

University of Tampa
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TAMPA SWIMMING

ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

July - September 2011

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32 NEW SPARTANS!

The 2011 class of new Spartans is the biggest in recent memory. The 32 new swimmers will almost match the number of returning swimmers (33).

The men's class is highlighted by a few transfers, including Elias Dammann, Kevin Doran, Berk Karahman, and Norbert Kovacs. These 4 swimmers, along with the large freshman class, will make an immediate impact on the 2011-2012 Spartans.

The women's class is highlighted by a group of girls that committed to being Spartans last

fall during the early signing period. Erin Plachy, Emily Tan, and Brianna Murphy all decided that The University of Tampa was the place for them. The addition of multiple girls in the spring makes this class look like one poised to help the Lady Spartans go back-to-back in the Sunshine State Conference.

NAME	HOMETOWN	LAST SCHOOL ATTENDED
MEN		
Aldaboos, Khalid	Dubai, UAE	Saint Xavier HS
Cicchini, Rob	Naperville, IL	Neuqua Valley HS
Cook, Jeffery	Lynnfield, MA	Lynnfield HS
Dammann, Elias	Norway	Norwegian School of Bus.
Doran, Kevin	Atlanta, GA	Daytona Beach College
Eshleman, James	Wheaton, IL	College of DuPage
Falck, Kevin	Omaha, NE	Millard North HS
Freudiger, Kyle	Cincinnati, OH	Saint Xavier HS
Hranac, Zane	Golden, CO	Wheat Ridge HS
Kahraman, Berk	Turkey	Syracuse University
Kilpatrick, Kameron	Carrollton, TX	Hebron HS
Kovacs, Norbert	Hungary	Univ. Of Tennessee
Krell, Derek	Fort Myers, FL	Bishop Verot HS
Lynch, James	Ocean Township, NJ	Ocean Township HS
Mayes, Daniel	Lewisville, TX	Lewisville HS
Nunnari, Chris	Ambler, PA	La Salle College HS
Sprague, Zach	Lafayette, IN	Jefferson HS
Walcker, Bryan	North Andover, MA	North Andover HS
Werner, Joshua	Waukesha, WI	Marquette University HS
WOMEN		
Armstrong, Shannon	Stony Point, NY	North Rockland HS
Barry, Ally	Cheshire, CT	Cheshire HS
Bloxam, Emily	Palm Harbor, FL	Palm Harbor U.
Grams, Emily	Port Orange, FL	Spruce Creek
Kaufman, Alexa	Powell, OH	Olentangy Liberty HS
Murphy, Briana	Manassas, VA	Forest Park HS
Parker, Catherine	Boca Raton, FL	St. Bonaventure University
Piche, Kylie	Valrico, FL	Newsome HS
Plachy, Erin	Magnolia, TX	Magnolia HS
Rhodes, Nicole	Old Saybrook, CT	Mercy HS
Richey, Lauren	Arlington, TX	James Martin HS
Tan, Emily	Port Washington, NY	Sacred Heart Academy
Webb, Lexi	OFallon, MO	Fort Zumwalt West

Alumni's Favorite Sets



"... Ed did tell me once to stop dating guys on the team— sage advice!"

- Karen Fisher



Phill Murray:

There are actually two sets that top my list of "Favorite Set(s)" at the University of Tampa: Drunken 200's and 10x100's. Drunken 200's is a product of Ed's crazy set creations, involving partner serpentine (we've all been subjected to way too many serpentes in our collegiate careers) in a non-traditional manner (rather than up lane 1, down lane 2, etc.) while

one swimmer has cotton balls in their goggles and is guided throughout the 200 (including climbing out and walking to the next lane) by their partner. It emphasizes the "feel" of the water and general awareness, while adding a dimension of fun, at least for those who can see the "blinded" swimmers crashing into lane ropes, blocks, walls, or other swimmers. 10x100's is a staple of Saturday mornings. It's a great set to just get up and

race, creating a competitive environment and preparing everyone for the grueling collegiate meet lineup. Plus, how often did we only have to swim 1000yds in a span of two hours, and get to laugh at people puking at the same time?

**** Please send your favorite sets and a story with why you loved it so much!**

Email:

gtsacoaches@hotmail.com

Featured Alumni: Karen Fisher

I came to the University of Tampa in the summer of 1998. I remember thinking, "This is paradise!" I couldn't believe that I had the opportunity to swim in an outdoor pool surrounded by palm trees. Growing up near Buffalo, NY, swimming outside was unheard of—as were palm trees. That paradise-like feeling never left. Just thinking about my time at UT still evokes feelings of being very happy...and very lucky.

I was recruited by UT for Softball, but I had decided before I arrived at the school that I wasn't going to play. I chose to swim instead. I remember asking Ed if I could be on the team. He said something to the effect of, "I don't have any money to give you, but if you can keep up, you can stay." I didn't need money; my school was being paid for by a four-year Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (AFROTC) scholarship. So I set my mind to "keeping up" so that I would be allowed to stay on the team. The folks who know me know that "keeping up" was difficult for me! I was a "back-of-the-pack" swimmer. I wouldn't have cut it on the teams that Ed, Jimi, Phil, and Ryan have built today. But I was lucky enough to be on the team at a time when I could (just barely) keep up.

I can recall many of my conversations with Ed. I consider myself one of the quieter members

of our team. I wasn't troublesome (although Ed did tell me once to stop dating guys on the team—sage advice!), and I wasn't a whiner. I just wanted to do well enough to keep a spot on the team and maybe—just maybe—impress Ed a time or two. My biggest fear at the end of each year was that Ed would tell me we had too many better swimmers on the team and that there just wasn't room for me in the lanes anymore. He never did; so I (still) feel very lucky.

Following my graduation from UT, I immediately entered the Air Force. The attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon had occurred about eight months before I graduated, so I knew my time in the Air Force would be busy. I've had five deployments (three to Iraq, two to Afghanistan) and lived in several different states. I received my Master's degree in Business Administration in 2009, and I'll start my PhD at the University of North Carolina next month. The Air Force has been good to me.

But that "goodness" isn't free. I have also experienced many difficult times. Deployments are no walk in the park; and those in support of active combat units are incredibly challenging. They're mentally/emotionally/physically draining - and quite amazing - experiences. In the hardest times, I always found

myself reaching back to my memories of swimming at UT. I would think back to how difficult some of those practices were and tell myself, "Karen, you did that...so you can do this, too." I draw on memories of Ed telling us funny stories whose lesson was always something along the lines of, "Don't be stupid," or "You can do it if you really try." One of my favorite things that he ever said—I only recall him saying it once, but it stuck in my mind and it remains one of my favorite quotes—is "it's only as difficult as you are." At the time he said it, he was barking at one of our very talented (but very whiney) swimmers. I've found that one statement to ring true in so many situations in my life. If you want it, and if you can get out of your own way, you can do it.

I met some truly great people while swimming at UT, many of whom I'm still good friends with today. I am grateful for the time we spent slugging it out in the pool together. One thing I've learned from my military experiences is that shared misery tends to be a friendship solidifier. Once you've suffered greatly together, shared unique experiences, and pulled each other through your most challenging days; you're bonded for life. Toss in some really great parties and several (several!) shenanigans, and you can see why UT Swimming meant—and still means—so much to me.

100 X 100's



Dear Alumni,

We are starting a fundraising campaign for the UT swim team. It is a play on an old set that we have all done at one time in our lives, 100 x 100's. Our goal is to get at least 100 alumni to donate a minimum of 100 dollars. We believe this is

an attainable goal. The money raised through 100 x 100's will be going to a scholarship fund. We need your help!!! Recently swim teams through the nation have been coming on strong. The reason for this is simple they have more scholarship than us. What is even worse is, it is hitting us closer to home, the teams in our own conference are catching us and in Nova Southeastern's case, have passed us. We have had a strong tradition here at UT and want to stay on top. Your donations can be paid via cash, check or credit card. Cash and checks can be mailed to:

401 W. Kennedy Blvd. Box 80-F,
Tampa, FL 33606.

Credit card info:

www.ut.edu/giving
At the end of the form there is a section Designation. Click on Sword and Shield, **IN THE COMMENT SECTION PLEASE NOTE THE MONEY IS GOING TO UT SWIMMING!**

Please help support your alma mater! Thanks for all your support.

Jimi Kiner

Assistant Swimming Coach

The University of Tampa

2010-2011 Recap

The 2010-2011 season will always be remembered as the first year swimming was recognized as a conference sport by the Sunshine State Conference. Nova Southeastern University added swimming, giving the conference 5 schools that sponsor the sport, including Florida Southern, Rollins, St. Leo, and UT. Florida Teach will add swimming in 2011-2012.

With a strong dual meet season, the Lady Spartans compiled a 4-0 conference record (7-2 overall). The Spartan men went 3-1 in the conference (4-5 overall), with the only conference loss coming at the hands of Nova Southeastern.

The Tampa women then became the inaugural SSC Champions, amassing 932 points and outlasting their closest competitor, Florida Southern, by 89 points. In doing so, they qualified 9 girls for NCAA's and earned multiple other honors. Those honors included Heather Glenday (Freshman of the Year), Ed Brennan (Women's Coach of the Year), and 7 girls were named to the All-SSC Team.

While Nova Southeastern won the men's meet, the Tampa men finished in second, totaling 743 points, climbing ahead of Florida Southern (740) on the final relay. That final relay also helped UT qualify 4 more men to NCAA's to bring the total to 5. Brad Hines picked up the Male Freshman of the Year award while 3 guys were named to the All-SSC Team.

At NCAA's the Spartans finished 13th (women) and 15th (men), respectively. A total of 4 different Spartans finished in the top 8, led by Chris O'Linger, who swam in the finals in all 4 of his individual events. Overall, it was a great season, with 11 Conference Champions, 16 NCAA Qualifiers, 6 All-Americans, and 7 New School Records.

I would be wrong to not mention our Seniors and newest members of the Tampa Swimming Alumni: Ellie Eshleman, Kelsey Lubbers, Chris O'Linger, and Michael Vinci. All of you had a great career and have left your mark on Tampa Swimming forever.

Letters to the EDitor

I hope everyone has enjoyed the newsletter. This section is going to be dedicated to questions you might have for Ed or one of us. Also we will be putting announcements in this section. So if you are having a kid, getting married, have got engaged or took a great new job let us know.

All questions, announcements, or anything swimming related please email me at jkiner@ut.edu. I hope to hear from all of you! Take care and talk to you soon.

Jimi Kiner

Assistant Swim Coach

The University of Tampa



- Karen at her AF Commissioning in 2002, along with some other Tampa Swimming Alumni.

2011-2012 Schedule		
DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
Oct. 15	Florida Southern College	11:00 am
Oct. 29	Savannah College of Art and Design	11:00 am
Nov. 5	Florida Tech	11:00am
Nov. 19	St. Leo University	11:00 am
Dec. 3	Nova Southeastern University	TBD
Dec 16-19	Nova Southeastern Invitational	All Day
Jan. 7	Tampa Relay Invitational	TBD
Jan. 13	Emory University	1:00pm
Jan. 14	Rollins College	11:00am
Jan. 21	Indian River State College	11:00am
Feb 16-19	SSC Championships, Orlando, FL	All Day
Mar. 14-17	NCAA Championships, Dallas, TX	All Day
Home Meets in BOLD		



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Message From Ed

Alumni,

After 30 years of "not counting" in the Sunshine State Conference it was gratifying to be part of the first ever conference championship meet. It was an impressive performance by our women's team to win their first of what we hope will be many championships. Equally impressive was the performance of our men, particularly the 400 freestyle relay that had to win to insure our second place finish.

The Sunshine State Conference will be (if it is not already) the strongest division 2 swimming conference in the nation. Florida Southern and Nova have found financial resources that have made us the number 3 team in the conference in terms of in state recruiting.

The present athletic administration at UT has answered the bell in one area. Jim Kiner is our first ever full time assistant coach and we are extremely grateful. After all its been our coaching staff Jim, Ryan Gober, and Phil Murray who have kept us competitive for the past decade.

We have had 29 national champions over the past 30 years but it's been very difficult remaining competitive nationally as a team.

At last year's NCAA's on the first day of

the meet all eight of the finalists in the men's 200 IM were foreign nationals. You don't get those guys for a \$3,000 dollar scholarship.

In the coming decade if we're not competitive on the national level we won't be competitive on the conference level either. No team in the division has done a better job at developing talent. Every year we have swimmers finaling at NCAA's who were walk-ons when they entered UT. The problem is it takes four years to develop them and then they graduate. We need to be able to bring in one or two kids every year who can make an immediate impact. That costs money that we don't have.

Jimi's effort (100 x 100) to get the alumni involved is a great start. We have literally hundreds of swimming alumni and if everyone just contributed a little it could make a big difference. I'll start it off with \$1,000. I hope you will join me in supporting the team that has been so big a part of all of our lives.

Sincerely,

Ed

