



THE 9TH LANE

ISSUE 4 • SUMMER 2021



WELCOME TO THE 9TH LANE

A SPORT WITH AN OLYMPIC SIZED IMPACT

If you're anything like me, you watched the 2020(1) Olympics in awe. The accomplishments of the world's athletes was truly something to behold. Caleb Dressel's 49.45 in a long course 100 fly: *Author's note: I didn't go that fast in a 75 yard free!* The triple jumper from Venezuela who jumped a world record 15+ meters: she sparked a funny conversation in my house. "How far is 15 meters?" "Well, to the 15 meter mark in the pool..." "So, she jumped as far as Caleb dolphin kicked underwater?! Wow!" Watching competitors from around the globe achieve their olympic dreams is always enthralling. But, if you're anything like me, you watch for more than just the athletic accomplishment, you tune in for the story behind the athlete as well.

There is no doubt that under the duress of the past 15 months the accomplishments achieved at the Tokyo Olympics meant something special. Whether it was the Filipino weightlifter who trained with water bottles during the pandemic, the sportsmanship and celebration between two Americans and two South Africans at the end of the 200 Breaststroke, or the 24th place triathlete consoling the final finisher with the words "This is Olympic Spirit, and you've got it 100%". All of it meant something more to everyone this time around. A chance to live a dream deferred and an opportunity to prove your olympic spirit no matter what. The Olympics are about the athlete and the sport, but this games proved more than ever that there is always a human behind the athlete, and following those stories can be just as exciting.

FRIENDS OF TRIBE
SWIMMING & DIVING
NEWSLETTER

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I started this column during the opening ceremonies. I was amazed at what I felt like was a large number of swimmers who were selected as flag bearers for their countries. Did you know that 41% of competing nations selected swimmers to carry their flags? In total 86 swimmers were selected to represent their countries. That says something about the venerable nature of our sport as a whole. SwimSwam.com, who reported these stats, did not comment on how many medaled. And, I don't believe that is the important fact. These 86 athletes were honored by their nations not just for their achievements in the pool, but for their broader accomplishments in life and for their humanity. Hopefully they were going best times and setting national records, but in the scheme of life, most are not making money or becoming famous from swimming. They were proud athletes competing on the world's biggest stage for swimming. Now that it is all over, they will return home and likely take on regular jobs as regular people. Undoubtedly their Olympic experience is something that will always be a part of who they are. It will help shape them, but it will not define who they are, who they will become, or the impact they have on those around them.

As I reflected on the accomplishments of these flag bearing competitors, I found myself relating their experiences to those of a Tribe Swimmer. Albeit loosely, I realized they are quite similar. The exciting accomplishments of achieving a win at the CAA championship or qualifying for an NCAA appearance. The shared sportsmanship and athletic journey we have each experienced. We are all well aware that it's not those moments that define us, but who those experiences have helped us become, that do. It is who we develop into outside of the pool, in the 9th lane if you will, that we will be recognized and remembered for. Leaving the program as better people is our Olympic moment.

As Tribe Swimming embarks on a new and bright future together, it's important that we remember what makes this program special is not just the athletes we once were. It's the people this program helped us become and the broader impact we have on our communities because of it. I look forward to tuning in in awe once again as the Tribe Swimming community makes an Olympic sized impact on each other and those around us.

Alexis Skelos '06, Editor

COACH'S CORNER

COACH NATE KELLOGG

I am thrilled to welcome assistant coaches Colby Kubat and Mike Williams to the Tribe! While both bring unique perspectives to the sport, the underlying common denominator is their ability to build relationships and connect with people. Although they are still getting settled, they have already made a significant impact with our team and on the recruiting front. They are terrific coaches and are excellent people, and I am excited to see what they do to will help elevate Tribe swimming. You can read more about Colby & Mike in the official [Tribe Athletics Press Release](#).



FROM THE DECK

CORINNE DAVENPORT '24



Hi Tribe, this summer I swam with Tribe Aquatics here in Williamsburg and it's been an amazing time. While no one loves getting up at 5 am to practice, those early morning practices allowed me to stay swimming, head coach my summer league team, and still have a fun summer! We also added two incredible assistant coaches in July and I'm excited to see what this season has in store for them and the team. Roll Tribe!

SWAMMER OF THE MONTH

LIZA MCDEVITT '12

Liza has graciously accepted the position as the president of our newly re-focused Friends of Tribe Swimming & Diving group. We are thankful for her leadership in helping this group hit the ground running to make a difference for the Tribe. We recently sat down with Liza to find out more about her goals and vision for Friends of Tribe Swimming.

You graduated from W&M in 2012, tell us more about what you've been doing since then...

After graduating from the business school I moved to DC and started my career in management consulting. I recently completed my masters degree in the science of well being. I am now working with individuals and families to help them achieve life goals and financial wellness.

Do you think there is something about your experience as a swimmer that inspired you to choose this career path?

For sure. I actually did my capstone thesis on how to improve well being in NCAA athletes as they graduate and retire from the sport. We all go through major life changes at some point. Graduating from W&M and retiring from swimming was one that really stuck out to me and I realized it could have gone better with a different approach.



Since we're talking goals here, what are some of your goals for Friends of Tribe Swimming & Diving?

Our goals for the group are really threefold.

First and foremost to drive alumni engagement through events, connections, and communication.

Second, of course, is to provide financial support for the program. But I really believe that will come as a result of alumni engagement.

Third, to partner with the athletic department to create a sustainable future for Tribe Swimming in an ever evolving collegiate athletics landscape.

What are you most looking forward to in leading this group?

I'm really looking forward to building deeper connections with our alumni. Tribe Swimming means so much to me, and I am looking forward to strengthening that bond amongst our alumni community. I'm also excited about using this group to help connect student athletes in the program with those "on the other side" as they enter their careers and lives beyond the pool. This newsletter is called "The 9th Lane" because we believe your Tribe Swimming experience doesn't stop when you leave lane 8. The prospect of helping foster those relationships is something I am really enthusiastic about!

Any final thoughts?

We've got a fantastic group of eager minds ready to partner with the athletic department to ensure the successful future of Tribe Swimming. That's something I'm proud and excited to be a part of. If you want to be involved, even if your not sure how, please reach out, we'd love to use your talents to help engage others and ensure the success of our program. Go Tribe!

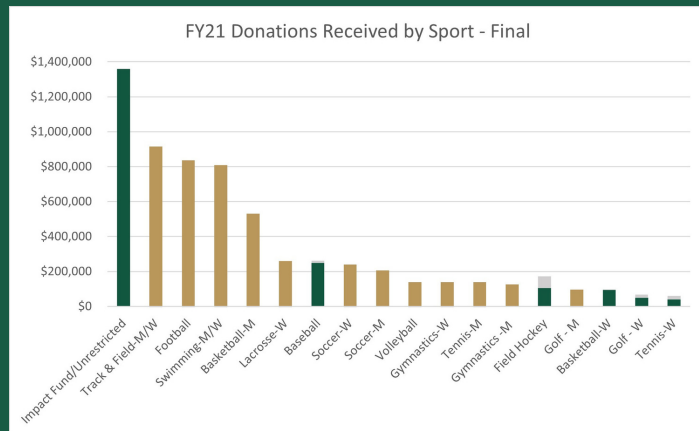
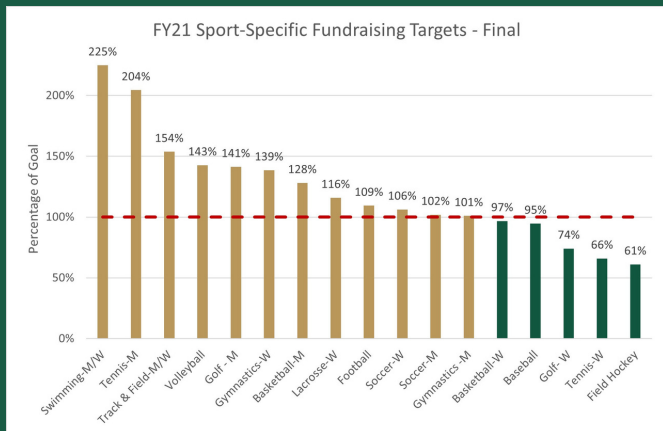
DO YOU KNOW A SWIMMING ALUM MAKING WAVES OUTSIDE THE LANE LINES?

WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE THEIR STORY IN OUR SWAMMER OF THE MONTH COLUMN.

EMAIL YOUR NOMINATION TO OUR EDITOR: AASKEL@GMAIL.COM

FUNDRAISING

Tribe Swimming closed out the 2021 fiscal year at the head of the class! Thanks to your donations, we reached our single year goal by 225% (more than 20% better than the next highest performing sport). We've raised more than \$800,000 of our 1.2 million All In Campaign target. With just \$410,000 left to raise we look forward to being the first and fastest team to reach our target!



Your support has been crucial to our success.
From the bottom of our hearts, thank you.

[DONATE NOW](#)

DIVE IN WITH THE TRIBE

UPCOMING ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



JAMES RIVER SWIM: September 2nd at the Andersons
Let us know if you'll be in town to swim or celebrate with the Tribe!

PHILLY REGION HAPPY HOUR: September 10th at Parks on Tap, Waterworks Location
(Behind the Philadelphia Art Museum)
Contact Liza for details eliza.jane.mcdevitt@gmail.com

SHRIMP FEAST: September 11th. New location! Join us for a Shrimpin' good time! [Get your tickets here.](#)

LIFE EVENTS: NEW PROMOTION? TYING THE KNOT? HAVE A FUTURE TRIBE SWIMMER JOINING YOUR FAMILY? TELL US YOUR GOOD NEWS AND WE'LL SHARE IT WITH THE TRIBE. [LINK TO GOOGLE FORM](#)

GET INVOLVED: JOIN US AS WE WORK TOGETHER TO ENGAGE OUR TRIBE SWIMMING COMMUNITY. HOST OR HELP PLAN A SOCIAL EVENT, SHARE YOUR PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE, OR HELP SUPPORT OUR CURRENT ATHLETES. DON'T BE SHY, DIVE IN AND GO FOR IT! [LINK](#)

SAVE THE
date

HOMECOMING 2021

OCTOBER 7TH - 10TH

[LEARN MORE](#)

**TRIBE SWIMMING
REUNION WEEKEND**

**IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE RETURN OF THE
RILEY CUP GOLF OUTING**

COMING APRIL 2022

DRUMROLL PLEASE...



Introducing

FRIENDSOFTRIBESWIMMING.COM

Head over to our new site to stay up to date on
all things friends of our program need to know