

9/24

Dear Prospective Slugs, Parents, Coaches, and Supporters,

It is a beginning of another year. The team is back in the water and after 10 days it is already obvious that this year's team is going to be the best ever. It is possible that every women's team record will be broken, and many of the men's. I feel we have a very good chance to add a couple more names to our list of National Champions. Time will tell.

Included in this newsletter is a list of times. These times are what we feel it will take to be a member of the team next year. Due to the quality of this year's incoming class, and the size of the team, we have recently had to change the women's times. We are graduating 7 senior women and are hoping for 8-10 women to replace them. We will not be able to take more than that due to space in the pool. Keep in touch with the coaches as to your chances. If you have the times, there will be a spot. If you are close, there will probably be a spot. If you are several seconds away in your best event, we will try to let you know your chances before you decide on what college to attend. I want to avoid having a swimmer that is planning on swimming at UCSC, attend, and not have a chance to swim. We are not at the same crowded situation for the men, therefore we can remain a little more flexible on those times.

There are a couple dates to keep in mind.

**Applications are accepted November 1-30.** It is best if you apply on-line. (Starting next year you will have to apply on-line). If you are late, you will not be considered. Last year there were 27,000 applicants. This year admissions is anticipating 30,000. You must have all the required classes. Check with admission requirements on the UCSC website to make sure you have all the required classes and needed GPA and test scores. Admission requirements are very strict. There are no exceptions to any of the requirements. This year we are in what is called "Selection". That means having the requirements do not necessarily mean you will be accepted. If you have any questions about your chances of getting into school please call me, or e-mail and I can probably give you some idea. For those hoping to transfer into UCSC from another school, please contact admissions directly to get that information. Transfer information/requirements change each year and I am not sure what they are.

**Santa Cruz/Monterey Bay Swim October 4<sup>th</sup>.** The third annual Bay Swim is scheduled for Saturday October 4. UCSC will have two relays this year, joined again by the Santa Cruz Masters Team. This is a great fundraiser for us, besides a great time. Any donations are accepted.

**Alumni Meet October 11<sup>th</sup>.** Starting at Noon on Saturday the 11<sup>th</sup> is the third annual Alumni Meet. We finish with Pizza for the team. This is a great time for the team and Alumni.( Alum's pass the word around.)

In the following Newsletters you will receive

- Top Ten List
- Meet Results
- Summaries
- Items of interest

As the season progresses I will talk about the recruiting process and application process. For instance at this point you should have a good idea about your top 3-4 schools. You should be making a list of positive things about the schools and negative things about the schools. Try to visit all the schools that you are interested in and get a feel for the teams. The more information you can gather the better.

I want to remind you that this is not a life or death decision. It may be the biggest decision of your life, so far, but if you make a mistake you can always transfer, take time out from school, work awhile, or several other options that are out there.

UCSC is a great place to go to school. We are ranked in the top five in several categories, and in the top twenty in almost any category or ranking done. UCSC is a great school. We offer a great swim program. These two things combine make UCSC the first choice for many swimmers.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletters and that it helps in your selection of a school. If you have any questions, your best bet to get hold of me is by e-mail at [kmusch@ucsc.edu](mailto:kmusch@ucsc.edu)

Kim Musch  
UCSC Swimming and Diving

10/27

Dear Prospective Slugs, Parents, Coaches and Supporters

The weeks just seem to be flying by. We have attended the UOP invitational, and held a relay meet for UC Davis here at home. You can see our best times list in the following pages. The “top times” for this time of year are much better than years pass.

We are training extremely well as a team. Team Attendance is will over 90% with over 20 swimmers still at 100% !!!! These are good signs for the season.

At UOP we finished first in the Non-division I division. (there seems to be some confusion on weither UC Davis is DI now or still DII for some meets) Although we were experiencing several swimmers dealing with Strep and sinus infections we were still able to establish some good early season times.

The next weekend UC Davis traveled to Santa Cruz for our traditional relay meet that we hold each year. The weather was in the low 90's, sunny and hot. We swam very well. The women set 44 season best times, and the men set 47. Having 91 season best times in one meet is a new high. (of course there were only the UOP times to compare to, but we'll take it).

I want to mention how much we enjoyed the recruits that were here on campus last weekend. We are not arranging any recruit weekends, but if you want to make a visit to the school let us know what works for you and we can set something up.

TIME WARP!!!!!! 11/5

Because of our hectic schedule I was unable to finish the last newsletter before our trip to Southern California. In our first true dual meet of the year the slugs defeated Claremont women by a score of 122 to 119. The men's score was UCSC 161 to Claremont 80. Last year Claremont women won the SCIAC and are expected to win again this year.

Claremont men finished last year in the SCIAC. So if you were to compare us to the SCIAC schools we would do very well. SCIAC is the conference that includes Redlands, Pomona Pitzer, Cal Lutheran, La Verne, Whitter, among others. We swam Claremont on the Saturday following Halloween, we left at 5:30am for the seven hour drive and then competed in Claremont. I was not expecting our women to swim well enough to win, so we were very pleased to get a win. Even with the early drive we were able to achieve over 40 season best times. The men meanwhile had an easier time winning almost every event. That evening we were fed by George Crockers family in San Diego and then stayed with the Crockers and Westons for the night.

On Sunday we swam against UC San Diego, which has one of the best Division II teams in the Nation. The women lost 195-95 while the men lost 170-114. We usually swim UCSD later in the season and have faired much better when we swim them in January or February. This early in the year we were easily outmatched, but now know how much we

need to improve to be competitive at the conference meet in February. The best times list reflects the additional 48 season best times achieved at the UCSD meet.

Over all it was a pretty successful weekend. We still have a long way to go in terms of training and preparation but we are seeing some pretty good signs.

Now for important information.

***YOU MUST APPLY TO THE UC SYSTEM DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER!!!! IF YOU DO NOT APPLY BY NOVEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup> YOU CAN NOT COME TO SCHOOL HERE. There is nothing we can do if you apply late. The best way to apply now is online. I encourage you to do it that way.***

Some state schools and Division I and II schools may have special admits for athletes. We do not. You must apply on time and get into school on your own. If you are denied, and feel that you should have made it into school, you need to appeal. Do that right away. Appeals will only work if you have all the classes that are required, that you feel that something is different or changed (like higher SAT's or GPA) from when you originally applied, or you have some special circumstance that needs to be considered.

In-state applicants will need to meet all UC requirements and meet the point formula found in the application. Out-of State applicants must do the same and have a minimum 3.4 weighted GPA. If you are not sure about your GPA or classes send me a copy of your transcripts and we can take a look at them. We have been told that we are in "selection". Even if you have the minimum requirements there is no guarantee that you will be accepted. If we are definitely your first choice for school let me know. We do send a list to admissions and any students on the bubble could get a second look.

I have received calls about the qualifying times that we list. They are designed so that if you have those times, you will most likely be part of our scoring team at Conference. We want to make it clear that we are a hard working, college swim team, and that we have high expectations. This is not the place to come for swimming if you are not sure you want to swim or not. If you are coming for the school, and want to try the team, that is great. But I don't want any one to be confused about how much we train and what is expected. Every year we have swimmers make the team because they work hard, don't miss practice, and have great attitudes. Every year we have good swimmers not make it because they don't really want to do it and find ways of getting out of it.

Our next meet is at Mills College in Oakland, Saturday, Nov.15<sup>th</sup>. The meet starts at 10:00am. If you are in the bay area you may want to drop by. The next week we travel to Speedo Cup in Long Beach. Speedo Cup is November 20-21-22 at Belmont Plaza. If you are in Southern California, drop by and say hello.

The next newsletter will follow the Mills Invite, or Speedo Cup  
As always, if you have any questions please call or e-mail. [kmusch@ucsc.edu](mailto:kmusch@ucsc.edu) or 831-459-3372

2/24/04

Dear Prospective Slugs, Parents, Coaches, and Supporters;

Let me start with a quick summary of our Conference meet.

*4 NCAA A-cuts  
23 NCAA Provisional B-cuts  
7 New School Records  
37 New Changes to the All-Time Top Times List  
259 New Changes to the Seasonal Top Ten List  
6<sup>th</sup> year in a row of scoring more points at the Conference Championships  
110 more points for the women than 2003(684)  
82 more points for the men than 2003 (626.5)*

I think it is fair to say that we had a pretty good meet. The team results and times are included in this newsletter along with the season best times to date.

Our **NCAA Automatic Qualifiers include;**

**Kara Holzwarth** 50 free, 100 free, 200 free, 200-400 Medley, 400-800 Free Relays

**Stephanie Miller** 400 IM, 500 free, 200 fly, 400-800 Free Relays

**Lauren Smith** 200 free, 500 free, 1650 free, 800 Free Relay

**Mollie Lewis** 100 breast, 200 breast, 400 Medley Relay

**Laurel Fink** 800 Free Relay

We will know our additional qualifiers in the next day or so. We have to wait until the entries are received and the computer determines who gets into the meet. These additional qualifiers include;

**Kaitlyn Youtz** 100back, 200 back, 400 Medley Relay

**Jillian Ruppenstein** 100 fly, 200 Medley Relay, 400 Free Relay

**Sara Cartwright** 100 Fly, 200 Medley Relay, 400 Medley Relay

**Kimberly Onken** 100 breast, 200 breast, 200 Medley Relay

**Dana Morton** 200 Free Relay, 400 Free Relay

**Sarah Gehringer** 200 Medley Relay

**Ben Neuwirth** 100 fly, 100 back

Many of you are now in the waiting process to see what schools you will be accepted to. The waiting is hard but there is not much you can do about it. What is harder than the initial waiting is when you have the 2-5 schools that you are accepted to, and you are trying to decide between them. I can remember my own experiences when during the last week to decide, I changed my mind about a dozen times. I was fortunate enough to have several scholarship offers at the time, and I had just finished my final high school meet with very good results. The offers kept changing, and so did my mind.

Looking back I would have been just fine at any of the schools that were on my final list. They were all good schools, they all offered good swimming programs, and all were financially acceptable. So what were the reasons why I decided what I did? I am still not sure exactly why I decided to go where I did. I can give you reasons but these same reasons could have been used if I had attended many of the other schools. What my decision finally came down to was that I just felt better about one school than another. I still can not rationalize it, but that is what it was. It was the biggest decision of my life (up to that point), and I was deciding it by a gut feeling. Well, that's life. Most big decision will come down to just that. Try not to agonize about this decision too much. Much of the decision will be decided by finances, being accepted-or not, logistics, and even feelings about being far away from family and friends. Try not to let your ego get involved. Many of our recruits will have the option to receive some scholarship money. Most of you will not be offered full rides, but smaller scholarships that feed the ego more than anything else. Coaches that have scholarship money to offer know this and will offer some token amount so that you can say that you are "going to school on a scholarship".

We can't offer scholarships, but UCSC is still one of the best educational values in the country; and we offer you the chance to swim your best. Ranked as one of the best Universities in the country it is getting increasingly difficult to get accepted. If you are denied in the next month or so, contact me right away. I can at least look at your application and help determine if you can appeal. If you get into school, and we are your choice, please contact me so that we can start putting together our list for next fall. Good luck.

We will be sending out one more Newsletter following NCAA's. I hope I have good news at that point. As always, if you have any questions e-mail or call me. I will be happy to answer any questions.

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