Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund

University of Southern California • Heritage Hall 2028 • 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!

Swim With Mike

BY THE NUMBERS

More than $23 million raised in scholarship support since 1981

Total Swim With Mike scholarship recipients: 253

Total schools represented: 131

Scholarship dollars awarded for 2019-20: $1,065,096

2019-20 Scholarships: 64

(47 universities nationwide)

Total sports represented: 60

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

COMING UP

Saturday, April 4
40th Annual Swim With Mike
USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Swim With Mike at the
Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
March 27 - April 3

Swim With Mike
San Diego TBD

Swim With Mike Hawaii
September 7
(with 51st Waikiki Roughwater Swim)

Wheelchair Basketball presented by UBS
April 3 & 4

1981 - 2020

Swim With Mike recipients at the 2019 event at USC.

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1981 - 2020

Swim With Mike recipients at the 2019 event at USC.
Dear Friends,

Since 1981, Swim With Mike has funded a total of 253 scholarship recipients at 131 universities across the nation.

Our unique program supports physically challenged athletes' educational pursuits and enables the related independence and self-esteem required for success.

On the following pages, I would like to highlight some of the incredible milestones from the past 40 years. We are all so fortunate to have your support and participation so we meet our mission to provide financial resources for advanced education that paves the way for physically challenged athletes to overcome their tragedies and realize their full potential.

I encourage you to send us your own Swim With Mike thoughts, memories and photos to swimwithmike@gmail so we may learn more about your personal SWM experiences and the impact our SWM Family's ripple effect has had on you and your family. That’s what helps our Swim With Mike program keep the 40-year momentum you have helped create.

In the meantime, save the date – April 4th, 2020 – and bring your oldest SWM T-shirt and/or SWM memory to the Archives Booth. We look forward to seeing you all there.

A drop, a ripple, a wave . . . making a difference for 40 years . . .

Swim With Mike
Founder and Executive Director

Riding the Wave of Support into Our 40th Year

An Amazing Success, Thanks to You.

MARCH 7, 1981
Our friend, three-time All-American USC swimmer Mike Nyeholt, was paralyzed on January 2, 1981. Teammates, friends and family organized our first swim-a-thon, Swim FOR Mike, to raise the funds to buy an accessible van for Mike so he could continue his professional career.

Mike surprised us all by arriving, by ambulance, at the event where he told the stunned crowd “Next year instead of Swim FOR Mike, I’d like to join you all in a Swim WITH Mike.”

Becki McCafferty, a UCLA All-American swimmer becomes the first recipient of SWM when Mike walked into her hospital room following her tragic beach accident six months after Mike’s, and offered her a van and scholarship to USC.

1982
The initial event’s exceptional success produced excess funds and Mike’s visionary decision to create the USC Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund.

Our inaugural Swim With Mike class of USC students was created as the only program in the nation to support an underserved population’s efforts for advanced education, independence and self-esteem.

1983
Swim With Mike is the first event held at the new USC McDonald’s Olympic Swim Stadium, site of the 1984 Olympics, where Mike swam the first lap at the pool’s dedication.

1984
President Gerald Ford invites Mike to swim at the Presidential Estate in Palm Desert; SWM’s 2nd scholarship recipient, quadriplegic Kevin Lewis, plans the first-ever wheelchair events for the 1984 Olympics.

1988
SWM’s 10th recipient, Boston College Lacrosse player Jeff Keith (USC MBA Finance 1989), is the first amputee to run across America. Mike held the finish line banner in Los Angeles and greeted him with a Swim With Mike scholarship.

Memories from 40 years of Swim With Mike

continued overleaf
1990
First year to break $100,000 funds raised; President Ronald Reagan invited Mike to his office to present his personal check on the occasion of our Tenth Anniversary.

1991
TV's Betty White named Swim With Mike's People Helping People recipient. SWM recipient Jim Winston (USC MA Cinematic Arts) initiated the relationship with the awardee.

1992
Paralympian Sarah Reinertsen (USC MA Broadcast Journalism) represents USA and SWM at Barcelona Olympics. Later she became first female amputee to complete the 2005 Hawaii Ironman Competition.

1994
Jennifer Walsh, an early SWM recipient, passed away during her USC freshman year. Her family established the first SWM Endowed Scholarship in her memory.

1995
Over $1 million in total funds is raised for Swim With Mike in a single year, our best effort ever.

1996
Christopher Reeve receives SWM People Helping People Award; Swim With Mike Recipient Kemal Demirciler makes the USC Valedictory Speech.

1997
Annual Yell Leader Challenge Initiated by USC cheerleaders and Swim With Mike supporters Jason and Troy Pilalas.

1998
Daily Points of Light date of July 17, 1998 awarded to Swim With Mike. President George H. W. Bush established this international award to recognize the spirit of nonprofit volunteerism.

1999
The Centofante Anniversary Challenge initiated. Our friend Al Centofante establishes a generous giving program of $100 for each year of Swim With Mike.

2000
Swim With Mike expands its mission to include nationwide scholarship recipients, enabling students across the nation to apply for assistance.

2002
Mike Nyeholt inducted into the University of Southern California Athletic Hall of Fame.

2004
Mike Nyeholt receives the 2004 NCAA Inspiration Award for his work on the SWM program.

2005
First Annual SWM Hawaii at Duke Kahanamoku Pool at University of Hawaii.

2007
USC Football Coach Pete Carroll challenges Will Ferrell to a one lap race to occur at the USC SWM event – guess who won?

2008
Mayer-Leahy Endowed Scholarship established with $250,000 gift; Most funds raised in a single year – $1.2 million.

2010
SWM's 30th Anniversary - $10 million total raised.

2011
Karin Larson donates $500,000 – our largest single gift to date – to endow the SWM Executive Director Chair to ensure SWM’s future in perpetuity. Raised $1.5 million that year – largest at that time.

2014
New SWM Home donated by USC Swim alum Fred Uytengsu. Swim With Mike was inaugural event at the new USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center.

2017
Largest raised to date – $1.7 million at a single event.
and wrestling. Football soon became a priority. The 6’4” young man resulting in an incomplete spinal cord injury. After a month in the hospital, state. All that ended when on the night of December 8, 2016, he was shot in an attempted robbery and the bullet clipped his L-3 vertebrae. Jeremey grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and played baseball, football, and wrestling. Football soon became a priority. The 6’4” young man resulting in an incomplete spinal cord injury. After a month in the hospital, she was diagnosed with paralysis from the chest down but fortunately no other major injuries. Emma treats her rehabilitation as she did her training and has made great strides. Meredith College is her dream school and she is so happy that Swim With Mike is helping to make her dreams come true.

Jeremy Boyd, Tuscaloosa, AL University of Alabama - BA Creative Media & African American Studies - Fall 2022 - L-3 incomplete spinal cord injury. Below knee paralysis. Jeremy grew up in Birmingham, Alabama and played baseball, football, and wrestling. Football soon became a priority. The 6’4” young man worked his way up to the varsity team and played for a year at Delta State. All that ended when on the night of December 8, 2016, he was shot in an attempted robbery and the bullet clipped his L-3 vertebrae resulting in an incomplete spinal cord injury. After a month in the hospital, he met two women who encouraged him to try wheelchair tennis and he was immediately hooked. He went on to University of Alabama where he won a National Championship in his first season. Jeremy joins class/teammate Thomas Venos as a member of the Swim With Mike Family.

Josh Brewer, Tucson, AZ University of Arizona - BS Economics - Spring 2022 Triple Limb Amputee 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. When he 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 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 where he excelled and was honored to represent the USA in the 2016 Paralympics where he won a silver medal.

Kyle Carpenter, Hesperia, CA Azusa Pacific University - BSN Nursing - Summer 2020 L-1, L-2 Spinal Cord Injury - Paraplegia 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/L-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 re-learned 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. He has been successful as a motivational speaker and is thrilled to be a part of the Swim With Mike Family.

Logan Caudle, Adairsville, GA Auburn University - M.Ed Rehabilitation Counseling - Spring 2021 Transverse Myelitis 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, a coach encouraged him to look into the school’s wheelchair track & 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 2016 he was invited to attend a wheelchair basketball camp at Auburn. 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.
Our new Recipients continued

Mahrokh Ebrahim i, Sunland, CA
UCLA - MS Computer Science/Data Science - Spring 2022
C-6, C-7 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Mahrokh was born and grew up in Tehran, Iran. At the age of seven she learned to play badminton. Her athletic excellence was matched by her academic prowess and she was admitted as a graduate student to Azad University for two years prior to a tragic auto accident that resulted in spinal cord injury at the C-6/C-7 level. After two years of learning how to navigate life in a wheelchair she applied for admission to the University of Science and Technology where she had successfully completed her studies in Electronic Systems, with a Bachelor’s Degree in the field of Information Technology Engineering. She came to the USA for two months for advanced medical treatment and was later able to immigrate. Mahrokh is grateful to Swim With Mike for allowing her the opportunity to pursue an advanced degree in Data Science.

Dillon Conolly, Long Beach, CA
University of Southern California - MS Entrepreneurship and Innovation - Spring 2021
C-4, C-5 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Dillon exemplified the words 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 writing as a design engineer. 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. Four years later, Dillon was ready to pursue his Masters degree and start a company that makes products for the disabled community.

Deborah Ede-Reddout, Broken Arrow, OK
University of North Texas - Doctor of Physical Therapy - Spring 2022
C-5, C-6 Spinal Cord Injury

Deborah was a nationally competitive gymnast. While a freshman in high school she was preparing for the upcoming USA Gymnastics National Championship. Mid-practice she climbed on the trampoline to practice her most difficult skill. That was the last thing she remembered until she woke up to find the facility being vacated and an ambulance on the way. She woke up the following day post-surgery to find out that she had a C-5/C-6 spinal cord injury and would not walk again. Two weeks later she was flown to Craig Hospital in Englewood, Colorado for extensive physical, occupational, recreational and pool therapy. She told the therapists that it was her goal to walk out of the hospital, and through faith and determination she amazingly two months later did just that. Deborah went on to Oklahoma State University where she graduated last spring.

Phillip Evans, Perth, Australia, WA
University of Arizona - BS Business - Spring 2023
T-11 - Paraplegia

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 swam at the beach nearly every day. On September 16, 2013 he was in a single car accident that resulted in a T-11/T-12 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, 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, which provided the opportunity to attend and play for the University of Arizona where he achieved a 4.0 GPA in his first year.

Alex Goldmeier, Plainview, NY
William James College - Psy.D in Clinical Psychology - Spring 2024
T-4 Spinal Cord Injury - Paraplegic

Alex was an athlete his entire life, playing on his golf and tennis teams in high school; 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. Unfortunately, while skiing in February of 2018, Alex had a catastrophic ski accident, hitting a tree. He sustained numerous injuries, including a T-4 Spinal Cord Injury that left him paralyzed from the chest down. But that hasn’t stopped him from pursuing his dream of becoming a Clinical Psychologist. He has found that through adversity comes growth. 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.

Jonah Karpman, San Diego, CA
UC Berkeley - BA Economics - Fall 2022
C-4, C-6 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Jonah spent the first years of his life in New York playing soccer and lacrosse. Next was baseball and football but in high school he turned to rowing which was by far the hardest sport he had done. The family moved to San Diego in 2010. Jonah graduated from Torrey Pines High School and moved on to UC Berkeley. He enjoyed running in the hills around Berkeley and riding his bike in the canyons in San Diego. After his first semester at Cal he returned home for the holidays. On December 20, 2017, while working out with former teammates at the San Diego Rowing Club, he dove off a seawall and broke his neck at the C-4-C-6 level resulting in quadriplegia. He spent eight months in rehabilitation where he met SWM scholarship recipients Austin Brotman and Andrew Ouellette. He has returned to Cal to complete his degree.
Jasmine Morales, Lake Hopatcong, NJ
University of Arizona - Undeclared - Spring 2023
T-11 Spinal Cord Injury - Paraplegia

Jasmine grew up in New Jersey playing softball. On January 18, 2010 at the age of nine she was in an automobile accident resulting in a spinal cord injury at the T-11 level. The doctors were not sure she would make it, yet after many crucial months in a hospital and rehabilitation she was able to go home and live her life again, but very differently. She not only survived but she thrived. Jasmine started track at the age of 14 and found great success. She put in sweat and hard work, competed for her school and was an All-American Athlete. She has competed in three junior nationals and represented the USA in the IWAS Paralympic Youth Games in Ireland. She has learned how to turn something negative into something positive. She may not run like most people do, but she does run. She races to the finish line to get closer to her goals.

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Matthew Parks, Lincolnton, NC
East Carolina University - Pre Professional - Spring 2023
T-9 Spinal Cord Injury - Paraplegia

Matthew was an outstanding athlete and played many sports but football was different. 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 but his friends traveled often to visit and support him. When he returned to school his teachers and friends were extremely supportive. When the football season started, he went to every home game and took team photos. Matthew credits his physical fitness to his training and the support of those around him with his ability to rehabilitate his body.

Jackson MacTaggart, Washington, PA
Pennsylvania State Univ. - BS Astrophysics/Astronomy - Spring 2023
C-5 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Jackson was inspired to run a 5K while in 6th grade. He didn’t really train but did well and decided to train for a 10K. While training, his high school’s cross country team coach saw that he had potential and invited him to train with the team. He joined his middle school running teams and won nearly every competition he entered. The same year, Jackson decided that he wanted to study astronomy and astrophysics after seeing the movie Interstellar. As a high school freshman, he made the state cross country championship team and was team MVP. He also joined the Amateur Astronomers’ Association. Later, Jackson joined his family for a vacation at Bethany Beach. Upon entering the ocean, he was caught in a dangerous shore-break which caused him impact his head on the sea floor resulting in a C-5 burst fracture.

Rio Peterson, Englewood, CO
Walden University - MSN Mental Health Nurse Practitioner - Spring 2021
C-4, C-6 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

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 when he took a fall and landed on the top of his head. During his initial hospital stay, he was diagnosed with a C-4/C-6 fracture resulting in incomplete quadriplegia. He was airlifted to the hospital where he has been doing rehabilitation. Four months later Rio was admitted to Walden University. He realized that his disability would make it difficult to practice nursing so he switched to a master’s program for Psychiatric Mental Health Practitioner.

AnnaLee Rose, Lowell, MI
Louisiana State University - Biology - Spring 2021
Tethered Spine Syringomyelia

Since birth, AnnaLee has had 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 symptom was found to be from the compression of spinal fluid on her spinal cord which created a cyst. She had eight surgeries, 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.

Kelli Sakaguchi, Torrance, CA
UCLA - Undecided - Spring 2023
T-5 Spinal Cord Injury - Paraplegia

Kelli started playing T-ball, then quickly transitioned to basketball while in third grade. She played year ‘round on club, school and Asian league teams. Basketball taught her the value of tenacity and dedication which helped her excel in AP courses in Calculus, Psychology and History. She was a hard-nosed player who always worked hard in practice and during games and did all the little things including defense, rebounding and diving for loose balls. On June 23, 2014 Kelli was in a horrible automobile accident which resulted in a spinal cord injury and paralysis. She spent a month in the ICU and another six months in rehabilitation at Rancho Los Amigos. Fortunately she was able to keep up with her school work and graduate with her class from Rolling Hills Preparatory School and receive admission to UCLA. She was honored to serve as Valedictorian.
Kelly Secor, Denver, CO

Metropolitan State University of Denver - BA Recreation - Fall 2021

Lyme Disease - Uses braces and crutches.

Growing up in Summit County, Colorado, gave Kelly many opportunities to participate in sports such as mountain biking, ski racing and ice hockey. In 2009 she was diagnosed with Lyme Disease and other chronic illnesses including gastroparesis, postural orthostatic tachycardia syndrome, and food allergies. During high school she received specialized treatment including nine surgeries. She finished high school with her class and competed on the swim team. In 2013 Kelly’s mom passed away affecting her emotionally. After years of rehabilitation Kelly is now getting her BA in therapeutic recreation and a minor in psychology.

Daniel Smuts, Escondido, CA

University of Missouri - BA Secondary Education - Spring 2024

Spinal Stroke - Paraplegia

Danny grew up in North San Diego County playing soccer and baseball. His family emphasized the importance of education as the way to build a successful future and he took it to heart. At the age of 14, Danny suffered a spinal stroke at the T-7 level during a soccer game. It left him paralyzed below the ribcage. He spent seven weeks in the hospital and started high school in a wheelchair wondering how he would contribute to society. As a sophomore he was invited to join the San Diego wheelchair basketball team. He started out a rookie but quickly advanced his skills. In his third season he 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.

Zachary Schmitz, Chilton, WI

University of Wisconsin - MBA Business Administration - Fall 2020

C-5 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Zachary graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a Bachelor’s Degree in Biological Systems Engineering in May of 2017. He was immediately offered a position at SC Johnson in Racine, Wisconsin. A month later while on an annual camping trip with a group of high school friends, he dove into a lake and hit the bottom resulting in a traumatic spinal cord injury and paralysis from the chest down. In high school, Zach was a member of the cross country, basketball and track & field teams and was captain of all three teams. His athletic mentality helped him immensely during his rehabilitation where he spent 6-8 hours doing therapy each day. To help positively impact others who are going through similar situations, he is pursuing an MBA degree with aspirations to work in health care.

Mark Wilbourne, Las Vegas, NV

University of Colorado, Boulder - BS Aerospace Engineering - Summer 2023

C-6, C-7 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Mark grew up playing all of the “ball” sports but in high school he found his true calling in track & field. Mark learned to love the longer events and went out for cross country. 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, he signed up for a triathlon. He won his age group and was immediately hooked and set his goal for an Ironman and entered. Unfortunately, a month before the race, as 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, 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 UC triathlon team.

Matthew Wild, Vista, CA

Cal State San Marcos - BS Psychology, Human Development - Summer 2023

C-4 Spinal Cord Injury - Quadriplegia

Matt’s love of sports came from his dad, a former high school and college basketball star who went on to coach at the college level. As a young child Matt and his sister learned to throw, field, shoot and dream big. Matt was the starting guard on the varsity basketball team at Santa Fe Christian High School and competed in the CIF Championships. Months later, on May 1, 2003 a dive into a dark, shallow pool at a friend’s house resulted in complete quadriplegia. Matt took classes at Palomar College for a year before returning to San Diego as his dad was ill. Soon thereafter, Matt’s dad took him aside to let him know that he had ALS. He soon passed away from the disease. Matt returns to finish his degree and honor his dad’s wishes with hopes to become a counselor for those who have been through spinal cord trauma, PTSD, and severe depression.

Become a Campaign Director!

We are kicking off our 40th annual Fundraising Campaign to support physically challenged athletes. As a Campaign Director, you will become our grassroots representative, reaching out to your online friends, teammates, neighbors, family and prospective sponsors to help recruit another Campaign Director? Please let us know who we can contact by emailing us at swimwithmike@ymail.com. Join the Wave!
These are the young men and women whom your donations benefit.
To learn more about our recipients, visit us at www.swimwithmike.org

To help, please fill out and use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope.
213-740-4155 • swimwithmike@gmail.com
Swim With Mike encourages recipients to hold their own fundraisers as a way of continuing the effort to help as many physically challenged athletes as we possibly can. Here are examples of some recent successful events.

Brad's Campaign
Swim With Mike Makes a Splash in Missouri

Brad Bauer (University of Missouri, Business Management 2022) hosted a campaign event at his neighborhood aquatics center where he had previously worked as a Lifeguard.

This was the first time that Brad had been swimming since his accident more than two years ago and he swam six laps.

The former top St. Louis water polo player enlisted the support of his family, friends and community to produce a successful event – thanks to all for your support for Swim With Mike!

Brad's message to his St. Louis community: “I am a Swim With Mike scholarship recipient and it is now time for me to start giving back and paying it forward so that others may continue to benefit. SWM provides physically challenged athletes with college scholarships, and they are helping to pay for my Mizzou education. Please consider donating to this amazing group and help me reach my fundraising goal!”

Jake Javier's Fundraiser in Danville
Introducing the SWM Ripple Effect

Swim With Mike scholarship recipient Jake Javier held a Swim With Mike fundraiser in his home town of Danville, CA at the local community favorite Primo's Pizzeria & Pub. Jake manned the welcome table which featured a 50/50 Raffle opportunity along with SWM newsletters and information to share with guests.

The 50/50 Raffle offered 50% of the total sales to the winning ticket. The winner was a long-time family friend who, when learning of his win, replied "give it to Jake's campaign, it's the right thing to do."

Generous Primo's owner Drew Nichols provided 20% of all sales on food and beverages to support Jake's event. Drew has been a staunch supporter of Jake for many years – as a family friend and Jake's football coach since Jake was eight years old and all the way through high school. In 2016, just after Jake's accident Drew sponsored a community-wide Primo's fundraiser to help with Jake's medical expenses.

With the help of Swim With Mike I was able to attend college and move toward getting my degree. I'm heading into my third year at Cal Poly and I'm loving life. I'm raising money for Swim With Mike to help provide the same opportunity I was given after my life-changing injury. I hope to help another individual achieve his or her goals of attending college and moving forward in life."

Jake Javier
Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, Biom edical Engineering 2021

Giving Back

"With the help of Swim With Mike I was able to attend college and move toward getting my degree. I’m heading into my third year at Cal Poly and I’m loving life. I’m raising money for Swim With Mike to help provide the same opportunity I was given after my life-changing injury. I hope to help another individual achieve his or her goals of attending college and moving forward in life."

Jake with his mom, Isabelle, at their fundraiser at Primo’s Pizzeria & Pub in Danville, CA. Jake’s 2016 spinal cord injury has produced an outpouring of support from his local community, as well as from many people across the country including NFL stars Tom Brady, Derek Carr and Ronnie Lott who have sent gifts and visited Jake.
**Swim With Mike at the 50th Annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim**

*Waikiki Roughwater Swim Committee President and Race Director Kaia Hedlund presents the elite women’s championship award bowl and a lei to defending champion and 2020 US Olympian Ashley Twickell. Second place bowl was presented to Becca Mann the 2012 and 2014 champion and third to Phoebe Hines, the 2017 champion.*

**Partnering with SWM since 2014**

Every year, the Waikiki Roughwater Swim presents a new challenge of changing conditions. What does remain consistent is the event’s support of Swim With Mike. Since 2004 our USC Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund has been the beneficiary of the annual Honolulu challenge. As swimmers enter the race, they are given an opportunity to make a donation.

And thankfully, many of them do. It is a great opportunity to spread our Swim With Mike ripple effect to an international crowd of enthusiastic members of the swimming community. Many make a Swim With Mike donation each year, and even more learn about the scholarship fund through the Roughwater event.

Swim With Mike greatly appreciates the legacy of our partnership with the annual Waikiki Roughwater Swim and SWM scholarship recipient Joe Broc (Hawaii Pacific, Communications 2010) and his mom Cindy’s help with activities at our busy SWM booth.

We also owe a great deal of gratitude to our friend, Kaia Hedlund, SWM Director of Recipient Relations and outgoing President of the Waikiki Roughwater Swim, who has done an outstanding job of cultivating and ensuring a long-lasting partnership with this organization.

Thanks, Kaia!

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**Ways to Contribute**

There are many ways to contribute to Swim With Mike, and we welcome your support as we help change the lives of our outstanding scholarship recipients and their future prospects of success.

*Tis the Season!

Looking for that perfect gift for a friend or relative this season? Consider a gift, of any amount, to support our Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund in honor of that special person. You may use the enclosed return envelope to send us a check or credit card information, or you could visit swimwithmike.org/participate/general donation. Please be sure to tell us the name of the person being honored, and we will send an acknowledgement of your generosity to them.

**The Centofante Anniversary Club - $4,000**

Started by Al Centofante at the 10th Anniversary of Swim With Mike to honor each anniversary year with a $100 gift since the Fund has been in existence. As we enter our 40th year, the donation level is $4,000, and is in keeping with Al’s tradition. The Centofante Family Foundation matches all new increases and Club member gifts.

**The Tod Spiker Masters Challenge**

Tod Spiker will match all monies raised from swimmers participating in the Swim With Mike Masters Challenge.

**Lane Sponsor - $1,000**

Sponsor a Lane at the upcoming 40th Swim With Mike USC event on April 4, 2020. Donations are recognized at the pool on the day of the event and in our Annual Yearbook.

**Sponsor a Lane at All Swim With Mike Events - $1,500**

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

**Swim With Mike Wheelchair Basketball 6th Annual Team Sponsor - $1,000**

Be a Team Sponsor at our quickly expanding Swim With Mike event on April 3 and 4, 2020 in the Lyon Recreation Center at USC.

**The Miller Challenge - $400**

The G. Willard Miller Foundation has contributed over $500,000 to Swim With Mike. Through the generosity of Stephen Miller, Jr. in honor of Board member Michael Thomas. The Miller Foundation matches all $400 contributions; $10 for each year since our inception.

**ENDOWMENTS**

An Endowment Fund may be created with a minimum $100,000 gift for either scholarship or operating funds and is payable over a five-year period. The principal of the gift remains intact while the interest funds generated are distributed to the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund.

**The Swim With Mike Endowment Fund** currently has more than $4 million; our goal is to build this fund up to a level that enables us to support our mission in perpetuity.

For further information, contact Ron Orr at rorr@usc.edu or at 213.740.4155.
Swim With Mike

BY THE NUMBERS

More than $23 million raised in scholarship support since 1981
Total Swim With Mike scholarship recipients: 253
Total sports represented: 60

Total schools represented: 131
Scholarship dollars awarded for 2019-20: $1,065,096
2019-20 Scholarships: 64
(47 universities nationwide)

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

COMING UP

1981  40th Annual Swim With Mike
2020  USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center

Saturday, April 4

Swim With Mike at the Rose Bowl Aquatics Center
March 27 - April 3

Swim With Mike
San Diego TBD

Wheelchair Basketball presented by UBS
April 3 & 4

Swim With Mike Hawaii
September 7
(with 51st Waikiki Roughwater Swim)

Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund
University of Southern California • Heritage Hall 203B • 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!