Swim With Mike BY THE NUMBERS

Over $20 million raised in scholarship support since 1981

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Current scholarship recipients: 54
(38 universities nationwide)

Total number of Swim With Mike scholarship recipients: 218

Total sports represented: 60

Universities represented: 111

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

38th Annual

Swim with Mike

April 7, 2018 • USC Uytengsu Aquatic Center

Swim Clinic • Participant Goodie Bags • Live Entertainment
Trojan Marching Band • Raffle & Silent Auction • Barbecue • Massage Tent

Also in 2018:

Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
April 1 - April 6

Wheelchair Basketball Tournament
Lyon Center - April 6 & 7

University of California Santa Barbara May 6

University of California San Diego April 21

Hawaii September 1
In conjunction with the Waikiki Roughwater Swim

Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund
University of Southern California • Heritage Hall MC 0602 • Los Angeles, CA 90089-0602

Please check out our website at www.swimwithmike.org to learn more about our fundraising activities, or to join our team as a Campaign Director!
Our 38th Annual Swim With Mike event is just weeks away, and we couldn’t be more excited. It is one of our favorite days of the year when we get to see our friends, contributors, scholarship recipients and their families. I hope to see you poolside on April 7th so I can say hello to you and introduce you to our amazing scholarship recipients.

Also on the big day at the USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center, we are looking forward to honoring our teammate Bruce Furniss and the entire Furniss Family for their volunteer efforts surrounding SWM for the past 38 years. Bruce will be receiving the coveted Claire Snow Volunteer of the Year Award. Well deserved, Bruce.

We have been working on some new projects that I hope you will find helpful to keep in touch with our Swim With Mike family. Our new website launched the first week in February, and we hope you like it and find it to be a more user-friendly site. I especially would like you to notice the “Become a Campaign Director” tab on the landing page. By clicking that, you can sign up to be a Campaign Director to raise funds for Swim With Mike with your very own campaign. Please check it out and sign up as a Campaign Director supporting our physically challenged students.

I am thrilled to announce three new endowed scholarships since our last newsletter. Our dear friend and SWM co-founder Mara Hunter Redden has established one in her name through a unitrust; her late sister Shawna asked that a donation be given to Swim with Mike so her husband Brad and the rest of the family decided to establish the Shawna Mari Hunter Endowed Scholarship; and our Volunteer of the Year Bruce Furniss has begun the Furniss Family and Friends Endowed Scholarship. Endowment is key to keeping our program going strong in perpetuity and we are indeed most grateful for these friends’ support.

Thank you for your continued support and belief in our mission to provide both financial and meaningful resources for advanced education for our scholarship recipients.

Contribute online to Swim With Mike at www.swimwithmike.org or fill out and use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.
213-740-4155 • swimwithmike@gmail.com

Ron Orr
Founder & Executive Director

ON THE COVER
SWM scholarship recipient
Lori Hammond receives her
DVM from UC Davis.
Photo by Byron Lee.

$20 Million Raised.
So what’s Next?

Well, by now you’ve heard the good news. Thanks to you, Swim With Mike has raised more than $20 million in just 37 years. But what may be even more significant is that it took us 20 years to raise our first $10 million.

And, as we celebrate our 38th year together, early pledges indicate that, with continuing support from people like you, we are on track to better that trend for this year.

So we’ll continue to do what we’ve done for those past 37 years. We’ll swim, we’ll run, we’ll walk, we’ll roll, we’ll float and we’ll dedicate our time and our dollars — and have a great time while we’re at it!

We’ll hold our annual swim-a-thon and numerous satellite events, and a dozen individual campaign directors will host fundraisers across the nation.

And what’s our return? Oh, that’s easy. It’s the smile on the faces of young people whose lives have been changed by tragedy, realizing that they will now have a chance to regain true independence.

It’s watching our recipients receive their degrees, begin a new phase in their lives, and move forward with the kind of aspirations that many may not have thought possible.

So, come on. Take a few laps. The water’s great. And the cause greater.
All Over Town
Outdoor Billboards announce the 38th Annual Swim With Mike

If you’re driving around Southern California these days, chances are you’ll come across one of the three different outdoor billboards at nine locations announcing the 38th Annual Swim With Mike at the Uytengsu Aquatics Center that have been posted around town.

The billboards are donated by a long-time friend of Swim With Mike, Brian Kennedy, and installed by his company, Regency Outdoor. The designs are by SWM board member Mike Navarro.

The high-visibility locations include the 405 Freeway at Manchester Boulevard, the I-10 Freeway at Hill Street, The I-10 Freeway at Robertson Boulevard, Foothill Boulevard at Rosemead Boulevard, The 60 Freeway at The 605 San Gabriel River Freeway, Robertson Boulevard at Robertson Place, La Tijera west of the 405 Freeway and Hillhurst Avenue at Los Feliz Boulevard.

Way to GROW!
Fourth Annual UBS Wheelchair Basketball Tournament Expands to Eight Teams

On Friday, April 6th and Saturday, April 7th the fourth Annual Swim With Mike Wheelchair Basketball Tournament presented by UBS kicks off the 38th USC Swim With Mike Weekend.

This year we are changing up the schedule, with the prelims on Friday and the Finals on Saturday as part of the 38th Annual USC event at Uytengsu Aquatics Center. We are also changing the location to the courts upstairs at the Lyon Recreation Center, which adjoins the pool.

This year’s tournament will consist of eight teams of 5-8 players each, and will be open to all students and faculty at USC. Swim With Mike scholarship recipient Zack Wentz (USC Economics 2018) is Chairman of the Planning Committee, as well as being the founder of The Wheelchair Basketball program and responsible for the four years of growth of this expanding program. Thanks, Zack!

What a great way to kick off our Swim With Mike weekend! See you there!
The Swim With Mike Executive Committee has unanimously voted to award our devoted volunteer, and founding Board member, Bruce Furniss, the 2018 Claire Snow Volunteer of the Year Award. Bruce has been with the Swim With Mike family since its inception in 1981, and swam with Mike and Ron on the USC NCAA Championship Swim Teams in 1976 and 1977.

Let’s hear from Bruce:

“Early in the morning on January 2, 1981, the life of one of my best friends was permanently changed forever. In the days following, I learned the very distressing and unfortunate news that Mike Nyeholt, my friend, fellow swim team member and former roommate had been in a motorcycle accident which was likely to leave him permanently disabled. This sent a shock wave throughout a very closely knit community which encompassed his family, personal friends and teammates, the USC family and the national and international swim world.

I remember when we all found out about Mike’s accident and the prognosis that would change his life forever, we all rallied together to support him by doing what we knew best—swimming. We organized an event “Swim FOR Mike,” spearheaded by our fellow swim teammate, Ron Or; that would raise the funds needed to buy a suitable van for Mike so that he could continue his new personal and promising professional life. Being a bunch of overachievers, we did just that. We raised more funds than it took to buy Mike’s van ... so Mike decided to take the overage and initiate a new scholarship program.

Mike's example to turn his personal tragedy into a life-long mission to help others with similar challenges is a tremendous inspiration.

Little did we know that this tragic accident would become the launch pad for a fundraiser in his name, becoming Swim WITH Mike. Mike’s accident, along with his active leadership, led to the creation of an annual event unlike any other in the country.

I am proud to be part of this fine organization since its inception. Pround also we have helped 218 scholarship recipients attending 111 universities since 1981. This academic year, we are supporting 54 scholarship recipients at 38 universities across the nation. And we are still going strong!

What began as just a shock wave initiated a ripple effect of support—a drop, a ripple, a wave, and a whole lot of good which is named Swim With Mike.”

The Furniss Family & Friends Swim With Mike Endowed Scholarship

In recognition of Bruce being honored as the recipient of the 2018 Claire Snow Award, the Furniss family has pledged to fund The Furniss Family and Friends Swim With Mike Endowed Scholarship.

This will be an entire Furniss family fundraising campaign, and includes Bruce’s brothers Chip (USC 1973), Steve (USC 1976) and Craig (USC 1981). As a group of Campaign Directors, their goal is to raise the $100,000 endowed funds with various activities which will include a poker party, and swims at the SWM clubs at Villa Park, Mater Dei, Foothill and the SoCal Aquatics Club. A big SWM thanks to the Furniss Family!

Swim Career

During an illustrious swimming career spanning seventeen years, Bruce Furniss broke ten World and nineteen American Records and won 11 AAU and six NCAA Titles. As a member of the 1976 U.S. Olympic Team, he won two Gold Medals, in the 200-meter Freestyle and the 4x200-meter Freestyle Relay, setting World Records in each event. In January 2004, Bruce was one of six former collegiate athletes in the nation recognized as recipients of the NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. This award is given annually to six individuals in recognition of their 25 years of post-graduate career achievements, contributions to professional organizations and charitable and civic activities within their communities.

Professional Career

Bruce Furniss is an accomplished and results-driven commercial real estate executive with extensive experience across all commercial and investment product types and asset classes. As a licensed California commercial real estate broker of 33 years, he has consummated over 150 commercial and multi-family real estate transactions totaling more than $1.2 billion. He is a Senior Director and Broker Associate with Berkadia Real Estate Advisors in Irvine.

Personal Life

Bruce is a 1979 graduate of USC’s Annenberg School of Journalism with a B.A. in Public Relations. He later met his wife, Sharon, at an Olympics Fundraising event at Disneyland. Sharon is a graduate of the University of Vermont, and received her MBA from Boston University. Bruce and Sharon have four children – Kyle, Troy, Brooke and Quinn. Kyle is a 2016 USC graduate, Brooke (Annenberg Public Relations) and Troy (Marshall Business) are currently in the USC class of 2020, and Quinn is a high school senior and aspiring Trojan. Brooke is also a prominent member of our current Swim With Mike student staff!

Philanthropy and Volunteer Activities

In addition to being an active member of the Swim With Mike Board, Bruce also is a Trustee at the David X. Marks Foundation, sits on the Koroibos Foundation Board, actively supports the Childrens Hospital of Orange County, the YMCA of Orange, the International Swimming Hall of Fame, Villa Park High School Aquatics and the San Antonio de Padua Catholic Church. And, he somehow finds time to serve as the Assistant Senior Swimming Coach at SoCal Aquatics.
Swim With Mike At Work: The Brothers Paneno

The lives of two brothers, both football players for La Canada Flintridge High School, and each with the same lifelong fear of falling accidents one year apart, were embraced by the Swim With Mike family and after their academic successes are now pursuing their professional dreams.

Sam (BS Psychology UC Davis 2001; JD 2005) and Rocky Paneno (BS Mathematics 2009, MA Education 2010 USC) are those brothers, and we are proud to be a part of helping them achieve these academic degrees and pursue their professional goals and passions.

Today Sam is an attorney with the L.A. Alliance for Children's Rights, Rocky is a Math for America Fellow and Algebra teacher. He inspires disenfranchised kids attending the Miguel Contreras Learning Complex in inner city Los Angeles.

Sam was a running back in high school, and went on to play for UC Davis. In his junior year he earned his first career start at that position and rushed for a career-high 114 yards and two touchdowns. The game went into overtime and on the first play, Sam's knee was dislocated. The injury disrupted blood flow to the lower leg and foot. Emergency surgery was performed, but complications ensued, making it necessary for the surgeons to amputate the lower portion of his right leg.

Sam found Swim With Mike and in 2000 became our inaugural scholarship recipient outside USC. “Since you have lifted the burden of tuition from my shoulders, the changes for me to explore the less profitable area of the law have opened. Now, I can pursue my interests in helping others in disadvantage situations.” He also says that the strong Swim With Mike support system, along with his personal relationships, helped him navigate his ordeal — and the others that followed.

Just one year later, brother Rocky fell from a sixth floor balcony when the railing collapsed. The horrific accident caused him to lose his kidneys and paralyze him from the waist down. After surgeries and rehabilitation, he too was awarded a Swim With Mike scholarship and went on to earn two degrees from USC. “I feel like you’re a part of the organization almost for life. Recovery can be overwhelming. One of the many facets for anyone going through life after an accident is that the family and friends also go through an awful lot. Swim With Mike provides a real support network.”

For Rocky, even going to class was at times excruciating. But this mathematician said he worked it out in his head, down to how much each class cost and how many donors had contributed to putting him there. “With the Swim With Mike scholarship, what they’re really offering you with an education is a chance to catapult yourself to another path. It can redirect your life.”

Our Cover Girl

Lori Hammond, Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Lori is on our cover of this Spring edition of the Swim With Mike newsletter. Her photo depicts her walking at her graduation to receive her DVM degree, and to deliver the graduation speech. She has achieved her lifelong dream.

Lori's Ripple Effect in her own words:

“On July 16, 2008 when my paralysis occurred, I was studying Animal Science at the University of California Davis working towards my goal of attending veterinary school. Because I was no longer able to walk, I must admit that at first I thought my dreams of becoming a veterinarian were over.

I heard about Swim With Mike at one of my rehabilitation facilities and knew that it was the final push I needed to return to school. I had spent a significant portion of the money my family and I had saved up for my education on physical therapy, and Swim With Mike helped to relieve the financial burden and stress that returning to school would have placed on me.

Beyond that, it provided me with a community of individuals that had experienced a similar life-altering event, but had overcome it and returned to pursuing their educational goals. All of the Swim With Mike participants are inspiring and seeing them succeed gave me the confidence I needed to believe that I could do it too!”

I am excited to report that with the confidence boost and financial relief from Swim With Mike, I returned to UC Davis, finished my undergraduate degree, and then was accepted into the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine. I feel that I am blessed every day to be here and I love every moment of it. I have had so many amazing experiences since starting veterinary school including being elected Class President and completing my first surgeries.

I am thankful every day for Swim With Mike and the participants involved that enabled me to continue to pursue my childhood dream of becoming a veterinarian. Most of all, I am thankful for people like you who make it possible for Swim With Mike to continue to provide these scholarships that truly change people’s lives. Thank you!”

Lori Hammond
Our Campaign Directors
Do your own Thing!

Join our 38th Annual Campaign as a Campaign Director. We are kicking off our 38th Annual Fundraising Campaign to support our physically challenged athletes scholarship fund and want you to be part of the fun as a Swim With Mike Campaign Director.

As a Campaign Director, you are our grassroots representative reaching out to your online friends, school mates, neighbors, family and sponsors to support your own fundraising campaign on behalf of our scholarship recipients.

Please visit our new website at swimwithmike.org to register and while you are there, take a look at some of the other campaigns underway from your fellow Campaign Directors. How about recruiting another Campaign Director? Let us know who we can contact at swimwithmike@gmail.com.

Join the Wave!

Third Annual “Karma Ride” at Gritcycle Costa Mesa

Natalie Buchoz, our Swim With Mike scholarship recipient alumna (USC Annenberg Public Relations 2015) and mom, Nancy, are planning their Third Annual Gritcycle campaign. The plan is to sell all 56 bikes for a 45-minute spin to raise funds to support our mission and to increase SWM awareness in the community.

Gritcycle owner and USC Alum Marisa Wayne (yes, John Wayne’s youngest daughter) will teach the class to participants wearing their favorite college theme attire. Sounds like fun!

More fun is a raffle for things like Gritcycle classes and apparel, and a Duffy Electric boat ride around the picturesque Newport Harbor.

Thanks to the Buchoz girls, Marisa Wayne and their loyal band of Gritcyclists.

Lots of Ways to Make A Difference

There are plenty of ways to donate to what tur many has become a favorite cause, Swim With Mike. Listed below are but a few. Please help us change the lives of our outstanding scholarship recipients and their future prospects of success.

The Centofante Anniversary Club – $3,800

Started by Al Centofante at the 10th Anniversary of Swim With Mike to honor each anniversary with a $100 gift for every year the Fund has been in existence. In this, our 38th year, the donation level is $3,800, and is in keeping with Al’s tradition. The Centofante Family Foundation matches all new increases and Club member gifts.

The Tud Speiker and Masters Challenge

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

Sponsor a Lane at All 2018 Satellite Events – $1,500

Sponsor a Lane at our USC Swim With Mike event and all SWM satellite events.

Lane Sponsor – $1,000

Sponsor a Lane at the 38th Swim With Mike event. Donations are recognized at the pool on the day of the event and in our Yearbook.

Swim With Mike Wheelchair Basketball 4th Annual Team Sponsor – $1,000

Be a Team Sponsor at our newly expanded Swim With Mike event.

The Miller Challenge – $380

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

ENDOWMENTS

Jennifer Walsh Endowed Scholarship

This endowment was established by the Walsh Family in 1994 in memory of recipient Jennifer Walsh, who lost her battle with Osteosarcoma Cancer.

Will and Linda Gassett Operating Endowment

Established with an initial gift of $100,000, the income is used for the operations of Swim With Mike so that all donated funds may be directly applied to scholarships.

An endowment may be created with a minimum $100,000 gift. The principle remains intact while the interest funds generated are distributed to the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. The SWM Endowment Fund currently has more than $3 million, our goal is to reach $5-10 million to support our mission in perpetuity.
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