

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT 2023



**Wishing all of our Class of '23 Cukes an amazing
year! We will miss you!**

SENIOR SPOTLIGHT 2023



Morgan Greenlee is a graduate of Boiling Springs High School and will be attending Frostburg State University in Maryland. She plans on studying nursing and will be swimming for the Bobcats! Her favorite saying is “never give up” and her favorite YSSC tradition is the Pasta Pump Up before big meets. If she could leave her kickboard to an underclassman cuke, it would be Laney Moore because “I’m going to miss her and swimming with her”. Her favorite race is 200 Butterfly and her least favorite is the 200 Breaststroke. Her favorite hype song is “Headlines” by Drake. She says Coach Eduardo had the greatest impact on her swimming because he was “always doing anything to make me a better swimmer. He got me to push myself more than I ever have before”. She said that her friends pushing her and holding her accountable were what kept her trying no matter the result. She said that her most embarrassing moment would be “ripping my new tech suit at Cap Classics this year”.

She remembers getting her “first state cut” with Coach Bart as her coach as one of her most memorable moments in swim. She would have been a lacrosse player if not a swimmer and she enjoys Dr Pepper as a treat! ***We are rooting for you, Morgan! Go do great things and visit often!***

Colin Jordan is a graduate of St. Joseph’s Catholic School and will be furthering his academic and athletic career at Xavier University in the fall. He plans on studying Pre-Med while swimming for the Musketeers. His favorite race is 100 free and his least favorite is 400 IM. Colin’s favorite tradition is shaving rookie heads for YNats AND getting food after meets. If he could leave his kickboard to anyone on the team, he would leave it to Paul Do because he is a fellow St. Joe’s swimmer and “he is a man of culture”. Colin says what he will miss most is “all the friends I have made”. He credits former Junior coach, Coach Harmilee with being an impactful coach because “he taught me to persevere when times got hard and I wanted to stop”. He says one of his greatest moments as a Cuke was when he “first qualified for YNats because it was a lifelong dream of mine to go with all of my best friends”. To the Class of 2024, Colin advises to have fun and be yourself. “Try to include everyone and try to always be there for your teammates. This last year will go by fast so take it all in and make the most of every moment.” He wants the younger swimmers to remember that swimming is “only so much fun by yourself so make friends on the team that will be there to support and push you”. His most embarrassing swim moment was when Coach Dan “made” him tell his Anna Moesch story to everyone at Y Nats (We were at YMCA Nationals....when he spoke with Anna, she asked him where he swam. Colin replied “I swim at the Y”) ha ha ha! (EVERYONE there swims for a Y). He would have been a soccer player if not a swimmer and loves root beer as a treat. ***Your energy and smile will be missed, Colin! Come visit and go get’em at Xavier!***



Grace Little is a graduate of Riverside High School. She plans on studying Pre-Physical therapy or Pre-Med while she attends UMBC (University of Baltimore County). She will be swimming for the Retrievers, as well. When asked about her favorite quote, Grace replied, “Be a wolf, not a sheep”. She says what she will miss most about YSSC is “how much of a family the team is. Swimming is a really individualized sport but YSSC makes it feel just the opposite”. Grace says that Coach Dan had the greatest impact on her because “he taught me to be confident in the sport. He taught me not to compare myself to people all the time and just focus on me. I used to get really down if I saw how fast other people were going during practice. However, with Dan’s help, I can now just focus on me which puts me in a better mindset during practices. This also transitions to real life.” Grace advises seniors to make sure they are being the person they would want to look up to because “you never know who is watching you”. To the younger swimmers, Grace says to “never do anything less than your best, because all you have to do is your best”. She says the Sunday of Short Course State 2021 was one of the best days of her swimming life because she had been working all season for the 100 free YNat cut and got it the last day of the meet! She would have been a hockey player if not a swimmer and her favorite treat is a Cosmic Brownie. ***We hope you have an amazing year at UMBC—we are cheering for you and we will miss you!***



Caeden Stratton is a graduate of Byrnes High School and is attending Gardner Webb University! His favorite YSSC tradition is shaving heads of the rookies for YNats. His favorite event is the 200 free and his least favorite is the mile. Behind the block, Caeden tells himself “Don’t think. Just Do!”. Coach Dan had the greatest impact on Caeden because “he didn’t quit on me and gave me a second chance”. One of his greatest moments in swimming was in 2019 when he attained his first YNat cut in the 200 butterfly. He says that when he was having a tough season, he literally couldn’t quit, so he persevered. The advice he gives to the Class of 2024 is to “stick with it and don’t complain”. To the athlete that is contemplating walking away from the sport, Caeden cautions “I know it is hard, but the results are worth it”. He tells the younger swimmers to “have fun with swimming”. When asked what was his most embarrassing swim moment, Caeden replied with “I have too many to count”. Ha ha! Caeden is a talented musician and plays quite a few instruments including guitar, banjo, accordion and mandolin. He and his banjo were

always a big hit at Ys with athletes asking to get their picture taken with Caeden! His favorite treat is Banana Pudding! ***Your spirit and enthusiasm will be so missed, Caeden. Have a great freshman year at GWU!***

Gardner Anne Viney is a graduate of Riverside High School and is starting her freshman year at Southern Illinois



University. Gardner will be part of the Saluki swim team and will be pursuing a degree in Psychology. Her favorite quote is “Sometimes you have to work a little so you can ball a lot” (Tom Haverford, “Parks and Rec”) Her least favorite race is the 200 free and her favorite is the 50 free. Gardner tells herself “I’ve got this....I’ve done the work” when she is behind the block. If she could pass her kickboard to someone on the team, she would pass it to Taia Schneider because she always has a good attitude and helps keep Gardner positive. Her favorite YSSC tradition is making the spirit posters for the Boys YNationals team and she will miss most the bonds she made with her Y teammates and coaches. When asked about impactful coaches, Gardner said Coach Erin made her love the sport when she was little and helped her see that free and fly were her best strokes. She credits Coach Dylan for helping her improve rapidly and boosting her self confidence when she needed it most. Gardner loves Coach Eduardo’s positivity and energy on deck. She says that Coach Dan was very impactful on her

swimming because she had him for nearly 5 years of her swimming and was her coach when she made her first Y National cut and Futures cut. “He really understands my attitude and me as a swimmer” and finally she says “Coach Wendy...because she is my mommy”. 😊 Gardner says one of her favorite moments was when she made her first YNat qualifying time and seeing the excitement her teammates had for her. When going through tough meets/seasons, Gardner said she “always had hope that the times I deserved were coming my way. I just had to be patient”. To the Class of 2024, Gardner advises to talk to everyone. “These teammates are your family and your time with them is running out quick. Create bonds that are meaningful”. Gardner says her most embarrassing swim moments were “anytime I swam breaststroke”. She tells the younger athletes, “Have fun. It’s easy to let swimming consume you, so focus on positivity and fun!”. She would likely have pursued dancing if not swimming and her favorite treats are “Texas Sheet Cake and Chipwiches”. ***We will miss you, Gardner, but we know you have great things in store at SIU. Come visit often (your mom misses you already).***

Camryn Holcombe is a graduate of Brashier Middle College High School and is attending Mars Hill University. She will pursue a degree in Business as well as swim for the Lions. Her favorite YSSC tradition is “Cuke Buddies” and her favorite saying is “It’ll be fine”. She says she would leave her kickboard to Merrin Cetto because “she’s been a great friend”. Camryn says her friend, Morgan Greenlee, will be what she misses most about being at the Y. Her favorite race is the 200 IM and her least favorite is the mile. When asked about what coaches made significant impacts on her swimming, Camryn replied “Coach Scott because he helped me believe in myself, and Coach Erin because she influenced me to love the sport”. She said one of her most memorable moments was dropping 15 seconds on her 400 IM at a long course meet. She advises younger swimmers with “This sport is so fun and you’ll meet some of the best people. Always have fun with it and never give up”. To the Class of 2024, Camryn advises “Do what you love—senior year goes fast so soak it all in”. When Camryn had a rough meet or season, her desire to improve and have better swims kept her going. To anyone thinking of walking away from the sport, Camryn says to “make a list of what you love about swimming and what you don’t like. Then, decide if you love it enough to keep swimming”. Her favorite hype song for before a race is “Whatever it Takes” by Imagine Dragons. When asked what she is saying to herself behind the blocks before a race, Camryn replied “Do I have to swim this?” haha! She says her most embarrassing swim moment was when she nearly missed her race at Sectionals. Her favorite treat is “ice cream”. When asked what she would have been if not a swimmer, Camryn quipped “A cheerleader.....just kidding, maybe a volleyball player”. ***We will be CHEERING for you, Camryn. Have a great year at Mars Hill and come see us!***





Devin Council is a graduate of Eastside High School. He is attending the University of South Carolina and is majoring in Biochemistry. His least favorite race is the 200 breaststroke and his favorite race is the 200 freestyle. Devin's favorite quote is "A winner is a dreamer who never gives up" (Nelson Mandela). If he were able to leave his kickboard with a current Cuke, he would leave his to Hunt Thomas because "he is still young, I can tell he wants to get better, and I feel he's got potential to be a great swimmer". Devin plans to participate in the USC's Club Swim Team. His favorite YSSC tradition is "cheering at YNats and being the loudest people there". Devin said Coach Dan made the biggest impact on his swimming because "without him accepting me and making me feel like a part of YSSC, I may have given up and stopped swimming". Practicing with his friends everyday that helped him push himself to get better and enjoy swimming are what he will miss most about YSSC. Devin's greatest

accomplishment was this past year when a chronic health issue interfered with his ability to practice and perform. "Despite not knowing how I would feel from one day to the next, I still pushed myself to go to practice everyday and to compete at meets to the best of my ability. I was able to drop time this year after dropping little to no time the year before and I proved to myself that no matter what I'm going through, I can still do it". Devin's advice to the Class of 24 is to "be fully conscious because the last season goes by really quickly". To younger swimmers, Devin encourages them to "have fun and make memories with friends. Don't obsess over your times and instead just enjoy racing and realize that it's fun and the results will come. The true goal of age group swimming is to lay a solid stroke foundation...so don't stress". Devin's most embarrassing moment was when he was in blue group and his suit ripped at right down the back seam. He said he would likely have been a cross country or track athlete if not for swimming and his favorite hype song is "Feel Invincible" by Skillet. ***We hope you have an amazing freshman year in Columbia. Go be awesome!***

Anna Buchert is a graduate of Spartanburg High School and is attending Lenoir Rhyne University. She will be swimming for the LR Bears and will be pursuing a degree in Biology, and maybe Political Science as well. She says she will miss her teammates and the Tuesday morning stations the most from YSSC. One of her fondest swim memories is when she achieved her first state cut in the 100 breast at 7 years old and seeing her mom run to the end of her lane to congratulate her. If she could leave her kickboard to any Cuke, she would leave it to Coleman Watson, "I was his first ever coach and he was always so excited to learn and improve. I am so proud of him!" Her favorite event is the 200 butterfly and her least favorite is "anything backstroke". She says that Coach Lindsay made a big impact on her swimming because she could feel herself getting stronger during her practices! She also says Coach Eduardo was impactful because "he was always so encouraging and always had a smile on his face which always made practices better!". During a tough meet or season, she said the friendships and the exercise kept her engaged in the sport. Her advice to younger Cukes, "Don't rush your time throughout YSSC or school. It may seem like it is taking forever but the end will be here sooner than you would like." To anyone thinking of walking away from the sport, Anna says that swimming can be overwhelming at times, but she would not have performed as well as she did in school or made as many friendships without YSSC. Her advice for the seniors is to "take advantage of your senior year. Have fun and do things out of your comfort zone". Anna's most embarrassing moment occurred in Junior 1 practice with Coach Harmilee. It was her first time using training cords. "I didn't put mine on correctly and it fell off. I held it in place for the 5 minute kick so that he would not get mad at me". If not a swimmer, Anna would have been a cross country runner and her favorite treat is birthday cake ice-cream from Brusters. ***Can't wait to see what you accomplish, Anna! Best of luck!***





Jake Prevatte is a graduate of Byrnes High School. He is pursuing a degree in Biology at Drury University in Missouri and will also be swimming for the Panthers. He says what he will most most about YSSC is the people he trains with. When Jake is behind the blocks, he tells himself to “Stay Dialed”. His favorite Cuke tradition is the Rookie Head Shave for YNats and his favorite quote is “Dude, you smell amazing!”. Jake’s least favorite race is the 200 Butterfly, and his favorite is the 200 Backstroke. He would leave his kickboard to Hunt Thomas “because he is a good teammate”. Jake tells the seniors to “just have fun and enjoy the moments with these people while you can”. Jake said that after a tough meet or season “the people around me and the ‘team first’ culture” were what kept him

swimming.” He encourages anyone thinking of leaving the sport to “persevere and trust the process”. He tells the younger swimmers to “stick with it and have fun.” Jake said Coach Dan made the biggest impact on his swimming because he had the most success under his coaching. His most embarrassing swim moment was falling off the block before his 200 free at the Summer Splash meet. Jake’s favorite swim moment was seeing “how hyped my teammates were for me when I got my first Y Nat Cut. It really showed me the team centered culture at the Y.” Jake would have pursued basketball if not for swimming and his favorite treat is pizza. ***Get to class on time, Jake! We are cheering for you and can’t wait to see what you do!***

Alejandra Martinez-Marin is a graduate of Hillcrest High School and is attending Clemson University. She is pursuing a nursing degree on the pre-dental track. Alejandra does plan on swimming for the Clemson Club Team while at Clemson. Her favorite quote is “Your only limitation is the one you set up in your mind” One of her favorite YSSC traditions is getting Chick-Fil-A with friends after morning practices, especially her sophomore year of high school when they had early practice EVERY day due to Covid restrictions. Her favorite race is the 200 free and her least favorite in the 400 IM. She says “How bad do you want it?” behind the block. She would leave her kickboard to Rowan Warmuth. She says “I am not super close with her, but she always was super sweet and swim meets and we have a lot of mutual friends”. She says all of her coaches had a great impact on her. Specifically, Alejandra would “like to thank coach Eduardo-my first ever year round swim coach for teaching me to find my worth and value my



accomplishments no matter how big or small. Coach Dan taught me to focus on the moment, tune out distractions, and most importantly to hold myself accountable for the results I attain. Lastly, although my immense load of extracurriculars and my health cut my season short with him, Coach Ed taught me to trust the process because behind the sacrifice, success is right around the corner.” She encourages the seniors to find a good balance and know your stress limit. “If you’re struggling, it means there is a lack of attention in one area of your life, so definitely prioritize your activities.” To younger Cukes, Alejandra says that it is okay to feel overwhelmed. “Take a deep breath and only hold yourself to reasonable expectations. Everyone is different, don’t compare yourself to others. You can be great, and everyone’s journey is not the same”. She feels like her greatest accomplishment was when she was able to encourage some of her high school teammates that were feeling especially down. She says she had tried to help by correcting form and encouraged them to continue fighting for their goals and growing their love for the sport. “I am proud to say that these kids have recently joined year-round clubs and are accomplishing amazing things. It is really rewarding to know I played a part in their journey, and I can’t wait to see what they accomplish”. Her most embarrassing moment was when she was on the block for a race and the official told the swimmers to “stand”. She “fell onto the block and then into the water and her leg and foot were bleeding. ...yay”. She would have stuck with track and field or weightlifting if not a swimmer and her favorite treats when she wasn’t training were hanging out with friends, getting really good sleep and even taking naps! ***We are rooting for you, Alejandra! Go do big things and visit when you can!***



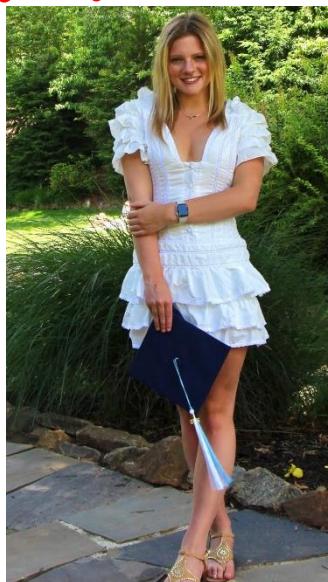
Ashton Threadgill is a graduate of Boiling Spring High School. He is attending Mars Hill University and is pursuing a degree in nursing. Ashton will be swimming for the Lions this season! His favorite YSSC tradition is the Rookie Head Shave for YNats. "Hard Work Pays Off" is his favorite saying. He will miss his coaches and friends from YSSC the most. Coach Peden, of Boiling Spring High, had the greatest impact on his swimming because "she's always there when I need someone and tells me to keep pushing". Ashton said breaking the 1 minute mark on the 100 yard breaststroke was one of his greatest swim moments. When things were tough, Ashton would tell himself "to work harder and hopefully things would improve. Everyone has bad days". He encourages anyone thinking of leaving the sport to not quit..."because it's not worth losing all the work you've put in". He tells seniors to "enjoy it while you can because time flies by". He would leave his kickboard to Anna Love because she's been one of his younger friends that he bonded with on the team. Ashton said his most embarrassing swim moment was when the team

was at Dynamo in Atlanta and his tech suit totally ripped in half. If he had not pursued swimming, Ashton would have considered golfing because "my sister plays golf and sometimes I play with her and it's very fun". He tells the younger cukes to "work hard and have fun" and his favorite treat is Pelican's Snoball Icee. ***Wishing you a year full of success and great memories, Ashton! We are cheering for you!***

Garrett Watson is a graduate of Boiling Springs High School. He will be attending Marymount University and will be swimming for the Saints. Garrett plans on Exercise Science and minoring in Biology on a Pre-PT track. He would leave his kickboard to Phinehas McDowell because he doesn't have one yet. He will miss his group and the tough sets they work through together the most. His least favorite race is the 200 Breaststroke and his favorite is the 200 Freestyle. He says Coach Eduardo was the most impactful coach because "he always believes in everybody". Knowing that he could always do/be better is what kept Garrett going after a tough season or meet. His most memorable moment was achieving his first YNational qualifying time in the 200 freestyle. His favorite saying is "Practice is going to be X-cellent!". He reminds athletes that are thinking of leaving the sport to "remember why you started in the first place". He advises younger swimmers to "work the underwaters". He encourages the seniors to enjoy every moment because it goes by really quick. Garrett's most embarrassing swim moment was forgetting his tech suit at the hotel during state meet. He would have likely continued playing Quarterback if not swimming and his favorite treat is cookie cake with ice cream. ***Hope you have a fantastic year at Marymount! We will be rooting for you!***



Delaney Franklin is a graduate of JL Mann High School and has started her Freshman year at the University of South



Carolina. She is pursuing a degree in Sports Psychology and will be swimming for the Gamecocks! She says her family and best friends will be what she misses most about YSSC. She encourages the Seniors to “stay focused on your goals, be not only leaders, but also role models. Motivate others and give 110%.” If she could pass her board to another Cuke, she would give her board to Bella Stewart “because she reminds me of myself through her hard work, motivation, and her drive to the sport everyday.” Delaney tells the younger swimmers not to take moments for granted in this sport. For athletes thinking about leaving the sport, she says to consider their answers to the following questions: “Has all the work been for nothing? Could you walk away with no regrets?” Her least favorite race is the 50 Free and her favorite race is the 200 Breaststroke. She says Coach Dan had the biggest impact on her swimming because “even through rough patches of my career, he has pushed me and motivated me”. As to what drove her when she was in the midst of a rough season or meet, Delaney says “my friends. They drive me because they are always positive and keep the sport fun!” Her favorite YSSC tradition is the YSL Meets where seniors dress

up and cheer for the swimmers! Her favorite saying is “Don’t be disappointed in the results you didn’t get from the work you didn’t do” and her favorite hype song is “Power” by Kanye West. Behind the blocks, Delaney tells herself “You can do this..and don’t get disqualified.” One of the most memorable swims for Delaney was at 2023 Short Course YNationals. She says “even though I was disqualified, I realized how fast I can swim the 200 Breaststroke!” Her most embarrassing moment was when she tripped over the power cord of a big fan on the deck and fell “on her face” in front of all of Senior 1. She said she would have been a soccer player or valedictorian if not a swimmer 😊 and her favorite treat is brownies! ***Go do great big things, Delaney! We will be cheering for you!***

Nick Bracall is a graduate of Riverside High School and is attending the University of Maryland Baltimore County where he will swim for the Retrievers and study Education or Therapy. His favorite event is 500 Free and his least favorite is the 200 Breaststroke. If Nick could leave his board to a Cuke, he would choose Brayden Franklin. He is “someone with the potential to do great things for YSSC and on the college level. He is committed, hardworking, and a good friend”. When asked what he would miss most about YSSC, Nick replied “I will miss the feeling of the Last day of Y Nationals...that feeling of accomplishment and ease!” His favorite Cuke tradition is Boys Spirit Week before Y National. Behind the block, Nick tells himself “I’m sure this will go well”. Nick says Coach Eduardo and Coach Harmilee had significant impacts on his swimming. “They both taught me how to push myself everyday to be a better swimmer, leader and man”. Nick said that one of the best moments in his swimming was at 2022 Long Course Y Nationals. “I discovered how to stay in the moment during a long week of swimming. I am just starting to realize that potential”. Nick says “I had help from an amazing person who taught me that swimming is not about the results...it’s about how you get there” and that drove him when experiencing a tough meet. His favorite saying is “on me”. To the seniors he says “stay who you are, stay consistent, make sacrifices, and lead others”. He wants younger swimmers to “have so much fun with your friends and try to not worry about the time on the board”. His most embarrassing moment was when he was 2nd alternate at 2022 Firecracker meet in his best event. If he weren’t a swimmer, Nick would likely have pursued soccer or volleyball and his favorite treat is chocolate cake. ***It’s been great, Nick! Have a fantastic Freshman season and visit soon!***





Camrynn Wilson is a graduate of Spartanburg Day School and will be attending UCLA. She will be a part of the Bruins Swim Team and is keeping her options open as to what degree she will pursue. Her favorite hype song is “Applause” by Lady Gaga. Her favorite race is the 50 free and her least favorite is 400 IM. Her desire to “continue to improve despite setbacks” is what kept her motivated during challenging seasons or meets. The advice she would give a swimmer frustrated with swimming is “even if the sport isn’t bringing you joy, consider the community it brings you into. The people are what make the sport special...you can’t find them anywhere else.” If she could pass her board down to another Cuke, she would give it to her brother, Charley. Camrynn said she would miss the bus rides and the National team girls most from YSSC. Her favorite saying is “Evolve Excellence Everyday” and behind the block, she tells herself “I belong here.” She says Coach Dan had the greatest impact on her swimming because “he has pushed me while still maintaining understanding about my situations”. Her most memorable moment was requalifying for Summer Juniors on the last day of Y Nationals in the summer of 2022. Camrynn’s favorite traditions is the Senior Speeches on the bus after Y Nationals. She encourages seniors to enjoy their senior season adding “get out of your own way and have fun because it’ll be over before you know it”. She says if she weren’t a swimmer, she would have

dedicated a lot more time to art and pursued it in college. Her most embarrassing moment was at a high school practice when her suit ripped right down the seat and her favorite treat is big ice cream sandwiches. ***We will be watching, Camrynn! Have a great year on the West Coast!***

Drew Smiley is a graduate of Oakbrook Prep School. He is attending the University of South Carolina and plans to pursue a degree in Electrical Engineering. His favorite race is the 50 free and his least favorite is the mile. Drew’s favorite hype song is “Enter Sandman” and his favorite quote is “I can accept failure, everyone fails at something. But I can’t accept not trying” (Michael Jordan) Behind the block, Drew is telling himself “Don’t mess up”. If he could pass his board to anyone, he would choose Harrison Babb because “he gives 100%”. Drew said he would especially miss the feeling of warmdown after a hard practice. He says Coach Eduardo had a big impact on his swimming because “he drove me to be a better swimmer and person”. Drew’s most memorable accomplishment as a Cuke was when he made the Summer Junior Cut in the 50 freestyle. When asked what kept him motivated to keep swimming when things got tough, Drew said he kept swimming because he “can’t end on a bad swim”. His advice to seniors is “Finish Strong”. He reminds athletes that may be thinking about moving away from swimming that “the reward of doing better is hard to beat”. He says he would have been a baseball player if not a swimmer and his favorite treat when not in training is “sleeping”. ***Good Luck, Drew! We wish you the best as you start the next chapter!***





Kayle Buss is a graduate of Woodmont High School and is beginning her college career at Converse University. She will be pursuing a degree in Occupational Therapy and swimming for the Valkyries. Her favorite saying is "Keep trying no matter what" and her favorite Cuke tradition is "Buddy Days". She loves any event that is 200 or longer and her least favorite event is "sprint free". Behind the block, Kayle is saying "I can do it". If she could leave her kickboard, she would give her to her sister, Ella because "she is the one who is always the most supportive person I have ever known." She says Ella is always at her meets cheering and supporting her and that she is her best friend, too. When asked what she would miss most about YSSC, Kayle said "the supportive, family like, amazing people and coaches on the team who are always there for me and making me smile every single time I walk on to pool deck". She says Coach Mike Parrato, Coach Michelle Hopewell (of Minnesota Swimming LSC) as well as YSSC's Coach Ed were the most

impactful coaches in her career. "These coaches were the coaches I learned so much from not only in swimming, but also in life because they supported me and cared about me not just as a swimmer, but also as a person". One of her greatest accomplishments was when she was named athlete of the year for Minnesota swimming when she was 12 years old and being on a national top 10 relay at the time, too. She says her teammates, family, and coaches help keep her swimming with things got tough. She advises seniors to enjoy every single moment. To the younger swimmers, Kayle says to "keep your head high, be humble, and keep smiling even when life/swimming becomes hard". Her most embarrassing moment was when her tech suit ripped at a meet and her parents had to rush to get her a new one. Her favorite treat is her mom's homemade chocolate chip cookies. (They ARE really good!) **Best of Luck at Converse, Kayle! Go do great things!**

Olyvia Moore is a graduate of Dorman High School and will be swimming and studying at Mars Hill University. She plans to pursue a degree in Athletic Training. When asked what she would miss most about YSSC, Olyvia said "I will miss the family aspect. I will also miss the laughs and the faces of YSSC". Coach Kyle had a great impact on Olyvia swimming because "he helped me fall back in love with swimming". She said she would leave her kickboard to Anna Camille Elliott because "she has been like my rock and she has always been there for me". Behind the block, Olyvia says "This is for you, God" and her favorite YSSC tradition is Senior 1 Friendsgiving meal. Her favorite quote is "Never say never, because limits, like fears, are often times illusions". One of Olyvia's greatest accomplishments is recovering from back surgery and becoming faster than before the surgery. What kept her going during a difficult season is "the fact that I can have another meet and another season to achieve my best". To the Class of 2024, Olyvia says "Don't give up...the more you push, the more you can accomplish". For the younger Cukes, Olyvia advice is to "never let someone tell you that you can't make it. Because you can and you will if you just keep swimming!". Olyvia's favorite race is the 200 IM and her least favorite is the 200 butterfly. Her most embarrassing swim moments were when she would mess up the training intervals "All the time!". If she weren't a swimmer, she would likely have been a dancer since that is what she did for years until she decided to focus on swimming. Olyvia's favorite treat is "earthquake cake"! **Go have a fantastic year in Mars Hill, Olyvia! We will be rooting for you!**



Karina Martinez is a graduate of Spartanburg High School and is attending The University of South Carolina where she



will be studying Biology on the Pre-Med track. Her favorite saying is “We fail when fail to try” (Rosa Parks) Her favorite YSSC tradition is “dressing up for the YSL swim meets”. Taylor Swift’s “Are you Ready For It” is her go to hype song. Karina’s least favorite race is the 500 free and her favorite is the 50 free. Behind the block, she tells herself “It’s only a short race, you got this”. If she could leave her board to another Cuke, she would leave it to Lyndsey Nielsen because “she is such a kind and caring friend that made me laugh and feel excited to come and swim”. What she will most about YSSC is the friendships she made along the way along with the encouragement and laughs from all the coaches. Coach Brian, from her time in California, made a big impact on her swimming because he “encouraged me to continue swimming when I moved and discover new motivations along the way. He truly made it easier to adjust to a new change that I soon came to love”. A couple of Karina’s greatest accomplishments were being able to participate in the South Carolina 5A Highschool State meet, as well as, the South Carolina Senior State Meet. When faced with a difficult season, Karina had the understanding that “this wave will soon pass” and to

“keep traying and proceeding forward to overcome this wave of a rough season”. She encourages younger swimmers to “never give up, no matter how hard anything may get, there is always a solution”. To someone thinking of walking away from swimming, Karina reminds “It’s okay to feel at a low sometimes and a break is sometimes needed, but one thing you must always take with you are the memories and great bonds you have created along the way. Appreciate everything the sport has given you!” She says she would have been a golfer if not a swimmer and her favorite treat is “mint chocolate chip ice cream”. ***Wishing you an amazing freshman year in Columbia. Go do great things and come see us when you can!***

Caroline Martin is a graduate of Byrnes High School and is attending The University of South Carolina to study nursing. Coach Caroline says her favorite Cuke tradition is Spirit Buddy Practices. Her favorite event was the 1000 free and her least favorite was the 200 butterfly. If she could pass a kickboard on to a Cuke, she would choose Hattie Brooks because she has been a good group leader and has shown determination. “Coaching the little kids” is what she will miss most about YSSC. She says that Coach Ted made a big impact on her swimming because he cheered her “through one of the best races of my swimming career”. Caroline said her most memorable swim moments was swimming the mile at 2019 Long Course State Meet. Her friends is what kept her going when she hit a rough patch. She encourages seniors to “make sure you are a good leader”. To those thinking of leaving swimming she says “do what is going to make you happiest”. She tells the younger Cukes to “make sure you’re always having fun”. Caroline’s most embarrassing swim memory was when she was 14 when “I slipped on the bleachers in front of everyone”. Her favorite quote is “try and fail, but never fail to try” by Jared Leto and her favorite treat is ice cream! ***We miss you, Coach Caroline! We hope your first year at USC is amazing and we are so proud of you!***

