Dear Alumni and Friends,

Many thanks for the overwhelming number of emails, calls, and notes that I have received over the last few weeks. We couldn’t have had our success this season or at HYP without your support. The team has been on roll since the Nike Cup when I last wrote you. We finished the regular season 10-1, with a 7-0 Ivy record. Here are a few details:

Puerto Rico was everything we were expecting and then some. The combination of easy travel, weather, training and team bonding made for a truly rewarding experience. The Cornell meet at the end of the week was a perfect way to cap off a successful trip. Immediately following our trip, we headed to Philadelphia, where we took on UPenn & Dartmouth. Filled with close races and fast relays, the Bulldogs prevailed (Yale 195- UPenn 105 & Yale 249- Dartmouth 51) despite fatigue and the desire to be back in New Haven. Our senior meet against Penn State & Rutgers was a chance to compete against the #16 ranked Nittany Lions and a strong Rutgers squad. Despite the defeat (Yale 157- Penn State 196) we gained valuable close race experiences and set two new Kiphuth pool records in the 200 & 400 Free Relays. The Bulldogs prevailed over Rutgers (231-122).

The team obtained a 3.58 team GPA for the Fall ’15 semester, which put them in a tie for 7th best in the country. On January 14th we were ranked 25th nationally by the CSCAA Coaches Poll for our fast swimming in January.

The HYP weekend gave a glimpse of what the team can do under pressure. Day one was close with us coming up short on a few close races, but still having enough solid swims and dives to take a narrow lead over both teams. Day two we rallied from the very first race and didn’t look back. The women swimmers and divers embraced this opportunity to make history. The 8 total wins for the meet was more than the previous three years combined! The final totals were (Yale 173.5- Princeton 126.5 & Yale 167-Harvard 133). All 35 women contributed to this success. Some contributions could be seen in the pool, while others made by the constant fostering of toughness and an incredible team environment from the first day of the season.

The attached photo tells the story of what it meant to the team.

We take the momentum of an undefeated Ivy season 7-0 and the support of incredible alums, parents, and friends to the Ivy Championship next week. Please join us at Princeton or follow the meet online starting Thursday, February 18th. We aim to bring the Frank Keefe Trophy back to New Haven and would like for you to be a part of it.

We hope to make you proud!

-Jim
Hello YSDA Members,

I’m happy to report that our dual meet season has been largely successful, finishing 8 – 3 on the year. The Class of 2016 finish their 4 year careers with a dual meet record of 31 – 10.

Highlights from the 2nd semester include a “nail biter” against Cornell in Puerto Rico, swum long course meters, where some questionable DQ’s in the 400 IM and a suspect timing system led to a meet that was a bit too close for comfort, but a win (125 – 118) none the less. Hosting Penn State in New Haven for a 2-day dual meet was a thrill for the guys and they responded by winning every swimming event.

As I write this we are 2 weeks from the Ivy Championship meet, hosted at Brown this year, and the guys are well into their rest and taper phase. There is still some work to be done, but we are healthy and looking strong in the water. I am confident we will swim well at Brown and with some luck continue to have representation at the NCAA Championship meet in Atlanta, GA, March 23 – 26.

Thank you for your notes, cards, emails and well wishes this season – the guys know they are swimming for far more than themselves. We are truly grateful for your support and look forward to representing Yale to the best of our abilities.

-Tim
Greetings from Yale!

The divers have been training very hard all year long for the Ivy League Swimming and Diving Championships. The commitment and leadership on the team has been outstanding. I have been coaching Division I Diving 30 years and this is one of the best teams I have ever coached. The athletes on the team have made the difference. We are closing in on the culmination of all our training to represent Yale in the best possible fashion at Ivy’s. Weight training, the dynamic exercise program, the trampoline and dry board hurdle and somersault training has been going splendidly. We are all super pumped to go to Ivy’s and make an impact on the field of athletes we will compete against. Everyone on the team will make a difference and we all know what is possible if we perform well.

Lilybet MacRae 17’ has been strong and consistent, winning every diving event among all the Ivy competition. We have two freshman women, Hannah Walsh and Talbott Paulsen that are making a huge impact on our team through their talent, commitment and proven ability. McKenna Tennant 18’ is very strong also and looking to place better than she did last year at the Ivy championships. Our seniors Kelly Sherman and Olivia Grinker will also make an impact on the field of divers. Overall, we are stronger than last year in depth and talent.

The men also performed well at the Harvard-Yale-Princeton meet. They really dove well on 3m against Princeton placing 1st, 3rd, and 5th. We know we can dive against the Ivy League competition but just need to stay consistent. Our training is going well and we are in a position to score valuable points for the team.

We are having fun and staying relaxed. Although we dove well at HYP, we can do better and will do better. The competition from Princeton and particularly Harvard is strong, but so are the Yale men and women!

We can’t wait to go to Ivy’s and perform our best and represent Yale Men’s and Women’s Swimming and Diving. Go Bulldogs!

-Chris
REMEMBERING ALEX DIEKMANN ’85

Yale Swimming & Diving lost one of its very best with the passing of Alex Diekmann (’85) who lost his courageous battle with cancer on February 1, 2016. Throughout his illness Alex had the support of family, friends, colleagues and the broad YS&D community. Your many cards, letters, e-mails, calls and visits made Alex smile and gave him strength.

Alex was a great swimmer who always gave his best and always wanted the best for Yale and his teammates. Those who swam with him know he was a tough competitor who added to the team both in the pool and out of the water.

As a sprinter, Alex was a proud, card-carrying member of the “guppy lane” where he trained with fellow speed freaks John Portmann, Dave Franklin, Andy Campbell, Todd Kaplan, Bert Hazlett and Sharon Veitz, among others. Throughout our four years at Yale, Alex and I were fortunate to enjoy the company of classmates Rick Calder, Scott Dickinson, John Portmann and Daryl Rapp for endless practices, long road trips and countless dinners at Stiles. Alex loved every minute of it.

Alex’s life was cut far too short, but throughout his life he experienced and accomplished things many people are never fortunate enough to realize. Alex met his true soulmate, Lisa Lundal (’85), during freshman year and they were together from that day forward. They were married in 1991 at Dwight Chapel, just steps away from where they first met on Old Campus. Several years later they were blessed with two sons; Logan and Liam. Alex was incredibly proud of his sons; they are exceptional young men who are both nationally ranked Nordic ski racers.

Alex and Lisa began their careers on Wall Street, but ultimately their passion for the outdoors led them both to their true calling in conservation. In his 16 years with the Trust for Public Land, Alex protected over 100,000 acres of wilderness leaving a legacy that will benefit all of us for generations. Living in Bozeman, Montana allowed Alex to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends throughout the year. He loved mountain biking, trail running, fly fishing and skiing and took every opportunity to be outdoors in the wilderness he worked so hard to protect.

Alex Diekmann was my best friend, my teammate and my brother. We enjoyed a friendship of almost 40 years that began when we were 12 year olds swimming in Fairfield County, CT. Losing him has left a huge hole in my heart, but I am grateful for the decades of friendship we shared. A celebration of Alex’s life is being planned for this spring in Bozeman, MT.

-Jason Green 85’ YSDA Captain
YALE SWIMMING
PRE-IVES HAPPY HOUR!
Please join us before the final session of the Women's Ivy Leage Championships. We look forward to gathering together swimmers past and present, as well as their families!

Sat, February 20th
2:30 - 4:30 PM
at Triumph Brewery
138 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ
Click Here For Event E-vite!

SWIM NEW HAVEN
Sat, April 23rd, 3:00 PM
This year, current members of Yale Swimming and Diving will be participating in Yale’s annual Day of Service. We will be giving local New Haven kids swim lessons, and would love for you to join us. Even if you’re not interested in helping with lessons, there are plenty of other opportunities available to help organize the event.

Please contact Matt Meade (matthew.meade@bipc.com) if you are interested and sign up on the Yale Day of Service Website at http://yaledayofservice.org/ beginning in March.

ATTEND | EARN | REDEEM
Use the app to stay connected with Yale Athletics. Fans earn points for a variety of activities including attending events, sharing Yale Athletics social media posts, posting game-day photos, stopping by a concession or merchandise stand and much more! Points can be redeemed for merchandise and other items.

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