathlon team.
SWIM WITH MIKE ALUMNI

Santos Acosta - Claremont Graduate University - M.S. Financial Engineering
Amen Alyasiry - Arizona - B.A. Electrical Engineering
Victoria Arlen - So. New Hampshire - Liberal Arts
Jesse Aros - USC
Eric Baker - Arizona - B.A. Communications
Christian Barton - Cal Western School of Law - J.D.
Abigail Bennett - Brigham Young - B.S. Physiology
Molly Bloom - Colorado - B.A. Psych/Linguistics
Milan Bobde - USC - M.S. Engineering
Christian Bonilla - Azusa Pacific - M.S. Clinical Psychology
Jennifer BouLahoud - USC B.A., M.S. Psych/Neuroscience
James Cook - Virginia Tech - B.A. Mechanical Engineering
Steve Contreras - Colorado - Business
Steve Coniglio - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Austin Charters - Arizona St. - Business Administration
Chris Cantwell - USC - B.S. Physics
Aiden Chau - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Natalie Buchoz - USC - B.A. Public Relations
Brandon Burke - Vanderbilt - B.S. Biochemistry
Chris Cantwell - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Jeniffer Carpenter - USC - B.S. Psychology
Stacie Carter - Virginia Tech - B.A. Mechanical Engineering
Brandan Crider - Texas Arlington - B.S. Pol Sc Poly Science Criminal Justice
Steve Dalton - Dominican College - B.S. Humanities
Jami Danskin - USC - M.A. OT
Beatrice, de Lazare - University of San Diego - Entrepreneur Business
Drew Dels - Pepperdine University - J.D. Law
Kemal Demirculer - USC - Ph.D., B.S., M.S. Engineering
Matthew Devlieger - Calvin College - B.S. Biology
Mike Dieringer - USC - B.A. Interactive Media
Tricia Downing - Regis - MA-Disability Studies
Robert Dudzisz - University of Maine New Hampshire - B.S. Sociology
Amir Ekbatani - USC - MBA
Chris Emanuel - USC - B.A. Int. Relations/Pub. Policy
Nick Enriquez - USC/Southwestern - JD Law
Tom Everette - Whitman - B.A. Pol Sci/Phil
Matt Farmer - Arizona - B.A., M.S. Civil Engineering
Molly Fausone - Stanford Biology Medicine - Human Biology
Amy Foster - Maryland - J.D. Law
Spencer Fox - USC - B.S., M.S. Materials & Chemical Engineering
Matt Fitch - Drexl - MBA
Mike Fitchner - USC - M.B.A. International Relations
Mark Fuglevand - USC - B.S. Accounting
Greg Gardner - USC - M.S. Computer Science
Matt Geriak - USC - PHD Pharmacy
Ken Gibson - CSU Fullerton - B. A. Business
Patrick Gillespie - USC - B.S. Aerospace Engineering
MacDaniel Grall - Gonzalez University - Kinesiology
Cory Greenbaum - Stanford - BA Symbolic Systems
Marianne Grew - USC - M.D. Medicine
Tom Haig - WSU - B.A. Broadcast Journalism
Donald Hammond - USC - JD Law
Lori Hammond - UC Davis - Dr. of Veterinary Medicine
Jay Harner - Penn State Williamsport - B.A. Business
Jeff Harris - Penn - M.A. City Planning
Paul Heckler - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Colin Heffern - USC - M.A. Landscape Architecture
Arthur Hemingway - USC - B.A. English, MEd
Chad Hendrickson - USC - B.S., M.S. Civil Engineering
Luiz Hernandez - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Martin Hernandez - USC - B.A. Communication
Jason Hetzer - USC - B.A. Journalism
Nate Higgin - USC - B.S. Business Resources
Molly Higley - USC - M.A. Social Work
Daryl Holm Lund - USC - M.A. Teaching
Tyler Hoog - USC - MFA Screenwriting/Communications
Carlos “Mike” Hoover - USC - B.A. Music Ed.
Matt Howard - Oregon - B.S. Human Physiology
Joseph Hunsaker - Oregon St. - Business Management
Patrick Ivson - USC - B.A. Film & TV Production
Jack Jablonski - USC - B.A. Communications
Joe Jackson - Arizona State - Electrical Engineering
Ian Jakkis - USC - B.A. English Lit.
Alex Johnson - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Ben Johnson - University of North Dakota - B.S. Psychology
Brandon Johnson - USC - B.A. Poly Science
Mackenzie Johnson - Auburn University - B.S. Accounting
Luis Jovel - University of Illinois - Engineering
Erin Kaupp - USC - B.S. Kinesiology
Joe Kay - Stanford - B.A. American Studies
Jeff Keith - USC - M.B.A. Finance
Adam Kellerman - Arizona - Nutritional Science
Tom Kidd - USC - B.A. Business Analytics
Jhoo Kim - Iliff Theology - M.A. Pastoral & Spiritual Care
Suzy Kim - USC - M.D. Medicine
Tiffane King - UC Irvine - J.D. Law
Christian Kingsley - CSU San Marcos - Computer Science
Keith Kittaura - Hawaii - M.A. Ed/Counseling
Elizabeth Kolbe - Stanford - J.D. Law
Chris Kreutzberg - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Mackenzie Langley - University of Denver - B.S. Sociology
& Political Science
Kevin Law - Arizona - Computer Science
Crista Lawrence-Adamson - USC - B.A., M.S. Biology
Sharon Lee - University of La Verne - B.S. Biology
Dylan Levine - Arizona, Ramapo College - Business
Kevin Lewis - USC
Regan Linton - USC, Regis, UCSD - M.F.A.
Marc Little - USC - J.D. Law
Cory Lovato - USC Irvine - J.D. Law
Aaron Loy - UCSB - B.S. Economics/Accounting
Andrew Luk - UCLA - B.S. Political Science
David Lupash - USC - B.S. Economics, & Philosophy
Shirley McDonald - CSU Long Beach - Social work
Scott Madden - USC - B.A. Bus. Administration/Marketing
Jeff Mahlum - University of Wisconsin - PhD Medicine
Futusali Maiyu - BYU Hawaii - B.A. Math
Dana Mathewson - Arizona - B.A. Speech
Becki McCafferty Melli - USC - Exercise Science
Brook McColl - UNC Chapel Hill - M.P.H. Public Health
Jennifer McCallison - USC - MSW Social Work
Doug McCormack - USC - B.A. Political Science
Mike McNamara - USC - B.A. Sociology, Recording

SWIM WITH MIKE ALUMNI

Enza McPhail - University of Minnesota, Duluth - B.A. Marketing
Jorge Mendoza - CSULA - B.S. Exercise Science
Nate Miller - Arizona - B.S. Architecture
Kevin Moore - University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Bioengineering/Computer Science
John Morris - Colorado State - B.S. Economics
Shane Mosko - Florida International - B.S. Marketing/ International Business
Rob Much - USC - B.S. Marketing
Byroko Nakajima - USC - B.A. Cinematic Arts
Mike Neyholm - USC - B.A. Business Administration
Christopher O'Brien - Harvard Extension School - Government
Corey Obungen - U. Puget Sound - B.S. Exercise Science
Marty O'Connor - Chapman University - M.B.A.
Matt Oka - USC - B.S. Business Administration
Ashley Olson - USC - B.A. Communications
Jake Olson - USC - B.A. Business Administration
Eille O'Neill - Syracuse - B.A. Business
Cindy Ouelt - USC - M.S. Biomedical Engineering
Rocky Paneno - USC - B.A., M.A. Education
Sam Paneno - UC Davis - J.D. Law
Kate Pasichuk - USC - B.A. International Relations & Global Business
Alex Pass - University of Denver - J.D. Law
Nicholas Piccoli - Loyola Marymount - B.S. Economics
Zachary Pickett - USC - B.A. Business
Allison Pittman-Brown - USC - B.A. Accounting
Patricia Pogodzinski - Maryland Institute College B.F.A.
Fine Arts, Graphic Design
Joshua Pollard - USC - B.S. Mechanical Engineering
Ryan Porteous - UCSB - B.S. Engineering
Taylor Price - Georgetown - B.S. in Business Administration: M.P.S. Sports Management
Joey Pulford - USC - B.A., M.A. Planning
Jessica Radmilovic - CSU Sacramento - M.A. Recreation Therapy
Jacob Rainey - University of Virginia - B.S. Political Science

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>University/Department</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Reid</td>
<td>USC - M.A. Film/TV Production</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarah Reinertsen</td>
<td>USC - M.A. Broadcast Journalism</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scoba Rhodes</td>
<td>USC - MSW Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Edgar Rico</td>
<td>USC - MSW Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Therese Riedel</td>
<td>John Paul the Great University - Media Communications &amp; New Evangelization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ricardo Rincon Gallardo Diep</td>
<td>Arizona University - Sustainable built environments</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Ripatti</td>
<td>USC - MSW Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Michael Roberts</td>
<td>Illinois - B.A. History</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garrett Robinson</td>
<td>Southwestern Law - J.D. Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jake Robinson</td>
<td>USC - UCSD - B.S., M.S. Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jay Robinson-Duff</td>
<td>University of San Diego - B.S. Mechanical Engineering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Rodarte</td>
<td>CSU Long Beach - M.S. Counseling in Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jason Rothbard</td>
<td>USC - B.A. English, M.P.A. Public Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kevin Schallert</td>
<td>USC - MBA Public Administration</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dani Schirmer</td>
<td>Cal Poly San Luis Obispo - M.A. English Literature</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lena Schoemaker</td>
<td>Stanford - B.S. Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ashley Schutz</td>
<td>USC - MSW Social Work</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joseph Seidman</td>
<td>UCSB - B.S. Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archer Senft</td>
<td>University of Penn - Computer Science</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Siciliano</td>
<td>USC - MFA - Theatre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nichole Sheridan</td>
<td>Texas Arlington - B.A. Interdisciplinary Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amberly Snyder</td>
<td>Utah State University - B.A. Agricultural Education, M.A. School Counseling</td>
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<tr>
<td>Theo St. Francis</td>
<td>Stanford - MIT Mechanical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay Stanley</td>
<td>Texas Austin - B.S. Petroleum Engineering</td>
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<td>Erick Stanton</td>
<td>Barry University - Business Management</td>
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<td>Cory Sullivan</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cole Sydnor</td>
<td>University of Richmond - B.S Psychology/Neuroscience</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Tartaglio</td>
<td>Fairfield U - B.S. Biology, UCONN - MBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travis Taylor</td>
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<td>Carlos Terrazas</td>
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<td>Brooke Thabit</td>
<td>Savannah College of Design - B.A. Interior Design</td>
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<td>Greg Thomas</td>
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<td>Matthew Thomas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yvonne Riedel</td>
<td>John Paul the Great University - Media Communications &amp; New Evangelization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kei Usami</td>
<td>Fordham - B.A. Business Administration Finance</td>
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<tr>
<td>David Van Wagener</td>
<td>Bucknell, Texas - Ph.D. Chemical Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vicki Varner</td>
<td>Randolph Macon College - Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Vietor</td>
<td>USC - MBA</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cecilia Villaruel</td>
<td>Western University Health Sciences - M.S. Physicians Assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Desiree Vines</td>
<td>Arizona - Special Education / Rehabilitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vijay Viswanathan</td>
<td>Colorado - Finance/Accounting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tyler Vitiello</td>
<td>Montclair University - B.A. Psychology &amp; M.A. Industrial Organizational Psychology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jennifer Walsh</td>
<td>USC - B.A., M.A. Communication</td>
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<td>Zack Wentz</td>
<td>UC Berkeley - B.S. Economics</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Wesley</td>
<td>Notre Dame - J.D. Law</td>
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<td>Austin Whitney</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kory Wiita</td>
<td>Ohio State - B.A. Business Admin. Marketing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Matthew Wild</td>
<td>UC Berkeley, CSU San Marcos</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brian Williams</td>
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<tr>
<td>Andrea Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kris Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Wilson</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Winston</td>
<td>USC - M.A. Cinema</td>
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<td>Ph.D. Molecular &amp; Cell Biology</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jeff Wood</td>
<td>USC - Kinesiology, San Diego St. - DPT Physical Therapy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ann Yoshida</td>
<td>Pacific University - PhD. Doctor of Occupational Therapy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joe Zinski</td>
<td>UCONN, Pennsylvania - Ph.D. Molecular &amp; Cell Biology</td>
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Congratulations Graduates of 2020-2021

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<th>Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Nick Balenger</td>
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<td>Kyle Carpenter</td>
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<td>Abigail Curtis</td>
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<td>Morgan Dunnigan</td>
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<td>Hunter Garstin</td>
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<td>Jonathan Jimenez</td>
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<td>Gabriela Martinez</td>
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<td>Zachary Schmitz</td>
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<td>Ellie Shepard</td>
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<td>Blake Steineke</td>
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push for 150 miles in 2020. This year, she completed a goal of 100 miles off-road and is excited to along with and thanks to her strong and generous pushing friends!

Brook McCall

After earning her Masters in Public Health from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2014, Brook moved to Portland, OR, to complete a year of road fellowship at the Oregon Health and Science University. Her education and personal experience living as a high quadriplegic led her to accept an opportunity to join members of the United Spinal Association for their “Roll On Capitol Hill” event that summer in Washington, DC. She also actively communicated with members of Congress regarding quality of life issues affecting those with mobility disabilities. Soon after, Brook joined the organization’s Policy Department as their Grassroots Advocacy Manager. This position allowed her to collaborate with individuals all over the country who are living with spinal cord injury and related disabilities. Her goals in this position included connecting them with leadership and training opportunities that would help them lead important community change. In February, Brook became United Spinal’s Director of Tech Access. She now heads a new department that has a strategic focus on advising tech partners regarding the needs of the disabled community. She mobilizes advocates to serve as thought leaders, influencing the tech industry’s product and service accessibility sector. A frequent “New Mobility” magazine contributor, Brook enjoys writing about her unique explorations and experiences of life with a spinal cord injury. In her free time, Brook can be found on trails around Oregon and Washington in her off-road wheelchair, along with and Doug is to her strong and generous pushing friends! This year, she completed a goal of 100 miles off-road and is excited to push for 150 miles in 2020.

Mike Fritschner

Mike was taking a surfing lesson on the Kona Coast when he hyperextended his spine and lost feeling and movement from his chest down. Held just been named Varsity quarterback for his sophomore year in high school. Three years later, with Swim with Mike’s help, his Trojan journey began. Mike participated in student government, was President of Phi Sigma Kappa Fraternity, named representative of the Trojan Trait “Courageous” and initiated into Skull & Dagger. After graduation he worked in Baltimore for a medical device company. Success in international sales and product re-launch inspired him to learn more – he applied to Marshall’s MBA program, and Swim with Mike welcomed him with a scholarship. Mike devoted himself to the rigor of Marshall’s curriculum – but willingly found time to marry Natalia Vargova, although they postponed the honeymoon until after he delivered the student speech at Marshall Commencement.

Mike joined AT&T’s Financial Leadership Program in Dallas. He worked as a Senior Financial Analyst in New Business and Investor Relations. Recently promoted to Director of Operations, Mid-Atlantic Division, he, Natalia and their pocket beagles are looking forward to living in Baltimore again.

Mike maintains he would not have achieved such success without Swim with Mike, saying, “Because the organization is revered at USC, Trojans accept and include those with disabilities – giving us the confidence to believe in ourselves. The 40 year impact of Swim with Mike’s humanitarian spirit cannot be quantified: this ripple of respect for all may start small, but will never stop inspiring and changing lives as it widens.”

Corey Obungen

Corey broke his neck while on a trip to Hawai’i with teammates from the University of Puget Sound football team. Thanks to Swim With Mike he went on to graduate from UPS in 2013 with a bachelor of Science degree in Exercise Science. Along with his degree he learned the life skills of driving and living independently — and created an adaptive strength and conditioning program for Metro Parks, Tacoma. Cory started teaching in 2015, after earning his Teaching Certificate at Bates Technical College, also in Tacoma. He is currently in his fifth year of teaching, sixth year as an educator. For four years, Cory taught at his alma mater, Todd Beamer High School, Federal Way, Washington, and coached the long and triple jump for the track and field team. He created a YouTube channel to help others with spinal cord injury.

In June 2019, Cory moved back to Honolulu, Hawai’i, his birthplace, where he teaches Health and Physical Education at Assets School. Cory regularly participates in ocean sports with AccessSurf and enjoys getting in the water with fellow Swim With Mike alum, Ann Yoshida, who is a Paralympic paddler. He is currently loving the sun and food in beautiful Hawai’i ne'i.

Crista Lawrence Adamson

After receiving her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Science degrees in Biology from USC in 1992, Crista and her soon-to-be husband, Douglas Adamson, moved to New Jersey. Crista’s passion for neuroscience-directed research began in her junior year at USC, as a volunteer studying differences in male and female brains, and how these differences could be manipulated during critical developmental stages.

During her Master’s program, she worked to develop an animal model of schizophrenia. Undeterred by a coast-to-coast move, she applied for and was accepted into the doctorate program at Rutgers. She received her Ph.D. in Neuroscience from the University of Medicine and Dentistry/Rutgers the State University of New Jersey in 2001 and dedicated her dissertation to Swim With Mike! Her post-doctoral studies and work as a Research Associate focused on spinal cord injury-related therapies. Currently, she is the Director of Clinical Engagement at the New Haven based startup ReNeX Bio. This company is carrying out the first clinical trial in chronic cervical spinal cord injury, aimed at promoting neuronal growth and restoration of movement. Weeks after joining the ReNeX team, Crista sustained a second spinal cord injury. Her current goal is to get back in the water as soon as possible, her favorite place to stretch and exercise. She hopes to heal fast enough to return to scuba diving this summer and downhill skiing next winter. Her Trojan family resides in Connecticut, where she is a Professor of Chemistry at UConn. Their son Brian (20), a computer science and engineering major, and daughter, Kelsey (24) who earned a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources are also Huskies.
Dear SWM family & friends,

In a time when I was thinking I had no future; you gave me the push I needed to continue my dream pursuit in a degree in National Security.

Over six years you stuck with me through two schools that weren’t in my dreams to the third that was. I am not sure I could ever thank you enough. Thank you for the continued motivation and inspiration.

I would especially like to thank Dan Redden for always fighting for me and always giving me good news. I enjoyed our talks about baseball and football!

Thank you to my family and friends who have always had my back and encouraged me through all my twists and turns. It hasn’t been easy and I don’t think it ever will be. However, with your continued support I feel we can do this together.

Love you Mom and Dad!!!

Eternally grateful,
Troy Russell

BS in National Security, University of New Haven
Dear Swim With Mike and all of the amazing donors, thank you for everything you do and all of the opportunities you provide for people like me. With your help and support over the past four years I am happy to celebrate graduating from CU Boulder with a Bachelors of Science in Business Administration and a minor in Creative Technology and Design. Throughout this experience I have made lifelong friends through both school and the Pi Kappa Phi Fraternity, and look forward to a bright future ahead.

Andrew Ouellette
University of Colorado
Class of 2021

Ellie Shepard
MASTER OF SOCIAL WORK
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER
CLASS OF 2020

To my SWM Family

Like many others, my journey since my injury has been filled with too many highs and lows to count. Despite the struggle, I have proven to myself that I am still capable of big achievements - my MSW being one of them.

Social Work has been an empowering career choice because I feel the best equipped to be an advocate for the disability community. It has also been a space where I have learned to live with my disability instead of fight against it.

I dedicate this page to my SWM Family for believing in me and to my sweet Ra Loa who was taken from us too soon. I miss you.

Nevertheless, she persisted
We are so proud of you, Zach and congratulations on graduating with your MBA! We always knew you could do it! You are very driven and the best is yet to come.
Thank you to the Swim With Mike family for helping Zach achieve his educational goals! We are so thankful for your support.

Love,
Your family

Thank you Swim with Mike family! Your support made my dream of being a social worker possible. You instilled inspiration and gave me encouragement to pursue my educational goals during challenging times in my life.
I'm excited to begin my professional journey as a social worker and spread the SWM message of giving back to communities in need.

With deep gratitude,
Gaby Martinez
Master of Social Work
USC class of 2021
SWM Family,

Thank you so much for your support! I have enjoyed meeting much kindhearted individuals through this organization. I wish you all the best!

Abigail Curtis

“\text{This thing we call “failure” is not the falling down, but the staying down.}”
— Mary Pickford

Never, never, never give up.

Thank you to the Swim with Mike organization, my fellow scholarship recipients, and all the supporters of this wonderful community for helping me these last four years. I look forward to continuing to be a part of this incredible group.

With much appreciation, Morgan.

Morgan, we are so proud you and cannot wait to see all that you will accomplish as you go out into the world.

Love,
Mom, Dad, and Connor
Dear Swim With Mike Family,

This journey has been one filled with growth and learning. I would not have been able to achieve any of this without the care and generosity of the support systems that surround me.

One of the most pivotal systems I’m a part of is the Swim With Mike Family. The ability to pursue an education and further my career is one of the best gifts I could receive. So, thank you all for your support and kindness through these four years. I’m excited for the years to come!

Jake Javier
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
Biomedical Engineering Undergraduate

Congratulations Tyler!

We are so proud of you for finishing your masters. You continue to work hard in all that you do and we can’t wait to see what’s next for you! We love you!

Tyler Schihabel
Masters in Arts in Teaching
Point Loma University
Dear Nick,

We are so thrilled to see what you have accomplished throughout your educational career. You have set yourself apart through your hard work, determination, and perseverance. We are so proud of you having graduated with honors in your undergraduate program at George Mason University and having continued your academic success to graduate with honors from William and Mary Law School - the oldest and one of the most prestigious law schools in the country. Your ability to overcome all the challenges you have faced is a real testament to your true grit, courage, and motivation. You have challenged yourself both physically and intellectually and have always exceeded expectations. Your hard work has culminated in you accepting a position as an attorney at Cooley LLP, the job of your dreams! We could not be prouder.

We would like to thank the Swim with Mike organization for their financial support in the last several years for making it possible to achieve these academic successes and transition into professional career as an attorney. We pledge our continued support to SWM and look forward to paying it forward so that others may achieve their goals.

Love,
The Balenger Family
Congratulations doesn’t seem like enough of an accolade to honor Hunter’s accomplishments. In 2013 when he was injured, someone shared the story of Swim with Mike. I was so incredibly impressed with the story and growth of this organization that checked all the boxes of a scholarship that could support Hunter through college financially and emotionally. My son could not have finished college debt free and be on his way to becoming a productive member of society if we didn’t have Swim With Mike.

Hunter has worked so hard and defied the odds to finish college on time. I am incredibly proud of his accomplishments and the precedent he’s set for other young people struggling with catastrophic injury. With the right support system, success is possible. We are eternally grateful to SWM as Hunter moves on to graduate school to pursue his own child psychology practice.

I hope people continue to invest in this wonderful organization because it’s changing lives. Thank you, Swim with Mike, for changing ours and for giving us such good friends, confidants and mentors. Hunter, we are so incredibly proud of you. You are amazing and I know God has big things in store for you. I love you so much!

Hunter Garstin, Western Kentucky University, Psychology
The 52nd Annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim is Monday, September 6, 2021.

The Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
Congratulates Swim With Mike on 40 years of success
supporting Physically Challenged Athletes

Kickoff the 10th Annual Swim With Mike Week with us April 2 - April 9, 2021
Forty Hour Swim XXXXXXXX
Rose bowl Aquatics Center - 360 North Arroyo Blvd - Pasadena, CA
rosebowlaquatics.com
www.rosebowlaquatics.com

2021 Swim With Mike Satellite Events

The Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee
is Proud to Support Swim With Mike

San Souci Beach to Duke Kahanamoku Beach
2.348 Mile Open Ocean Swimming Challenge

The 52nd Annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim is Monday, September 6, 2021.
Come swim with us and support Swim With Mike
www.waikikiroughwaterswim.com & www.swimwithmike.com

In Loving Memory of a Great Trojan
Ginner Lee Ochsner
(1934 - 2019)

She loved USC and Swim With Mike.
Congratulations, Swim With Mike on 40 years.

Fight On!

The Ochsner and Pischel Families
In Memory of Nicholas Picciolo  
1992 - 2019

You were taken from us to soon.
You will remain in the hearts of your Swim With Mike family forever.

In loving memory of 
Joann Nyeholt  
1932 - 2019

Your warm smile and kind heart will be missed.
Be strong and courageous; don't be terrified or afraid of them. For the Lord your God is the one who will go with you; He will not leave you or abandon you. Deuteronomy 31.6

Tom and Sherry Fuelling

PATRICK AIDAN LYNCH
November 23, 1998 - October 23, 2019

In loving memory of our grandson.

14th Annual Claire Snow Award

Swim With Mike
2020 Volunteer of the Year
Awarded to Arthur C. Bartner

This award is named for Claire Snow, a devoted and giving woman whose level of commitment to her family, friends and SWM is legendary. For fifteen years, Claire was involved with swimmer registration, constantly dedicating hours of her time. Claire also trained the USC Helenes to help with the program. Her presence has left an indelible mark on the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund that will never be forgotten.

CONGRATULATIONS TO ARTHUR C. BARTNER
SWIM WITH MIKE CLAIRE SNOW VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR!

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

For five decades Dr. Arthur C. Bartner has provided the soundtrack to the University of Southern California as director of the Trojan Marching Band. With a tenure longer than any president, dean, Trustee or football coach in USC history, Dr. Bartner has become synonymous with Trojan spirit for generations of USC students, families and friends.

Dr. Bartner started in 1970 with the Trojan Marching Band that consisted of a group of 55 members. He turned the program into the largest student group on campus at 275 members. The highly revered group enjoys a reputation as the Spirit of Troy for its unwavering support for USC’s athletic teams, commitment to the university, its alumni and the community.

After 50 years, the Trojan Marching Band is one of the most innovative and sought-after college bands in the country. The band participates in over 85 Trojan sports events each year and has not missed a USC football game since 1987. With over 350 annual engagements, the Trojan Marching Band is the University’s goodwill ambassador to the community, nation, and world as it has visited every major continent and 19 countries. In 2014 and 2017, USA Today named the Trojan Marching Band the best band in college football.

Dr. Bartner has received many awards during his incredible journey, and has been an integral part of Swim With Mike since our 1981 inception. As director of the Trojan Marching Band, he has performed at all our annual events.

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14th Annual Claire Snow Award

Dr. Bartner’s involvement with Swim With Mike is evident in his commitment to SWM alum, Mike Hoover, who entered USC in 1984 as a Music Performance major and member of the band. Mike later changed his major to Music Education, inspired to become a band director due to the positive influence of his mentor, Dr. Bartner.

The night before the 1988 USC vs Michigan State Rose Bowl appearance, Mike Hoover suffered a severe cerebral hemorrhage. His stroke left him unable to move the muscles in his mouth and fingers with speed and precision; skills necessary not only for participating in the Rose Bowl's festive activities, but for his long-term goals of establishing a career as a music educator.

After intensive rehabilitation, and with the inspiration, guidance and financial assistance from the Swim With Mike Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund, Mike returned to USC to complete his studies. Art Bartner showed his continued commitment to Mike Hoover and SWM by his participation in the First Lap Challenges swim race with Olympic Champion Janet Evans. Art’s support of his former band member and SWM scholarship recipient is the key to the lasting and enduring relationship between Art, the Trojan Marching Band and Swim With Mike.

After 50 years of an unparalleled career at USC as the director of the renowned Trojan Marching Band, and 40 years of service to Swim With Mike, Art is retiring this year. We congratulate Dr. Art Bartner, a treasured member of our Swim With Mike Family on being our 2020 40th Anniversary Swim With Mike Claire Snow Volunteer of the Year!

“Volunteers of the Year”
Past Award Recipients

2007 Oscar Mendoza
2008 Don & Debbie Ludwig
2009 The Walsh Family
2010 The Pilalas Family
2011 Jack & Barbara Cameron
2012 Loretta Abdun-Nur Joseph
2013 Michael & Betsy Thomas
2014 Vandy & Betty VanWagener
2015 Tom & Sherry Fuelling
2016 Mike Navarro
2017 Patrick Stanton
2018 Bruce Furniss
2019 Yvonne Bogdanovich
Even as a youngster, we always knew that Art Bartner would be someone who would make a difference.

We just never realized how BIG a difference he would make!

Thanks, Art, for fifty years of memories, smiles and leadership.

P.S. You were a cute kid!

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**SWIM WITH MIKE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

<table>
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<th>Nancy Atkinson</th>
<th>Kaia Hedlund</th>
<th>Mike Navarro</th>
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<td>Natalie Buchoz</td>
<td>Daryl Holmlund</td>
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<td>Kathleen DeCristo</td>
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<td>Amir Ekbateani</td>
<td>Todd James</td>
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<td>Nick Enriquez</td>
<td>Jennifer Johnson</td>
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<td>Loretta Joseph</td>
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<td>Bruce Furniss</td>
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<td>Becky Gramstrup</td>
<td>Neil Macready</td>
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<td>Gregory Millward</td>
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GIFTS IN KIND

Alta Water
Crisp Imaging
Chuck and Joe Leimbach
Coca-Cola
Dan Stimmier
Weinerschnitzel
Dulce
Fox Sports West
Grant Nichol and Calcopa Massage School
Global Protein Group - Jeff Moore
Jack Nadel
Jersey Mike’s
Joanne Asman and Traveler
JR Navarro & Associates
Lawry’s
Lesal Ceramics
Letterhead Factory Printing
Lionsgate Entertainment
Mark and Karen Tanimura
Merle Norman
Nike
PODS
Quiksilver
Regency Outdoor Advertising
Rock & Reilly’s
Tailgater Concierge
Todd Anthony Photography
Toes on the Nose
Topson Downs
Town and Country Rentals
Trader Joes
USC Bookstore
USC Credit Union
USC Department of Public Safety
USC Facilities Management Services
USC Hospitality Services
USC Men’s and Women’s Athletic Teams
USC Recreational Sports
USC Transportation

VOLUNTEERS

Yearbook & Archives
Loretta Abdun-Nur Joseph

Yearbook Layout
John Wells

Barbecue
USC Hospitality
Nathan Martinez
Daisy Chiang

Public Relations/Media
Cindy Somer
Nancy Atkinson

Event Coordinators
Kathleen DeCristo
Mara Hunter Redden
Cindy Somer

Entertainment
David Freedman - (The Biggest Splash)
USC Trojan Marching Band
USC Song Girls
DJ Avi Bernard

General Store
Ellen Burson
Kelli Conley
Monica Morita
Norma Perez
Lydia Vazquez
Pat Walsh
Stephany Walsh
Erin Walsh

Lyon Center Staff
Mike Munson
Dan Smith

Information Booth
Kaia Hedlund
Kim Carson
Rich Fernandez
Nancy Atkinson

Massage Booth
Grant Nichol & Calcopa Massage School

Organizations
Friends of Trojan Knights
Beta Theta Pi
Helens
Society 53
Trojan Athletic Senate
Trojan Dance Force
USC Athletics
USC Recreational Sports/Lyon Center Staff
USC Occupational Therapy
USC Spirit Leaders

Public Announcers
Pat Stanton
Leland Waters

USC Swim Clinic
Julian Bonse

Live Webcast
Gregg Millward
Julian Bonse
**Volunteers**

**Registration**
- Katherine Murbach Patel
- Mark Patel
- Marilee Pischel
- Steve Pischel
- Iyoni Rice
- Lynn Dino
- Louis Smolensky

**Recipient Hospitality**
- Tom Fuelling
- Sherry Fuelling
- Jennifer Johnson
- Ten Thrasher
- Candice Fritschner
- Judy Pickett
- Nancy Buchoz
- Elise Ebbert

**Treasure Chest**
- Berni Degener
- Hank Degener
- Kristin Degener
- Kyle Degener
- Kelly Degener
- Carol Mannino
- Christy Phillips
- Kate Rolan

**Video Display Board & Online Giving**
- Greg Carlson
- Iyoni Rice

**T-shirt Design**
- Mike Navarro

**Graphics**
- Mike Navarro

**Team Participation**
- USC Football Team
- USC Men’s Swim Team
- USC Women’s Swim Team
- USC Men’s Dive Team
- USC Women’s Dive Team
- USC Men’s and Women’s Water Polo

**Silent Auction**
- Ann Cooper
- Becky Gramstrup
- Helaine Lopes
- Heidi Blair

**Gift Accounting & Records**
- Iyoni Rice

**Volunteer Signage**
- Wendy Abbate

**Raffle**
- Jordan Bradley

**USC Masters Workout**
- Laurie Ayoob
- Cyndi Gallagher
SATELLITE SWIM VOLUNTEERS

UCSD

Hawaii
Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee, Rainbow Aquatics, University of Hawaii Swimming & Diving Team

Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
Kurt Knop and Chad Durieux

STUDENT STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Spencer Davis
Montana Denton
Steven Douglass
Taylor Finley-Ponds
Brooke Furniss
Divya Jeyasingh
Miles Kay
Jonathan Le
Ellie Lo Re
Connor McCloskey
Liam Winston

Seth Novosel
Katie Pasichuke *
Heidi Blair
The Trojan Knights
The Helenes

* Swim With Mike Recipients
Brad Bauer hosted a Swim with Brad lap swim to benefit Swim with Mike. Family and friends watched as Brad swam 6 laps for the first time since his March 2017 accident accompanied by his high school water polo coach.

Kappa-Theta Car Wash benefitting Swim With Mike

Alumni Carlos Terrazas and Drew Donnellan in an event held at Arizona.

*Natalie Buchoz (Swim With Mike Alum USC Annenberg 2014) and mom Nancy sponsored the 5th Annual Grit Cycle Campaign.
CONGRATULATIONS MIKE & RON ON THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF SWIM WITH MIKE.

TARZANA SQUARE HAS BEEN GLAD TO SUPPORT THIS INCREDIBLE SCHOLARSHIP FUND SINCE IT’S INCEPTION.

HERE’S TO ANOTHER 40 YEARS AND GOD BLESS YOU BOTH!
The 2020 USC Athletics Board of Counselors Salutes Swim With Mike on its 40th Anniversary

CONGRATULATIONS

Thank you Ron Orr for founding Swim With Mike. Also, thank you Ron for starting our Board of Counselors 25 years ago!

The 2020 BOC:

Bob Alvarado
Jerry Anderson
Walt Arrington
Lisa Barkett
Sandi Bolivar
Myles Bowman
Sue Cimbaluk
Bob Clifford
Larry DiSano
Sue Femino
Sean Feybush
Richard Flores
Shane Foley
Lawrence Fung
Serra Garcia
Hank Gordon
Mel Hughes
Mark Ishimatsu
Larry Jung
Wandy Jung
Sean Kennally
Sam King
Ken Kleiner
Matt Koart
Chandler Larsen
Phillip Lee
Celeste Macer
Jennifer Matthews
Rob Maurer
Steve Nagelberg
Nancy Novokmet
Scot Obler
Annie Occhipinti
Glenn Osako
Paige Pennington
Troy Pilas
Justin Rawlins
Kim Ruddins
Kathy Shirley
Hunter Simmons
Chip Stuart
Karen Tanimura
Mark Tanimura
Rob Waller
Carrie Wells
Kandi Wopschall

Fight On!!

To all of the recipients, volunteers and wonderful donors who support Swim With Mike!
Ron,

You inspire.
Challenge after life challenge, you embrace the pain and battle on. You are a survivor for sure, but even greater, you are a humanitarian. So proud of the person that you are. Congratulations on 40 years.

Thank you,

denise
TO RON AND MIKE

CONGRATULATIONS ON THE CELEBRATION OF SWIM WITH MIKE’S 40TH ANNIVERSARY. IT IS WITH THE GREATEST HEARTFELT PLEASURE THAT I HAVE BEEN ABLE TO SUPPORT THIS PROGRAM SINCE ITS INCEPTION.

MARGARET ABDUN-NUR

Ron Orr & Mike Nyeholt...

What you have created and nurtured over the past 40 years is nothing short of remarkable. I am honored that you have allowed me to put your stories and the Swim With Mike story on film. I look forward to when everyone can view the SWIM WITH MIKE DOCUMENTARY.

Love you both and Congratulations,
Loretta Abdun-Nur Joseph
In October 2019, Jack Jablonski & Dr. Reggie Edgerton discuss the upper limb recovery clinical trial at UCLA.

Dr. Edgerton & Dr. Parag Gad with the new SpineX transcutaneous stimulator to be tested in the clinical trial.

Mayo Clinic became the first medical center in the world to replicate & validate paralysis recovery results from spinal neuromodulation treatment in a clinical trial we started five years ago.

To get this treatment to everyone living with paralysis, Jack Jablonski Foundation is proud to announce a new clinical trial using transcutaneous stimulation led by Dr. Reggie Edgerton, the world’s foremost spinal neuromodulation pioneer.

Learn more at BEL13VE (www.bel13vefoundation.org)

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We are so thankful to have been apart of the first 40 years of the Physically Challenged Athletics Scholarship Fund.

Looking forward to the next 40!

Richard & Loretta Joseph
It’s been said that a man should be judged not by all of his personal accomplishments, but by the contributions he’s made to improving the world in which we all live. By his willingness to give unconditionally, and his dedication to the selfless use of his talents to the benefit of others.

The Brothers of the Gamma Tau Chapter of Beta Theta Pi are honored to recognize one of our own, Brother Ron Orr #785 on this 40th anniversary of Swim with Mike.

From the beginning, this has always been about helping others. Mike Nyeholt was a teammate of Ron Orr and many other Betas who were members of the NCAA National Championship Swim Teams at USC from 1975 to 1980. Mike’s tragic accident impacted many of us who had known Mike as an “Honorary” member of our Brotherhood.

We’ve watched, participated, swam and supported the Swim with Mike program from its inception. We’ve continued to be amazed at the growth and significance of what is one of the greatest philanthropic organizations in NCAA history. Over $23,000,000 raised, 253 Scholarship Recipients, 131 Schools represented and 64 new scholarships to be awarded this year.

The constant throughout this 40 year period has always been Ron Orr and his leadership and vision.

Ron exemplifies everything we believe defines a Trojan.

We are proud to stand with Ron today and celebrate these 40 years of extraordinary accomplishment.

Swim with Mike has provided hope to those who had lost it.

That is a legacy that transcends all others.

Well done Brother!

A Brotherhood of Champions
It's a Family Affair!

Dan
Class of ’81

Meredith
Class of ’82

Maddy
Class of ’14

Michael
Class of ’12

Fight On!
The Rosenthals

Congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of
Swim With Mike

Corii D. Berg ’89
President, USC Alumni Association
Board of Governors

Patrick E. Auerbach EdD ’08
 Associate Senior Vice President
for Alumni Relations

alumni.usc.edu
THANK YOU SWIM WITH MIKE
WE RECOGNIZE ALL THAT TWO YOUNG MEN CREATED 40 YEARS AGO

RON ORR
&
MIKE NYEHOLT

BY EXAMPLE YOU REPRESENT ALL THAT WE CAN HOPE TO BE

YOUR
COMMITMENT
COMPASSION
INTEGRITY
PURPOSE
BELIEFS
HOPE
AND
POSITIVITY

HAVE HELPED SO MANY WHO HAD TO FACE AND OVERCOME ADVERSITY

WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR YOUR VISION
AND OUTCOMES PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE.
#GRATITUDE FROM CATHY & JOE DURRETT

Thank you for believing in me.

Mike Fritschner ’13, MBA ’18
FIGHT ON!

Congratulations, Ron & Mike, on 40 years of changing lives!
Mike, do you feel influenced by your wife?

No, he doesn’t.

Swim With Mike and the SWM Board of Directors thanks Toby and Mike Navarro for all they do throughout the year.

Ron Orr    Mike Nyeholt
Mara Hunter Redden

Watson Land Company is proud to support Swim With Mike and commends the participating athletes and volunteers.
CONGRATULATIONS
ON 40 YEARS OF MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Swim with Mike

FROM YOUR PROUD CAMPUS PARTNERS

USC Hospitality  USC Bookstores  USC Hotel
USC Housing  USC Transportation  USC Coliseum

THANK YOU FOR BEING A PART OF SWIM WITH MIKE 2020
PLEASE TAKE THIS AD TO THE USC BOOKSTORE
AND RECEIVE 20% OFF YOUR FAVORITE USC APPAREL

Happy 40th and Thank You to Ron and Mike!
from five of the ripples that make the swim move
with deep appreciation for all our fellow wave-makers!

Elyssa, Kathleen, Patrick, Mara and Nancy
Swim With Mike is grateful to
UBS
Recreation Sports Lyon Center,
 Trojan Knights
  Helenes
for providing the Swim With Mike Wheelchair Basketball Event

Dear Ron -
Your other two sisters ... M & M
Love you !!!

Here's to 40 more years of making a difference in the lives of our Scholarship Recipients!
Majestic Realty Co. is proud to support
Swim with Mike

THANKS TO RON AND MIKE FOR A GREAT 40 YEARS!

FURNISS FAMILY & FRIENDS ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FOR SWIM WITH MIKE

USC Alumni l-r: Craig ’81, Steve ’76, Bruce ’79, & Chip ’73 Furniss
CONGRATULATIONS TO MIKE AND RON FOR 40 GREAT YEARS OF SWIM WITH MIKE!

FROM DAVID VAN WAGENER AND FAMILY

Swim With Mike would like to thank
BRIAN KENNEDY & REGENCY ADVERTISING
For donating Billboards Throughout the Los Angeles Area

Thanks to your generosity, these billboards have raised public awareness of Swim With Mike.

Brian Kennedy, you are a great Trojan Fight On!!!
Thank you, Swim With Mike!
Congratulations Mike and Ron on 40 years of changing lives!

The McNamara Family wishes to thank Swim With Mike for supporting Mike McNamara in his spinal cord injury recovery by providing him with a phenomenal educational experience at USC. To Mike Nyeholt, Ron Orr, The Abdun-Nur Family, The Joseph Family, Don & Debbie Ludwig, and the hundreds of volunteers who make SWM possible year after year, we give our deep gratitude for all of your hard work and determination to change the lives of hundreds of physically challenged athletes. Attending college was only a dream until The Joseph Family introduced “Mike Mac” to SWM. Congratulations, Mike and Ron, on FOUR DECADES of amazing success in providing life-changing support to so many!

THANK YOU! Robert, Jeanie, Tom and Mike McNamara FIGHT ON!

The 40th Year of Swim With Mike

Art, may you continue playing on and on and on!
Ron, may your ever-present enthusiasm and dedication to education and loving support continue on and on and on!

Fight On! With love,
Christine Marie Ofiesh ’74
Mara Redden Hunter ’74
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RON & MIKE

Thanks for 40 years of inspirational leadership and continued growth of Swim With Mike Scholarships
Tom & Sherry Fuelling

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CONGRATULATIONS RON ORR

Sandi Bolivar          Adam Bart

40 years making a difference in lives of Physically Challenged Athletes

COME RIDE WITH US!

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THE LAW OFFICE OF DONALD R. HAMMOND -

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Torrance, CA 90505

(323) 529-3660
or visit Don on the web at
www.donhammondlaw.com

As a Swim with Mike alumn Don understands that, like a serious injury, getting arrested can come as a surprise and have lasting consequences...

Don is dedicated to helping people get their lives back on track!
Ron and Mike Nyeholt

Congratulations and thank you for 40 wonderful years!

You have created something that gives hope, pride and pleasure to so many people. We’re delighted to be a part of your team!

You have our undying loyalty, respect and gratitude.

John and Carolyn Naber

We BEL13VE in recovery. Here is how we are making it happen.

2013 - A grant to Dr. Susan Harkema (UofL), the first researcher to achieve recovery for people living with chronic paralysis using epidural electrical stimulation.

2014 - A grant to Courage Kenny for financial assistance to help patients access activity-based recovery therapy.

2015 - A grant to Dr. Reggie Edgerton (UCLA), the world’s epidural electrical stimulation pioneer.

2016 - A grant that helped Jered Chinnock become the first patient in a Mayo Clinic study that successfully validated recovery results using epidural stimulation.

2017 - A grant that helped Jeremy Gedatus become the second Mayo Clinic study patient.

2018 - A grant for patient #3 in the Mayo Clinic study.

2019 - A grant for patients #4, 5, & 6 at Mayo Clinic.

2020 - A grant for an upper limb recovery project at UCLA.

www.BEL13VEfoundation.org

The Jack Jablonski Foundation supports research to advance recovery for everyone living with paralysis.

Congratulations to Swim With Mike on 40 fabulous years!

Thank you Ron & Mike for 40 years of making a difference for the SWM family!

Love, The Winston Family & Karen Gala
Congratulations Canine Companions® Graduate Zack Collie on your recent scholarship!

We are so proud to celebrate you and all the Swim with Mike Scholarship recipients for the past 40 years!

Trojan League Associates Of San Diego County Congratulates

SWIM WITH MIKE
On your 40th Anniversary
FIGHT ON!

TAF San Diego
Supporting USC Athletics since 1974!!
Congratulations SWM on your 40th year!!
You continue to change lives forever!!

Anthony Ybarra
President
www.trojanclubofsandiego.com

Special thanks to our good friend

Myles Bowman
for his generous support

TROJAN ATHLETIC FUND

SWIM WITH MIKE would like to thank

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For their charitable contributions

SWIM WITH MIKE would like to thank

QUIKSILVER

for their charitable contributions

SWIM WITH MIKE would like to thank

NIKE

For their generous support and charitable contributions

SWIM WITH MIKE would like to thank

USC CREDIT UNION

for their generous contributions

SWIM WITH MIKE would like to thank

TRADER JOE’S
The Trojan Athletic Fund Club of the San Gabriel Valley
Would like to thank
Ron Orr
for 40 years as co-founder of Swim With Mike. All the years of hard work and dedication have made the vision you and Mike Nyeholt had for this program come true.

Club Officers
Sean Kennally, President
Margee Harris, Vice President
Barbara Cotler, Treasurer
Cathy Crowther, Raffle Director
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Congrats on 40 years!

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