41st Annual Swim With Mike Continues The Wave of Impact

Welcome to the Summer Edition 2022 of The Wave!

The 41st Annual Swim With Mike made a big splash with over $1.5 million raised for the Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund. Celebrating a return to the pool after three years, it was a joyous occasion to unite together in-person once again. Swimmers filled the pool to go the distance with countless laps in support of our scholarship recipients. The Trojan Marching Band joined us for the 41st consecutive time with a special guest appearance by Dr. Art Bartner. Numerous scholarship recipients—both current and alumni—were in attendance to join in on the festivities.

As we prepare for our 42nd campaign this summer, we want to extend a special thank you to our countless volunteers and the loyal Swim With Mike friends and family that continue the Ripple Effect that started over four decades ago.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Jersey Mike's for providing a delicious lunch for donors, volunteers, scholarship recipients, and participants at the event.

We look forward to seeing you next year at 42nd Annual Swim With Mike on April 1, 2023 at USC Uytengsu Aquatics Center.

In The News

Graduate Spotlights

This summer, we recognize the Class of 2022 whose talents are ready to be shared with the world. From healthcare and law to tech and architecture, their skills are vast and their passion is to help others and make an impact, largely thanks to Swim With Mike’s support.

Save The Date

The Family Association Brunch will be held in-person on the USC campus at Galen Center on Sunday, October 23 and virtually for those out of state. We welcome all current and alumni scholarship recipients and their families to attend.

Stay Connected

Follow us to keep up with the latest news!
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Facebook: Swim With Mike Foundation
Website: www.swimwithmike.org
GRADUATE
Kendra Muller (JD ‘22)
University of San Diego

After graduating from USD School of Law, Kendra is focusing her law practice on local and national work for disability justice, and helping individuals have more access to educational and employment opportunities. Her passion is in inclusivity and she is an active champion of human rights. While in school, she was president of the Health Law Society, managing editor of the San Diego International Law Journal, and primary editor for journal articles published by global legal scholars. She was co-chair of the Name and Gender Marker Change Clinic at USD while client growth increased 55% across California. She served as a member of the DEI group for the San Diego County Bar Associations Different Abilities Group. Currently, she is active in the San Diego Chapter for Disability Rights California (DRC), the nation’s largest nonprofit disability rights firm, and was recently recognized for her work by San Diego Lawyers. She credits Swim With Mike with touching her life and enabling her to pursue her secondary education. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and is a board member for Nature Collective (San Diego). This summer she will be traveling to Spain, a new vacation spot for her!

Jonah Karpman (BS ‘22)
UC Berkeley

Jonah graduated from UC Berkeley with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and minor in data science. He will start working for Microsoft as a product manager, part of a two-year artificial intelligence development program. He looks forward to enhancing digital products including text to speech tools, visual impairment applications, and mobility accessibility features. Last summer, he worked as an intern at Apple in strategic data solutions where he interacted with cross-functional global teams in India and China. This summer, he is moving cross-country to Cambridge, Massachusetts where he looks forward to experiencing four seasons, connecting with family, and starting his professional journey.

Joseline Castillo (B. Arch. ‘22)
Drexel University

While a senior completing her bachelor’s degree in architecture at Drexel University, Joseline has been working as a project manager at Amtrak in their ADA compliance department. Translating her skills earned from the classroom, Joseline has been focused on making transportation areas more accessible for physically challenged individuals. With her insider knowledge of having navigated the Philadelphia Area by wheelchair, she brings a fresh perspective and creative insight to the design and building space. Her passion lies in designing both residential and commercial spaces more user friendly. Her senior thesis included creating an accessible recreational center for people with disabilities.

Aside from her professional aspirations, she is involved with the Pennsylvania Adaptive Sports, a local nonprofit, and enjoys staying active playing wheelchair basketball, rowing, and paddle boarding. She is applying for positions in the Philadelphia Area and plans to work full-time in an architecture firm.

Annalee Konsoer-Rose (BS ‘22)
Grand Valley State University

Annalee graduated with her bachelor’s degree from Grand Valley State in May and is recovering after her 28th spinal surgery. Her lifelong goal has been to help others in a healthcare setting, and she will begin pursuing a career as a physician’s assistant. She is looking forward to traveling this summer.
Deborah is celebrating 10 years since her accident along with a huge milestone accomplishment, completing her doctorate in physical therapy at University of North Texas. She is studying for the national physical therapy board examination and applying for positions in an in-patient, neurology rehabilitation setting in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area. While completing her degree, she completed two years of adaptive work with one year of clinical rotation in acute care, outpatient, orthopedic, and post-surgery settings. Her physical therapist after her accident was her role model and inspired her career path, and she hopes to inspire other young patients with her resilience in recovery. Since graduation, she has been traveling, visiting family, and continuing her passion for hiking.

Ronan Nelson (JD ‘22)
University of San Diego

Following graduation from USD School of Law, Ronan is busy studying for the California bar exam and will join Cooley LLP, a global law firm specializing in business litigation and corporate law, in their San Diego office. Ronan has a deep passion for law where he plans to pursue a career in litigation and represent start-up and established companies in the tech and life sciences fields. He has spent the last two summers working in the specialty areas of securities regulation, and intellectual property copyright and patent infringement. He looks forward to seeing more aspects of the law with his new role at Cooley. With dual U.S. and Irish citizenship, Ronan has his sights on international opportunities. He looks forward to new challenges and complexities associated with evolving global regulatory changes. He recently received a grant from the Challenged Athletes Foundation for a hand bike so this summer he will be hand cycling, and will be moving into his own apartment in Downtown San Diego.

“Finding my passion for law and education has been a silver lining after a life-changing event. I want to thank Swim With Mike for the incredible work they do and the support they have given me. I am grateful to be part of the Swim With Mike Family.”

-Ronan Nelson (USD JD ’22, UCLA BS ’18)
A lifelong athlete, Avery graduated from the University of Alabama where she excelled in multiple adapted sports programs including wheelchair basketball and tennis. She completed her dual bachelor’s degrees in English and Spanish and recently completed an accelerated master’s program in English Literature. Avery has plans for a career in education as she has a passion for learning and began tutoring and mentoring young students while in high school.

Avery Downing (MA ‘22)  
University of Alabama

“Swim With Mike helped my family afford tuition at Johns Hopkins. Through my attendance, I was able to increase disability representation across campus and serve as a mentor to disabled underclassmen. As a recent graduate, I am starting my career at Morgan Stanley. Swim With Mike and the education I received from Hopkins made this opportunity possible.”  
-Kale Hyder (BS ‘22)

Rio graduated with a master’s degree and is now a licensed mental health nurse practitioner. He has started his own private practice in the outskirts of Denver, Colorado. Rio looks to fill the gap in mental health services, as well as expand his outreach to help other spinal cord injury patients. His primary focus is creating trust and a strong therapeutic alliance with the patient. He is actively involved with the High Fives Foundation as an athlete and recently attended a High-Fives sponsored fly fishing trip in Montana.

Rio Peterson (MSN Fall ‘21)  
Walden University

Logan graduated from Auburn University with his master’s degree in rehabilitation counseling, where he was a member of the wheelchair basketball team while pursuing his studies.

Logan Caudle (MA Fall ‘21)  
Auburn University

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