

Application for George Bole College Scholarship 2009

Name: Allie Evans

Address: ***** AVE S St. Petersburg, Fl 33705

Date of Birth: **/**/1991

High School Attended: St. Petersburg High School: International Baccalaureate (IB) Program

Number of years swimming: 9 years

College Attending in the fall: Tulane University

Anticipated Major: Global Health - with a Pre-Med track

Short Answer Section:

Please briefly describe a non-swimming related accomplishment in which you take the greatest pride, and explain why.

This past summer I spent one week volunteering in Costa Rica. I stayed in a cabina in the small town of El Sur de Turrubares, near the Carara Rainforest Reserve. I worked on various community improvement projects focused on creating sustainable community-based tourism. These projects included: painting sheet metal, building bathroom doors, tiling/grouting a water tank, and building a river path. Although I arrived in El Sur knowing no one, I left with a complete sense of family. The other volunteers and I interacted with the forty community members so much that we all became very close in only seven days. I ate lunch and dinner in the homes of the community members. I was able to hold complete conversations in Spanish with the Costa Ricans without any problems. I enjoyed playing with the kids and teaching them English. I feel like I made a significant impact in the community of El Sur even though I only stayed in the town for a short period of time. Interacting with the many families and learning about the Costa Rican culture was as enriching as the hard work and sweat I put into the various work projects. I enjoyed the experience so much that I am returning to El Sur in August to continue working with that community.

What do you consider your most significant swimming achievement and why?

My most significant swimming triumph is the two All-American cuts that I obtained this past high school season. Swimming in high school taught me a lot about how to interact with difficult coaches and make the most out of every racing opportunity. After swimming sprint events all year, I was still able to reach the All-American status in both the 200 Free and the 500 Free at the Regional Meet. Achieving these times was one of my goals for the year, and in the end all of my hard work and perseverance paid off.

How will receiving this scholarship money help you? How do you plan on using the funds?

I am fortunate enough to have received a partial scholarship to my university of choice. The scholarship, however, will not pay for everything. I plan to use the funds from the George Bole College Scholarship towards my college education. I hope to have a great under-graduate learning experience that will help me in the future when I head off to Medical School.

Essay Section:

In 500 words or fewer, please tell us how swimming has affected the person whom you have become, and how you will use this experience in the future.

Swimming has taught me to be a team player even though it is an individual sport. I realize the importance of being a role model on the SPA team. It is crucial to portray good behavior and encourage the younger swimmers to never give up, even during the hard distance sets. I always try to praise the swimmers in my lane after a rigorous practice. For me, an optimistic personality is imperative during sets that require a stiff mental toughness.

Mental toughness is another admirable quality that I have acquired through swimming. I push through the pain when I want to give up because I know the extra effort in practice will help me both physically and mentally in a meet. When I first started SPA, I didn't

take swimming seriously. Now, I love the high you get after accomplishing an impossible practice and I always strive to swim to my optimal ability. This discipline that I learned has kept me on the right track for success in the future.

In ten years I can see myself finishing medical school and working towards a residency program. I am very interested in medicine, but at the same time I am intrigued by different cultures and their political/medical issues. Eventually I want to either join Doctors Without Borders, an international medical humanitarian organization or work in an accomplished hospital in a unique city. The balance between swimming, the challenging International Baccalaureate curriculum, and my many volunteer activities has helped me develop time management skills that will assist me in the completion of my future goals. Swimming has also helped me to relieve stress during my high school years. Swimming allowed me to unwind between school and homework. I want to continue swimming in the future so I can always have a few hours every day to relax and think to myself.

All in all, swimming has shaped me into my current persona. I am stronger mentally and physically. I am more confident, calm and optimistic thanks to swimming. I cherish the moments that only my swimmer friends understand, and yearn for friendly competition. I will continue to exhibit the true qualities of an athlete, a dependable teammate and a team leader in both the pool and the classroom while I am in college. I will always remember the SPA family and really treasure my formation into a true swimmer.