



2019 Swimming & Diving Championships

Diving

February 9, 2019

Bloomington, IL

Swimming

February 14-16, 2019

Pleasant Prairie, WI

SENIOR PROGRAM



Taylor Campbell

Tuscola, IL / Tuscola HS

Communication Sciences & Disorders/Env. Studies



Favorite Memories: Wild bronze squirrel hunts, wearing prom dresses at meets, crazy winter training pictures, and paddle boarding and body surfing in California.

Future Plans: I will be attending graduate school to get my masters in speech-language pathology.

I would like to thank: My parents, who have loved and supported me throughout my whole swimming career. Thank you for encouraging me to do my best both in the pool and in the classroom.

Interesting fact about me: I am legally blind in my left eye, so I used to have to wear a patch and pretend I was a pirate as a kid.



Ashley Comeau

Romeoville, IL / Romeoville HS

Biology/Environmental Studies



Career Highlights: 7th place on 1-meter in 2018

Future Plans: Go to graduate school to be a pathologist's assistant

I would like to thank: Thanks to Coach Andy for putting up with me :)



Jared Ekberg

Rockford, IL / Rockford Christian HS

Accounting/Business Management



Career Highlights: CCIW 200 IM champion in 2015/16, former 200 IM conference meet record holder, 100 backstroke runner-up three times

Favorite Memories: Being able to take trips to California, swimming with my mates, conference, and taper time.

Future Plans: Undecided at the moment, but interested in either using my major to become an accountant, or maybe not even use my college education and enter into full time youth ministry. Stay tuned.

I would like to thank: My parents for making my swim career a possibility and being the coolest people this world may ever know. I'd also like to thank the Augie swim family for splashing alongside me over the last 4 years. You're on your own now friends.

Interesting fact about me: I am the youngest of seven kids in my family.



Victoria Frank

Willowbrook, IL / Hinsdale South HS

Communication Sciences & Disorders



Career Highlights: CCIW 2016: 14th in the 1650, 15th in the 100 fly; CCIW 2017: 15th in the 1650; CCIW 2018: 14th in the 1650, 11th in the 800 free relay

Favorite Memories: Having the chance to swim with my sister Cameran for Augustana Swimming during my final year as a Viking!

Future Plans: I will be attending graduate school for a doctorate degree in Audiology. I would like to thank: My mom, dad, and sister for all of their support, guidance, and love over the years.

Interesting fact about me: Along with being a student-athlete at Augustana College, I have also participated in the Augustana Concert Band and Percussion Ensemble during the past four years.



Bryan Haage

Huntley, IL / Huntley HS

Accounting and Business Finance



Career Highlights: 3rd in the 200 free at the 2018 CCIW Championships

Favorite Memories: My greatest memories are from the training trips to California that the team took. The best part was paddle boarding with the team.

Future Plans: I plan on going to grad school for Accounting.

I would like to thank: My parents for all the years they drove me around to practices and meets.

Interesting fact about me: I broke my finger bowling freshman year of college right before I was supposed to start taper for conference.



Rachel Heah

Penang, Malaysia / Convent Green Lane

Engineering/Neuroscience



Favorite Memories: Snow swimming and fun times like being pranked by the team all the time.

Future Plans: Do research on neuro-prosthetics.

I would like to thank: Thank you dad, this is for you even though you can't make it but you're probably watching the live stream right now. Thank you for all the sacrifices you made. Thank you too to all the coaches that helped me throughout my swimming career. It was an honor to swim for my state back home and my home country, and now Augie for the past 4 years. So I want to thank the team, for giving me a home away from home.

Interesting fact about me: I used to be on the junior elite triathlon national team.



Luke Herron

Vail, CO / Vail Christian HS

Marketing and Communications



Career Highlights: 11th in the 50 free in 2018

Favorite Memories: For my first college race I went into the wrong heat.

Future Plans: Work in the resort industry

I would like to thank: My parents for always supporting me. Thank you to my mom for always driving me to practice even though it was an hour away. Thank you to my dad for always being my number one fan.

Interesting fact about me: I have lived in over 10 different places



Liv Lutz

St. Charles, IL / St. Charles East HS

Biology/Pre-PA



Career Highlights: First at Wheaton in 2019

Favorite Memories: When the divers and our coach went to a steakhouse for dinner during a snow storm

Future Plans: Work as a Phlebotomist in gaining clinical hours towards Physician Assistant graduate school.

I would like to thank: My parents

Interesting fact about me: I will be traveling to Costa Rica this summer to provide health care through Public Health outreach programs.



Tom Pham

Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam / Westwood Baptist Acad., Poplar Bluff, MO

Biology



Career Highlights: Participated as a swimmer in 2016 CCIW; placed 8th in 1M diving event in the 2017 CCIW meet.

Future Plans: I want to work as a lab technician for 2 years and then transition into a biology PhD program.

I would like to thank: My family of coaches and fellow teammates for making this a worthwhile journey.

Interesting fact about me: I am a certified barista who is also caffeine intolerant.



Mia Polinski

Evanston, IL / Evanston Twp HS

Business Adm.-Marketing & Mgmt/Graphic Design



Career Highlights: All-Conference in the 400 IM freshman year and the 200 fly sophomore year

Favorite Memories: I got MVP two years in a row (freshman and sophomore year). My greatest memory is that amazing feeling of shock that runs through my body whenever I jump into our -100 degree pool!! Love it!!!

Future Plans: I have been applying to marketing jobs and internships in different countries in Asia. I'm hoping to be in Hong Kong or Singapore.

I would like to thank: My parents for their unbelievable support these last four years. My mom is my number one fan and is at almost every single meet of the season. I love you guys so much and I appreciate everything you have done for me to get me where I am today.

Interesting fact about me: I travelled to Hong Kong by myself and studied there for five months while traveling to Vietnam, Japan, and South Korea.



Anthony Santangelo

Jackson, MS / St. Andrew's Episcopal School

Computer Science



Career Highlights: Top 16 in 100 fly and 200 fly at CCIW

Favorite Memories: Not drowning for four years

Future Plans: Software development job in Madison, Wisconsin

I would like to thank: My teammates for acting as my family and pushing me to be the best version of myself

Interesting fact about me: I only wear crew-length socks with interesting patterns.



Lauren Brandmeier

Brown Deer, WI / Kettle Moraine Lutheran HS

English and Writing



Favorite Memories: The Rap Battle of J-Term 2018, Olive Garden dinners at Conference, and the entire 2018-19 season

Future Plans: Move across the country for grad school or administrative work in higher education

I would like to thank: My mom and dad

Interesting fact about me: I'm a classically trained pianist



Dani Clark

Roscoe, IL / Hononegah HS

Health Care Administration/Psychology minor



Career Highlights: 12th in 100 breast and 13th in 200 breast at 2018 CCIWs

Favorite Memories: When our bus broke down on the way home from Carthage

Future Plans: I am currently unsure, but hopefully something in my field of study.

I would like to thank: My parents and grandparents for the countless hours that were spent driving me to and from practices or sitting through all day swim meets. Most importantly, thank you for always supporting me. It doesn't go unnoticed and is greatly appreciated.

Interesting fact about me: I only started swimming because I was beat in the swim in a kids triathlon when I was 7.



Julia Coti

Oak Lawn, IL / Richards HS

Exercise Science, Pre-Physical Therapy



Favorite Memories: The greatest memories I've had were the ones with my teammates, laughing and cheering each other on during meets and practices.

Future Plans: After graduation, I plan on continuing on in the Doctorate of Physical Therapy program at Carroll to become a future physical therapist.

I would like to thank: My parents for supporting me through all the years that I have been swimming. I appreciate all the driving to practices and meets, especially the early morning ones.

Interesting fact about me: This will be my 16th and final year of competitive swimming.



Jerry Hinson

Greenfield, WI / Whitnall HS

Actuarial Science



Career Highlights: Made finals in the 200 butterfly last year.

Favorite Memories: Swimming the 200 butterfly for the first time and then passing out, waking up and having to swim the 500.

Future Plans: Try to find a job in the Milwaukee area at an insurance company

I would like to thank: My parents Doug and Heather, Mandalore K-Lazer and the rest of the four best friends.

Interesting fact about me: I also have a theatre arts minor just for kicks and giggles.



Beth Janovsky

Wood Dale, IL / Fenton HS

Athletic Training



Career Highlights: I have PR'd at every CCIW Championship meet.

Favorite Memories: Being able to spend time with some of my best friends over the past four years and getting our senior relay DQ'd at senior night.

Future Plans: I plan to pursue a master's in exercise physiology with an emphasis in strength and conditioning.

I would like to thank: My parents for always supporting me at the numerous meets I've had over the past 14 years. I'd also like to thank the coaches who gave me the passion that brought me this far.

Interesting fact about me: I quote "The Office" too many times in everyday life.



Shane Murphy-Pociask

Appleton, WI / Appleton East HS

Biochemistry, Pre-Pharmacy



Career Highlights: 3rd Place in the 1650 freshman year

Favorite Memories: Having a supportive team throughout my career and being supportive when I had to miss practices for studies

Future Plans: I will be attending the University of Minnesota School of Pharmacy, and in 4.5 years I will have my PharmD. degree along with my MBA.

I would like to thank: My parents for everything they have done throughout my life and swimming career. Also, thank you to all of the swimmers and the community we all bring.

Interesting fact about me: I try to eat at least 1-2 apples every day.



Sarah Schulz

Waterloo, IL / Waterloo HS

Nursing



Career Highlights: 5th in 1650, 5th in 400 IM, and 7th in 500 free at CCIW 2017

Favorite Memories: Breaking multiple records two years in a row and when Kelsie was named our head coach

Future Plans: Hopefully be a nurse and save some lives

I would like to thank: My mom and dad for supporting me no matter how good or bad I swam



Kaitlin Squier

Appleton, WI / Appleton North HS

Exercise Science, Pre-PT/Sports Nutrition minor



Career Highlights: 2nd in 100 and 200 Breaststroke, 4th in 200 IM at 2018 CCIWs

Favorite Memories: Breaking the 100 and 200 breaststroke school records, having the best team, all of the fun we had over J-term

Future Plans: Pursue graduate school for psychical therapy

I would like to thank: My family for the endless hours they have spent driving me to practices/meets, volunteering at meets, and watching me swim. I would also like to thank Kelsie, our head coach, I don't know where the team would be without you! I would also like to thank my teammates for always picking me up at practice and being the best possible teammates I could ask for.

Interesting fact about me: I completed the Madison Ironman in 2017



Aaron Talabac

Janesville, WI / Milton HS

Marketing



Career Highlights: B finals in all of my CCIW championship races

Favorite Memories: My greatest memories are all of the people and friends I have made through swimming.

Future Plans: To hopefully find a job in my field of study.

I would like to thank: My mom and dad for putting in countless hours to support my swimming career and never missing a meet.

Interesting fact about me: All 3 of my dogs are named after Cincinnati Bengals players.



Leah Boldt

Richfield, MN / Richfield HS

Biology



Career Highlights: CCIW 2017: 5th place in 200 breast (2:32.02), 6th place in 100 breast (1:09.61); CCIW 2018: 3rd place in 100 breast (1:07.27), 6th place in 200 breast (2:29.56)

Favorite Memories: Meeting so many amazing, determined individuals through swimming in college.

Future Plans: Do a year of research in the biology field and then go to graduate school.

I would like to thank: My parents for always supporting me in school and in the pool.

Interesting fact about me: My favorite food is Mac and cheese.



Brady Bresnahan

Faribault, MN / Faribault HS

Chemistry and Mathematics



Career Highlights: CCIW Top 8 Finishes in the 50 free, 100 free, and 100 fly.

Favorite Memories: Winning my first conference meet my sophomore year and placing in the Top 8 in my three individual events last year.

Future Plans: I plan to get a PhD in chemistry or materials science and get a career doing research in industry.

I would like to thank: My parents, Jan and Jeff, for supporting me through swimming, my academics, and all other aspects of my life. I love you both!

Interesting fact about me: I can think of a Spongebob quote for any situation. Also, I may have dedicated a lot of time to swimming over my 14 year career, but basketball is life!



Emily Colberg

Freeport, IL / Freeport HS

German and French



Favorite Memories: Having amazing teammates that made the really hard practices better.

Future Plans: Graduate School in Heidelberg, Germany, at Universität Heidelberg.

I would like to thank: The coaches from the Carthage Swimming and Diving program for being wonderful, and thank you Carthage Swimming and Diving team for being great teammates and friends :)

Interesting fact about me: My High School mascot was a pretzel.



Tony Connor

Des Plaines, IL / Maine West HS

Finance & Management, Economics minor



Career Highlights: Best times in each race at CCIW's

Favorite Memories: Making friends, dropping time throughout each season, and of course messing with Beth and her crazy sets

Future Plans: Find a career in the finance field

I would like to thank: My parents and coaches for always pushing me to work harder

Interesting fact about me: I am a beast at ping pong



Parker Dales

Greenwood, IN / Center Grove HS

Business Management



Career Highlights: 2017 CCIWs: 52.02 in 100 free and 1:54.66 in 200 free; 2016 CCIWs: 5:04.01 in 500 free

Favorite Memories: My greatest memories from my college swimming career are of all the team bonding events, especially the mock meets held in the cold on training trip. All of the Volleyball games that we attempted to be good at were also a blast.

Future Plans: I plan on getting a job as a business administrator and eventually going back to school to get my masters.

I would like to thank: All of the parents and friends in the stands, because without you, none of us would be able to enjoy and perform the best that we can. I wish to thank my parents especially, because without their encouragement, I would not have made it as far as I have.

Interesting fact about me: I enjoy reading, and my record for most books read in a month is 20.



Rebecca Ensor

Freeport, IL / Freeport HS

Psychology



Favorite Memories: Supporting and cheering on my teammates.

Future Plans: Attend graduate school to receive a Masters in Occupational Therapy.

I would like to thank: My family for supporting me throughout my college career.



Eduard Esguerra

Zion, IL / Zion-Benton Twp HS

Exercise Science



Career Highlights: 2017 CCIWs: 100 Breaststroke: 1:01.41, 200 Breaststroke: 2:20.16

Favorite Memories: The greatest moment was junior year, when I had just recovered from my ankle avulsion injury, and I placed first in the B final in 100 Breaststroke.

Future Plans: After graduation, I plan to coach swimming and become a personal trainer at the Rec Plex.

I would like to thank: My mom and dad for supporting me. Especially my mom for making time when she is on call. Thank you mom for knowing how important these events are to me!

Interesting fact about me: I tried out diving—keyword, tried. Also, if anyone is looking for an easy win in Fortnite, add me, Edboy22.



Sam Gabriel

Arlington Heights, IL / Prospect HS

Elementary Education



Career Highlights: Top 5 in the 100 and 200 back the last three years, back-to-back team championships in 2017-2018.

Favorite Memories: Winning back-to-back CCIW championships. I loved seeing all the hard work we put in as a team pay off. It was a great experience to be a part of.

Future Plans: I plan to finish my student teaching in the Kenosha area and then get a job teaching either 4th or 5th grade.

I would like to thank: My parents. They were with me every step of the way throughout my college and swimming career. They were always thrilled to see me swim and help me whenever needed.

Interesting fact about me: One of the rare swimmers that can actually play land sports well.



Sean Kilbourne

Carpentersville, IL / Hampshire HS

Mathematics



Favorite Memories: Puerto Rico training trip, Krispy Kreme donuts right before practice, the endless cheering at meets, all of the teammates that I've had, and crushing my mile time at the Carthage Classic.

Future Plans: I will be applying to work at Walt Disney World through their college program. Then, I plan to come back to Kenosha to teach high school mathematics.

I would like to thank: My teammates for always cheering me on and for the positive encouragement after a hard distance practice. I would like to thank Seth and the rest of the coaching staff for helping me grow as a swimmer and as a person. I want to thank my parents and family members for supporting me in and out of the water, and to Grace, for showing me that what's on the inside matters more than what's on the outside.

Interesting fact about me: I am the shortest male swimmer on the Carthage Swim Team but swim the longest events.



Aric Lang

Rohnert Park, CA / Rancho Cotate HS

Geospatial Sci./Env. Sci., French minor



Career Highlights: 400 IM - 4th (2016), 5th (2017)

Favorite Memories: Winning the CCIW championship alongside the Carthage women's team, in 2018, for the first time in program history

Future Plans: I'll be pursuing a MSc in Geography and Geoinformatics at the University of Copenhagen, spending a year teaching English in France, or continuing my position doing GIS at San Francisco International Airport.

I would like to thank: My family and friends for supporting me through my swimming career, especially my mom for all of the early mornings, long days, and late nights at the pool

Interesting fact about me: I spent a semester studying French language at l'Université de Caen - Basse Normandie



Ryan Morales

La Puente, CA / Bishop Amat Memorial HS

Exercise & Sports Science



Future Plans: Going to graduate school to become a Physical Therapist

I would like to thank: All of the staff of the Carthage swim team as well as all of the members of the team! Also, a huge shoutout to my mother in the stands who traveled all the way from California! I love you mom



Hannah Pearson

St. Charles, IL / St. Charles East HS

History



Career Highlights: 2018 CCIWs: 1st in 500 free and 1650 free, 3rd in 400 IM; 2017 CCIWs: 3rd in 1650 free

Favorite Memories: Winning CCIW Championships in 2018

Future Plans: I plan to go to grad school for history and become a history professor

I would like to thank: My mom, dad, sister, and Coach Beth for all their love & support

Interesting fact about me: I have done a half Ironman!



Elizabeth Pieroni

Crystal Lake, IL / Prairie Ridge HS

Chemistry; Spanish & Math minors



Career Highlights: I was never a scoring member of my team, but that did not stop me from going best times at CCIWs freshman year and then topping those times sophomore year. I hope to end my career with personal best times in every event this year.

Favorite Memories: When the Lady Reds won the first CCIW championship in school history. As exciting as winning was, the true highlight of my college swimming career was finding many lifelong friends in my teammates.

Future Plans: I plan to find a job using my chemistry degree after graduating and exploring my options in the research field prior to going to graduate school.

I would like to thank: My Mom for her constant and unconditional support always, especially these past four years and for getting me involved in this sport in the first place, my sisters, Caitlin and Michaela, for always being my biggest fans, and Ethan, for always cheering for me, whether we were on the same pool deck or in different states. Lastly, I'd like to thank all my friends and teammates who helped get me through all the hard practices these past four years. Swimming with you is what made it fun.



Laurel Pietrzak

Big Lake, MN / Big Lake HS

Biology



Favorite Memories: Some of my favorite memories include winning CCIWs last year and cheering on teammates at every meet.

Future Plans: I plan to attend medical school in the fall of 2019 to pursue my career dream of being a pediatrician.

I would like to thank: My parents for all of their support and for making the long drive to many of my swim meets during my college swimming career! Thank you for always being there for me.

Interesting fact about me: I represent less than 1% of the population because I have red hair and blue eyes



Mitch Scarski

Encinitas, CA / La Costa Canyon HS

Marketing



Career Highlights: CCIWs 2016: 2nd in 200 IM; CCIWs 2018: 2nd in 200 back, 3rd in 100 back; Carthage Classic '15: 1st in 200 IM; Carthage Classic '17: 1st in 100 and 200 back

Favorite Memories: Being able to meet such a large group of friends when coming into Carthage. In high school I was such a quiet and introverted kid. Carthage and Carthage swimming allowed me to really open up and be my true self to others, especially in the first year of coming to school here. Another memory that I was fond of was training trip my sophomore year, since my family was able to host the entire team for dinner since it was in San Diego. I'll really enjoy and cherish all the friends made here, inside jokes, and other goofy memories of messing around in practice with my friends.

Future Plans: I would like to move back to California and start looking at jobs in sales related to the fitness industry since over the past few years I've really gotten into that. Other than that, I've also thought about potentially becoming a pilot like my father. But as of right now, I'm not entirely sure.

I would like to thank: My parents for allowing me to financially be able to attend this school as well as supporting me in my college endeavors. I'd like to also thank my coach Seth Weidmann for really giving me the freedom and letting me find what works for me in regards to my swimming as well as my life in general. It really helped me grow and mature as an individual, not only in the pool, but in other aspects of my life as well.

Interesting fact about me: In my free time I enjoy surfing on Lake Michigan. Surfing has always been a hobby of mine and being able to do it right at Carthage when the waves get big has always been a really rad experience.



Tara Smith

Kenosha, WI / Indian Trail HS

English



Favorite Memories: The highlight of my college swimming career is definitely all of the friendships that I have made with my teammates. I have no doubt that these friendships will be lifelong.

Future Plans: I am inspired to teach English at an urban middle school in the Kenosha area. It is my goal to help bridge the gap that historically exists between underserved populations and a college education. I also hope to join the coaching staff for one of the local swim teams.

I would like to thank: My mom for her steadfast love and support.

Interesting fact about me: If I were to go to the Olympics it would be for reading. I am exceptionally talented at it.



Phillip Vaccarello

Des Plaines, IL / Maine West HS

Biology



Career Highlights: 21.70 50 Free, 47.79 100 Free, 1:47.65 200 Free, 56.39 100 Back

Favorite Memories: Breaking our 400 Free Relay high school record during senior year of high school.

Future Plans: I plan to attend graduate school for marine biology with a focus on environmental conservation.

I would like to thank: My parents; without them pushing me to always give my all and instilling in me the work ethic that has allowed me to succeed, I doubt I'd even be at this pool today.

Interesting fact about me: I'm the founder of the Carthage College Martial Arts Club.



Jack Wallar

Chesterton, IN / Chesterton HS Elementary Ed./Cross Categorical Special Ed.



Career Highlights: 1st in 100 Breaststroke and 200 Breaststroke at CCIWs

Favorite Memories: The day to day time spent in and out of the water with my teammates is what will always stand out to me as a highlight. Spending time with my second family.

Future Plans: I plan to stay in the area to teach Elementary Education or Special Education and coach swimming.

I would like to thank: My family and my friends, who have always found the time and energy to find time for my time and energy. I would also like to thank Auntie Pam for being a second mom and coach to me in my youth. Thank you to John Krick for teaching me about team spirit. Thank you to Matt Lee for being a friend first and coach second. Thank you to Jim Voss for accepting me into your program with open arms. Thank you to Kevin Kinel for teaching me to work smarter not harder. Thank you to Ray Looze for always pushing me past my limits. And finally, thank you to Seth Weidmann for always believing in me.

Interesting fact about me: I write my own music and poetry in my free time.



Benjamin Wawczak

Roselle, IL / Lake Park HS

Computer Science



Career Highlights: Competed in the 50, 100, and 200 free.

Favorite Memories: The improvements in my swimming and all the lasting friendships that I have made.

Future Plans: Find a job / career path as a software engineer.

I would like to thank: My parents of course! They have done a lot to help me get to where I am today. Also, all the Carthage alumni that always come to support us, and my high school coach Dan Witteveen.

Interesting fact about me: I made a lot of videos for Carthage Swimming the past 4 years and have even been featured on SwimSwam.



Will Zocher

Middleton, WI / Middleton HS

Neuroscience



Career Highlights: 3rd at CCIW 2017 & 2018 in the 100 breaststroke, 5th at CCIW 2017 in 200 breaststroke, 6th at CCIW 2018 in 200 breaststroke

Favorite Memories: Only being able to swim breaststroke at every meet and meeting my closest friends.

Future Plans: I have hopes to attend medical school after a gap year working in Madison.

I would like to thank: I owe everything to my parents, thanks for not letting me quit in high school. I also would like to thank the rest of my family, along with my teammates and coaches, for pushing me to achieve my goals.

Interesting fact about me: It really do be like that. And sometimes they don't think it be like it is, but it do.



Adam Blanchard

Bloomington, IL / Bloomington HS

Business Administration



Favorite Memories: Anything to do with team bonding, especially on our Florida training trip

Future Plans: Stay in town for a bit, and hopefully get a job on the marketing team of an insurance company

I would like to thank: My parents, and the rest of my family, especially my niece and nephew (Addison and Hayden), for supporting me through my years swimming at Wesleyan.

Interesting fact about me: I can't decide if I'm an outdoors or indoors kind of person. I like being outside longboarding, but I also could spend my time playing Dungeons and Dragons or video games with friends.



Lisa Cheng

Vernon Hills, IL / Vernon Hills HS

Psychology and Sociology



Career Highlights: NCAAs 2018: 13th in 50 free, 23rd in 100 free, 32nd in 200 free; CCIW 2018: 3rd in 50 and 100 free, 4th in 200 free; CCIW 2017: 2nd in 100 free, 3rd in 50 free, 4th in 200 free; CCIW 2016: 3rd in 50 free, 4th in 100 free and 100 breast
Favorite Memories: Playing Assassin my freshman year and getting chased down the hallway by Victor Lugg; all of my expeditions to steal Jamal; Qualifying at the Kenyon Fast Chance meet for the 800 Free Relay my sophomore year; pulling a 50.91 in the anchor leg of the 400 Free Relay at Conference in 2018

Future Plans: Pursue a Master's in Social Work and eventually become a community organizer.

I would like to thank: My parents and boyfriend Sam Kim for their unending support and love for me during my swim career. I also want to thank my best friend and teammate Rachel Tomazin for being my rock these past 4 years, last one fast one!

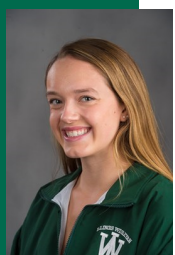
Interesting fact about me: I love to travel and hope to be able to visit every country in the world.



Claire Michael

Champaign, IL / University Laboratory HS

Psychology (Pre-OT)



Career Highlights: In CCIW: 3rd in the 200 free in 2016 and 2017, 2nd in the 500 free in 2017 and 2018, 3rd in the 1650 free in 2018.

Favorite Memories: My favorite memories include training for and competing at NCAA Championships in 2017, our yearly Florida training trips, especially the Goodwill dinner in funky outfits, and every CCIW Championship meet.

Future Plans: I hope to attend graduate school to pursue a degree in occupational therapy!

I would like to thank: Coach Fish, Tommy, and Josh for being great mentors both on and off of the pool deck. Huge thanks to my sisters, my teammates, my friends and sorority sisters, my boyfriend, and my wonderful parents for encouraging and inspiring me every day. I could not have made it through four years of college swimming without your love and support!

Interesting fact about me: I like to run and have completed a few triathlons and a half marathon!



Kate Teykl

Flossmoor, IL / Homewood-Flossmoor HS

Music Composition



Career Highlights: CCIW 2017: 6th in 1650 free, 15th in 500 free, 14th in 400 IM; CCIW 2018: 8th in 1650 free, 16th in 500 free

Favorite Memories: Making the podium in the 1650 even after sustaining a shoulder injury, Florida training trip, the D-Crew practice the morning after the Cubs won the World Series, and all the fun times with teammates.

Future Plans: I will be attending graduate school and completing a dual Master's in Musicology and Library Science in order to pursue a career as a music librarian at an academic institution.

I would like to thank: Coach and Tommy for pushing me to be my best in the pool.

Thank you to my parents Mary and Dave for their never-ending support. Thank you to my IWU teammates for being the best and working extremely hard in and out of the pool. Lastly, thank you to my professors for their flexibility, support, knowledge, and encouragement for the last four years.

Interesting fact about me: I am the biggest music history nerd you'll meet, and I adore 19th century Italian opera.



Rachel Tomazin

Bartlett, IL / Bartlett HS

Psychology (Pre-OT)



Career Highlights: Top 16 qualifier in 100 fly and 200 back in 2016, 200 back in 2017, and the 500 free in 2018

Favorite Memories: Achieving goals (tapered and untapered), pushing my body to new limits, witnessing amazing talent through my teammates everyday, and meeting my best friend Lisa Cheng.

Future Plans: I will be attending Graduate School to get my Doctorate in Occupational Therapy.

I would like to thank: My family for their unconditional support and patience through all my injuries, illnesses, and unfortunate events, and my best friend Lisa for having my back through every obstacle that is thrown my way. I would not have made it through four years without their unconditional love and support.

Interesting fact about me: Though injured beyond belief (cursed by loose joints and inflamed tendons), I have never broken a bone.



Luke Witteveen

Carol Stream, IL / Glenbard North HS

Secondary Education/History



Career Highlights: CCIW 2018: 5th in the 1650 Free, 13th in the 500 Free

Favorite Memories: Spending all of my free time on the Florida Training Trip every year sitting around the pool laughing and having a fantastic time with my teammates.

Future Plans: I plan to move home to live on my parents' couch and hopefully find a teaching job where I can also continue to be a swim coach.

I would like to thank: My parents for driving me to every single practice and meet, no matter how much I complained about going, and for always setting an example for the educator and coach I want to be. I'd like to thank my little brother and sister for motivating me to keep working hard by always beating my times and never missing a chance to remind me of it.

Interesting fact about me: I am an avid American Ninja Warrior viewer and have built a course in my backyard to practice on.



Cameron Lee

Everett, WA / Everett HS

Sociology and Criminal Justice



Career Highlights: Top 10 at CCIW in 200 fly and 400 IM in 2018

Favorite Memories: When we swam in a rain storm in Florida on training trip this year. It was a lot of fun

Future Plans: I plan to get involved in diversion type programs in the criminal justice system and possibly get involved in state and local politics

I would like to thank: My team and my coaches and my family for all of their support!!



Kate Canfield

Naperville, IL / Rosary HS

Exercise Science



Career Highlights: I am a three-time CCIW individual champion.

Future Plans: I plan to get my graduate degree in an exercise science related field.

I would like to thank: My mom for always supporting me in anything I decide to take on and for driving me to the countless number of swim practices I attended growing up.

Interesting fact about me: I am a two-time All American and one-time individual national champion in women's collegiate triathlon.



Luke Gentile

Downers Grove, IL / Downers Grove South HS

Exercise Science



Career Highlights: 15th in the 200 breast in the 2018 CCIW conference

Favorite Memories: My greatest memories include going loosing sanity on long bus rides and the 3 day long adrenaline rush that is conference.

Future Plans: I plan to attend graduate school for physical therapy.

I would like to thank/say hello to: I would like to say thank you to my mom and dad for the drives to swim practice and hello to Jason and Emily

Interesting fact about me: I can clap with one hand.



Jen Hufnagle

Bolingbrook, IL / Bolingbrook HS

Neuroscience and Psychology



Favorite Memories: My favorite part was conference last year, because I had never been to a meet that size before. Also, all of the great people I have met through swimming!

Future Plans: I plan on working in a research-related job while applying to Neuroscience graduate programs

I would like to thank: My wonderful family and boyfriend for all their support!

Interesting fact about me: I joined the triathlon team at NCC, and that is how I got into swimming. I competed in my first swim meet ever last January.



Samantha Kruzel

Bloomington, IL / Glenbard East HS

Neuroscience and Psychology



Career Highlights: Made it back to finals for the past 3 years for at least one or two events. Placed within the top 16.

Favorite Memories: Watching my team grow and become close. We started so small my freshman year, so to see the amount of people we have now and how supportive we are of one another is amazing. Next to that, enduring the hardest practices given and walking out with your friends laughing about something random.

Future Plans: After graduation, I plan on taking a year off. I will then go ahead to pursue my masters in forensic psychology and somehow land myself a position as an FBI psychology consultant.

I would like to thank: My family and friends, my mom and dad for suffering through the long meets as a kid and giving me unconditional support as I got older. I would also like to thank my grandparents, who will always tell me I did great when I know I didn't. Finally, my best friends, because they have kept me sane in my final season.

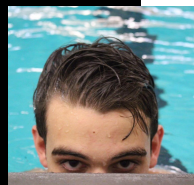
Interesting fact about me: I used to speak 3 languages fluently



Sam Lee

Ankeny, IA / Ankeny Centennial HS

Theatrical Design & Technology



Favorite Memories: My favorite memory isn't of a meet or any practice, yet doing a "high-five 50" with Amy Feltz. It doesn't matter if we win or lose, we showed up and we are going to have fun no matter what!

Future Plans: I plan to stay in the Chicago area to pursue a career in theatrical design and acrobatics. The ideal life is running away with a touring show for a year or more. I don't think I'm ready for adult-life yet, but it is going to happen either way.

I would like to thank/say hello to: I would like to say "hey hey" to Sam Kruzel and Gage, and thank them for being my best friends at college. I would also like to thank my team for making me feel included, even when I have to take time off when my stomach is hurting. Lastly, thank you to my family for supporting me and making trips from Iowa to see me swim.

Interesting fact about me: The most interesting thing I can think of is that I skipped 2 years of college and will graduate at 20.



Beth Ryan

Naperville, IL / Naperville Central HS

Human Resources Management



Career Highlights: Placed 4th in the 100 butterfly at the CCIW Championships in 2018

Favorite Memories: Getting close with the team

Future Plans: Working for a corporation in the city

I would like to thank: My parents, family, friends, coaches and teammates who have supported me through the 16 years of my swimming career

Interesting fact about me: I love pickles



Nicholas Slinkman

Countryside, IL / Lyons Twp HS

Accounting and Management



Career Highlights: 500 Free 5:20; 200 fly 2:16

Favorite Memories: The car rides to and from meets

Future Plans: Either going to grad school or finding a job

I would like to thank: My parents

Interesting fact about me: I also play the trumpet



Brooke Barnes

Fayetteville, NC / Cary Christian School

Business/Economics



Career Highlights: 4x relay All-American; 2x individual NCAA qualifier; CCIW Champion in 50, 100, and 200 free; 2018 CCIW Swimmer of the Year & Swimmer of the Meet; 2018 Wheaton Female MVP of the Year

Favorite Memories: Some of my greatest memories have been from practices. The inside jokes made, the laughs that were shared, and the blood, sweat, and tears that were shared to have us grow into stronger people. But if I had to pick a specific highlight, it would be our team worships where we all worship together, have a professor from our college speak, and then play games in and around the house. This was my favorite form of team bonding, and I'm going to miss that quite a bit.

Future Plans: I plan to enjoy my time at home with my family before getting married at the end of May. After getting married, I plan to party it up on my honeymoon, and then get to work in the financial industry. Also, I hope I can convince my future husband to let us get a dog asap...or three! Then in a few years, go get my MBA and start our family. I'm excited for the future!

I would like to thank: To my biggest supporters, Mom and Dad, I couldn't have become the person I am today without you two. Thank you for supporting and praying for me through everything, but especially through the challenges life brought me. It goes without saying how incredible you've both been to me. And even though I am able to give you swim lessons one day, you've both given me invaluable life lessons I'll have forever. I love you both. To the man I'll be marrying, Cameron, thank you for finding me so early in life, or should I say being there for me to find on Twitter freshman year! You've been my encourager, leader, comforter, and best friend the past three and half years and now I get that forever...well in 3 months! I love you, and thank you for being the love of my life. My sister, Nicole, thank you for being there for me in the ways you have been. From helping me put my shoes on when I hurt my back to making surprise meals as per your love language of serving. I miss you and you are wonderful. My teammates, thank you for surviving some pretty awful practices and giving me a reason to laugh even when we've wanted to cry through those. I can always swim after college, but it'll never be the same as it was with all of you. Coachie, thank you for helping me take ownership of the free to swim motto and emphasizing my identity as a child of God who swims, not in being a swimmer.

Interesting fact about me: I can speak a bit of Biel Swiss German, which is one of Switzerland's 6 spoken dialects. You can't Google Translate this language since it doesn't have a standard written language- they just write it out based on how it sounds when they speak it.



Evan Cameron

La Crosse, WI / Homeschool

Computer Science



Favorite Memories: Broke 6 minutes in the 500 free

Future Plans: Play clash of clans

I would like to thank: My parents

Interesting fact about me: I love dachshunds



Daniel Deysher

Colorado Springs, CO / Palmer Ridge HS

Applied Health Science



Career Highlights: Member of CCIW record setting 800 freestyle relay. 3rd place finish in the 500 freestyle at 2016 CCIW Championships.

Favorite Memories: One of my greatest memories comes from announcing THE Kayla Roberson before her record setting 200 yard breaststroke at the 2017 CCIW Championship meet.

Future Plans: I have plans to attend medical school and fulfill my lifelong dream of becoming a doctor.

I would like to thank: I would like to say a very special thank you to my parents cheering loudly from Africa. I would also like to thank my beautiful fiancé, Roberta, and sister, Katie, in attendance tonight. I love you all so much.

Interesting fact about me: Hot take: Parks and Rec is better than The Office.



Bethany Doyle

Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY / Cornwall Central HS

English and Spanish



Career Highlights: Top 8 finishes in the 200 fly in 2016, 2017, and 2018 and the 400 IM in 2017. Top 16 in the 400 IM in 2016 and 2018 and the mile in 2016, 2017, and 2018.

Favorite Memories: Swimming under two sets of great head coaches.

Future Plans: I plan to do Urban Teachers in Dallas/Fort Worth.

I would like to thank: Mom and Dad.

Interesting fact about me: I have been to over twenty countries.



Kelsey Ecklund

Rockford, IL / Rockford Christian HS

Math/Secondary Education



Career Highlights: Top-16 in the 100 and 200 breast at CCIW 2018

Favorite Memories: 20-peat with the girls' team in 2017, swimming under both Jon Lederhouse and Jacob and Meghan Ayers

Future Plans: I plan on teaching high school math somewhere in the Wheaton area.

I would like to thank: My parents and sister for always supporting me and being my biggest cheerleaders. Thank you to my HS coach and Jacob and Meghan for always believing in me and pushing me to be the best person I can be in and out of the pool.

Interesting fact about me: I rode a wave runner for the first time when I was 3 and drove one for the first time when I was 5.



Graham Ganser

Maple Grove, MN / Homeschool

Mechanical Engineering



Career Highlights: Touched out Evan Cameron in the 200 free by a hundredth... twice

Favorite Memories: Living in the Hunter House and playing football with the Men's team

Future Plans: I have one more year of school after this, and then hopefully I'll find a good job in Minneapolis or Chicago

I would like to thank: My parents, Gary and Carol, my sister Kirsten, and my sister and teammate Anna. I love you big!

Interesting fact about me: I spent a month in a wheelchair freshman year because Noah Cameron hit me with her car. Thanks, Noah



Kathryn Halldin

Rocklin, CA / Whitney HS

Applied Health Science



Career Highlights: 100 and 200 Back finalist at Wheaton Invitational.

Favorite Memories: Being a part of Coach Jon Lederhouse's last team and Coach Meghan and Jacob Ayers' first team.

Future Plans: Work in healthcare for a couple years with the goal of attending Physician Assistant School.

I would like to thank: My parents for supporting me always, and for flying from California to support me now.

Interesting fact about me: I haven't had chocolate in 17 years.



Stephen Larson

Zeeland, MI / Zeeland East HS

Business/Economics



Career Highlights: Top 8/Top 16 finishes in backstrokes and sprint freestyles

Favorite Memories: Pine trail every year with the team and getting to meet people from all across the country.

Future Plans: Start a career in sales or finance, most likely move back to West Michigan.

I would like to thank: My parents, siblings, teammates and coaches. Thank you for the support over the years & making swimming enjoyable.

Interesting fact about me: Only person in my family not to attend Hope College.



Ben Mendez

Murrysville, PA / Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School

Applied Health Science



Career Highlights: 3 Time WPIAL Qualifier and 1 Time PIAA Qualifier, 2018 CCIW Finalist

Favorite Memories: Tiger day, blanchard brawl, capris suns, honesty rock, the swamp, recorder, rabbit gang, the taj, essential oils, and many many more.

Future Plans: I plan to take a gap year with hopes of attending medical school in the fall of 2020.

I would like to thank: My entire family for their unconditional love and support over the years. I know I would not be where I am today without them.



Connor Perry

Bloomfield Hills, MI/Seaholm HS Classical Languages/Biblical and Theological Studies



Career Highlights: I won a heat one time.

Favorite Memories: Swimming the mile for the last time ever, oh wait, that hasn't happened yet... I won a heat one time.

Future Plans: I plan to go back to school.

I would like to thank: Coach Lederhouse for teaching me how to compete for something greater than myself; Coach Meghan Ayers for teaching me how to compete against myself to better myself every day; and Coach Jacob Ayers for believing that I could do whatever I put my mind to, and teaching me to believe in myself in the same way. I have had such incredible blessings in the people that I have been surrounded with my entire life, and the swim team has become my second family; thank you and I love you so much! But most importantly, I want to thank my parents. They've supported me in everything I've done, and I know they will continue to support me in everything I will do. They have fed me, clothed me, woken up at the crack of dawn to drive me to practices, waited hours sweating in a hot pool to watch me swim for minutes at a time, and so much more. I wish I could actually put into words how much they've done for me, and how grateful I am, but I am left without words. I love you Mom and Dad, thank you.

Interesting fact about me: I like good Scotch and great cigars.



Matthew Rueger

South Elgin, IL / South Elgin HS

Applied Math and Economics



Career Highlights: Academic All-Conference, CCIW Finalist

Favorite Memories: Competing at the CCIW championships, all of the team traditions

Future Plans: I have accepted a job with Chatham Financial in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania

I would like to thank: My family, all of my friends (especially my roommates), and my coaches.

Interesting fact about me: I will be swimming breaststroke at CCIW for the first time ever.



Chris Szymczak

Farmington Hills, MI / Southfield Christian HS

Economics



Career Highlights: NCAA meet: 2016: Top 5 finish in 200 back, top 10 in 100 back and both medley relays; 2017 and 2018: Top 16 finishes in the 100 and 200 backs (as well as all four sprint relays in 2018); CCIW Conference meet: 2016-2018: Conference champ in 100 and 200 backs

Favorite Memories: The Christmas training trips we've taken, as well as regular team dinners at the dining hall after practice.

Future Plans: After graduating this spring, I'll be moving my life to Buena Vista, Colorado, where I will begin my career in financial planning with an independent advisory firm, Cambridge Financial Advisors. My MAIN draw to the state of Colorado, however, is that I will be getting married there to my lovely fiancée, Kristina Tanner. Our wedding will be on September 15th of this year, and I can't wait!!

I would like to thank: My parents have been consistent and loving supporters of my swimming and life aspirations since forever, and I'm truly grateful for that. I want to especially thank my mom, Wendy, for being my true #1 fan. I attribute my love for swimming to her, and her feedback and encouragement always make me a better swimmer and competitor.

Interesting fact about me: My competitive swimming career began in Poland, where I attended an elementary that was a "sports school:" everybody in my homeroom class was also on the swim team, and we got an actual grade for our swim team participation (as if it was a class). Swimming and learning with classmates and teammates in that hybrid academic-athletic environment was crucial to my formation as a swimmer and also super fun!

**Congratulations to all our graduating seniors.
We wish you the best in the future!**