



## In the News...

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**Xceleration  
Volleyball Club**

John B. David, Editor

## *The Best is Yet to Come!* *Congratulations 2017 Grads!*

### Special College Edition: 18 Xceleration Athletes Take the Next Step

Well, here we are. In the next few weeks, 18 Xceleration athletes will graduate from high school. They will attend commencement ceremonies, walk across the stage to accept their diplomas, and say goodbye to friends that they may never see again until their class reunions 25 years from now. It will surely be bittersweet, but we, at Xceleration, are also excited for our graduates as they celebrate this important milestone in their young lives. As they face new adventures and turn the page to a new chapter in their academic and athletic journeys, we wish them nothing but the very best. This marks the culmination of hard work over the years, but it also signals the beginning of even harder work to come, as they pursue their academic and/or volleyball dreams. We're extremely confident that they'll face these new challenges with the same fervor that we have seen from each of them during their short time with Xceleration.

**Jim Ross** said to our graduates, "Each of YOU earned what you have accomplished to date. Be proud of



that. Take that pride with you as you move forward, but don't settle on it. You all have so much more to accomplish! Thanks to all of you for letting us be a part of it."

"We are so very happy for you, proud of you, and we look forward to following your progress in the years ahead. You are Xceleration alumni and, as you saw this season with the alumni who came to practice with you, you are always welcome back in the gym to work on your games to help those that follow behind you work on theirs. You don't have to wait 25 years before coming back to see us! Congratulations, Xcel Graduates!"

# A Message from Jim & Paul



This is a very special edition of **Xcel<sup>lent</sup> News** for both of us. For some of you it is the culmination of a few years of working with us on the college development side of your volleyball careers. For others it's been one concentrated year of working with us. Either way, we have thoroughly enjoyed working with all of you and are so very happy and excited for you as you take the next step in volleyball and in life.

As you can see from the reporting here, not all our Seniors are continuing their volleyball careers in college. Those players have elected to attend a college where intercollegiate volleyball was not an option for them.

Many will opt to play club volleyball, others intramural, and others may elect not to have competitive volleyball as a part of their college experience. Either way and, as you have heard us say many a time, the end result does not have to be playing in college. The end result was that you went through the process, discussed your options with us and with your families, and made an informed decision on your future college plans.

And there most definitely is a process. Each of these players has taken the time to meet with us and to communicate with a myriad of college coaching staffs. I am sure that most, if not all, of these players will tell you that they experienced many joys and some disappointments along the way. That, too, is a part of the process and a good life lesson as well.

Every player you see in this edition of our newsletter has put in countless hours of practice, training, conditioning, tournament, travel, classes, and studying to get to where they each are today. Rest assured there were many fretful nights and tears along the way, but they helped shape every individual you read about here.

As a College Development staff, we thank you so very much for working with us, trusting us, and allowing us to be a small part of your development as a player and person. As a club, we are so proud of your efforts and congratulate you on your accomplishments, now and to come. As coaches and administrators, the reward is not in the medals or successes individually. Rather, it is in watching you develop into the young women you are as you head off to this next part of your life. Do so confidently and proudly. You have worked hard to get to where you are.

Congrats to ALL of you. Remember one thing, you will always be a part of Xceleration and you are welcome back any time you care to visit.

GO XCEL!!

**Jim and Paul**





# Presenting Xceleration's Class of 2017

On behalf of Xceleration Volleyball, congratulations to all our 2017 graduates on this very momentous occasion. Your graduation means that you have achieved and fulfilled a great vision through hard work, determination and dedication. These will serve you well as you embark on life's new journey.

By reaching this step, you have unlocked a door to unforetold possibilities. Whether that it is through volleyball or setting out on a new adventure, the future holds opportunities that will benefit you and your family. Your graduation is also a point of pride for Xceleration. We hope that your years with us leave you with boundless happy memories and confidence to move forward toward your future goals. We also hope that you will commit to the pursuit of continuous improvement beyond today by embracing lifelong learning. Please keep your memories of Xceleration alive as we have forged a strong bond, and you are forever woven into Xceleration's legacy.

Good luck in your future endeavors and we wish you luck on whatever comes before you. We're extremely confident that you'll always overcome these challenges – we've seen you do it on the courts time and time again!

And finally, to the families and friends who are joining in the celebration: Congratulations as you celebrate this amazing accomplishment! We share in your pride and we thank you for the support during your graduate's educational and athletic journeys.

**Xceleration Volleyball Club**

**Thank you parents and Tomas Pineda for the pictures.**



**Michelle Anderson**  
Concordia Irvine



**Jerri Bonnel**



**Nuru Boone**



**Jamie Brown**  
Washington



**Kelsey Budde**  
Baylor



**Michaela Charrette**  
Academy of Art



**Janelle Gong**  
Hawaii



**Nikki Jensen**  
Wellesley College



**Parker Jones**  
Penn



# Presenting Xceleration's Class of 2017



Jacqueline Kupeli  
New York University



Delaney McKee  
U of New Hampshire



Mere Naqase  
U of North Alabama



Alex Nickerson  
Colorado College



Kaitlyn Peterson  
Long Beach City College



Hannah Pilgrim



Brianna Ranney  
Sonoma State



Ashby Russell  
San Diego State



Abby Youngblood  
Cal Poly SLO





## Michelle Anderson, Concordia University Irvine

Michelle was voted the Most Improved Player as a Freshman at Dublin HS and was called up from JV Volleyball to play on Varsity for Regionals. She continued her next three years at Dublin HS as a Varsity letterman. As a Sophomore, Michelle was awarded Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Year for the Gaels and made 2nd Team All-League. During her Junior year, Michelle missed most of the season due to knee surgery and but was able to return for the last few games of the year. As a Senior, Michelle was awarded Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Year and again awarded 2nd Team All-League. In East Bay Volleyball, Michelle was #1 in Hitting Percentage, #10 in Kills, and #1 in Blocks. She also finished #2 in Blocks, #3 in Hitting in the North Coast Section (NCS). Michelle is a four-year Scholar Athlete. She was a member of Decca and a lifetime California Scholarship Federation (CSF) member, volunteering 50+ hours of community service. At Concordia University Irvine, Michelle will major in Business.



**Concordia University Irvine** is a private Christian university located in Irvine, California. It was established in 1976 in an effort to provide a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod college to serve the Pacific Southwest. Concordia University Irvine has a total undergraduate enrollment of approximately 2,000 students and its campus size is 70 acres. It is one of 10 colleges and universities that are part of the Concordia University System. The university currently includes five

schools: Christ College (Christian seminary), School of Arts and Sciences, School of Business, School of Education, and School of Professional Studies; and offers 20 undergraduate majors and 50 specializations, nine graduate programs, four adult bachelor's degree completion programs, and three nursing programs. Concordia's athletics teams are members of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA Div. 2), primarily competing in the Pacific West Conference (PAC West).



Michelle is a two-time Most Valuable Offensive Player of the Year for the Dublin Gaels and a four-year Scholar Athlete.



**CONCORDIA**  
UNIVERSITY IRVINE



**Michelle,**

*We always knew that you were going to be an amazing athlete from the moment you earned athlete of the year in Middle school, winning two individual league championship medals for track, when you didn't even play for the team.*

*Your efforts both on and off the court have paid off and we could not be more proud of the fact that almost 100% of your college tuition will be paid for by scholastic and athletic scholarships. It truly has been an incredible 4 years seeing you grow as both an athlete and an intellect, and we know you will be an incredible success as you begin this next phase of your life.*

*From the moment you were born you've had the ability to light up a room with your smile alone. The years have gone by so fast but the same little girl shines through you and continues to surprise and delight us every day. You are a very smart and talented young lady and we are so excited to see where the road ahead will take you. Know that wherever you are you will always have your family right beside you helping you through the good and the bad. We love you to the moon and back and we are so very proud to call you our daughter.*

**Love,  
Mom and Dad**



**Jim Ross** Super choice and so very happy for you Michelle! It's been a joy to have you with us this season and to get to work with you and your family. Enjoy this! You deserve it.

Like · Reply · April 11 at 9:49am



**Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Way to go Michelle..

Like · Reply · April 11 at 10:13pm



**Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Michelle!!!!

Like · Reply · April 12 at 2:41pm



**Renee Nickerson** So happy for you Michelle 😊

Like · Reply · April 13 at 4:36pm



**Paul D Harrison** Michelle....Congratulations !! I know the process was a bit challenging and nerve racking. Concordia is going to be fantastic for you !!

Like · Reply · 11 hrs



**CONCORDIA**  
UNIVERSITY IRVINE



## Jaime Brown, University of Washington

Jaime was a three-year varsity setter at Campolindo HS where she was a scholar-athlete each season, served as Team Captain her senior year, and was named the Most Inspirational Player her senior year. Also in her senior season, she received Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) 1st Team All-League and East Bay Times All-Bay Area Honorable Mention honors. She is proud to be a part of the Xcel 18Blue team that made it to the American Division Championship match at Nationals. She will attend the Foster School of Business at the University of Washington in the fall.



The **University of Washington**, commonly referred to as simply Washington, UW, or informally U-Dub, is a public research university whose largest and original campus is in Seattle, WA. Founded in 1861, Washington is one of the oldest universities on the West Coast. It is consistently ranked among the top 15 universities in the world by a variety of international publications. U-Dub was ranked 11th by *U.S. News & World Report* 2016 Best Global Universities

and is 15th among the world's top 500 universities by Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) in 2015 and has been consistently regarded to be among the top 20 by that institution.



**W**

UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON





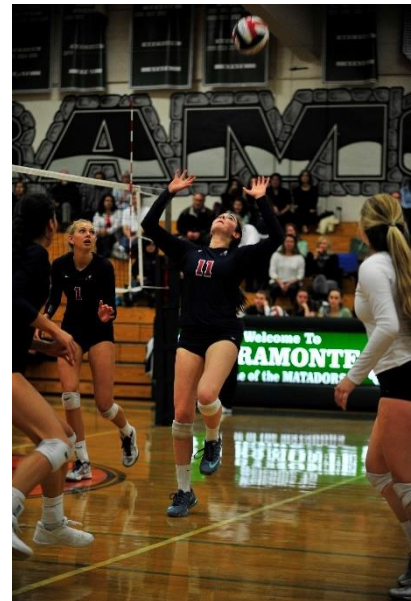


**Jaime –**

*Words can't express how much we have enjoyed watching you play volleyball over the years. Your poise, determination, and hard work on the court was inspirational and so fun to watch. You met both the successes and challenges with grace, humility, and optimism and always appreciated all that you were able to accomplish. Your hard work and perseverance certainly paid off... you have enjoyed so much success with both your high school and club teams over the years. We know you will take all that you have learned through volleyball to do great things in the next exciting season of life!*

*We love you so much, Jaime! Go Dawgs!*

**Peace and Blessings,  
xoxo Mom and Dad**



**W**  
UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON



## Kelsey Budde, Baylor University

Kelsey was a three-year varsity player at the perennial volleyball powerhouse Campolindo HS in Moraga, CA after being pulled up to varsity in her sophomore year. She had substantial playing time in her Junior year before earning the starting right side position in her Senior prep season at Campo, which posted an undefeated Diablo Athletic League record. Campo went on to win the North Coast Section (NCS) Division II Championship title, elevating the Cougars to compete in the elite Open Division of the California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) State Championships. Kelsey is a Student Leader for her church youth group, culminating in the role of Team Leader on a missions trip to Mexico. She led 12 students and two adults building a house over Spring break. At Baylor University, Kelsey will be a Nursing major.



**Baylor University (BU)** is a private Christian university and a nationally ranked research institution. The university's 1,000-acre campus is located on the banks of the Brazos River next to I-35, between the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex and Austin. The University provides a vibrant campus community for more than 16,000 students by blending interdisciplinary research with an international reputation for educational excellence and a faculty commitment to teaching and scholarship. Chartered in 1845 through the efforts of Baptist pioneers, Baylor is the oldest continually operating university in Texas and welcomes students from all 50 states and more than 90 countries.



Kelsey celebrates the NCS Division II championship win with Campo and Xcel teammate Jamie Brown, defeating Bishop O'Dowd in a three-setter.



**BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY





**BAYLOR**  
UNIVERSITY

**Dear Kelsey,**

*You are ready to take on the world but we are going to miss you so much! We so enjoyed watching you play all these years and spending time with you on the road. You have a crazy strong powerful hit that we hope you get to show off at Baylor. We loved watching you rise to the challenges and achieve goals in volleyball as well as learn from your defeats - all great life lessons. We also hope you keep up your sense of adventure and enjoyment of life into your next chapter.*

*More than your athletic abilities, your care for others and passion for life will serve many people in this world. You have such a big heart and we know the LORD is going to use you mighty in your future. Thank you for bringing so much joy into our lives. We are so very grateful to have the blessing of being your parents. We are so very proud of you and love you so very much!*

*"For I know the plans I have for your," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.." – Jer 29:11 NIV*

**Go Buudddeee!!!**

**Forever, Dad, Mom, Krystal, Lauren and Summer**



**Top photo: Kelsey and her sister Lauren, a former Xcel athlete, at Campo. Lauren is currently playing volleyball for the Whitworth University Pirates in Spokane, WA.**



## Michaela Charrette, Academy of Art University

Michaela was a four-year varsity player at Berean Christian HS in Walnut Creek, CA and a two-year team captain for both her high school and club teams. At Berean Christian in 2016, she was Team MVP, was recognized as the East Bay Times Athlete of the Week, and earned 1st Team All-League honors from the Valley Division of the Diablo Athletic League. Before that in 2015, she garnered a 2nd Team All-League selection from the Diablo Valley Athletic League. Michaela is also a five-time MaxPreps Player of the Match and a Northern California Section (NCS) Scholar Athlete. During the volleyball "off-seasons" she was a varsity track athlete at Berean Christian for two years and an NCS finalist. Michaela can also be seen on the beach where she has played competitively for the past two years. Outside of the sport, Michaela volunteers for Convoy of Hope, a faith-based organization that has helped more than 80 million people throughout the world by sharing food, water, emergency supplies, agricultural know-how, and opportunities that empower people to live independent lives, free from poverty, disease and hunger. She also finds time as a Junior Counselor at Summer Kids Camp for Calvary Temple Christian School in Concord. Michaela will attend the Academy of Art University in San Francisco where she will pursue a degree in Interior Architecture and Design.



**The Academy of Art University**, formerly Academy of Art College, is a privately owned for-profit art school in San Francisco, CA. It was founded as the Academy of Advertising Art in 1929. It has 283 full-time teachers and 1,154 part-time teaching staff; it claims to be the largest privately owned art and design school in the U.S. The student body and alumni come from more than 112 countries. The school is one of the largest property owners in San Francisco, with

the main campus located on New Montgomery Street in the South of Market district. The founder, Richard S. Stephens, a painter and magazine editor, led the university until 1951 when his son Richard A. Stephens took over, who in 1992 was replaced by his daughter Elisa Stephens. Under her presidency, student numbers increased from around 2000 to 18,000 by 2012. Academy of Art University has been participating in the NY Fashion Week event bi-annually since 2005. A private bus fleet transports students between dorms and classrooms located across San Francisco. The school sports teams, the Urban Knights, compete as members of the Pacific West Conference in nine sports in NCAA Division II.



ACADEMY of ART

### ***Congratulations Michaela!***

*We are so proud of the beautiful, young lady you are. All of your hard work, perseverance, and optimism have paid off. Your next journey into adulthood is filled with so much excitement!*

*Thank you for being an outstanding daughter (and sister). You continue to fill our lives with joy. We can't wait to see the plans God has in store for you.*

***We love you to the moon!***

***Mom, Dad & Tyler***



**Jill Devlinny-Peterson** great job

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 4:14pm



**Karen Conley Elliott** Congratulations Michaela!!! Your new teammates are lucky to have you on their team!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 4:54pm



**Jim Simonson** I've known Michaela and her parents since she started coming to the summer open gyms at Berean Christian HS when she was in the 7th grade.

Great young lady - great supportive family. Good luck Kiddo.

Like · Reply · 2 · March 26 at 4:59pm



**Jim Ross** And she benefited from that coaching Jim!!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 5:35pm



Write a reply...



**Jocelyn Upshur-Greenberg** Congrats Michaela!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 5:06pm



**Paul D Harrison** Congratulations Michaela !!!! Very proud of you and this opportunity!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 5:10pm



**Lucas Abbott** One of the best young ladies I have ever had the pleasure of coaching. She also comes from an amazing and supportive family. Congrats Mic, you deserve this!!! Great player, great teammate, great person.

Like · Reply · 4 · March 26 at 8:00pm



**Jim Ross** Eeh, she's ok. 😞

So proud of you Michaela. I've seen how hard you work and I know the person you are. Art U is getting a gem!!

Like · Reply · 4 · March 26 at 8:04pm



**Shannon Lee** Congratulations Michaela! It is well deserved, and I can't wait to see you in that libero jersey...represent! 😊❤️🏐

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 8:13pm



**Jeremy Swann** What great local news! Fantastic to hear and we are all super proud of you!!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 26 at 8:48pm



**Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Michaela!!!

Like · Reply · April 10 at 3:15pm



Michaela was the 2016 MVP for Berean Christian and earned 1st Team All-League honors from the Diablo Athletic League-Valley Division.



ACADEMY of ART



## Janelle Gong, University of Hawaii

Janelle was a four-year varsity player for Campolindo HS in Moraga, CA. In each of those years, her team was undefeated in league play, finalists in the North Coast Section Tournament (winning it her senior year), and participants in the CIF State Championship Tournament. As a sophomore in 2014, Campolindo won the Super 8 Tournament in Sacramento, and Janelle was voted the team's Most Improved Player that season. In 2015, her team was the runner up in the Super 8 Tournament and CIF NorCal Region DIII Semi-finalists, and Janelle was named to the Diablo Foothill Athletic League (DFAL) 2nd Team All-League. In her senior year, her team was runner up in the Super 8 Tournament, NCS DII Champions, as well as CIF NorCal Region Open Division Semi-finalists. Janelle was voted a co-captain by her teammates, and received Diablo Athletic League 1st Team All-League honors, as well as East Bay Times Top Bay Area Preps Team Honorable Mention. She was also voted the team's Most Valuable Player. Janelle will be attending the University of Hawaii, and is looking forward to being a member of the Rainbow Wahine Volleyball Team.



The **University of Hawai'i** system (formally the University of Hawai'i and popularly known as U.H.) is a public, co-educational college and university system that confers associate, bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees through three university campuses, seven community college campuses, an employment training center, three university centers, four education centers, and various other research facilities distributed across six islands throughout the State of Hawaii. All schools of the U.H. system are accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. The U.H. system's main administrative offices are located on the property of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in Honolulu. The U.H. system has over 50,300 students.



In her senior year at Campolindo HS, Janelle was Team Captain, received the Diablo Athletic League 1st Team All-League, and The East Bay Times Top Bay Area Preps Team Honorable Mention. She was also voted the team's MVP.



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA



## Janelle-

*As your parents, we couldn't be happier. From the time you were born to what you are today, what a wonderful young lady you have become! Starting with swim team, soccer, softball, basketball, and now volleyball, no matter what team you were on, you have always given your very best. Always kind and thoughtful, we could see that your "quiet resolve" and leading by example was your own natural and intuitive way of communicating and inspiring others to strive to be the very best they can be, even when things don't go the way you want them to.*

*In your club volleyball journey, you played and helped Diablo, NorCal, Vision, and Xceleration teams advance and play at the Junior National level. This year, your team faced a variety of injuries and illnesses that made competing at a high level more challenging. You, and the others, had to band together as a team, support each other, and work very hard to overcome your circumstances. And, while you might not appreciate it now, in the context of "life's big picture," this may have been your best volleyball season so far. This is because your true character was revealed by the way you continued to play and support and help the team throughout the season, when it was needed the most.*

*Your contribution, along with your teammates, enabled your team to qualify for this year's Junior Nationals American Division Girls 18U Finals and win a silver medal for second place. Life doesn't always go according to plan. When unanticipated things happen, it's how we react and what we do that is most important.*

*Now, it is onward to college at the University of Hawaii and becoming a part of the storied history of the Rainbow Wahines. We know how excited and anxious you must be. Who knows what the future holds. You have been fortunate to play for many teams and coaches, and you have been taught that "the outcome of any endeavor is determined by the spirit in which it is entered." There are no guarantees in life, but as you have witnessed many times, by giving your greatest effort, you have a chance to do great things and inspire others along the way. We love you, and will always support you 100%!*

**Love – Dad, Mom, and Regan**



**Paul D Harrison** Excited about what Janelle is going to bring to the team and to Xceleration !

Like · Reply · 2 · November 15, 2016 at 2:19pm



**Jeremy Swann** You and me both VolleyPaul

Like · Reply · November 15, 2016 at 3:27pm



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

## Nikki Jensen, Wellesley College

Nikki was a three-year varsity volleyball player at Castro Valley HS (CVHS) and served as team captain her senior year, leading the team to the North Coast Section (NCS) playoffs for the first time in four years. She was selected to the 1st Team All-League for the West Alameda County - Foothill Athletic League her senior year and earned 2nd Team All-League honors her junior year. She is a four-year "Scholar Athlete" and will graduate with Highest Honors. When not playing volleyball, she performs as a member of the CVHS Madrigals - the school's award-winning honor choir, is vice president of the Model United Nations (UN) Club, and is a leader in her church's children's group. Nikki will be attending Wellesley College where she will continue her volleyball career and study Political Science as she works toward a degree in Law.

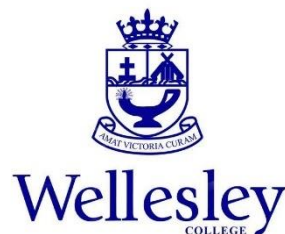
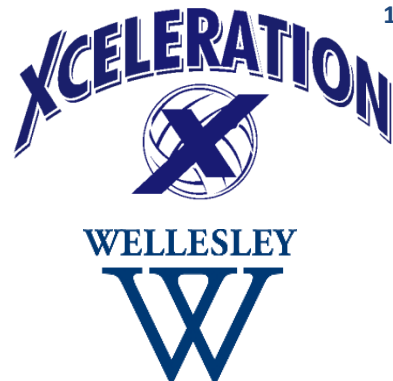


**Wellesley College** is a private women's liberal arts college located on a 500-acre campus in Wellesley, MA, just outside of Boston. Founded in 1870 it is a member of the original Seven Sisters Colleges. Wellesley's motto, *Non Ministrari sed Ministrare*, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister," captures the College's mission: To provide an excellent liberal arts education for women who will make a difference in the world. The college is also known for allowing its students to

cross-register at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Oxford University, Brandeis, Babson College, and Olin College of Engineering. As of 2016, Wellesley was ranked the third best liberal arts college in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report* and first on The Princeton Review Best Professors list. Also, *Forbes* magazine in 2015 ranked Wellesley 26th among all US colleges and universities. As of 2017, Wellesley had a fall 2017 first-year student acceptance rate of 21% and a total of nearly 2,500 undergraduate students. The college's robust alumni base has been widely viewed as the "most powerful women's network" in the world, and its graduates are often recognized as among the most accomplished of any institution and most responsive to fellow alumni. Notable alumni include career politicians Hillary Rodham Clinton and Madeleine Albright, former First Lady of the Republic of China Soong Mei-ling, and journalists Cokie Roberts and Diane Sawyer to name a few.



Nikki will major in Political Science at Wellesley College, and while there will seek an opportunity to cross-register across the pond at Oxford University.





**Nikki,**

*As your parents, it has truly been our pleasure to watch you grow and mature into a strong, smart, beautiful, young woman. You have made hard decisions and overcome adversity in order to achieve your goals - in volleyball, school, and life. While it's been a "grind" to deliver you to practices, tournaments, league games, concerts, school activities... we wouldn't have wanted it any other way. We know how much you love the game and how it provides outlets and challenges that have molded you into who you are today and who you will become.*

*We are very proud of you, not just for volleyball, but for the well-rounded person you are! We thank God every day that he made you part of our lives and it has been our honor to guide you and be amazed at how fantastic you are. While we won't be close by in this new phase of your life, know that we will always love you and will be here to support you and can't wait to see the great things you accomplish!*

**Love,  
Mom and Dad**



**Jeremy Swann** Wow, Wellesley has never seen an athlete like this before!! Awesome news 😊

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 10:01am



**Andy Schroeder** Get ready Wellesley you're getting a VERY SPECIAL student athlete in the Nikki Jensen! Great student - great teammate and great competitor

Unlike · Reply · 3 · January 28 at 10:21am



**Suzy Childs McKee** Congratulations Nikki!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 12:45pm



**Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Congrats Nikki!!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 12:59pm



**Deanna Daniele-Jordan** Congratulations, Nikki!

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 1:20pm



**Jim Ross** What a great choice for a great person. Really proud of how hard you worked to get this Nikki! Congrats!! The Blue are getting a good one.

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 5:27pm



**Delaney McKee** Proud to have played with such a hard worker!! Go Nikki 🎉

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 5:49pm



**Paul D Harrison** Nikki..So happy and proud of you! You will be a difference maker. You have impressed me so much with your devotion and drive !!

Unlike · Reply · 1 · January 28 at 8:16pm



**Odele Desmuke Hawkins** Welcome to the sisterhood! Wellesley '90

Unlike · Reply · 2 · January 28 at 9:01pm



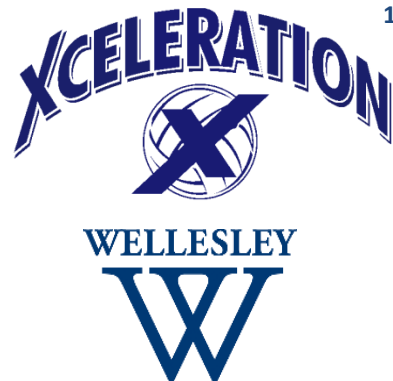
**Leslie Ray** I am truly honored that I was able to coach such a talent. One of the hardest working players I ever coached. Keep working Nikki the sky is the limit

Like · Reply · 1 · January 29 at 9:58am



**Daiana Takashima** Congrats! Get ready for Massachusetts weather! haha

Like · Reply · January 29 at 3:25pm



**Wellesley**  
COLLEGE



## Parker Jones, The University of Pennsylvania

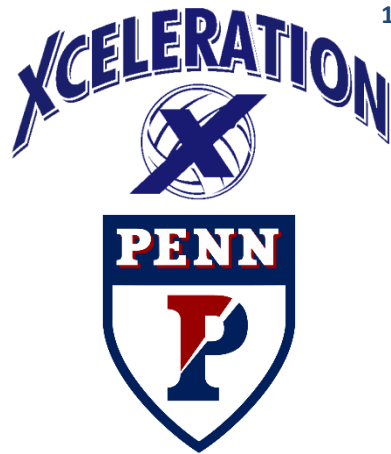
Parker was a four-year varsity player, team captain (Senior year), and team MVP (Junior and Senior years) at Acalanes HS in Lafayette, CA. In her Senior year, her team won the Northern California Regional Championship and the Division III State Championship! Parker was recognized by MaxPreps as the California Division III Player of the Year; 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-East Bay, MaxPreps 2016 Medium Schools All-American Girls Volleyball 2<sup>nd</sup> Team; 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League Diablo Athletic League; and California Division III State Champion Player of the Game (Pursuing Victory with Honor). In addition, Xceleration 18Blue made it to the finals of the 18s Junior National Championship, American Division, and came in second in Dallas, TX. Parker was named on the All-Tournament Team, American Division at JNs. Parker is a member of the California Scholarship Federation for academic excellence and will major in Economics at the University of Pennsylvania.



**The University of Pennsylvania** (commonly known as **Penn** or **UPenn**) is a private Ivy League research university located in Philadelphia, PA. Benjamin Franklin is Penn's founder. The university coat of arms features a dolphin on the red chief, adopted directly from the Franklin family's own coat of arms. Penn was one of the first academic institutions to follow a multidisciplinary model pioneered by several European universities, concentrating multiple "faculties" (e.g., theology, classics, medicine) into one institution. It was also home to many other educational innovations. The first school of medicine in North America (Perelman School of Medicine, 1765), the first collegiate business school (Wharton School of Business, 1881), and the first "student union" building and organization (Houston Hall, 1896) were founded at Penn. Over its history, the university has also produced many distinguished alumni. These include 14 heads of state (including two U.S. Presidents); 25 billionaires - the most of any university in the world at the undergraduate level; three United States Supreme Court justices; over 33 United States Senators, 42 United States Governors, and 158 members of the U.S. House of Representatives; 8 signers of the United States Declaration of Independence; and 12 signers of the United States Constitution. In addition, some 30 Nobel laureates, 169 Guggenheim Fellows, and 80 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, have been affiliated with Penn. In addition, Penn has produced a significant number of Fortune 500 CEOs, trailing only Harvard and Stanford worldwide.



With coaches Jeremy Swann and Andy Schroeder, Parker was named on the All-Tournament team at Junior Nationals. Parker proudly dons her Penn gear; there she will pursue a degree in Economics.





**Dear Parker,**

*When we think back to when you started playing volleyball (seventh grade) to now, we are in awe of the player and person you have become. The hours of dedication to conditioning, fundamental improvement, and academic performance has been amazing and that you still have had time for friends and family has been inspiring. We know that volleyball is a big part of your life and that all the teams that you've been on have taught you so many lessons.*

*We know how important all the people who have supported you are in your life and there have been many at Xceleration and Acalanes that have contributed to your overall success. We thank them for seeing your potential and for devoting their time to providing direction and coaching that went above and beyond the normal commitment. How lucky you have been to have such support.*

*You are hard-working, determined and goal oriented, and these qualities have prepared you for your next steps in life. We look forward to watching your college journey – you are ready!*

**We love you Peen!  
Mom, Dad and Taylor**



-  **Jim Ross** Couldn't be happier about this! A quality school gets a quality person and an exceptional vb player. BIG congrats Parker! Now ... relax a bit 😊  
Like · Reply · 1 · October 24, 2016 at 1:24pm
-  **Jeremy Swann** Parker Jones vs. Kelley Wirth - an epic clash of the Titans! Cannot wait for this!!! Great work Parker and congrats 😊  
Like · Reply · 1 · October 24, 2016 at 1:40pm
-  **Paul D Harrison** Parker... Could not be any happier for you. Congratulations!! I know how much time you put into this.  
Like · Reply · October 24, 2016 at 1:59pm
-  **Kelly O'Brien Dalziel** Congratulations, Parker, looking forward to hearing all about it!!  
Like · Reply · October 24, 2016 at 3:08pm
-  **Shannon Kussman** So excited for you Parker!!! 🎉  
Like · Reply · October 24, 2016 at 3:50pm
-  **Jeff Cole** Congratulations Parker!  
Like · Reply · October 24, 2016 at 4:17pm
-  **Lucas Abbott** Congrats Parker!!!  
Like · Reply · October 24, 2016 at 7:24pm

Acalanes team captain and two-time team MVP, Parker and the Dons won the Northern California Regional Championship and the Division III State Championship! Parker was recognized by numerous organizations: MaxPreps California Division III Player of the Year and Medium Schools All-American Girls Volleyball 2<sup>nd</sup> Team; Contra Costa Times 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-East Bay team; Diablo Athletic League 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-League; and the CA Interscholastic Federation (CIF) California Division III State Champion Player of the Game (Pursuing Victory with Honor).



## Jackie Kupeli, New York University

Jacqueline was a three-year varsity player at Monte Vista HS in Danville, CA where she co-captained the 2016 team that completed a trifecta by winning the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) and the North Coast Section (NCS) Division I titles for the third consecutive season. Jacqueline is an EBAL 2nd Team selection in 2015 and an Honorable Mention in 2016. She also is a two-time California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Scholar Athlete, a three-time recipient of the Monte Vista Varsity AVCA Team Academic Award, and a four-time honoree on the AVCA Phenom List. Jacqueline also has the proud distinction of being the inaugural recipient of the Monte Vista Volleyball Stampede Spirit Award in 2016. During her freshman year at Monte Vista, she was named the MVP of the JV volleyball team. She has competed five times at the USAV Junior Nationals with her club teams and capped off her last club season with a Silver Medal finish with Xceleration 18Blue. Jacqueline is also an active beach volleyball player, placing 2nd in the USAV SoCal Grand Slam (and earning a bid to Beach Junior Nationals) in 2013, being selected to play at the National Volleyball League (NVL) Championships in Florida in 2014, and posting 2nd and 3rd place finishes in Santa Cruz in 2015.

Academically, Jacqueline is consistently on the Honor Roll, is a member of the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society. She has served as the President of the Monte Vista Volleyball Club. Jacqueline also stays busy with volunteer work as an Assistens Auxiliary Member for the Assistance League, an assistant coach at summer volleyball clinics, and is currently Vice President of the Danville Youth Council. She also has served her community as an intern for the Catharine Baker for State Assembly campaign. Jacqueline has worked as an Office Administrator for Hair at the Ritz and produces volleyball recruiting videos. At NYU, Jacqueline will pursue a degree in Economics.



Founded in 1831, **New York University** is now one of the largest private universities in the U.S. Of the more than 3,000 colleges and universities in America, New York University is one of only 60 member institutions of the distinguished Association of American Universities. From a student body of 158 during NYU's very first semester, enrollment has grown to more than 50,000 students at three degree-granting campuses in New York City, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai, and at study away sites in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North and South America. Today, students come from every state in the union and from 133 foreign countries.



Jacqueline is a two-time CIF Scholar Athlete, a 3-time recipient of the Monte Vista Varsity AVCA Team Academic Award, and a 4-time honoree on the AVCA Phenom List. She also has the proud distinction of being the inaugural recipient of the Monte Vista Volleyball Stampede Spirit Award in 2016.





**Jacqueline,**

As our family videos show, even as a baby, you were in constant motion. It is no surprise that you've played sports throughout your life (remember when you played on both the girls and boys basketball teams in middle school? How about playing basketball, volleyball, and softball at the same time because their seasons overlapped?). Ultimately, you settled on volleyball as your passion as demonstrated by your commitment to practices, conditioning, and playing every point to the best of your ability. We've watched countless sets and cherished every moment! The joie d'vivre you bring on and off the court is such a wonderful expression of your commitment to teams you've been on and the girls you've played with. Whether on the court or on the sideline, team success has always been your priority.

As good as you've been in sports, what makes you so special is what a great person you've become. We love the connection you have with your twin, Steven (e.g., the way you support each other). Your work ethic and level of commitment is tremendous, particularly with the way you balance it out with the right amount of fun. Your interactions with everyone exemplifies your positive "can do" spirit tempered by a care and respect for all. It is no wonder people enjoy being with you. We see that the confidence you exude comes from the drive and desire to explore new and interesting things, and experience all that life has to offer. Choosing to continue that exploration by studying at NYU is simply a natural extension of that drive.

We are so very proud of all that you've achieved. What's even more incredible is that this is just the beginning. We can't wait to see how your journey continues to unfold!

**With all our love always from your biggest fans,  
Mommy, Daddy, and Steven**



**Jeremy Swann** Congratulations!! And get ready to see Jackie back on the court in 3 weeks!!!

Like · Reply · March 11 at 7:36pm · Edited

**Kelsey Budde** Yay Jackie!!! Can't wait ti finally play with you again! Can't wait to see all you accomplish at NYU!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · March 13 at 5:57pm

**Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Jackie!! ❤️👏❤️👏❤️👏

Like · Reply · March 13 at 6:44pm

**Paul D Harrison** Congratulations Jackie...you are Amazing !!

Like · Reply · March 13 at 7:57pm

**Buddy Angeles** Way to Jackie! Congrats!!!

Like · Reply · March 14 at 12:30am

**Jim Ross** I'm so happy for you Jackie. You worked and earned this. And you did it all with a wonderful attitude and smile on your face. NYU is getting a gem. All they have to do is look at how you handled this season to know that.

Like · Reply · 1 · March 15 at 7:47pm

**Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Proud of you Jackie..

Like · Reply · March 15 at 9:02pm

**Andy Schroeder** NYU will be very pleased with Jackie Kupeli. Tremendous student athlete who will do some big things on and off the Court at New York University! CONRATS ON A JOB WELL DONE

Like · Reply · March 18 at 11:55pm



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY



## Delaney McKee, The University of New Hampshire

Delaney was a four-year varsity player at Bentley Upper School in Lafayette, CA. The 2016 Team Captain was named on the Bay Counties-East 1st Team All-League Team. In her Junior season, she earned 2nd Team All-League and received the Coach's Award. Delaney will major in Social Justice at the University of New Hampshire.



The **University of New Hampshire** (UNH) is a public research university in the University System of New Hampshire. The university's Durham campus, comprising six colleges, is located in the Seacoast region of the state. A seventh college, the UNH at Manchester, occupies the university's campus in Manchester, the state's largest city. The University of New Hampshire School of Law, known as the Franklin Pierce Law Center until 2010, is located in Concord, the state's capital.

The UNH was founded and incorporated in 1866, as a land grant college in Hanover in connection with Dartmouth College. In 1893, UNH moved to Durham. With over 15,000 students between its Durham, Manchester, and Concord campuses, UNH is the largest university in the state. The university is one of only nine land, sea, and space grant institutions in the nation. The university has more than 200 student organizations grouped by academics and careers, community service, political and world affairs, arts and entertainment, culture and language, fraternities and sororities, hall councils, honor societies, leisure and recreation, media and publications, religious, special interest, and student activism. Recreation at the University of New Hampshire also includes club and intramural sports.



This picture personifies Delaney – she likes to spend her off time just chillin’.



University of  
New Hampshire



University of  
New Hampshire

*Dmac, Big D, Delicious Delaney, always our Baby D,*

*As we write this it's your last day of high school and you have one more club tournament to go. What a crazy, wonderful ride it's been!*

*Early on you were certain sports would be a major part of your life—softball, swimming, soccer. Eventually a growth spurt that crippled you on the soccer field led you to volleyball. One door shuts and another swings wide open! Remember that metaphor, it tends to repeat.*

*We will miss the days of volleyball on the road. Breakfast burritos, sunrises, and many discussions about sports, life, friends, and social justice in the world. Driving, talking, music, endless laughing. And sleeping to refuel and do it again.*

*We know you are grateful for the next step. You have earned it and we have no doubt you will continue to earn it. We look forward to watching you move forward in your volleyball career, and attacking social justice like you attack a ball at the net.*

*Your family is always behind you and very proud of the person you've become. Go Xcel, Go Wildcats!*

*We love you always,  
Mom, Dad & Rylan*



**Tomas Pineda** One of my fave Xcel athletes. Couldn't be prouder. Way to go Delaney.

Like · Reply · 3 · May 5, 2016 at 7:40pm



**Jim Ross** Really proud of you and happy for you Delaney! You are such a hard worker and this is a GREAT fit. Enjoy this!

Like · Reply · 3 · May 5, 2016 at 7:42pm



**Paul D Harrison** Congratulations [Delaney McKee](#) !!! What a great choice.

Like · Reply · 2 · May 5, 2016 at 7:56pm



**Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Way to go Delaney! ! So proud of you..

Like · Reply · 1 · May 5, 2016 at 8:53pm



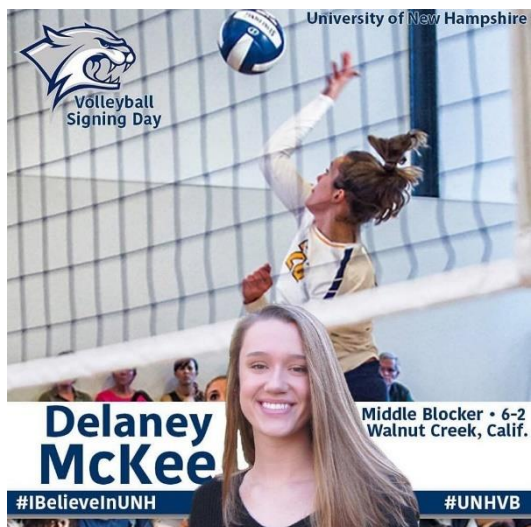
**Lucas Abbott** Nice!!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · May 5, 2016 at 10:11pm



**Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Delaney!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · May 6, 2016 at 2:59pm



Delaney was an early commit after the Las Vegas Classic in early 2016.



## Mere Funaki Asenaca Naqase, University of North Alabama

Mere was voted as the WACC-12 All-League Player of the Year and San Leandro HS Volleyball Player of the Year. Co-Captain Mere was instrumental in leading San Leandro HS to its very first WACC League Co-Championship, ending the season with a league record of 9-1 and overall record of 26-4. At the 2017 Spring Junior Nationals American Division in Dallas, Mere was named on the All-Tournament Team. At the University of North Alabama, Mere plans to pursue a degree in Criminal Justice.



**The University of North Alabama (UNA)** is a coeducational university located in Florence, AL. It is the state's oldest four-year public university. Occupying a 130-acre campus in a residential section of Florence, UNA was founded as LaGrange College in 1830. It was reestablished in 1872 as the first state-supported teachers college south of the Ohio River. A year later, it became one of the nation's first co-educational colleges. The University of North Alabama has developed into a comprehensive regional university exerting a major influence

over the cultural, social and economic life of Northwest Alabama and providing educational opportunities for students pursuing undergraduate and graduate majors offered through the colleges of Arts and Sciences, Business, Education and Nursing and Health. The *U.S. News and World Report's* America's Best Colleges ranked the university as a top-tier public university.



Mere was co-captain at San Leandro HS where she was Volleyball Player of the Year, as well as the Wacc-12 League MVP during her Senior season that ended with a co-championship title for the Pirates. Mere was named on the All-Tournament Team at the 2017 Junior Nationals in Dallas, TX.

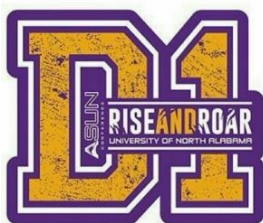



*Mere,*

*The coaches thought you've been playing before the first time you went for your tryout, at the age of 9... They said, "Mere, all you have to do is keep up with your school work because they're coming for you." Over the years, we watched you grow to be beautiful, talented & amazing, and what makes it oh so awesome is that great personality that you have in and outside of the court... I'm glad I didn't give up when people wanted to adopt you 🤗🤗...*

*Mere, you will continue to shine and make everybody proud like you have been... May your dreams come true and may you succeed and achieve all you strive for in life... May the good Lord continue to bless you and your journey.*

*All our love,  
Mom, Dad, and your siblings*



- Jim Ross** Well earned. Hard earned. Truly deserving. Could not be happier for you Mere!!! It's been a joy to have you with us over these years!  
Like · Reply · March 27 at 8:54pm
- Natasha Gayle** Go Mere!  
Like · Reply · March 27 at 9:30pm
- Tomas Pineda** Fitting honor for a consummate athlete. Terrific lady from a terrific family.  
Like · Reply · March 27 at 9:42pm
- Jenyth Gearhart Utchen** Southwest flies into Birmingham!  
Like · Reply · March 27 at 10:17pm
- Suzy Childs McKee** Yessss!! Way to go Mere they are so lucky to have you. Congratulations!  
Like · Reply · March 27 at 11:03pm
- Rochelle Finley** Very proud of you Mere. Such a deserving, talented, and humble athlete. Watching you play since middle school days. You have worked so hard and deserve the very best. Congrats  
Like · Reply · 1 · March 27 at 11:32pm
- Jill Devinny-Peterson** so proud of you well deserved  
Like · Reply · March 28 at 5:58am
- Joelle Martinet Prislis** Awesome news! CONGRATS Mere & family 😊  
Like · Reply · March 28 at 2:20pm
- Jeremy Swann** And there it is! Ding ding ding, we have a winner and it is UNAI! So thrilled to hear the news for Mere  
Like · Reply · March 28 at 3:08pm
- Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Mere!!!!  
Like · Reply · March 28 at 8:14pm
- Jeff Cole** I am so proud of you Mere! Congratulations!  
Like · Reply · March 28 at 9:23pm
- Buddy Angeles** congrats, mere! represent!!!  

- Jim Ross** Congrats Mere! And congrats to 3 special coaches! Not much more to say when Leslie said it so well 😊  
Like · Reply · 2 · April 12 at 2:18pm
- Shannon Kussman** This is just so awesome, all around just fantastic! I absolutely love this ❤️❤️❤️  
Like · Reply · 1 · April 12 at 2:29pm
- Jill Devinny-Peterson** im so happy for her. Cant wait to follow her progress in Alabama.... xoxo get it girlie! a true inspiration... great job Leslie Ray  
Like · Reply · 1 · April 12 at 2:44pm
- Tomas Pineda** Seeing this makes my heart happy.  
Like · Reply · April 12 at 6:56pm
- Jeremy Swann** Wow just wow!  
Like · Reply · April 12 at 11:33pm
- Andy Schroeder** The ultimate student athlete Mere Naqase! North Alabama is very fortunate to have Mere for 4 years-she will be everything to their program on and off the court. Words cannot describe what a tremendous Teammate Mere is. Congrats and well deserved!!  
Like · Reply · 1 · April 13 at 11:44am
- Renee Nickerson** Mere - just love you and am so proud of you & happy for you 😊  
Like · Reply · April 13 at 4:35pm
- Paul D Harrison** A big Congrats to Mere. A joy to work with I know your parents are proud and I know Leslie, Lindsey, and Jade are super excited and proud too. What an exciting time for you! Just cuz you are in Alabama doesn't mean you "Roll with the Tide" ....Jade won't like that.  
Like · Reply · 1 · 11 hrs



## Alexandra Nickerson, Colorado College

Alexandra was a three-year varsity volleyball player at Monte Vista HS in Danville, CA, serving as captain her senior year. She helped Monte Vista earn the East Bay Athletic League Championship and win the North Coast Section (NCS) Division 1 Championship in 2014, 2015 and 2016 as a 6-rotation outside hitter. Her team advanced to the Division 1 NorCal State finals in 2015 and the semi-finals in 2014 and 2016. As a consummate scholar-athlete, Alexandra achieved Monte Vista Honor Roll, California Scholarship Federation (CSF) and National Honor Society (NHS) throughout high school and was named a NCS Scholar in each volleyball season. Her Monte Vista team was named a Scholar Team and Academic All-American in 2014-2016. Alexandra will be attending Colorado College and committed to play volleyball. She plans to major in Biology.

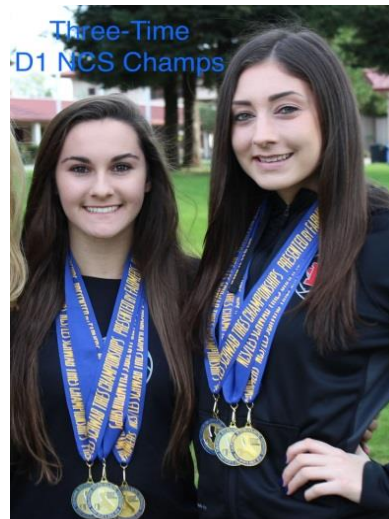


**Colorado College (CC)** is a private liberal arts college in Colorado Springs, CO, near the foot of the Rocky Mountains. It was founded in 1874 by Thomas Nelson Haskell. The college enrolls approximately 2,000 undergraduates at its 90-acre campus, 70 miles south of Denver. The college offers 42 majors and 33 minors, and has a student-faculty ratio of 10:1. Colorado College had an acceptance rate of 15.8% for the Class of 2020, was ranked as the best private college in Colorado by *Forbes*, and was listed as tied for the 24th-best National Liberal Arts College in the 2017 *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. Most sports teams are in the NCAA Division III, with the exception of Division I teams in men's hockey and women's soccer. The college offers more than 80 majors, minors, and specialized programs including: Southwest studies, feminist and gender studies, Asian studies, biochemistry, environmental science, neuroscience, Latin American studies, Russian and Eurasian studies, and American cultural studies, as well as an across-the-curriculum writing program. In addition to its undergraduate programs, the college offers a Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) degree.



As captain in her senior year, Alexandra helped Monte Vista earn the EBAL title and the North Coast Section (NCS) Division 1 Championship in 2014, 2015 and 2016 as a 6-rotation outside hitter.





**Alexandra,**

*From backyard pepper in anticipation of your first volleyball tryout for area-league 13s to standing on the 18s podium at the 2017 Jr. Nationals...you've come a long, long way. The pepper with your dad never stopped, and you matured into a passionate player, true competitor, and amazing teammate who always strived to make those around you better.*

*Over the years, we have had so much enjoyment watching you grow as an athlete and person. Through volleyball, you have met some wonderful lifelong friends, learned about dedication and perseverance, and developed a sense of commitment toward something greater than self. Your focus and joy on the court have been such a treat for us to watch. Your sense of calm and occasional silliness on the court seem contagious to others as you bring perspective to the game you play.*

*You are a well-rounded, kind and beautiful person, and we are so incredibly blessed that we are part of your life. We look forward to continuing to see you develop and grow as an incredible young woman and athlete at Colorado College.*

**We love you so very much!**

**Mom, Dad, and Andrew**

**Jim Ross** GREAT job and choice Alex! So happy and proud of you. Know how hard you worked for this and you earned it. CC is getting a gem. And they'll soon love to see the "tip toes". 😊

Like · Reply · 2 · April 11 at 9:47am

**Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Proud of you Alex...

Like · Reply · 1 · April 11 at 9:27pm

**Shannon Kussman** Congratulations Alex!!!!

Like · Reply · 1 · April 12 at 2:41pm

**Leslie Ray** so proud of you Alex keep up all the hard work. You are a joy to watch and im so happy i was about to coach you

Like · Reply · 1 · April 13 at 9:25am

**Andy Schroeder** Alexandra is a very very talented Volleyball Player. Its a joy to walk into the Gym and see Alex. She loves the game and competes ridiculously hard every day for her team. great Teammate-great work ethic-great student-Hello Colorado College.. Get ready for a great 4 years-Alex Nickerson will give you all she has!!

Like · Reply · 1 · April 13 at 11:49am

**Paul D Harrison** Congratulations Alex !! You are going to be an awesome Tiger. It will be fun to follow your career there. Thanks for some great years with Xceleration!

Like · Reply · 1 · 11 hrs





## Kaitlyn Peterson, Long Beach City College

Kaitlyn was the Varsity Volleyball Team Captain at Heritage HS, where she earned 1st Team All-Conference and 1st Team All-League from the Bay Valley Athletic League. Kaitlyn earned MVP honors at the Stockton Classic Tournament. Academically, Kaitlyn has a 3.9 GPA with AP classes, and is a member of various organizations, including the Black Student Union, Leadership, National Honor Society, and the California Scholarship Federation (CSF). Kaitlyn has played club volleyball for six years and will play both indoor and beach at Long Beach City College where she will enter with an Undeclared major.



**Long Beach City College**, established in 1927, is a community college located in Long Beach, CA. It is divided into two campuses. The Liberal Arts Campus, known as LAC, is located in the residential community of the Lakewood Village section of Long Beach, on Carson Street west of Clark Avenue. The Pacific Coast Campus, known as PCC, is located in central Long Beach, near the city of Signal Hill, on Pacific Coast Highway east of Orange

Avenue. It is the only college in the Long Beach Community College District. The college as a whole is known as LBCC, as well as "City." LBCC serves the cities of Long Beach, Lakewood, Signal Hill, and Santa Catalina Island. Long Beach City College offers a wide range of programs, including business, health, trade and industry, communications, and liberal arts, as well as a wide variety vocational programs spanning various occupational trades. The college is recognized nationally for its nursing program, and has an honors program for its high-achieving students. The college has an enrollment of approximately 30,000 students.



At Long Beach City College, Kaitlyn will learn from one of the best sand volleyball players of all time – three-time Olympic Gold Medalist Misty Mae-Treanor.



**Kaitlyn,**

*We couldn't be more proud of you and all of your accomplishments these last 4 years. You are a strong, determined young lady with a heart of gold. You work hard on and off the court and your efforts are finally paying off. From the second you touched a volleyball, you fell in love with the sport. You live and breathe volleyball and we are so happy that you will be continuing on to play volleyball at Long Beach City College. We know that this has always been your dream.*

*We can't wait to see what the future holds for you Muffin. Reach for the stars! The skies the limit baby! Go Vikings!*

**Jim Ross** Big congrats Kaitlyn! You worked hard for this and I'm proud and very happy for you. Misty is getting a good one.

Like · Reply · 1 · April 21 at 1:49pm

**Jill Devinny-Peterson** thanks for being so supportive shes super excited

Like · Reply · 1 · April 21 at 5:23pm

Write a reply...



**Rochelle Finley** Way to Go Kaitlyn aka Muffin!!!!  
Beyond proud of you.

Like · Reply · 1 · April 21 at 3:07pm

**Rochelle Finley** Jill Devinny-Peterson proud of your baby girl and her journey

Like · Reply · 1 · April 21 at 3:08pm

**Jill Devinny-Peterson** aww love ya

Like · Reply · 1 · April 21 at 5:24pm



# XCELERATION



**LB** LONG BEACH  
CITY COLLEGE



## Brianna Ranney, Sonoma State University

Brianna was a three-year varsity player at Granada HS in Livermore where her team reached the North Coast Section playoffs three times, representing the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL). In 2016, Brianna was varsity Team Captain and Offensive MVP for the Matadors and an EBAL All-League Honorable Mention. Currently, she is an Assistant Coach for the Mendenhall middle school's girls volleyball team. Brianna and the Xceleration 18Blue also finished as finalists in 18 American Junior National Championships in Dallas 2017.

Outside of volleyball, Brianna is a North Coast Section Scholar Athlete, is consistently on the Honor Roll, and a member of the North Coast Section Scholastic Team. She has also served her community through volunteer services at the Stoneridge Creek Retirement Home, worked as a Special Ed Aide, supported the Me-to-We Club, and interned at the Stanford Valley Care Hospital and the Tri-Valley Regional Occupational Program.



**Sonoma State University** (SSU, Sonoma State, and Sonoma) is a public comprehensive university that is part of the 23-campus California State University (CSU) system. The main campus is located east of Rohnert Park, and north of Cotati, CA. Sonoma opened for the first time in 1961, with an initial enrollment of 250 students, and it now has more than 9,300 students. Classes offered took place in leased buildings in Rohnert Park where the college offered its first four-year

Bachelor of Arts degree in Elementary Education. With the completion of its two main classroom halls, Stevenson Hall, named for politician Adlai Stevenson II, and Darwin Hall, named for Charles Darwin, developer of the theory of natural selection, the college moved to its permanent campus of 215 acres in 1966 where the first graduating class received their degrees. Sonoma State teams compete in intercollegiate athletics as the Sonoma State Seawolves. It is an NCAA Division II member and part of the California Collegiate Athletic Association (CCAA) and the Pacific West Conference (PacWest). Sonoma State athletics began in 1964 with the school's first men's basketball team. Through the years, the Seawolves have had various successes including national championships in 1990 (women's soccer), 2002 (men's soccer), and 2009 (men's golf).




**Brianna,**

*From the moment you found volleyball in 6th grade, we knew you were hooked. Watching you play through the years have been some of the best times of our lives. We are especially thankful for the times together in Reno, Denver, Utah and New Orleans. From middle school games at Junction and Mendenhall to high school games at Granada to club with Core, NorCal, and finally with Xcel, whether playing Middle, Outside or a new position at Right Side, your contributions to the team have been immeasurable. You are a dynamic player with your drive, passion and energy being felt during every match.*

*Through the years you have made many lifelong friends, had some amazing coaches and learned huge life lessons. Things like: setting goals, teamwork, being a good teammate and friend, what hard work is, that consistent effort and practice pays off, leadership, how to handle defeat and of course, celebrating your successes. Personally, volleyball has allowed you to develop a confidence and maturity that will guide you the rest of your life. You are an amazing young lady. Our hearts are full seeing your dream of playing volleyball in college come true. We are beyond proud of you and all your accomplishments. Congratulations on a second place finish at Nationals in Dallas. Go live your dream, B. We love you.*

**Love,  
Mom, Dad and Rylan**

 **Jim Ross** Big congrats Brianna! It's been a joy to have you with us this year and to watch you play. Happy you'll be close by.


Like · Reply · March 15 at 6:11am

 **Jeremy Swann** Wow! Great news for Bear and Sonoma State- great job Bri!!


Like · Reply · March 15 at 7:11pm

 **Tagi Waqanivere Naqase** Congrats Brianna..

Like · Reply · March 30 at 8:26pm · Edited

 **Andy Schroeder** It's been awhile since we had a student athlete go to Sonoma State. Big time program and Bri is a big time player. Perfect match. Congrats Brianna!

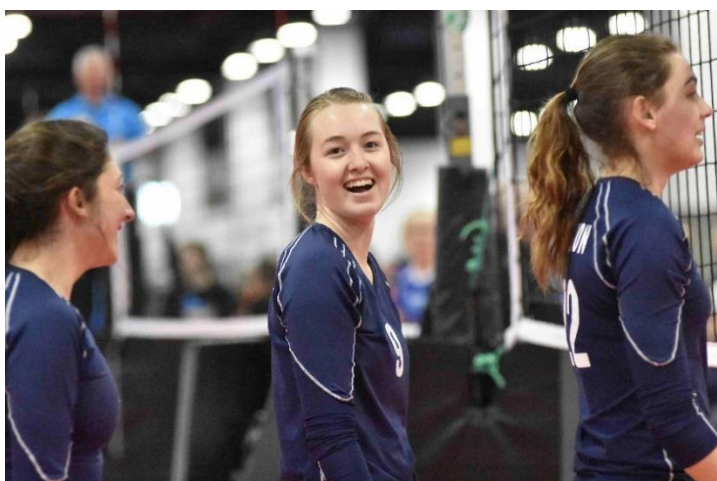
Like · Reply · March 18 at 11:58pm

 **John David** Sonoma State is generally considered EMPIRE country! A coup for Xcell

Like · Reply · March 19 at 7:10am · Edited



**In 2016, Brianna was varsity Team Captain and Offensive MVP for the Granada Matadors and an EBAL All-League Honorable Mention.**





## Abigail Youngblood, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo

Abby is the founder and President of the Granada HS Sand Volleyball Club since 2015. In indoor volleyball, she earned 1st Team All-League honors from the East Bay Athletic League (EBAL) and was an Olympian Scholar Athlete Award finalist at Granada. Abby was also an East Bay Times Top Bay Area Preps Team Honorable Mention. Prior to that, she was an EBAL Honorable Mention recipient and was honored with the Coaches' Award and the Matador Award at Granada.

Abby has been on the Principal's Honor Roll four straight years where she has been a "Straight A" student (no Bs in high school!) and an EBAL Scholar Athlete Award winner. In 2016, Abby was an "Every 15 Minutes" participant and advocate. In 2014-2015, Abby and the Matadors received the Team Scholar Award (highest team GPA in EBAL). At Cal Poly, Abby will major in Biomedical Engineering.



**California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo**, also known as **Cal Poly San Luis Obispo** or **Cal Poly**, is a public university located in San Luis Obispo, CA. Founded in 1901 as a vocational high school, it is currently one of only two polytechnic universities in the 23-member California State University system. Cal Poly is known for its "learn by doing" educational philosophy that encourages students to solve real-world problems by combining classroom theory with experiential laboratory exercise. The most prevalent major at Cal Poly is Business Administration, followed by Mechanical Engineering and Biological Sciences. Cal Poly's admissions process is "more selective" according to the *U.S. News & World Report*. According to the publication's 2017 "America's Best Colleges" report, Cal Poly is ranked 1st in the Western United States for regional public schools whose highest degree is a Master's, and tied for 9th overall (including private schools). The same report ranked the College of Engineering tied for 5th of undergraduate engineering schools in the U.S., with national program rankings of: Environmental/Environmental Health Engineering 1<sup>st</sup>, Civil Engineering 3<sup>rd</sup>, Electrical Engineering tied for 4<sup>th</sup>, and Mechanical Engineering 5<sup>th</sup>.



Abby is the founder and president of Granada's sand volleyball club. She has been on the Principal's Honor Roll four straight years and an EBAL Scholar Athlete Award winner.

**CAL POLY**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO



*Dear Abiyoyo:*

*Watching you grow up has been so much fun for me. I know that a lot of parenting is about what I teach you, but I have been reflecting on all the things you have taught me. I have learned to be more patient, more tolerant, more understanding, more resilient, more trusting, and more compassionate because of you.*

*Volleyball has been such a big part of your journey to adulthood. It has been a lot of work but it has also been a blessing for you in all it has given you, and I know you understand that. For me, it has been an opportunity to watch you grow and learn about the sport, but that wasn't really the most important thing you learned when you played. You've learned to work hard for what you love. To manage your time. To set goals. To manage stress. You know how to be a good teammate, friend, and leader. This passion for volleyball has built you up in so many wonderful ways!*

*I'm so blessed to have been on this journey with you, I love you and am so very, very proud of you.*



**CAL POLY**  
SAN LUIS OBISPO





**#13 Jerri Bonnel**

**#2 Nuru Boone**

**#17 Hannah Pilgrim**

**#6 Ashby Russell  
(San Diego State)**





# Then & Now... Through the Years!



Top left and top middle: Alexandra Nickerson hitting from the outside.

Top right: Michelle Anderson at Dublin HS.



Left photos counterclockwise: Jacqueline Kupeli at Far Westerns in the plaid shorts; with former Xcel athletes Hailey Lindberg and Lo Utchen; wearing the light blue jersey before switching to Xcel Blue; and with former Xcel athletes Daiana Takashima (#1) and Vanessa Tang (#11) at Dorris-Eaton.



Top left: Abby Youngblood in her Core gear.





# Then & Now... Through the Years!



Left: Parker Jones at M.H. Stanley MS and Spirit Week at Acalanes HS.

Right: Janelle Gong back then, and medaling at Joaquin Moraga MS.



Top photos, clockwise: Nikki Jensen at middle school and hoisting the hardware; Nikki will attend Wellesley College in MA to major in Political Science and pursue a career in Law.

Michaela Charrette at practice and Signing Day at Berean Christian HS. Michaela will stay close to home to become an Interior Architecture and Design major at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

Bottom photo: #8 Kaitlyn Peterson with Xceleration 17Blue Brey Ashley at Core.



Right: Wearing this beautiful pink gown and a glittering tiara, any guesses who this princess is?

Hint: She is a teammate of 18Blue's Jaime Brown and Janelle Gong, and 17Blue's Paige Johnson and Terra Murray at Campo. Answer is on the next page.



## Then & Now... Through the Years!

### *Leslie Ray... Oh So Proud!*

*I couldn't be more proud of the young women that all of you have become. The sky is the limit. Take this moment in and never stop striving to becoming what you want to become. Challenges will be faced but you have all the ability to keep pushing forward.*

*I can honestly say this is one of the highlights of my coaching experience seeing all of my girls heading to schools that they have chosen. None of this would be possible without their courage to stay focused and believing they could achieve it. Xceleration Volleyball Club has really paved the way for a lot of young women to find a school fitting for them.*

*We challenge our girls to work hard and stay dedicated. I'm just blessed to be a part of it all. Thank you Xceleration Staff for all your hard work and your continued effort to help these young women reach their dreams.*

*Let's get it ladies!*

**Coach Leslie**



**Left, top to bottom: Mere "Fu-Fu" Naqase and Jaime Brown then and now.**

**Top: Delaney McKee at Bentley and donning the shades because her future looks bright! She was an accomplished soccer stud before a growth spurt led her to volleyball and Xceleration!**

**And the princess is none other than Kelsey Budde!**

