

College Admission Process (Educational Session for Parents, Swimmers, Coaches)

The Championship Meet Committee will again be hosting an educational session at this year's YMCA Short Course Nationals on the college admission process. Our 2011 YMCA National Coach-of-the-Year, Glenn Neufeld of the Mercersburg Academy, will be moderating a discussion forum with four college coaches as they talk about the admissions process from their varying perspectives as the coaches of successful swimming programs at four very different institutions of higher education.

The event will be held at the Pavilion located on the complex grounds just east of the pool on Monday from 2:45PM until 4:15PM. Everyone is invited!

Glenn Neufeld, Mercersburg Academy- Moderator

Prior to joining Mercersburg Academy as Head Coach and College Counselor in April 2014, Glenn was at the Upper Main Line YMCA for 14 years where he has guided his team to many Top 5 finishes at YMCA Nationals and coached many individual and relay national champions. He was the 2011 YMCA national coach of the year and won coach of the meet honors at YMCA Nationals in 2009 and 2012. He has also served as an assistant at the University of Alabama and worked in college counseling while coaching at the Peddie School in the 1990's. He did his graduate work in Higher Education and Counseling at Virginia Tech and in Organizational Dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania. He has a unique blend of experience in coaching and education and will moderate the discussion.

Greg Parini, Denison University

Since taking over both Denison programs in the fall of 1987, Parini has gone on to build one of the most consistently successful programs in the history of Division III athletics. A nine-time NCAA National Coach of the Year, Parini's his teams have captured three national championships and 14 national runner-up finishes.

In addition to his success in the coaching ranks, Parini's career as an educator and Associate Professor at Denison has been equally impressive. In May of 2011 he was honored by the Collegiate Swimming Coaches Association of America as the recipient of the National Collegiate and Scholastic Trophy which is the highest award bestowed by the CSCAA. In 2007 he was awarded the Charles A. Brickman Teaching Excellence Award which is given annually to one faculty member who has demonstrated a vibrant interest in the learning process, as well as an understanding of teaching as a continuously evolving art form: someone who embraces the teaching and mentoring of students, not just as a profession, but as a calling.

He is a 1982 graduate of Kenyon College where he was a member of Jim Steen's first national championship team in 1979. Parini is currently a member of the College Swimming Coaches Association of America, the American Swimming Coaches Association, United States Swimming and the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association..

Diana Caskey, Columbia University

Diana Caskey began serving as head coach of the Columbia women's swim team in 1992. Her time at Columbia has been highlighted by a multitude of record-breaking performances and monumental accomplishments. In 2013-14, the Lions clinched their first Ivy League dual-meet regular season title with a 7-0 record.

Caskey cemented her legacy as one of the best coaches in the Ivy League when she recruited Olympic gold medalist Cristina Teuscher to Morningside Heights. At Columbia, she was a two-time All-America recipient, four-time NCAA Champion, won 12 Ivy League titles and set 17 program records. Following her Columbia career, she returned to international competition, picking up a bronze medal at the 2000 Olympics in the 200 IM as the captain of the American squad.

Prior to Columbia, Caskey spent three years at her prep school alma mater, The Peddie School in Hightstown, N.J., teaching English and assisting with both the school and USS club teams. During her tenure, the school team won two National High School championships. A 1985 graduate of Princeton University, Caskey was a standout swimmer for the Tigers, earning All-America and All-Ivy League honors.

Bill Dorenkott – Ohio State University

Ohio State women's swimming is a program on the rise, under the steady and patient leadership of seventh-year coach Bill Dorenkott. Since his arrival in 2008, the Buckeyes are well on their way to achieving his vision as a consistent contender vying for Big Ten Conference titles, racing for NCAA crowns, and sending its athletes to the Olympic Games and World Championships. Most recently, Ohio State maintained its five-year run of Top 5 Big Ten finishes with a fourth-place effort in 2014. At the meet, Ashley Vance, a junior at the time, captured a Big Ten title in the 200 individual medley with a school-record time of 1:56.91.

Dorenkott recruits student-athletes who have vision and goals beyond just being a swimmer. In fact, he recruits on the philosophy that swimming is going to be the fourth-most important priority for his student athletes. He believes if his athletes take care of the first three priorities: 1) Be a great person; 2) Remember who you are, where you came from and understand that family is important; and 3) You are at Ohio State to get an education, and your degree will open doors for you a long time after you leave Ohio State.

Dorenkott has coached on four continents, and his student-athletes have competed in the Olympic Games, PanAm Games, World University Games, World Championships, Pan-Pacific Championships, U.S. National Championships and on the U.S. International circuit. He has been a member of the United States Swimming National Team coaching staff since 2001. He served on the U.S. National Team coaching staff during the 2001 World University Games, the 2003 PanAm Games and the 2007 Japan International Grand Prix.

Rob Herb – Lehigh University

Rob Herb begins his 11th season at the helm of the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. Herb, the 2014 Patriot League Women's Coach of the Year, owns a combined dual meet record of 87-97. He has coached six individuals and two relay teams to Patriot League titles, including Lehigh's first two women's individual league champions in 11 years in 2014.

"Rob's reputation as a technical swimming coach and advocate for swimming is national in scope," said Lehigh Athletics Director Joe Sterrett. "More importantly, however, Rob maintains a set of educational and personal values that are extremely well aligned with the university and with our department. Rob's demeanor, organizational skills, creative and strategic thinking abilities, and concern for young people have earned him a strong and positive reputation that is founded upon respect and trust."

For five years beginning in 2000, Herb served as a member of the U.S. National Swimming Team advisory staff and regionally on the Middle Atlantic Swimming board of review. He was head coach of the 2002 U.S. National Select Training Camp, based in Colorado Springs, Colo., where he worked directly with many of the top American swimmers and their coaches.