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**BYU** ALUMNI

## NEW RICHARDS BUILDING POOL

by David White (1973-77)



@BYUswimanddiveteam

Well, it's finally going to happen—a complete upgrade of the Richards Building pool and facilities—after more than 50 years of continual use! That pool holds a lot of memories for most of us. For those who swam a full four years, that amounts to, by my calculations, more than 2,500 hours of time spent in the pool. And that's 2,500+ hours of elevated heart rates, rapid breathing, and pain and agony! But the time has finally come for a new generation of swimmers to build a new legacy in a new pool.

Construction of the new pool will take more than a year, with an estimated completion date in spring 2018. That will completely consume the 2017-18 swim season. During that time, the team will train outdoors (!) at Riverside Country Club (6-lane, 25-meter pool), and at the Provo Rec Center with no home meets scheduled.

As a result of this construction, we thought we should schedule our next reunion for the fall of 2018. With the pool completed, it will be a great opportunity for us to get together, renew friendships, and support the program.

While substantially all of the cost of this renovation will be borne by BYU, two video results boards that Coach John Brooks asked for were not funded (see picture on page 3). The amount to be raised is about \$130,000: \$60,000 per board, plus a record board for \$10,000. To date, \$75,000 has been raised, leaving \$55,000 left.

To help with that funding, we're soliciting your participation in a fundraiser to bring that about. Your tax-deductible donation can be made at [give.byu.edu/swim](http://give.byu.edu/swim) or as follows:

Check payable to:  
**BYU Swimming and Diving**  
**RB 151**  
**Provo, Utah 84602**

To make this work, we will need your donations by early 2018.

While we all have much to be thankful for, I'm sure most of us would include the swimming and diving program at BYU. My participation in the program fundamentally changed my life in countless ways: lifetime friendships, focused mindset, appreciation for the value of hard work, goal setting, teamwork, what dedication to a cause can do, etc. I hope you will find it within you to contribute to this cause. It's a small amount we're being asked to help with, but all the more reason to show our gratitude and work again as a team towards a great cause.

Thanks, and looking forward to seeing you at the Fall 2018 reunion (date pending).

## 2017 INCOMING FRESHMEN

### WOMEN

**Madison Balish** attended Punahou High School in Honolulu, Hawai'i. She specializes in breaststroke, finishing first for the last three years in the 100-yard breast at the Hawai'i State Championships. In 2014, she qualified for the 2014 Team Hawai'i Oceania.

**Natalie Davis** is from American Fork, Utah, and attended Lone Peak High School. In 2017, she competed in the Utah 5A state Championships and placed third in the both the 200-yard and 100-yard freestyle. She also competed for the Hilltop Aquatic Swim Team.

**Madelyn Flower** attended Murray High School in Utah and competed in breaststroke for the West Valley Aquatic Seawolves. In the 2016 Utah 4A State Championships, Flower placed second in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.75.

**Elizabeth Holmes** attended Bingham High School in South Jordan, Utah, and has been diving for more than five years. Holmes, a Junior National qualifier, placed in the top three at the Amateur Athletic Union Nationals (AAU) and the USA Nationals in 2016. She also recently qualified for the 2017 USA Diving National.

**Valerie Howell** is from Spring Branch, Texas, and attended Smithson Valley High School. At the 2017 Texas UIL Region 7- 6A Championships, she placed sixth in both the 100-yard freestyle and 100-yard breaststroke.

**Kaylie Jackson** attended Perry High School in Gilbert, Arizona, and competed for the East Valley Dive Club. Jackson placed third at Arizona's 2016 Division I Swimming and Diving Championships. She recently competed at the Amateur Athletic Union Nationals (AAU) and placed first in the tower in the 19+ age group.

**Paula García López** is a sprinter and flyer from Leon, Guanajuato, Mexico. López is ranked in the top 10 of the 50 free and 50 fly. She was also a finalist at the Short Course America in Texas.

**Morgan Paul** is from Libertyville, Illinois, and competed for Glenbrook Aquatics Diving. She recently competed at the AAU Nationals and placed second in the Synchro 3-meter in the 16-19+ age group.

**Kilee Rohlf** attended Bozeman High School in Bozeman, Montana. In 2017, she was the Montana State Champion in the 100-yard freestyle and the 100-yard backstroke with times of 53.03 and 59.45, respectfully. Rohlf also placed second in the 100-yard breaststroke, 200-yard individual medley, and 50-yard breaststroke.

**Katia Villa** is from Baja, California. She recently competed in the 2017 La Mirada Armada April Senior LC Invitational and placed fourth in the 200 freestyle.

**Alexa Walters** attended Skyview High School in Smithfield, Utah, and competed for the Cache Valley Marlins. She is the current 2017 Utah 5A State Champion in the 100-yard breaststroke with a time of 1:05.36. She also placed second in the 50-yard freestyle with a time of 24.55.

**Allison Warnick** is from Las Vegas, Nevada, and swam for the Southern California Swimming team out of Santa Barbara, California. In the 2017 Nevada Sunset Regional Championships, she placed fourth in the 200-yard individual medley and fifth in the 100-yard backstroke.

**Madeline Zarchin** attended Quince Orchard High School in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and swims butterfly and individual medley. Zarchin placed third in the 200-yard freestyle and fifth in the 100-yard butterfly at the Maryland 3A, 2A, 1A West Regions Championships.

## MEN

**Carter Flint** attended McLean High School in McLean, Virginia, and competed for Machine Aquatics. He specializes in the breaststroke and individual medley. In the 2017 Virginia 6A State League Championships, he placed fifth in the 100-yard breaststroke. In March, he also competed in the Speedo Sections- Eastern- Chambersburg and placed fourth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

**Brigham Harrison** attended Timpview High School in Provo, Utah, and competed for Utah Valley Aquatics. According to CollegeSwimming.com he is the top-ranked Utah swimmer. He is currently the 2017 Utah 4A State Champion in both the 200-yard and 500-yard freestyle with times of 1:40.13 and 4:38.24, respectively.

**Luke Lyons** attended Mountain View High School in Mesa, Arizona, and competed for the Mesa Aquatics Club as a sprint freestyler/butterflyer. In November 2016, Lyons competed in Arizona's Division I Swimming and Diving Championships, where he placed second and third in the 100-yard butterfly and 50-yard freestyle, respectively. He also placed sixth in the 2017 Speedo Sectionals- Western-Federal Way. He qualified to participate in the Junior Nationals.

**Kimble Mahler** attended Lone Peak High School (Alpine, Utah) and has recently returned from his LDS mission. In 2015, he was the Diving Region Champion for Lone Peak.

**Christopher Pierce** attended Mill Creek High School in Buford, Georgia, and competed for Swim Atlanta. He is a middle-distance swimmer, who participates primarily in the backstroke and individual medley. He competed in the GHSA 6-7 A State Swimming and placed third in the 100-yard backstroke and fourth in the 200-yard individual medley. He was also a qualifier for the Junior Nationals.

**Brad Prolo** attended San Clemente High School in San Clemente, California, and competed for San Clemente Aquatics. He swims breaststroke, butterfly, and the individual medley. He was a B-finalist in the 100 and 200 breaststroke at the 2015 Speedo Winter Juniors West. He recently competed at the Speedo Champions Series-California-Nevada and placed sixth in the 100-yard breaststroke.

**Joshua Skabelund** attended Timpview High School in Provo, Utah and also competed for Utah Valley Aquatics. Josh was the 4A State Champion in the 50 and 100 Freestyle as well as the 200 and 400 Freestyle Relays. Josh is also a Junior National Qualifier.

**Congratulations** to our senior sprinter, Payton Sorenson, who placed 15th this summer in the Phillips 66 National Championships and World Championship Trials in Indianapolis in the 50 meter Freestyle!



LANE	SCHOOL	TIME	PLACE
1	SHS	2:20.62	8
2	JSHS	2:15.35	4
3	PHS	2:19.56	6
4	KSHS	2:12.92	1
5	UKS	2:13.61	2
6	MKS	2:16.84	5
7	SHS	2:14.65	3
8	PHS	2:20.33	7

Video board

## FEATURED SWIMMER JAKE TAYLOR

by Jason Turner

When Jake Taylor was a sophomore at BYU, he missed qualifying for the NCAA Division I Swimming & Diving Championships by a measly one-100th of a second.

It was a noteworthy accomplishment when considering the former Mountain Crest star was coming off a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to El Salvador and Belize, nevertheless he was extremely motivated to not let history repeat itself.

The son of Kuman and Connie Taylor, Jake went on to become a five-time All-American during his final two seasons with the Cougars. Only two men's swimmers in BYU history have earned All-America accolades more times than Taylor.

"(After) my junior and senior year, I feel like I put everything on the line," Taylor said. "I gave it 100 percent, sacrificed a lot of things to get to that level. And I just feel like I have zero regrets in the sport of swimming. ... I'm super happy and content that my sacrifice paid off. I was able to drop time, get personal bests in meets, and meet some really awesome people. And I was able to do it at BYU, where that doesn't happen as often as other swimming schools."

Taylor is arguably the best swimmer to ever come out of BYU. Not only that, the public relations major is undoubtedly one of the most decorated swimmers in the history of the Beehive State.

Taylor proved that by excelling at the U.S. Olympic Team Trials, which were contested at the end of June at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, Nebraska. Taylor, who is on track to graduate from BYU next spring, advanced to the finals of the 100-meter backstroke and placed 11th in the semifinals of the 200 backstroke at the meet.

Taylor was told by a few coaches that he is the first Utahn to ever advance to the finals of any race at the U.S. Trials. The 6-foot-4, 210-pounder finished in a tie for seventh place in the 100 back with a time of 54.72 seconds.

Only eight of 185 athletes qualified for the finals of that race. There were 114 competitors in the 200 back. The U.S. is widely regarded as the top country in the world when it comes to swimming, and Taylor squared off against some of the legends of his sport in Omaha.

"That's who you're competing against (in that meet is) world record holders, American record holders, former (Olympic) gold medalists, former Olympians," said Yolanda Bates, who has coached Taylor since he was 8.

It was a feeling Taylor will never forget. Conversely, the 24-year-old was on edge in the preliminary rounds and semifinals.

"It was definitely nerve central for me," Taylor said with a chuckle. "Just knowing it would be my last meet, I really wanted to do well. That was the bottom line. I wanted to walk away from this meet feeling satisfied with my races, but I knew I wouldn't feel satisfied unless I got inside the top eight in at least one of my races," said Jake.

During his week at the Trials, Taylor said he lost nearly six pounds.

"It was hard to eat and sleep," said Taylor. "I think I would sleep maybe five hours every night, just lying awake and thinking about my races."

Taylor also admitted to having some nerves in the finals of the 100 back. A top-two finish would be required to land a spot on the U.S. team at the 2016 Olympic Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

Earlier last year, Taylor swam one more season, capping off a memorable career at BYU, where his name is featured prominently in the record books. Taylor ranks first in BYU history in an astounding seven events — four individual races and three relays.

He ranks first in the 200-yard freestyle (1:35.03), 100 back (45.34), 200 back (1:39.76) and 200 IM (1:43.50), and with the 200 medley (1:26.51), 400 freestyle (2:53.11) and 800 free (6:26.28) relay teams. Additionally, Taylor holds down the No. 2 spot in the 100 free (43.26).

Taylor capped off his collegiate career by securing first-team All-America accolades in the 100 and 200 back at the NCAA Championships. Taylor placed fourth in the 100 back (45.52) and sixth in the 200 back (1:39.93). He also finished ninth in the 200 IM (1:42.89), which was good enough for second-team All-America distinction.

Taylor credits much of his success to his wife Amanda (Nalder) who helped motivate him to keep his focus. And to his lifelong coach Yolanda. Taylor said, "I couldn't have gotten to where I am without her help and without her guidance as a mentor. ... I feel like she's been a really true friend to me with her wisdom and guidance and inspiration."

How fortunate the BYU Swim program would be with many more Jake Taylors in our future.

Hi Swim & Dive Alumni,

I am so pleased you guys are getting organized and keeping in contact with each other. I loved the time we had together a year ago this past spring. Chris Smith has asked me to bring you up to date on where we are and what we are doing on this mission.

Sister Powers and I (a.k.a. Tim & Patcee) have been out now a year and will return home in March 2018. This is our second mission to England since my retirement in 2012 and both times we have been the YSA (Young Single Adult) leaders for a stake. Last mission (2012-14) we served in the Crawley Stake and were stationed in Brighton, England. This time we are in Duston, Northampton, 65 miles from London, and working with young adults from 18-30 years of age. We also teach regularly with the young missionaries and teach institute classes from time to time.

We love what we are doing. We recently had two YSA baptisms. We were both involved in teaching Allen and Mabel and I had the privilege of baptizing Mabel. Allen is from China and finishing a master's here; Mabel is from Ghana and is 24 years old. Both are thrilled to be part of this great work. With these baptisms, we have 12 new YSAs who have joined the Church since we arrived here, and we have had 15 of our YSAs head out on missions all over the world. The Lord has blessed us greatly and allowed us to connect with some incredible young people.

We recently traveled on our P-day down to Dover to meet with Kurt Dickson and his family. Kurt had just swum the English Channel and did so in just over 10 hours--which is probably the second best time for a man of 50-and-over. To put this in perspective, more have climbed Mt. Everest than have crossed these icy English-French waters! Kurt becomes the second BYU swimmer to accomplish this feat (the first being Richard Barnes a few years back). Way to go, Cougars!!

We look forward to seeing you all again in Provo!

Love and blessings,

Elder & Sister Powers (Tim & Patcee)



**Questions, Suggestions, Comments, please contact:**

Tamber McAllister, 2000-04, Assistant Swim Coach  
[mcallister.tamber@gmail.com](mailto:mcallister.tamber@gmail.com)

Chris Smith, 1976, 1979-81  
[chrissmith207@gmail.com](mailto:chrissmith207@gmail.com)

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# POOL RENOVATIONS



## New Pool Highlights

- Competitive pool: 18 lanes by 25 yards width all with Omega back fin blocks and 8 lanes by 40 meters in length
  - Bulkhead that allows the pool to be 25 yards 25 meters, 15 meters and 40 meters
  - The competition pool can be split to run tow 8 lane meets
  - 7 feet to 14 feet deep
- Training pool: 6 lanes by 25 yards pool
- Both pools will be a flush gutter Myrtha system
- Toe ledge
- All new video feedback system
- Bubbler system for divers
- Showers for divers on the deck
- 3 meter spring board staging area
- All new 1 meter and 3 meter boards and stands
- New 3 meter dry-land training room
- All new HVAC, lighting and sound system
- Increased seating 100+ on the east side of the pool
- New video boards
- New coaches offices that allow deck access
- Spotting harness for divers over the 1 and 3 meter