

Jefferson City Area YMCA Barracuda Swim Team Awards Scholarships

The YMCA Barracuda Swim Team announced three scholarship winners: Alice Irminger and Gaurang Mishra both of Capital City High School and Emerson Bowser of Linn High School. The scholarship is named after long time Barracuda Swim Team Coach, Don Eisinger. Applicants are asked to submit an essay of 600-1,000 words and address how their participation in the Barracuda Swim Team instilled in them the four core values of the YMCA: Respect, Responsibility, Caring and Honesty

Alice Irminger's application addressed respect. "I have also learned to respect myself because of my time on this team. Growing up making new friends with other teams at swim meets was one of the biggest things I looked forward to. I loved talking to other competitors, and it really helped me with my pre-race nerves and I know it helped them. Before we get to the blocks, I would always wish them good luck. After every race, I would no matter who won or lost or by how much the difference was, I would also always tell them good job. And when awards were given out, I would always cheer for everyone, no matter what team they were from." Alice will be attending the University of Central Missouri in Warrensburg, Missouri and will be studying Forensic Science and Chemistry.

Gaurang Mishra's application spoke about how swimming had impacted him. "Initially, I was just a swimmer looking for some self-improvement; however, along the way, I gained much more than that, which has made me a different person altogether. The YMCA core values are not merely theoretical for me anymore because I have lived by them through daily practice during my swimming career. Going forward with my future goals of attending post-secondary education, I will maintain the same attitude toward life that I acquired while being a member of the team." Gaurang, a National Merit Finalist, will be attending Texas A&M University in Corpus Christi, Texas to study electrical engineering.

In Emerson Bowser's application she noted "...the Barracuda's have taught me respect, responsibility, caring and honesty but that's not all. It has given me the best friends and the best memories and ultimately has become my entire life and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I always knew it was never really an individual sport, but the Barracudas showed me it was more of a team sport than I could have ever imagined." Emerson will be attending St. Ambrose University, in Davenport Iowa majoring in Education and will be swimming on the University team.

Congratulations and much future success to our scholarship recipients.