

Dear Prospective Slugs,

This is the beginning of a new season and at UCSC we are very excited. If you are receiving this newsletter then you have sent us a recruit form or an email asking to be added to our recruit list. The purpose of the newsletter is to help you make your decision, during the upcoming months, about where you will attend college next year. UCSC may be a good fit for you, or it may not. We will try to help you with the process.

You will receive a newsletter either in the mail, or by email, every 2-4 weeks. In the newsletter you will receive updates on the team times in the form of a top ten list. You will also receive updates on the team with results and meet information. We will also make sure that you are aware of the Universities application/admissions dates and policies. We will try to keep you updated on what we feel will be needed for admission.

I would like to take a little time to help you with how to deal with coaches:

First, if you are getting calls from coaches, then they are very interested in you coming to their school. This means that you are a good swimmer and most likely there are several coaches calling you. You need to understand that all the coaches know each other and that we talk to each other. Be honest. If you are telling one coach one thing and another coach something else then you can end up shooting yourself in the foot. You will be viewed as dishonest and it is possible that both coaches will drop you.

Second, be realistic about your chances of getting into school. Some schools can help more than others. If you are a great swimmer, but have a 1.9 GPA, your choices of schools will be very, very limited. At UCSC if your GPA is 2.9 then your chances are slim for getting into school, unless you have outstanding SAT scores. Understand that coaches can only do so much. They do not make the decisions about admission, but they can help you with advice and make sure you know procedures.

Third, don't be shy. If you have a question, then ask. If you are talking to a coach that does not return calls and/or emails, that tells you something. Don't assume anything, about anything. Know for sure and get your answers. If a coach is not keeping you up updated, look else were.

Fourth, relating to the third point, most coaches are really busy. I personally teach several hours per week and I am also the Aquatics Director. I try to return calls and emails the same day I receive them, but at times I may need a day or two. Also, make sure you follow up on calls and emails. I don't always get mail in a timely manner and I share my office phone with several other coaches, so sometimes calls get lost. I am not alone. Most coaches are in similar situations, so follow up and be patient.

Lastly, at this point you should have at least 3-5 schools on your list. UC Santa Cruz should be one of them. As you begin to eliminate schools, then let the coaches know. Don't be afraid and do it as soon as you know.

This is the beginning of a very exciting year for you and for us. Just remember that you are not deciding on who you are going to marry. You are just deciding on possible schools for college. Keep it in perspective, and don't sweat the small stuff.

Kim Musch  
UCSC Swimming and Diving

10/11/06

Dear Prospective Slugs, Parents, Alumni, and Supporters;

So much has happened during the last few weeks. On September 24 the team worked the Sentinel Triathlon. It was a great day with 15 of the first 18 swimmers, out of the water, either Slugs or Slug Alumni. We won several age groups and finished with several in the overall top ten. We will receive about \$5,000 for our efforts, which is a big reason why we do it.

The following Saturday was the "Ian Carney Transbay Memorial Swim". Two relays of six, swam from Santa Cruz across Monterey Bay. It was the easiest swim we have ever had, there was no wind, no waves, and the water was a few degrees warmer than past years. To date we have raised about \$4,000.

This last Saturday was the Alumni Meet. Our Alumni must be the silliest Alumni of any team in the country. After a 9:00am get together at the Tampico Bar and Grill, 30-40 Alumni arrived in high spirits at noon. Joined by another 30-40 Alumni at the pool the cheating began. Jen Andrews, class of 2001, won the first 7 events, ( Male, Female, and relays) which tells you a little bit of how the meet went. Everyone stayed for a Barbeque following the meet and I must say that it was a great time.

This coming weekend, October 14, we have a Women's double dual with UC Davis, and San Jose State; and a Men's dual with UC Davis. Both UC Davis and San Jose State are fully funded D.I. Programs ( 14 full women's scholarships and 9.9 Men's ), so we are in for a rough time. It is our first meet so we will try to figure out where we stand and start putting together our relays. After the meet we will put together our top times list and send results.

At this point we are already getting close to applications being due. **For the U.C. system applications are due at the end of November.** They must be done online. Don't forget to get together the required information, transcripts, and letters of recommendations. If you are late you are put into the denied pile, and you must appeal if you still want to be considered. Applying does not mean that you are committing to a UC, you can decide later, but, generally, you cannot come to school here if you do not apply on time. **Some athletes get special consideration at some schools. This is not the case at UCSC. You are treated like all other applicants.** There is not a lot we can do if you are late. Get those applications in on time!!!! Don't forget to also fill out your Financial Aid application as well, whether you think you qualify or not.

On the team this year is 7 senior women and 8 senior men. That means that we will be inviting 8-10 men and 9-10 women to join the team next year. If you are invited that means we guarantee you a spot on the team, provided you show up in reasonable shape. Others will try-out the first week. This year we had several tryout swimmers make the team. As the year progresses we will try to keep everyone updated as much as possible as to what may or may not make the team. The first step is getting into school.

Included in this newsletter is the NCAA qualifying times for the coming year. If you have qualifying times then you can assume that we would be very interested in you attending UCSC, naturally, but we are more interested in whether or not we are a good fit for you.

As always, if you have any questions email or call [kmusch@ucsc.edu](mailto:kmusch@ucsc.edu) 831-459-3372

Kim Musch

Kim Musch  
UCSC Swimming and Diving

11/5/06

Dear Prospective Slugs, Alumni, Parents, and Supporters

The season has begun. Included in this newsletter is the updated best times list, meet results, and information about application.

The first dual/ double dual meet of the season was held in Davis October 14. The Women Slugs competed against Division I - UC Davis and San Jose State. UC Davis vs UCSC score was 180-102, with San Jose State vs. UCSC 170-95. The men competed against the UC Davis men with a final score of 159-126.

Swimming against full scholarship Division I schools is not an easy task for any Division III school, but the Slugs were competitive through out the meet, with the UCSC men actually winning the 200 free relay.

The following week, on Friday and Saturday, October 27 and 28, the UCSC swimmers had two dual meets against Seattle University. The weather was perfect in the high 70's low 80's. On Friday the Slugs competed short handed with several of the team member required to attend classes during the meet and the Slugs lost both meets. The women lost 179-82, and the men 170-91. The next day the Slugs were closer to full strength and the meets were much closer. The men's meet went down to the final events but the Slugs lost 124-115. The women's meet was only was decided 110-81. The Slugs will see Seattle again at the Conference Championships where we feel confident that we can beat both these team. During the Seattle dual meets Erin Hunter picked up her first NCAA consideration cut in the 400 I.M. with a time of 4:36.84. Meanwhile Adam Gutierrez qualified for NCAA's in both 1 meter and 3 meter diving events. Ben Ferguson just missed a NCAA consideration cut in the 50 free with one of the fastest times in the country to date with a 21.30. Kevin Drake was also very close in the 100 breast. This early in the season we are already thinking about NCAA qualifying times. This is a good sign for the Slugs.

We are now into November. That means Applications!!!! I mentioned in the last newsletter the need to apply on time, and other requirements. Call me or check the UCSC websites if you have any questions. I have found over the years that High School Counselors may not always be the best source of information. If you are not sure about something, check with the school that you are applying to, or that you have questions about. High school counselors are sometimes responsible for several hundred students and sometimes get buried this time of year, so be responsible and get the correct information.

It is important that you begin to narrow your choices somewhat. Applying to schools can get rather expensive. Applying to several dozen schools means that you have not done your background research. In most cases you should be OK with applying to 5-6 schools, very rarely would you need to apply to more than this. You should have a good feel for what schools you can get into, and what teams you can make. It is all about trying to find the best fit. I have had several calls from coaches about what we are looking for, for next year. On the women's team we are graduating our two best sprinters, our best butterflyer, our best distance swimmer, and several top swimmers in the backstrokes and breaststoke events. All of them have been All-Americans and will be hard to replace. On the Men's team we will also be looking to replace our All-American Diver, and several solid swimmers. We don't necessarily recruit by event and it had not been unusual for us to send swimmers to NCAA's in the same events, but we do look to fill spots in our lineup with the best swimmers available. The best times list, that we send out with the newsletters, can help you determine how you could fit into the line up.

I had a call from a swimmer that is very interested in UCSC. This swimmer is called repeatedly by other schools and finds it rather annoying when they call so much. She thanked me for answering her calls and returning emails, and really likes the newsletters that we send out (which she has received for two years). Meanwhile, I talked to another swimmer that was wondering why I don't call, and thought it was a sign that I was not interested. It is hard to determine what is best for each swimmer. I want all of you to know that I

try to return every call and email that I receive and that I am willing to help you with your decisions even if it does not involve UCSC.

UCSC has become a very desirable place for school and for swimming. We are just beginning to rank the recruits on our mailing list and we will be as honest as we can about the make up of the team for next year. The main problem is that we just don't know much until much later in the year. We have to take it in stages. The first stage is to make sure all interested recruits apply to UCSC (November). Once we see who applies, then we wait until we see who gets accepted (March). Once the list is posted as to who is accepted then we get very serious about our recruit list. (March/April). We will sometimes extend invitations to swimmers that are favorable for acceptance and are strong candidates for making the team earlier, but generally we need to wait until we know more.

Why do we do it this way? There are several reasons, one is that we do not have letters of intent that obligate you to attend. Letters of intent will usually come with some scholarship offer. Second, we can not help with admission. We do not have early admission and so we must wait for the normal process to unfold. Third, as much as we are willing to help all recruits, we are still looking to get the best recruits we can that get accepted and fit well with the team. Unfortunately, we can not take all recruits that want to swim at UCSC. Therefore, we put together our list of invited swimmers and start extending invitations. We just never know what this list will look like until later. Those receiving invitations are guaranteed spots on the team, but we asked that they show up in the fall, ready to train. Those not invited can still make the team during the first week. This year several men and women made the team because they came in great shape and made the roster. We have 30 men and 30 women on the team.

We are currently training 8-10 water sessions, and 3-4 dryland sessions per week. It comes to about 20-23 hours per week. Many first years are not at these loads. If you come from a program unable to offer these loads in high school, then you may be on a modified schedule your first year, until you can handle the increase. We are not interested in seeing who survives the work We are interested in bringing you to these levels of work. Once you make the team then we set up a schedule that works best for you.

Swimming in college is not easy. For many it is the hardest thing they will do It takes time, commitment, and passion. None of our swimmers are getting paid. They do it because it is hard, yet fun, and they have a great time together. Our Alumni come back each year to share in that energy. I hear from them how Law School, or Med School is easy compared to swimming and going to college. Swimming in college is great, and a great life lesson and should not be taken lightly.

As always, if you have any questions, email us, or call, and we will get back to you. If you have swam in any meets and would like to update your recruit forms, please let us know. If you are going to be visiting the campus, let us know so you can meet the team and coaches and talk swimming.

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