

January, 2011

Dear Orinda Aquatics members,

We are very excited to add this unique spreadsheet to our College Planning section. This “Jumping Off” tool provides a list of approximately one hundred colleges and universities and can be used as a “jumping off point” for researching schools and collegiate swim programs. It is designed with the **OA Swimmer** specifically in mind from over twenty years of experience in assisting swimmers in the college planning process. While everyone is different, there are some **OA trends** which we have tried to capture for you. We recognize that getting started may be daunting for many and we hope that you will use this to initiate your efforts. Finding a “fit” does not necessarily mean that you will be recruited, but it is a place to start. It is to be used in tandem with the website as finding your “academic fit” should be the first priority.

The “**Jumping Off**” list is comprised of many different colleges throughout the country with the aim of providing a cross section of schools based on region, size, academics, division and swimming ability. By no means is the list complete but it does include a range of colleges from large to small, east coast to west coast, national times to far western times along with a wide range of academic achievements. Considerations for initial inclusion on the list were OA’s track record of placing swimmers on these collegiate teams (shaded), our community trends, and academics. As the list was initially based on season-to-date results, it will be reviewed at the end of the Championship season. For recruiting purposes, it is recommended that you look at the teams’ top 3-4 times in your best events. What is not considered is that, for many teams, there may be a walk-on opportunity.

Note: The list does not include Junior Colleges throughout the country of which many have very competitive swim teams. Many of those teams’ results are listed on collegeswimming.com (NJCAA and CCCAA).

One side note, while the information in the website has been made public, this list will not be as it is specifically tailored for Orinda Aquatics. ***If you need a copy and/or more thorough instructions as to how to use this tool, please contact myself, Ronnie, or Margot Woodward, the list’s creator.*** Additionally, if you have any questions, feel free to contact Margot at margot-woodward@sbcglobal.net

I realize there are numerous website and college filters, but I am not aware of one so selective and swimming specific.

I want to sincerely again thank Margot Woodward for her generous time, resourcefulness, and creativity in developing this list, and for her ongoing dedication to Orinda Aquatics and our swimmers.

Donnie