

TRISTA HARNER

Trista Harner graduated from Stephen Decatur High School in May and is finishing up her 12th year as an OPST Hammerhead where she holds an astounding 39 individual records with the team! In 2018, she was the first OPST swimmer to attend the NCSA Age Group Championships where she placed 17th for the 50-yard freestyle.

During her time with OPST she has also placed in the top eight in seven different events at the MD Swimming 14 & Under State Championships and has consistently been a top placer and major point earner at DSA Championships. She also swam all four years for the Stephen Decatur Swim Team where she earned MVP and placed in the top 10 in 4 events at the State Championship Meets.

Trista will attend Boston Conservatory at Berklee in the fall where she will pursue her love of the performing arts by majoring in Musical Theatre. She credits OPST for allowing her the opportunity to sing the National Anthem for the very first time at a home swim meet which propelled her into singing the Anthem at countless community events throughout the region, including State Championship Swim Meets. Trista is looking forward to her future and making her dreams come true!

ETHAN JUSTICE

Ethan Justice began his swimming career last fall with the Stephen Decatur Swim Team as rehab for an injury he sustained while running Cross Country for SDHS. It was such a positive experience that he decided to swim with OPST this summer.

Running has always been his passion but swimming is gaining speed. He has greatly enjoyed swimming with his friends, making new friends and starting another activity that he will be able to do for the rest of his life.

Ethan will be attending the honors program at the University of MD College Park in the fall and will be majoring in Materials Engineering.

DANIEL KARCHEUSKI

Daniel Karcheuski joined OPST in 2016 as a wide-eyed goofball with plenty of energy. Now, 8 years later, his love for swimming has blossomed and his involvement in the sport is tremendous. He is still a goofball though...

As a swimmer, Daniel has reached the highest level of competition in his team's history. This past winter season, he qualified for the Speedo Sectionals National Series Meet in Virginia, where he swam 9 events.

Daniel has also been an athlete representative for the past 3 years, through which he proposed service projects, worked with Maryland Swimming Inc.'s Governance Committee, and most recently helped bring back the Big and Little Buddy program to OPST.

Daniel would like to give a big shoutout to all the friends he's made through swimming. Some of his fondest memories on the team include playing games with his teammates at practice, telling jokes at meets, and sharing his love of music with those around him.

In addition to everything he has done as a Hammerhead, Daniel swam as a Seahawk for all 4 of his years at Stephen Decatur High School and was team captain for the last 3 years. Moving on, Daniel will be attending the University of Maryland at College Park, where he will be studying Government and Politics and participating in their University Honors program. Not ready to say goodbye to swimming just yet, he plans to swim for the school's club team. Go Terps!

CHASE PONTON

The first swim team Chase Ponton was ever on was OPST when he was 6 years old and then he returned years later. To see him then and to see him now is amazing! It has been wonderful to see how much he has grown and to see him find a sport that he has come to love so much. The friends, family and team spirit that he has found along the way is like no other.

For the last 3 years Chase has swum on the OPST Short Course, Long Course, and DSA seasons as well as on the Stephen Decatur Swim Team. Chase was team captain for both teams and he qualified for state championships all 3 years. He has had some awesome coaches that have taught and pushed him along the way. His favorite stroke is the backstroke.

Chase will be attending Wor-Wic this fall for the next year in a half before transferring to the University of Maryland to major in Computer Science.

EMMA SCHULZ

Emma Schultz started swimming when she was 3 years old at the Adelphi Pool in Hyattsville, Maryland. After the baby pool was closed one day, she jumped into the big pool and just started swimming and has been swimming ever since.

Emma has been swimming continuously year-round for the Patuxent Aquatics Club Penguins. Her favorite events are the IM and distance swims. She was also captain of her high school swim team where this past year she broke the 500-yard freestyle record!

Emma started swimming for the DSA summer swim season with OPST in 2020 where Emma and her teammates (including sister Eva) hold the 15-18 girls record for the 200 Free and 200 Medley Relays.

Emma is an honors graduate from Elizabeth Seton High School in Bladensburg, Maryland. This fall, she is headed to Northampton Massachusetts to Smith College to be a Physics major and Division 3 swimmer!!!

THIS SWIFTIE IS SOON TO BE A SMITHIE!

Emma Cathey

Emma Cathey is graduate of Nandua High School. Emma has been a member of the Onley Skimmers for 10 years, & this marks her 8th year of swimming at the DSA Championships.

Emma was a member of the Nandua High School swim team for all of her high school career, & she competed at the regional & state levels through her senior year, with her highest individual senior state achievement of taking 6th place in the VHSL class 1 & 2, for the Girls 100-Yard Butterfly, & 3rd place in both the Girls 200- Yard Freestyle & Medley Relays.

Emma also swam competitively for 10 years with the Eastern Shore Fins, the YMCA's team, & Emma also participated in USA swimming as part of the first USA Swim team on the lower eastern shore of VA.

Aside from swimming, Emma is a singer-songwriter who has performed in local restaurant venues, as well as at the recent Blueberry Festival on Chincoteague Island. Emma plans to attend Mary Baldwin University in Staunton, VA this fall, pursuing studies in elementary education.

Grace Bentley

Grace graduated from Nandua High School as salutatorian. She has been on the Onley Skimmers for 8 years. She began year round swimming at age 13 as part of the Eastern Shore Family YMCA. She is a record holder on the Nandua High School swim team in multiple events and was named to the Virginia High School League All State Team in 2022,23 and 24. This year she qualified for 2024 Long Course YMCA Nationals in the 100 freestyle.

In the Fall, Grace will be attending Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Virginia to study mathematics. She is excited to continue her swimming career as a W&L General.

Grace says her years as an Onley Skimmer have played a very important role in her development as a swimmer. DSA Summer League is where her love for this sport began. One of her favorite parts of this team is watching all of the younger swimmers develop and grow to love this sport like she did.

Gracie Maughan will be attending the University of Rhode Island this fall. She will be studying physical therapy and will be a member of their swim team. Gracie began swimming as an otter for SCST when she was six. She joined SFY when she was nine years old and since then has attended the YMCA Nationals three times and placed in the top 16 in breaststroke this year. Gracie is the current Delaware Champion in breaststroke. She enjoyed meeting new friends through out her years swimming and spending time with them at camps.

Brady Tipton began swimming for the Talbot Swim Club (TSC) in the summer of 2014. The following winter he joined the Talbot County YMCA swim team and has been swimming year-round ever since. He competed with the Easton High School varsity swim team and qualified to compete at Maryland High School States each year.

Through swimming he has met many amazing coaches and friends, all who have encouraged him to continually improve and challenge himself regularly. Brady has volunteered with Special Olympics of Maryland for five years. He has enjoyed being able to share his passion for swimming with these athletes.

He will be attending York College of Pennsylvania in the Fall and will be majoring in Cyber Security Management, and competing with the men's swimming team. He is thankful for the lifelong friendships and memories that have resulted from swimming with TSC.

Luke Gadow.

I'm 18 years old and a 2024 graduate of North Dorchester High School. I have been swimming with the Dorchester Shorefins since I was 8 years old. My favorite strokes are freestyle and backstroke. I have enjoyed swimming with the Shorefins because swim provides both individual and team accountability.

My future plans are to attend college and apply to become an officer with the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Maddie has been swimming for the Spirit swim team for 10 years. She will be attending James Madison University with a major in international business. She plans to continue swimming competitively on the club swim team. She has been a volunteer coach for Special Olympic Swimming for four years and plans to continue as a volunteer while in college.

Please let me know if you need anything else.

Thank You, Maddie Hull

Bryce Slaughter graduated from Easton High School in the Spring of 2024. He began swimming with Talbot Swim Club nine years ago and has also swam for the Talbot County YMCA for 7 years. His need for competition and love for the swim community drove him to commit more each year as his times kept dropping.

Bryce also swam for the Easton High School swim team. In the last of his three years there he earned top scorer for the men's team. He credits this to his coaches and teammates for inspiring him every day and pushing him to achieve his best.

Bryce will be going to Chesapeake College in Fall 2024 before transferring to a four year institution to pursue a degree in accounting.

Isabella Westerfield graduated from Easton High School in May of this year and will be competing in her 12th year as a swimmer on the TSC Swim. Isabella has also swam for TCY for 12 years and advanced to Winter YMCA Nationals the past two years. Along with those teams she was also a part of her high school team for 4 years. Within those 4 years she was able to be a part of the girls team winning the State Championships. This past season she was the girls team captain and helped contribute the girls team score at states. Isabella's favorite events include the 500 Free, 50 Free and 100 Breast. She holds records for both her Club teams and her High School team and hopes to continue that into her college swimming career. Swimming is not the only passion of hers however, Isabella is also a dedicated golfer. Because of that she will be attending Susquehanna University in the Fall to major in Accounting while being apart of not only their swim team but their golf team as well. Go Riverhawks!

Maddie Ryan just finished her senior year of high school, and has been swimming on the Sea Colony Sharks swim team for 11 years. She has loved swimming all her life and has also enjoyed swim coaching for younger swimmers in both Delaware and Washington, D.C. She is excited to go to college this fall and will miss swim team next year.