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**‘Swim With Mike’ Fundraiser Splashes Down for First Time at Cal**

*Annual swim-a-thon raises scholarship funds for disabled athletes*

- ◆ *Swim With Mike – Cal – at Spieker Aquatics Complex on April 23 - 11 a.m.-1 p.m.*
- ◆ *\$10,600,000 dispersed to 101 students to attend university of choice*
- ◆ *Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship event celebrates 31st anniversary in 2010-11*

**BERKELEY – April 18, 2011** – The “Swim With Mike” swim-a-thon fundraiser, which has raised nearly \$11 million over the last 31 years and benefitted 101 Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship recipients, will make its debut at the University of California on Saturday, April 23.

The fund originated in 1981 at the University of Southern California in support of former USC swimmer Mike Nyeholt. It is the only one of its kind allowing students who have overcome life-challenging accidents or illnesses to pursue both undergraduate and graduate degrees at several universities – including USC, Cal and a host of others.

To date, Swim With Mike has awarded \$10,600,000 in scholarship money to 101 total student-athletes through its Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship. In 2010-11, Swim With Mike has awarded \$770,000 collectively to 45 disabled athletes. Paving the way for physically challenged athletes to overcome their disability and return to school, the scholarship will provide tuition and financial assistance toward housing and books at USC and 41 other universities.

Of this year’s 45 disabled athletes, a total of 11 are enrolled at USC and 34 attend universities spanning the nation. In order to qualify for a Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship, applicants must have suffered an illness or injury that resulted in a physical disability that substantially limits major life activity; have participated in organized high school or college athletics prior to the illness or injury; meet admissions requirements of the selected university, and maintain at least a 2.5 grade-point average while enrolled.

More information is available at <http://swimwithmike.org/events/swim-with-mike-cal>.

Of the soon to be Pac -12 Conference schools, nine institutions have been home to one or more Swim With Mike Scholarship Recipients.

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## Swim With Mike/2-2-2

Former Cal men's water polo player Mike Sample has since been an important part in organizing and starting the event at the Spieker Aquatics Complex on Cal's campus. A Golden Bear from 2005-2009, Sample was a two-time national champion (2006 and 2007) and a co-captain of the 2009 squad. He joined the Swim with Mike – Cal effort after his recent graduation.

"I am inspired by people like Mike Nyeholt and [Cal scholarship recipient] Austin Whitney to help the Swim with Mike organization grow and continue to make a difference in the lives of disabled athletes around the country," Sample said. "It's been an honor to help bring Swim With Mike to UC Berkeley, and I look forward to the event continuing for years to come."

Members of Cal's four aquatics teams – the NCAA champion men's and women's swimming and diving squads as well as the nationally contending men's and women's water polo teams – will participate in some fashion Saturday – swimming, working or taking part in a few fun activities in the pool.

Volunteers make up the scholarship fund's staff, which garners financial support from corporate and private donations as well as the Swim With Mike swim-a-thons. Swim With Mike began as a fundraiser – "Swim *FOR* Mike" – to purchase a specially equipped van for three-time All-American USC swimmer and past NCAA Inspiration Award winner Mike Nyeholt, who became paralyzed in a motorcycle accident in 1981. At Nyeholt's suggestion, the excess monies raised that year were used to aid other athletes overcome paralyzing or physically disabling injuries or illnesses, and assist them in returning to school. With the help of Nyeholt's teammate and now USC Associate Athletic Director Ron Orr, "Swim *WITH* Mike" was born the following year when Nyeholt returned to swim laps. Last year, 500 participants swam laps and helped raise \$1,003,330.

Celebrating Swim With Mike's 10th year of offering scholarships to disabled athletes attending schools other than USC, today 41 different universities have had Swim With Mike Foundation Scholarship recipients attend the university of their choosing. Eleven new universities will be represented this year. Expanding from USC, sister-events have occurred at the University of Connecticut, the University of Hawaii and Stanford.

This year two UC schools – Cal and UC San Diego – proudly join these institutions in celebrating the foundation while raising funds for next year's new scholars with their own first annual swim events. Cal's will be held at the Spieker Aquatics Complex pool on April 23 from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. The event is a collaboration by the Cal Athletic Department, Bear Student-Athletic Advisory Council (BEAR SAAC) and Swim With Mike Foundation, with Whitney and Sample handling much of the planning. Through the generosity of Tod Spieker, a former All-American swimmer from UCLA, each dollar raised at the Swim With Mike – Cal will be matched. It is planned to be a fun day in the pool featuring relay races involving some of Cal's top athletes as well as members of the Greek, Cooperative and Engineering communities.

Whitney, Cal's recipient, was a varsity lacrosse and football player from San Juan Capistrano, Calif., who graduated from high school in 2007. Austin's life changed forever on July 21, 2007, when he was involved in a major auto accident that severed his spinal cord and paralyzed him from the waist down, one month before he was planning to enter the University of Michigan. Austin found the inner strength and power of attitude to not let the accident stop either his athletic drive or academic potential. Today you may find him playing wheelchair basketball, handcycling, scuba diving or sky diving, and he is graduating next month with a double major in political science and history and a 3.7 GPA. He works in Cal's Mechanical Engineering Department on medical exoskeletons that restore walking ability to those with paralysis, and also has spoken to 40,000 high school students in three states in the last three years.

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### Swim With Mike/3-3-3

“My life and successes outside the classroom have been solely dependent on the generosity of the Swim With Mike Foundation,” Whitney reflected. “It is because of the scholarship they have awarded me that I am able to truly follow my passions and apply myself 100 percent to any task in front of me. Had it not been for Swim With Mike, my life would have been consumed trying simply to pay for college, and I would have been completely unable to do any of the life-defining activities I find myself lucky enough to be a part of.

“Words cannot possibly express the amount of gratitude and appreciation I have for Swim With Mike’s investment in me, and their central role in helping me achieve my educational goals. Since my car accident three and a half years ago, there has been no more helpful institution or group than this foundation to rebuilding my life. Their generosity has inspired me to want to spend the rest of my life trying to give back in the same fashion that they so selflessly gave to me. Swim With Mike has provided me the tools to change the world, and I intend to use these skills to help others in my lifetime. This foundation is truly inspirational and essential to building a new generation of disabled leaders.”

Nyeholt said, “To not be able to play the sport you love can be devastating, but my friend, Ron Orr, started Swim With Mike to prove that there is a support system to moving on, especially when it comes to education. I’ve had the pleasure of watching our recipients overcome their tragedies, both physically and mentally. We have an impressive recipient and alumni list, and multiple athletes who have participated in the Paralympics, triathlons and Iron Man.”

Orr added, “Nearly all of our recipients played one or more sports before their accident. Now, we are seeing more of them doing competitive sports *after* their accident, often at an elite level. We have a recipient who gold medaled at the Paralympics and another who set an American record. Those two are just a few examples. It has been gratifying that the funds are allowing us to do just what the mission of the Physically Challenged Athletes Fund is, and that is to help athletes overcome their tragedies. It’s our goal to continue growing for another 30-plus years and to have more ‘Swim With Mike’ events at other universities.”

- **The 1st Swim With Mike – Cal will be held at the University of California, Berkeley’s Spieker Aquatics Complex on Saturday, April 23, 2011, from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**
- **For more information, please visit [www.swimwithmike.org](http://www.swimwithmike.org).**

Other Swim With Mike events in 2011 include:

31st Annual Swim With Mike – April 16 - USC’s McDonalds Swim Stadium

4th Swim With Mike UConn – April 17 – UConn’s Wolff Zachin Natatorium

1st Swim With Mike San Diego – May 7; 10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. UCSD Canyonview Aquatics Center

5th Swim With Mike Stanford – May 14; 10:00–Noon – Stanford’s Avery Aquatics Center

7th Swim With Mike Hawaii – Sept. 5 – In conjunction with the Waikiki Roughwater Swim

### 2010 – 2011 Physically Challenged Athletes Scholarship Fund Recipients

#### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA’S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Name	Accident/Illness	Sport	School/Major/Year
<b>Austin Whitney</b> <b>San Juan Capistrano, CA</b>	Car accident T12-L1 level, paraplegic	Lacrosse, football, soccer	University of California at Berkeley – Pre-law/Senior
<b>Stephen Dalton</b>	Motorcycle accident T4 paraplegic	Pre-Swimming, Diving and Water	Dominican University of California Humanities B.A

		Polo Post-kayak, water and snow skiing, downhill mountain biking	Sophomore
<b>Maureen Fausone Wilmette, IL</b>	Diving accident left her paralyzed from the chest down C5-C-6 quadriplegic	Pre-Cross country, swimming, basketball, volleyball, tennis, golf, soccer, skiing, hockey Post-Handcycling	Stanford University – Human Biology/ Junior
<b>Lori Hammond San Diego, CA</b>	Rare spinal arterial venous malformation Paralyzed at the T-5 T-7 level	Volleyball, basketball, soccer, gymnastics	UC Davis – Animal Science- Pre Vet/Senior
<b>Elizabeth Kolbe Tiffin, OH</b>	Car accident Quadriplegic	Pre - Gymnastics, soccer, softball, basketball Post - Swimming 2008 USA Paralympics Team	Stanford – Law School 2nd year
<b>Jessica Radmilovic</b>	Snowboarding accident T-11 paraplegic	Pre-Gymnastics, pole vault, water skiing Post-wheelchair basketball, waterskiing	Sacramento State University 1st year Masters in Recreation Therapy
<b>Lena Schoemaker</b>	Auto Accident T-8 paraplegic	Pre – Basketball, soccer, cross country, softball Post – ski, kayak, wheelchair basketball, handcycling	Stanford University

#### FIRST-YEAR SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Accident/Illness</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>School/Major/Year</b>
<b>Brandon Burke</b>	Ewings Sarcoma Leg amputee	Pre-Football, baseball, snow boarding Post- Snowboarding, Swimming	Vanderbilt University – Biochemistry Freshman
<b>Amy Foster</b>	Auto accident C-5 quadriplegic	gymnastics	University of Maryland – Law – 1st Year
<b>Jeffrey Harris</b>	Beach Diving accident C-6 quadriplegic, ASIA-	Pre- soccer, track, curling, snow	University of Pennsylvania MA City Planning/1st Year

	A	skiing, golf Post-wheelchair rugby and curling	
<b>Nathaniel Higgins</b>	T-4 complete SCI	Cross country and wrestling Post - Swimming	Capella University/1st Year Masters in Human Resources
<b>Daryl Holmlund</b>	T-8 paraplegic	Pre-Cross Country <del>and</del> Track, triathlon, mountaineering Post-handcycling	Colorado State University English/Education
<b>Erin Kaupp</b>	Ewings Sarcoma nerve damage to left leg, difficult to walk	Pre-Volleyball, basketball	University of Southern California,
<b>Adam Kellerman</b>	Ewings Sarcoma uses a wheelchair or walks with a walking stick	Pre-Soccer, ice hockey, tennis, rugby, swimming, running, cricket and basketball Post-wheelchair tennis	University of Arizona
<b>Christian Kingsley</b>	Motorcycle accident T-10 paraplegic,	cross country	Cal State San Marcos Freshman
<b>Yvonne Lara-Harris</b>	Auto Accident T-12/L-1 paraplegic	Volleyball, basketball and track	University of Southern California, 1st yr. M.A. Education, Teaching Credential
<b>Dylan Levine</b>	Fibrous Dysplasia, a bone disease	Pre – T-Ball, Soccer, Hockey, Basketball Post-wheelchair tennis and basketball	University of Arizona Freshman
<b>Andrew Luk</b>	Blind and deaf due to brain tumor	Pre- swimming, soccer, baseball Post-swimming	University of California, Los Angeles Freshman
<b>Shirley MacDonald</b>	SCI T8-T10 SCI, inflammatory mass in 2008; Also Deaf Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy and paralysis at T8-T10. Also deaf.	Pre-soccer Post-wheelchair basketball	California State University, Long Beach Masters in Social Work - 2013
<b>Alex Pass</b>	Diving accident C6-C7 SCI	Soccer, football, basketball, wrestling	Vanguard University
<b>Bryan Williams</b>	Motorcycle accident	Football,	California State University

	T6-7 paraplegic	basketball, track	Human Services/Junior
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### RETURNING SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

<b>Name</b>	<b>Accident/Illness</b>	<b>Sport</b>	<b>School/Major/Year</b>
<b>Molly Bloom Denver, CO</b>	Limo accident on prom night Amputee	Swimming, skiing, handcycling	University of Colorado – Psychology & Linguistics/Senior
<b>Joseph Broc Haleiwa, HI</b>	Spina Bifida - myelomeningocele, below the knee paralysis, uses wheelchair	Outrigger canoe paddling	Hawaii Pacific Univ. – Communications/Senior
<b>Chris Cantwell Chino Hills, CA</b>	Diving accident Quadriplegic	Swimming, water polo	USC – PhD Engineering
<b>Michael Dieringer Albion, MI</b>	Motorcycle accident C5-6 quadriplegic	Golf, baseball, tennis, soccer	USC –Interactive Media/Junior
<b>Andrew Donnellan Tucson, AZ</b>	Gymnastics tumbling accident Quadriplegic	Pre-Gymnastics Post-Quad Rugby	University of Arizona – Media Arts Junior
<b>Thomas Everett Spokane, WA</b>	Skiing accident T-9, paraplegic	Cross country runner	Whitman College – Business, Political Science/ Junior
<b>Michael Fritschner Bell Canyon, CA</b>	Surfing accident during lesson Paraplegic	Football, basketball, swimming, soccer	USC – International Relations/Sophomore
<b>Kenneth Gibson Diamond Bar, CA</b>	Football accident Paralyzed and unable to walk or write	Football, track	CSU Fullerton – Business/Senior
<b>Colin Heffern Cheyenne, WY</b>	Accident – Belly flop from a tree into a pile of leaves C-4 Spinal Cord Injury no functional movement below shoulders	Tennis, golf, swimming, soccer	USC Landscape Architecture 1st Year Graduate Student
<b>Molly Higley Long Beach, CA</b>	Plane crash while vacationing Paraplegic	Soccer	USC – Social Work/Masters Degree Program
<b>Matthew Howard Stanwood, WA</b>	Tree fell on him in a storm causing spinal cord injury T-10 Paralysis	Pre-Cross country, track, wrestling Post-handcycling, wheelchair rugby	University of Oregon – Human Physiology/Sophomore
<b>Alex Johnson Lake San Marcos, CA</b>	Injury during rodeo competition Quadriplegic	Rodeo, football, wrestling, track, skiing	USC – Business/Senior
<b>Brandon Johnson Colorado Springs, CO</b>	Gym accident Suffered a C5-6 spinal cord injury (quadriplegic with some limited movement in his shoulders and arms)	Football	Western State University School of Law/First Year
<b>Regan Linton Denver, CO</b>	Automobile accident T-4 spinal cord injury	Pre- softball, soccer, swimming,	UC San Diego - MFA acting

<b>La Jolla, CA</b>		skiing Post - swimming, hand cycling, golf, and	
<b>Fulutusi Mailo Kahuku, HI</b>	Beach accident Quadriplegic	Football	BYU Hawaii – Mathematics/Senior
<b>Dana Mathewson San Diego, CA</b>	Transverse Myelitis paralyzed at the T-10 Level	Tennis, basketball, soccer	University of Arizona – Undeclared/ Sophomore
<b>John Morris Fort Collins, CO</b>	Snowboarding accident C4- C5 Spinal Cord Injury/Quadriplegic	Basketball, baseball, volleyball, golf, Snowboarding, swimming	Colorado State – Marketing/ Sophomore
<b>Ryoko Nakajima Tokyo, Japan</b>	Transverse Myelitis resulting in paralysis	Tennis, wheelchair basketball, swimming	USC – Senior Cinematic Arts
<b>Matt Oka Newport Beach, CA</b>	Bodysurfing accident Paralyzed from neck down	Pre-Swimming, Surfing, water polo Post-Swimming	USC – Business/Senior
<b>Taylor Price Ridgewood, NJ</b>	Beach accident Quadriplegic	Tennis, golf	Georgetown –Sports Management/1st Year Graduate
<b>Michael Roberts Wesley Hills, NY</b>	Swimming accident C-4 tetraplegic	Karate, swimming, baseball, basketball	University of Illinois – History and Secondary Education Pre-Law/Senior
<b>Jacob Robinson San Diego, CA</b>	Car accident T-9 paraplegic	Football, basketball, volleyball, rugby	UC San Diego – Pre-Med, Sophomore
<b>David Van Wagener Greenwood Village, CO</b>	Skiing accident Quadriplegic	Tennis, skiing, scuba diving, mountain biking, rock climbing.	University of Texas – Graduate school/PHD Program in Engineering
<b>Tyler Warnock Lucerne Valley, CA</b>	Car accident Paraplegic	Baseball, Basketball, Football	USC – Graduate School Annenberg School of Entertainment Management
<b>Joseph Zinski Voorhees, NJ</b>	Dove into shallow pool C-6 quadriplegic-Asia A, no sensation below chest, no movement waist down	Swimming, soccer, baseball	University of Pennsylvania Chemical Engineering/Senior Graduate School

*Editor's Note: Recipients are available for interview*

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