



2023
Ultimate
Hall of Fame
Awards Dinner
October 20, 2023
San Diego, CA

ULTIMATE HALL OF FAME AWARDS DINNER
----- PROGRAM -----

5:00 - 6:15 Registration & Check In

6:15 - 6:50 Cocktail Hour (cash bar)

7:00 Hall of Fame Community Induction Procession

7:20 Introduction & Welcome Toast! – Frankus Flores*, HoF Class of '22

7:25 Special Speaker: Vivian Zayas, HoF Class of '20**

**7:31 Presentation of Inductees: Contributors, Special Merit, & Mixed division
Video and Awards** (salad served during the video)

**8:06 Presentation of Inductees: Open & Women's division
Video and Awards** (salad cleared and dinner served during the video)

8:45 Dessert served

8:55 Special Speaker: Devin Cox***

9:02 Special Speaker: Hall of Fame Board President Dave Blau, HoF Class of '17

9:08 Group Cheer & Closing

* Frank Flores, aka, Frankus, started playing in high school in the early '80's in the Boston suburb of Wellesley. Boston-area teams, the Rude Boys and Godiva, would practice on the Wellesley fields where he learned the frisbee basics with Heidi Pomfret and Bobby Stoddard. Frank played at the University of Massachusetts and University of Vermont before coming West and settling into a 4 year degree at Humboldt. After graduation in '97, Frank helped to form Downtown Brown (DTB) which competed mainly at April Fools West, Potlatch (now known as Sunbreak), and later LeiOut. Frankus has lived up and down the West Coast from LA to Seattle and settled in Oakland in '00 and has been part of an incredible East Bay Community.

** Vivian Zayas, aka, Viva - A first generation Cuban American. Vivian has been a leader and inspiration for countless players throughout her storied career which began with the Wild Roses of Cornell University in 1991 and continued in the Bay Area, Seattle and Boston. She competed in 18 National Championships and 5 World Championships, winning 2 National and 4 World titles. Her love for the game led her to travel to Colombia in '07 to play with and coach the Colombian National Team, Revolution, and continues today as an Associate Professor of Psychology at Cornell, where she has served as the faculty advisor for the current generation of Cornell Wild Roses.

***Devin Cox, a longtime ultimate player, coach, and organizer, is a founding committee member of Project Diversity of the Atlanta Flying Disc Association, lead organizer for Color of Ultimate activities, and served as Ultimate Peace Camp Director. Devin is a co-owner of Atlanta Soul, Atlanta's professional women's ultimate club. He has coached Atlanta's YCC team, Atlas, Wesley Middle School, Maynard Jackson HS, University of Georgia, and Soul. A 2019 USAU Beach Ultimate National Champion, Devin currently plays for the mixed team, Lotus, from Los Angeles. Devin is employed full-time as Center Director at Lindamood Bell, a reading and sensory-cognitive learning institution for youth in Los Angeles.

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2022: Mike Caldwell, Sam Chatterton-Kirchmeier, Scotty Conway, Cara Crouch, Downtown Brown (founded/led by Damon Adlao, Manisha Daryani, Jody Dozono, Frank Flores, Ken Leiserson, Mike Namkung), Joey Gray, Anja Haman, Miranda Roth Knowles, Mike Namkung, Alex Nord, Joe Seidler, Emily Smith-Wilson, Alex Snyder, Bart Watson, Alicia White, and the MOB: David Blocker, Rembert Ervin, Kenneth Hofler, Eugene Jackson, Michael Kidd, David Love, Ervin Riddick, James Riddick, Jerome Stallings, Fred Stephenson, Larry Sturdivant, Timothy Taylor, Glenn Williams

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- Previous Inductees by Class & Category – 2004 to 2018

- Hall of Fame Celebration & Induction Ceremony Planning Committee

- Hall of Fame Board of Directors

----- CLASS OF 2019 ----- Induction Speeches/Statements

Allison Boyd – Women's division:

Thank you for this incredible honor. Ultimate has been the “rock” of my life for the past 37 years – ever since I picked up a disc at SIU in 1986. I was immediately “hooked.” When I started thinking about writing this speech, spanning so many years of competitive ultimate, what kept flashing through my mind were snippets of the antics and the people. It’s funny – I remember the many intense games and tournaments, the trips to open nationals, the blood, sweat and tears, playing through all the injuries, the hours of practice year after year, but it’s the people that stand out. I really considered highlighting the names of all the amazing people I’ve had the privilege of stepping into the rectangle with these years, but there’s just too many. And it’s a 750-word limit.

I started playing on the men’s team, Full Tilt, and what a ride it’s been from 1986 to 2023! Being baptized in the Windy City crazy scene and the Nemesis gals graciously giving me some PT. My first official women’s team was St. Louis and women’s ultimate was my passion throughout my career. It’s not only the women I played with that impacted me so greatly – it’s also the amazing athletes I played against. I think I’ve played against most of the women in the HoF. I loved competition and these women brought it. I traveled to the Boulder 4th of July tourney in 1990, woke up in my sleeping bag on the fields, and

fell in love with Boulder. In 1991 a player from DV8 signed me up for Denver summer league (go, Ducks!) and I was a last round draft pick. I only planned to be in Boulder for the summer, and in August my Chevy was headed to the east coast with a stopover in Atlanta for the Cuervo tourney. We ended up playing Godiva in the finals with about a dozen women in 100-degree heat, the Florida guys showed up at the fancy party in prom dresses, Dean ended up in the salad bar, and I turned the car around. Colorado was my place. That year our team qualified for nationals for the 1st time! DV8 became Rare Air in 1996 and Rare Air was my lifeblood for the next 15 years.

So many memories flash through my mind: the full tilts, playing game number 5 on a Sunday of regionals under lights in the back door game to go, my parents driving the Winnebago to Kentucky nationals with 6 cases of Busch Light and endless bologna sandwiches, boarding a flight in Vegas (after blowing off my flight the day before) with a beer stained trophy and a garbage sack of Corona after qualifying for nationals in the massive western region, the clothing optional car rides to Siesta Key from the nationals fields at the end of every day, naked trust falls after winning a universe point finals, team showers, the roller coaster in Santa Cruz, sprinting through the Atlanta airport with my cleats still on while pushing a drunk guy in a wheelchair, getting a Callahan at nationals, the years of tourneys: Daweena, Boston Invite, Labor Day, Tune Up, Emerald City Classic, and 20 years in a row of going back to Carbondale, IL, for the Dennis J. Drazba Memorial tournament where I would laugh so hard my face would hurt for a week.

A highlight of my career was receiving the Kathy Pufahl SOG award at nationals in 2009. Then a group of friends started Jackwagon which to my surprise became a wonderful new experience for me. 5 more years of playing open women's ultimate with amazing women. Masters tourneys started cropping up too by that time with Well Done getting the band back together. Molly Grey, Molly Blue, and lastly, traveling with the Hijinx crew to Ireland last year for Worlds Masters. There were lots of outrageous coed tourneys throughout the years too! To all my dear teammates, competitors, and lifelong friends: I can't thank you enough. For your constant inspiration on and off the field, putting up with me, showing me how to lead and making memories with me. I joke that my epitaph should read that I've forgotten more fun than most people have had in a lifetime.

Brian Dobyns (d) – Contributor – shared by Katherine Bliss

What Would Brian Dobyns Want to Say?

Brian Dobyns died of a brain tumor August 6, 2020.

Induction to the Ultimate Hall of Fame in 2019 gave him joy. Thanks to all of you who sent personal congratulations.

Which leaves me writing this and wondering - What would Brian want to say?

He had a long, beautiful backhand, put more time into thinking about each game as he played/coached it than any 12 people combined and could put together teams that worked.

He spent his life wanting to grow the sport. He had a plan written up for a professional ultimate league-back in the '80's and another for observers, also in the '80's. The start of the organization that became Triangle Ultimate was his idea for a winter league with the first draft in our tiny apartment living room and the rest of us laughing at the idea people wanted to play in the cold.

Brian looked at the players he coached as individuals, figuring out what would make each person the best player. Some required a subtle approach, some he had to make mad and some had to cry.

These are excerpts from letters from the teams and players he coached.

From the parent of a Tourists player: After a particularly grueling but fun Tourists practice, my daughter was glowing from ear to ear. In the distance, I could see that Brian had been giving her a much-needed pep talk. I asked him later what the key to coaching was. He said "She already has the skill, talent, and light within her. I am just helping her see that and bring it out a bit."

At YCC: Somehow, we ended up standing right behind Brian. His calmness was impressive as it was nail biter of a game. At one point he called out to a Connie and said "Get your ass in the end zone". The observer heard this and took a moment to

chastise Brian. I had the joy of hearing some wonderfully colorful expletives under Brian's breath, but he recovered quickly and with all the sarcasm he could muster told Connie to "PLEASE get in the end zone". She did. They scored and ultimately won.

The Earnhardt's: My sister and I still credit much of our love of ultimate to Brian and his coaching, I know my dad also took a lot of inspiration from him in his own coaching.

Many players, all levels - I loved your coaching style - positive pressure. You knew what we were capable of and helped us get there.

Mel Proctor: Thank you for all the years you coached and taught "this old dog" new tricks. Some of my fondest memories are herding cattle at Bliss field, your toenails and Princess' fascination with them, final at Nationals - fucking wind and obnoxious fans, pimp and hoes party, tons of red bull and being called Bliss when you were frustrated with my pigheadedness. You had a huge impact on my life.

Lanie O'Neil, April 17, 2019: Dear Brian, I know you're not one for sappy things but just hear me out and I'll try to be as blunt and terrible as I know you like things to be. Just to be frank, I'm NOT writing this because you're not doin' so hot and I feel bad for you (I know you would hate that), however your current state has reminded me that our life here is ephemeral, and that to enjoy every moment of my life means that I need to appreciate those who are important to me. In summary, there are things I should have said to you a long time ago, and I will try my best to keep it from getting sappy. To be honest, I was pretty mad at you for a long time. I got cut from Warhawks, and you were the unfortunate soul who had to deliver that message. This plus your sparkling personality put you pretty low on my list of favorite people. But as they say, love and hate are not, in fact, opposites. Because of my initial feelings that can only be described as spiteful, loathing, and indignant, I learned to work, and work HARD. That whole year between getting cut from Warhawks in 2017 and making the team in 2018, my mantra could be summarized as "fuck you Brian". I'm sure this was not your intention, but let me tell you, "Fuck you Brian" has taken me a long way. Every bid, every huck, every D, was punctuated with a good ole resentful "fuck you Brian", that can only come from hurt pride and hatred. I can't say the year flew by, (I cried after almost every practice because I wasn't as good as I wanted to be), but before I knew it, I was a fucking good player just gaining momentum, PLUS I was finally on your team. Eventually, we got to know each other, and I learned to love you blah blah blah, but the point is that by being the same terrible, spiky, and abrasive Brian that you are, you inspired my work ethic and taught me that I'm not hot shit, which I can't thank you enough for. Also, you like invented the sport that I have fallen head over heels in love with, so that's another way that you've changed my life.

Best, Lanie O'Neill #19

February 16, 2020: A while ago you told me: "As long as you're working, I'll be watching." Might have been a passing thought, but it sure meant a lot to me. It became a bit of a mantra. I guess it's about time I replaced the good old "fuck you Brian" with something a little more mature (now that I'm an adult and all). This past year has been a roller coaster for me and my career, starting with being elected a captain on Warhawks in February, to my first foray into coaching high school boys in the spring, to having to share our national championship in August, to my tryout for Team USA in November, to getting rejected from USA, to getting called back for Atlanta Soul (in the Premier Ultimate League), to actually getting offered a roster spot on the team just yesterday. Crazy how much ground you can cover in a year.

I guess sometimes it's a good thing to be out of your mind. I learned that from you

Thanks again for teaching me some important lessons, being yourself, and for always supplying me with motivational mantras.

Lots of Love, Lanie O'Neill #58 (previously #19)

P.S. I heard there was a really good linebacker named Carl Banks who helped out Lawrence Taylor back in the day. It's a good reminder to be the player that helps others be superstars. It's a good number to wear.

August 6, 2020: You died this morning. I hope it was peaceful. I feel so much pain to have lost you, yet I'm not sure if I was ever someone who knew you. To me you were infallible. The toughest, strongest, most hard-ass person I ever met (besides my mother, of course). You're the reason I play like I do. Hell, you're one of the main reasons I still play at all. I never would

have wanted it. I never would've worked for it if it weren't for you. You were my coach. By pleasing you, I got PT, I got reps, and I got validation once or twice. I learned so much from you. You had a whole persona that you used to lead us to victory. I told you that you'd get to watch me play. I did my best to make it happen. I'm sorry you never got to watch me play. I did so much for you, in your name, just so I'd get to show you what you inspired me to do. I just wanted you to know what you've done. You were always so humble. You never wanted recognition. You never wanted to recognize your own success. I love you for that. Your legacy carries on. You have two awesome sons who embody the Spirit of the Game in all of its glory. You live in every friendship between every Warhawk that you coached. I wear your number now. I strive to live the number 58 on and off the field. Be the player that helps your teammates shine. Be honest, genuine, and care deeply for those you love. I hope that I can continue to share the beauty of the sport you shared with me. Thank you.

Love, Lanie #58

Brian played or coached in 8 divisions at Nationals and Worlds.

His teams won titles in 3 divisions.

Lori Parham Ewald – Women's division

I want to thank my family, most of whom aren't with us anymore. My grandparents, who raised me and put up with me being gone for so many weekends and special events. Who shook their heads every time I broke a bone. My mom, who showed me that grown women could still play sports. And then there's my uncle (he's still with us), he was really hoping for a little brother. This was the '70's and girls being raised by grandparents in small-town Indiana didn't play sports, so I'm grateful that that didn't stop him from teaching me. We played a lot of Pickle for Pennies. He would bribe me and my friends into playing Pickle between two bases by offering one cent for each stolen base. If we were lucky, they'd overthrow into the neighbor's yard and we'd hit the jackpot. I was a paid athlete at an early age! But the important thing is that I was using those motor skills early and often. I would never admit that to Uncle Jeff, as he already thinks I owe everything to him, and that he invented Ultimate in Fleener's Field in '83.

You may know Richard Hollingsworth or "Farmer" who played at Indiana, then Chicago, and then Philmore. He was my high school sweetheart and taught me to throw a Frisbee. Rich is such an incredible human, and I'm so grateful that he introduced me to Ultimate. Starting my Frisbee career at Indiana University was so fun and rewarding and, I'm sure like everyone in this room, I've made lifelong friends as far back as the first day I held a disc in my hand.

My IU teammates gave me my start in Ultimate, and for some of them there were weddings and children and still reunions and smaller gatherings across the country. Thank goodness for Facebook! Then I got so very lucky. I got the opportunity to play for Nancy Glass and Chicago Nemesis while I was still in college. I was broke and drove a junk car 9 hours round-trip nearly every weekend, but I was beyond thrilled to be playing Ultimate with the most talented women in the Midwest. I was young, and I learned a lot. But graduation was around the corner and I was offered an internship at a National Park in Atlanta. I joined Chris O'Cleary and Ozone in the summer of 1994.

Nothing can describe the warm southern nights after summer league or practices. Atlanta is a magical place with special people that has always drawn me back. I fell in love with the people, the climate, the competition, coed Frisbee tournaments, lots of silly games, and playing Frisbee with anyone, anywhere just for the joy of the game.

In 1997, I made a challenging move to New England. I went to graduate school, which led to a new career in GIS (Geographic Information Systems), and I played Ultimate for six years with Lady Godiva. I almost needed to break my game down to original fundamentals to fit in, which meant I had to be tough mentally, to do what the team needed me to do and trust in the leadership. I learned so much about myself. This team taught me to be calm in moments of panic. Thinking back to a Final where Lady Godiva was down many goals, and in a huddle, Molly Goodwin said that we needed to save our time outs for our comeback, and we went on to win the Championship.

I owe so much to my past teammates, and I am proud and thankful to have been a part of each community in Indiana, Chicago, Atlanta, and Boston. Our shared experiences have shaped who I am today. So much of what we learned together goes beyond the immediate context of Frisbee. I will be forever grateful for those experiences. I also want to thank the Peer Pool members and HoF voters for their support. Each put a lot of consideration into their vote. I am humbled and honored to be here with you all tonight.

Lastly, I want to thank my husband for his support. Eric is here with me this weekend and supports me in all ways and has been for 20 years. We have six kids, so we have a full and busy life. You can catch us playing hot box in the front yard. Let us know when you're in Atlanta for a friendly game. All are welcome. Thank you, again.

Deb Cussen Scheibe – Women's division

Wow, the Hall of Fame...what an honor! I was and am still grateful to have made each step of the process from being nominated, receiving support from friends/teammates/opponents, getting selected to the final ballot, and voted in. Even though it has been 4 years since then, it still feels surreal. I am grateful to everyone who puts so much work into the process, and for those who took the time to consider, reach out, and write in. I am so grateful for all this community has given me and honored to be recognized in this way. This is a reflection of years of hard work and dedication of many, as I wouldn't be the player selected without those I was surrounded by or lined up against.

I tend to be self-critical and had an incredibly hard time filling out that HoF candidate questionnaire, but at the same time really enjoyed reflecting on my career and the people who helped shape me as a player and as a person. I am so lucky to have landed in some incredible communities and ultimate powerhouses at Carleton, and in Seattle and Atlanta. I have countless amazing teammates and opponents who inspired and mentored me to be a better player and a better person. In this sport I have found my closest friends, community when moving to a new city, and even job connections. And how lucky to have some of those people who have shaped my life and ultimate career selected to the Hall of Fame as well.

With my reflections and reminiscing has also come a greater recognition and understanding that my playing and development opportunities have come from a place of privilege that feels unfair. I want these opportunities of sport and beyond to be available to anyone. Everyone deserves the chance to play, to find those people who will push them on the field and in life and connect with the greater community that can provide so many opportunities on and off the field. I want to use whatever the power of this platform is to build opportunity and access by supporting and promoting the many wonderful people and organizations out there doing great things for Ultimate and the world. Making a list here runs the risk of becoming obsolete and will not fit everyone's perspectives or preferences. I'll share a few of my favorites below and encourage all to explore what's out there and support people and organizations in a way that is meaningful to you. I hope ultimate will continue to evolve and as a Hall we can support growth of exceptional future stars alongside celebrations of our past accomplishments.

A few of those organizations I've chosen to support:

AGE UP, www.allgirleverything.org: AGE UP supports community and builds leadership and social justice through programming and ultimate playing opportunities in Seattle's South End, particularly for marginalized communities. It originally focused on opportunities for girls; it has since expanded to all genders but still focuses on building strong community leaders.

Disc/Diversity, discoverdiversity.org: Shanye Crawford founded Disc/Diversity to promote equity and inclusion through conversations and play. They provide equity consulting to teams and corporations and runs the Con10ent Tour of ultimate games to build opportunities for and showcase black players.

Pro Leagues – Western Ultimate League (WUL) and Premier Ultimate League (PUL)

www.westernultimateleague.com, www.premierultimateleague.com

These leagues give women and non-binary players a chance to play PROFESSIONAL ultimate. I have loved watching these athletes since the leagues started, and for the past 2 seasons have participated as a WUL coach. I am particularly moved by how the teams and players are role models for local youth, including my two boys – I am hopeful that they grow up seeing women and non-binary athletes as the norm and not the exception. I value that the league gives players a chance to play without worrying about the cost of competition, and I see

first-hand how our local organization invests in equity, accessibility, and social justice. I'm excited to see these leagues continue to build year after year.

Walter VanderSchraaf – Open

Let yourself be known and you shall know others. That's what I would tell my introverted 14-year-old self.

In 8th grade, Billy Zengerle's older sister Tricia (NY Survival) invited us out to play a game called Ultimate frisbee at Memorial Park Summit, NJ. Because the 2-3-2 zone was so familiar to football, I was able to let go of my dreams of becoming a professional football player, sigh.

I loved tracking down the disc, laying out on the last stride and catching it inches off the ground. On D, I hid in the wake of receivers, unseen by the thrower so I could quickly fly around them for blocks.

It was 1977 and there was no stall count, no force, no uniforms, no numbers. We played with a black Master frisbee that drooped in the summer heat and made whizzing sounds as it flew by, soon it was replaced by the sturdier 165 gm. Wearing cleats was optional and some said against the spirit of the game. "Summit No Sweat" was my town co-ed team and my first frisbee "family". I was a clueless teenager, and my world was expanding every weekend playing against the likes of Glassboro, The Gang, Knight of Knee, Rutgers, CCM Space Gorillas, and against nearby towns such as Maplewood, Montclair, Milburn, and Westfield. In junior high, Bill and I got our gym teacher to include ultimate into the "curriculum". We thought we were rock stars.

My mom, who rarely saw me play, contributed by sewing custom shorts with colorful fabrics; sadly, I was always catching my thumbs and ripping the pockets. My favorite had a black, white, and yellow Panda pattern which I rocked at my first Nationals in 1987 in Miami.

During my first nine years playing, my teams never won any titles (except a NJ HS championship). At UVM, we never made it out of Regionals, always losing the game to go. But that didn't matter because it was the journey; living life with your teammates, traveling every weekend, playing under the canopy of beautiful NE fall foliage (I can still see and smell it), battling on the field, dancing and partying, making lifelong friends.

Summer ultimate in Mercer County, Purchase, or Flushing Meadow was always hot and sweaty with 100% humidity. I have fond memories of drinking beer and playing wiffle ball in the parking lot while listening to the Mets play in Shea Stadium just a couple hundred feet away. They would go on to win the '86 Worlds Series.

Living and playing in NYC was a challenge. Few of us had cars and our fields changed every season. We commuted all over the tri-state area, various NYC spots, Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, across to industrial "parks" in NJ, up to Purchase and Connecticut. The fields weren't ideal, many were hard packed dirt filled with random glass and metal. We practiced 4 times a week. When we were done, there were always extra sprints. My NYNY teammates were stubbornly driven. We were a talented psychotic family with ups and downs, experiencing bliss and agony but always on the same page. All along, we were blessed by the presence of our team mom, Patti Dobyns. For a seven-year stretch, championships were a joy and near the end a relief.

Post NYNY, there was a concerted effort to forget the past and leave the rigor and intensity behind. "Weed" and "Cojones" were these breakup-rebound teams.

I met my wife Deb "the Goot" (Homebrood) at '00 nationals and a year later left NYC for Cali where I played for a very talented Jam team that never made it out of Regionals, oy.

In California, I "retired" to play on various Masters teams where play was still glorious but did not require insane dedication. When I learned heel toe plyometrics were the extent of warmups, I was hooked.

Sport is a beautiful extension of our lives, it's good for our blood chemistry, and connects us to ourselves and the community. I was lucky, privileged, and fortunate to have started so young. I want Ultimate to grow and be accessible to our youth. There are many groups such as ultimate-impact.org and ultimatepeace.org to name a few that are doing this great Justice Equity Diversity and Inclusion work, please support!

Thank you to those who've promoted our sport, who organized the tournaments, coaches who guide our players and all my teammates over the years.

My love to Deb, Devon, and Lucas

Play Hard
Be Present
Forgive
Remember

----- CLASS OF 2020 -----
Induction Speeches/Statements

Andy Crews – Open division

I first played ultimate at lunch time in middle school. I don't remember who knew the rules, but I give thanks to that forgotten person. Flash forward six years to college at Caltech. Thank you so much, roommate Matt, who invited me out to play pickup with him. After my first pickup game I said "Wow that was fun, and hard. I think we can get better." I was hooked. And thank you Dave Carta who taught us both how to throw a forehand. His forehand was sweet and I was lucky to learn from him.

Showing up at UCSB, I realized I was with the big boys now and I just buckled down to improve and learn from my captain Steve Dugan and others. It was a team that had had a disappointing previous year and as a result, lots of people had come back to play one more year to try for a better finish. I was lucky to have so many experienced, dedicated players around me to learn from.

They say failure can teach you more than success. That first year, we got to the finals...and lost in the finals of every tournament we played in. Including Nationals. It was a wild ride that felt like a failure despite coming so close to winning it all. Among other things, I learned that coming in second is the biggest heartbreak. But I must have learned more about playing ultimate that year from such a great community of teammates than I did any other year of my life.

My other great "learning" experience with UCSB came when, as captain two years later, I failed to get an incredible team to Nationals. I know they were incredible because when all was said and done, it turned out we had had regular season wins over all four Nationals semifinalists. How had I failed to get us to the show? I thought about that a lot.

Living in Santa Barbara, I attended every practice with the Black Tide during the school year, and Condors practice during the summer for 4 years straight. That meant practicing up to 15 hours each week for 4 straight years, in addition to other workouts. The rigor of that exercise and the friendships I formed during that time were so valuable they probably added a decade to my life, and I am so grateful.

As the Condors ascended, along with my co-captains Steve Dugan (an unrivaled offensive force) and Greg Husak (an amazing strategist) and teammates (most unparalleled at their own roles), we took another quantum step. We learned together and taught each other about self-discipline, being part of something bigger than ourselves and the "business" of learning and doing something at the highest level. That was a formative experience. I realized later I trusted each person--and expected more from each person--on that team than I did from almost anybody else in my life. We all realized how much work it would take to get better. And to accomplish that work, when we were at practice it was "business time" not fun time. And "business time" was fun because we all loved the sport so much and we learned that when all of us took it seriously and were focused, it made the journey so much more worthwhile.

Thank you to my teammates, my worthy opponents and the ultimate community.

VY Chow – Women's division

As shared by Shana Cook Mueller:

VY is the complete package. At any given time on the field, she would likely rank number one on the field in ALL the following categories: speed, strategic ability, throwing skill, jumping, versatility, overall defensive ability, sportsmanship, and competitiveness. She could play any position and get open at will. What was most surprising about playing with VY is that with her incredible ability and talent, she maintained the utmost standards of sportsmanship, due simply to her incredibly kind heart. The combination of competitiveness and kindness in ultimate can sometimes be a tough balance to manage at the top of the sport; VY demonstrated that striking such a balance was not only possible but expected.

Jody Dozono – Women's division

To the sport of Ultimate,

Thank you for being the love of my life.

From the get-go, you captured my heart, body, and spirit. Through you, I've learned what community truly means; I've cultivated lifelong friendships with both teammates and rivals; I met my co parent, Michael, and our two wonderful children, Iris and Clyde. You've challenged me to be a better human time and time again. I've tried to break up with you only to learn I can't live without you. Thank you for molding me into the person I am today, for better or worse.

To my parents, Robert and Noriko Dozono,

Thank you for allowing me to try every sport possible so I would know in my whole being that Ultimate was the one. Thank you for teaching me the value of hard work, mental toughness and lifelong learning. I love you both.

To Aurora De La Cruz, Cory Pike and Tracey Satterfield,

Thank you for believing in me and encouraging me to believe in myself.

To Fury and Schwa,

Thank you for taking me in. We will always be family.

Mike Grant – Open division

As shared by Andrew Lugsdin

I believe that Mike was the single best and most impactful player in the game for several years and was a dominant player for the entirety of his career. As he was my teammate, I clearly have a bias, but I sincerely believe the above statement to be true. He was a part of the core foundation of Furious George and Team Canada, and instrumental to the successes that they had. MG was the most dominant offensive player in the game during that period -- relentless in getting open in the lane for big yards, a weapon of a flick when he had the disc, and a great goal scorer/skyer. He was intensely competitive, always battling, and in the biggest of games, he delivered for his team and led them to success.

Bob Lobel – Open division

Writing a speech? Not something I've ever done, so I've been dragging my feet on it. I suppose it's best to start with the Game, Ultimate. It's an unbelievable game. I really didn't need to say that, as I suspect everyone playing or reading this already knows it. For me, it was all about discovering a community of like-minded people who shared a passion for competition in the context of camaraderie and living in the moment. I found that in a fringe sport that didn't follow the standard conventions of the games I grew up with. It was an outlet for self-expression, learning to push your physical and mental limits, as well as those of your teammates, all while honoring our code of mutual respect for your competition.

I started the ultimate journey in Vermont at UVM-where I now reside. My Team Chill (UVM) experience was a both feet in full-send. So many amazing people, crazy situations, and memories all centered living in the moment and having fun. Clambake, Horse World, Purple Valley, Safety Meetings and Big Guys up. Still tight with many of these OG's.

I spent 3 years in Seattle playing with Sockeye and then Rhino. The West Coast club ultimate scene was loaded with plenty of colorful, entertaining characters, combined with consistent high intensity competition. Early in this era, battling with the Chicago boys at Solstice made an impression. Trying to match up with some dude named Flex, O'Dowd, CVH, Glass, and former UVM teammate Bri-Mo (Biscuit), was humbling. I got the full beat down trying to keep up with these savages, but they motivated me to be better. A season of 4-hour commutes to practice in Oregon with Rhino suddenly didn't seem so ridiculous, as they were legitimate national contenders.

When I left the West Coast for Boston (Med School) my buddy EK told me I was going to ultimate finishing school. I wasn't sure what that meant, as my concept of the game was raw and simple, just show up and play, both O and D, and try to not turn it over.

The Boston group played a highly intelligent, efficient, calculating, and classy style of Ultimate that would change the tenor of the game during that era. I was incredibly lucky to arrive when I did and help contribute to the evolution of the D strategy

we called “Junk”. To even get nominated as an HoF candidate as a D role player was a surprise and unbelievable honor - I’m still incredibly grateful. There are many other people who deserve equal recognition in the process. It doesn’t happen for me without Billy and Paul and the remainder of our core during the run, Lenny, JonBar, Dick B, Jethro (RIP), and Brian C. We had to make our garbage stick against some of the most talented core O guys in the game Jimmy, Jay, Moons, Al, Cork, Coop, Jay Bick, and Zaz, and Bim, with Jordan ripping darts and mixing the lines. The most unlikely and yet cohesive collection of misfits and personalities.

Practice intensity was driven by a deep rivalry with NYNY (channel ‘80s Celtics-Lakers). I missed the early years, but witnessed it at Cuervo, Worlds, and Nats. There was no mistaking the energy and intensity of it looking across the line at Kenny/Dennis/Skippy/Walter (UVM) and the rest of that amazing group. Getting past them in the semifinals in ‘94 was the breakthrough moment for DoG in our run of National and World championships.

Without adversity, you don’t get to the next level or even know the next level exists, which has been an incredible life lesson I try to carry through to everything I do. Having our success alongside the Wagon known as Lady Godiva, also in their peak during those years, just made the window in time all that more special.

Finally, a last big thanks to my wife Chris, who endured years of fringe sport hijinks and allowed me the freedom to pursue a passion for this game, while supporting me thorough med training and the rest of my pursuits beyond Ultimate. I am truly blessed to have made so many amazing friends, memories and life altering experiences along the way.

Damien Scott – Open division

First of all I would like to thank the HoF Committee that gives so much time and energy to making the peer driven process and all of this possible. Being inducted into the HoF is truly an honor for me because of peer participation, which requires an enormous amount of work to get everyone involved. During the years I played, the respect of my teammates and my opponents was as important to me as anything else, and so the HoF selection is a special continuation of that.

I would also like to apologize for not being in attendance. I am now in the stage of my life where I’m coaching my kids’ sports teams and hopefully helping them and their friends find the joy of competing and building relationships through sports. Unfortunately, this event falls on a game day that I do not want to miss.

Looking back at my time playing, I feel blessed to have played with and against so many great players from multiple eras. Competing, learning, and laughing with these men and women has been such an honor.

There are several people that I would like to thank. Starting at the beginning, I would definitely not be here at all without the good times spent with the Cloud 9 crew at Rice. Emeka, Alfie, Chris Coco, Steve Quach, and the rest of the gang. We developed not just the love for the sport on the field, but the love of the sport off the field..... Traveling to out of the way tournaments, playing savage 7, picking up with random teams, meeting new people, and just enjoying the journey. Those early days were special.

I feel lucky to have started my club journey in Texas, during a time when both the quantity and quality of ultimate was growing rapidly. On the Houndz, we had a really nice mix of quality transplants that brought knowledge and experience to a group of local players who were hungry to take that next step. It was such a blast to play with legends like Pony, Joel, Seany Mac, Bob Deman, Johnny G, Don Tom, Sandy, Bagger, Homie, Calvin, Tal, John Boy, T-Bone, and the list goes on. And then getting the chance to add the Baton Rouge crew (John, Mitch, and Brian) that we had battled for the past 3 years was a special experience. At our peak, we were able to compete with, and beat, some of the best teams in the country. Thank you for all the memories.

When I moved to the Bay Area in 2000, it was also fortunate timing in that I was able to play with so many great players that had already accomplished so much in the sport. Getting to spend time and learn from experienced players like Cribber, Seth, Walter, Josh, Kevin Beck, Daryl, Toaster, etc. alongside younger players like me who I would play with for the next 9 years was such a highlight of my career. Battling with the powerhouse teams on the West Coast week in and week out (Condors, Furious, Sockeye) who were stacked with HoF talent was an awesome experience. For me, there was a healthy dislike for the other teams driven by the desire to beat them, but there was also immense respect, admiration, and genuine friendship when we would spend time off the field. Around that time, I was selected to the World Games Team, which was yet another opportunity to learn from some of the best to ever lace them up.... Dom, Heidi, Johanna, Dana, Teens, Fortch, Steve, B-Rod, Safdie and the others that helped prepare us and who took part in that experience along with us.

As the older Jam players moved on and new ones joined, I was truly blessed to find myself on a team with such a wonderful group of men. I think that the appreciation for the journey that I learned in Texas was taken to a new level with the Jam teams from 2003-2009. We created amazing memories on and off the field. The addition of the Santa Barbara guys in 2007 really created a well-rounded group that was able to find incredible enjoyment and success improving as a team and as people while still making sure that we had a little fun along the way. Special thanks to Idris, JZ, Woody, Safdie, Jim, Taylor, Kevin, Ron, Greg, Bruss.... lifelong friends who continue to push me to be better. Thank you.

Vivian Zayas – Women's division

I have no idea what exactly it is about Ultimate that I loved so much.

I certainly loved throwing and catching the disc. It spins and effortlessly glides through the air. It hovers at just the right angle and for just the right amount of time for someone to run under it and catch it. Then there is the beauty that arises from competition; out maneuvering an opponent, laying out to catch the disc that seems uncatchable, getting a defensive block to deny the opponent a critical goal. And then there are the off-field shenanigans on the sidelines, at the dance party, or at a team roast.

I started playing Ultimate in my sophomore year of college 20 years ago. The Cornell Wild Roses practiced on Helen Newman fields, conveniently near my dorm. One autumn afternoon, I dropped by their practice to check it out. I remember throwing with "Froggy," a graduate student player. I already had a pretty good backhand, though I thought that throwing harder was better—regardless of the distance between me and my partner.

Ever since that first practice, I was hooked. Chasing plastic—in the sun or rain, in the warmth or cold, on grassy fields or on a hard indoor court, whatever the conditions—became my passion.

For me, Ultimate was life defining. It affected how I organized my time in college (I missed my own college graduation to attend college Nationals—to my parent's dismay) and it played an oversized role in many important life decisions.

But most importantly, Ultimate planted a seed. It inspired me to be better. Every practice, every tournament, during the season and especially the off season. I wanted to improve. And I didn't like losing. How far could I go?

At the most basic level, Ultimate is about chasing plastic. But, for me, Ultimate has been a vehicle for personal transformation. The flying disc is a metaphor for what could be imagined as an individual and as part of a team, and through Ultimate, I chased what was possible in my mind's eye. Through ultimate I changed my body. Thanks to teammates and competitors that pushed me, I got faster, stronger, and more agile. Through Ultimate, I strengthened my mind. I learned to manage my emotions to ride the highs of success and victories and the lows of disappointment and losses. I learned how to manage my own nerves that arose from my own ambitions.

Ultimate was a vehicle about striving for my best and achieving what could be possible while navigating the gravitational pull of reality. The yin and the yang.

Over the course of my 20-year career, I had countless teammates and am extremely fortunate to have played with multiple generations of Ultimate players. I have met people through competition from all over the country and world, and I'm so grateful for the deep lifelong friendships. Now, with my Ultimate career in my rearview mirror, I continue to be inspired in how they approach their lives. Friends who have supported me and who I consider family.

Whether a character strength or weakness, I rarely do anything halfway. In Ultimate, I always played to be the best, and with time, I realized that I can only be *my best*.

I would never have thought—back when it all began throwing with Froggy on the Helen Newman fields 20-years ago—that it would be the start of a lifelong relationship with the sport.

It is a deeply felt honor to be acknowledged as a player and inducted into the Hall of Fame by my community of peers.

----- CLASS OF 2021 -----
Induction Speeches/Statements

Gwen Ambler – Women's division

Sarasota. Oahu. Turku. Fuji City. Vancouver. Kaohsiung. Prague. Lecco. London. Columbus.

Competing for national and world titles dictated my travel choices for over two decades. As for many in the Hall, it was also the focus – some might say obsession – around which the rest of my life revolved. Few things could measure up to the intensity of being in the moment with my team, sharing the highs and the lows while giving everything we had physically, emotionally, and mentally. I loved being in the tournament bubble where time slowed down and the rest of the world disappeared.

Roble. Sandhill. South IMs. Treasure Island. Santa Cruz. Baylands. Magnuson. Hamlin.

But it always started at practice. That's where I first fell in love with ultimate and had my eyes opened to the nuances of the skills, tactics, and strategies that led to my teams' successes. Practice is where I first found my voice and confidence for becoming a leader. It's where friendships blossomed and lifelong connections first formed.

Daiquiri Deck. Kaimana. Lei Out. Potlatch. Labor Day. Neighbors. R Place. 5 Story Dance Club.

And things usually ended up with dancing. Whether at a fun tournament or a championship event, whether dressed up in costumes or not, being able to let loose on the dance floor with teammates and opponents alike created another layer of bonds within the community for me. The tournament party always helped keep things in perspective – maintaining joy no matter the outcome on the field.

Through it all, I owe so much to my family, teammates, and coaches. The incredible honor of being inducted into the Hall of Fame would have been impossible without your support. Thank you for helping me create the time and space to live out my ultimate dreams. Thank you for believing in me.

Stu Beringer – Special Merit

My ultimate years will always fill a large, warm, fuzzy place in my memories. NOT because of the cold, rainy, windy fields at UMASS and SUNY Purchase but because of all the wonderful people. Great times with great friends, running around like crazy trying to use up the endless energy we all possessed when we were babes in our 20's.

In 1980, I decided to become a photographer full time. Most of my paying work was in portraiture and weddings, but where I really had fun was on the weekends photographing the action at whatever Ultimate tournament the Dukes were competing in. Ah, the Dukes. A motley mix of mostly UCONN grads with a smattering of Bucknell Bisons (I was one of them) and other stragglers. We were a movable feast! Wherever we went, that's where the fun was. We certainly weren't world beaters but we had style! Who can forget our flowered Hawaiian shirts?

For those of you youngsters out there photographing Ultimate today with your fancy autofocus digital cameras, I could only have wished for such equipment. Each weekend back then I would shoot as many rolls of Tri-X as I could using my trusty Nikon FTN and its brothers. Then I spent hours in the darkroom, developing film and printing negatives. I'd put the best prints in the mail to the UPA Newsletter and cross my fingers that I'd get the next cover (Karl Cook was my big competition). The following weekend, it would be off to the next tournament where I'd show off my best prints hoping to sell a few and make a few bucks for beer.

While I wasn't part of the birth of Ultimate, I was there in the formative years with the beginning of the UPA and expanded intercollegiate and club team play – what some have called the "Glory Days." It sure was a wild ride. Looking back, I'm glad I was able to immortalize some of it in black and white. Not just the action but, more importantly, the people, as well. For those of you interested in a stroll down memory lane, you can find my Ultimate photo library at <https://www.ultiphotos.com/archive/glorydays>. Enjoy.

Finally, thank you to the Ultimate Hall of Fame and its Board of Directors for adding photographers and videographers to the Special Merit category. It is always nice to be recognized for something you did for fun yet was equally enjoyed by so many others.
Cheers!

David Boardman – Open division

Ultimate has had a dramatic impact on my life. I had great success on 2 standout Open nationals teams and won seven championships with Surly. Despite that, by far the most important and meaningful result of my 32 years of playing are the people whom I have grown to love because of the game, so I'll focus on them.

I met my wife Michelle (Rosie) at Carleton playing ultimate. I remember being struck by how indomitable she was on the field and smitten with her grit and will to win. In my mind, nothing is more transfixing than a dirt-covered Rosie roasting her defender and ripping a forehand for a goal. Later, it was only because of her support that I was able to continue playing my last year of Sub Zero and all my years of Surly as our kids grew up. Thank you, Michelle.

The guys on Z helped me understand what it meant to fully commit to a team and helped me mature as an elite player. 4-hour practices followed by disc golf, punishing conditioning, spending the entire weekend for 4 months in downtown Chicago at Irv's house, and winding down at the Glass's with Nemesis on Saturday night. It felt like every weekend was an intense ultimate marathon. The bonding, friendships, and personal growth during those times were transformative and unforgettable.

My time with Sub Zero was full of competitive highs and lows, but when I look back, the people and camaraderie stand out the most. Sub Zero gifted me with lifelong relationships with teammates like Greff, Dikeman, Sox, Charlie, Turtle, Severt, Ryder, Chase, Masulis, Rem, Joe, Timmy, Cooter, CY, Remy, John John, and many others. Having the opportunity to grow with such remarkable people is a gift and I am grateful.

Surly was amazing because it extended the time with all the Sub guys, but also let me team up with people that I either hadn't played with for years or who I had always played against. Surly's ability to immediately embrace any player, bring them into the fold, and make them feel welcomed has been the foundation of so many unexpected friendships over the years; that is the power of Surly ultimate. I got to play again with my first captains on CUT: Turbo and Don Tom (The Greatest Player Ever). I became fierce friends and teammates with past opponents like Ricky, Rook, Ron, Jammin', Turtle (the other one), Hummer, and many more. Spectacular... this is why I love masters.

I want to give a special mention to Joe Cesario (CUT '90) who is the most competitive and inspiring player I have played with. He taught me how to play at an elite level on Z and I've been lucky enough to win championships on Surly with him in recent years. Joe is the most intense competitor I know and there is no on-field challenge that he doesn't think he can overcome. Anyone who is on a team with Joe believes they will win the game. Most importantly, he is a great friend who I would never have met if not for ultimate.

In the end, getting elected to the Hall was so meaningful to me because it felt like I was representative of all the people and teams I played with and the way we valued building our team and pushing each other. Our on-field success was a result of the culture we created and our devotion to each other. Our off-field success was other-worldly and that I could have a hand in that is a great honor.

Mary Louise Mahoney Cohn – Contributor

What I learned from Ultimate was the true spirit of the game, the joy of play.

It always felt like being a woman should add to that joy!

As the gender spectrum emerged over the years, I like to think Ultimate helped encourage inclusivity.

I will always be grateful for the game and the joy it brought into my life and the world.

Rick Collins – Special Merit

Greetings freaks and geeks.

In days long ago, we would see someone playing Frisbee in the park and abruptly stop the car. Running over excitedly like four-year-olds announcing a play date, we acknowledged each other as aliens far far from home. No one knows what we know.

It was a great pleasure to be invited onto the sidelines during the historic beginnings of our sport to document some of the greatest of the greats.

Animated discussions over rules were still entertained in those heady days.

Lawyers ruled. But larger than life characters always took the main stage.

If asked, I will say I should have shot more. More Gloria. More Kenny. More Moons. More Molly. More.

I will miss the magnificent individual humans and collective magical spirit of that time. And I truly hope looking forward that Ultimate never loses its unique casting call.

If you're still playing in your prime, take a quiet second or two on the line. Close your eyes and grab a deep breath. Realize just how lucky you are in this moment to be standing there about to play another point in the most magnificent sport ever played. And know that every single one of us in this UHoF would give almost anything to join you. Lucky you.

To be recognized and inducted, with all the other talented original photographers and videographers, into this hallowed hall of fame is indeed a great honour. Thank you.

Karl Cook – Special Merit

I Deeply Thank the Ultimate Community and UHoF Committee members for selecting the “Early Photographers and Videographers” in the Special Merit category for induction into the Hall. It is an Incredible Honor to be recognized for our contributions to the advancement of our beloved game of Ultimate.

My interest in tossing discs began in 1975 during my first year at Montgomery College (MC) in Rockville, MD when I was taking my first Photography class. There was a group of students tossing on the quad; I was immediately attracted to and joined in and had lots of fun with it.

In the Spring of '76, one of the tossers who had gone to California over the winter break, told the group about a team game he had learned of called Ultimate. He described the basics and we went to the football practice field and started a game of 4 on 4 or 5 on 5 with a Master and had a blast! I didn't consider myself 'athletic' but that first game changed my entire perspective about running, catching, and throwing in a huge way. At the beginning of that semester, I was also very interested in learning more about photography and took advanced classes. I visited the College's newspaper office and asked if they needed someone to take photos for the paper. I got smiles, an assignment, and a key to the newspaper's private darkroom. So that made me a “Photographer”! It also instilled the ethical values and authenticity requirements of photojournalism and to approach any assignment with the intent of successfully capturing the reality of whatever had occurred.

In '77, Larry Schindel posted a classified ad in the Washington Post about the creation of the Washington Area Frisbee Club. Several of us traveled to the grounds of the Washington Monument where the club met for the first time. Larry introduced all the established competitive variations of disc tossing; Ultimate, Freestyle, Self-Caught Flight (Maximum Time Aloft and Throw, Run & Catch), Guts, and Disc Golf. I had so much fun.

In the July/August '77 issue of Frisbee World Magazine, I discovered an article about “Frisbee Photography” written by Dan Roddick's dad, “Papa Jack” that inspired the intertwining of my two passions.

Later in '77, Larry informed the Ultimate players of the upcoming East Coast Captain's Meeting at Columbia HS in Maplewood, NJ; I drive with my tosser friends/our MC team and met the other captains and learned a lot more about the game, spirit and rules, upcoming tournaments, and how we needed to organize to play Ultimate.

While at MC, I also studied Art, taking Drawing I & II-, 2- and 3-Dimensional Design classes, which enhanced my levels of creativity. Also attended Advertising Design classes, Photo Silk Screen class, and "Exploratory Classes" for Color Slide and Color Negative processing and printing that the Visual Communications Technologies instructors were introducing to expand the photographic curriculum.

Graduated in '79 with an Associate Degree in Photography and by then was working full time in a local photo lab, building the foundation I thought was necessary to move further into photography as a career. My next job was as a photographer's assistant and custom darkroom printer. From there in '82, I advanced to my first full time photography job working at a local TV station where I expanded my photo experiences and also began working with computers to create graphics. Later photo jobs were at a graphic arts production company, then with a large Telco from '88-91 where I started learning more about CG using Macintosh computers and created my first two computer generated disc designs on a Mac.

Having jobs like these, with my "office space" in working darkrooms, enabled me to shoot lots of film that I'd process after hours and get the results for only the cost of the chemicals and print paper.

Playing career and Photography career ended on Halloween October 1991 when I got laid off from what turned out to be my last photography job. From that point on, I became a Computer Specialist, focused on computer graphics, desktop publishing and system management, initially working for a temp firm and placed with corporate proposal teams.

Jennifer Donnelly – Contributor

It is an honor to be included.

Championship of the Universe, next point wins!

Lee Flynn – Special Merit

A founding member of the Santa Fe, NM "Sin Nombre" Ultimate team in 1978, Lee began videotaping tournaments shortly thereafter. He captured almost 200 games at dozens of tournaments across the 1980's and early '90's. He was also the executive producer of the professional, 4 camera coverage of the 1982 Men's National Ultimate Championship in Austin, TX. Lee has shot hundreds of ultimate games and tournaments videotaped throughout the 1980's and early '90's.

Katharine Forth – Women's division

Dear members of the Ultimate Hall of Fame, fellow athletes, and ultimate enthusiasts, I am deeply humbled and profoundly honoured to be inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame, especially as the first non-North American (I believe). This moment represents the culmination of many years of passion, dedication, and a village of people who have supported and nurtured my frisbee career across continents.

My journey in ultimate began as the 1994 World Championships came to my hometown, in Colchester, England. Along with some locals, we watched the men's final on a hot summers' day. It was an epic game, and a spectacular display that inspired me to seek out the Ultimate Frisbee club a month later in my 1st year at the University of Bristol, UK.

Thank you to the leaders of Bristol's frisbee scene who quickly took me under their wing and taught me the fundamentals – which included a lot of hammers and hucks. Si Moore, Sasha Dall, Nobby (Steve Clark) and the players of Headrush, I thank you for teaching me how to play exciting, effective frisbee, as one of the lads. I also appreciate the unique combination you exhibited of intense competitiveness with a nurturing wisdom.

Thank you to Diana Flores for plucking me out after only a couple of months of playing to join Bliss. I'll never forget your intro, with that New York manner, "Hey. I like the way you play". Thank you to all the Bliss teammates throughout the years as we supported each other to achieve greatness, nationally and internationally, on grass and sand.

Thank you to the Houston Ultimate Community for accepting me as your own. Welcoming me with a 70+ person party in my first weekend in Houston – everything really is bigger in Texas. Thank you for supporting my leadership endeavours as we founded Zanzara and Texas Showdown. Mary Barcio, AJ Beard, Casi Cook, thank you for being part of the innovative journey.

Thank you to the players of Showdown who welcomed my growing family on the sideline. It felt like we were all a family, even when Arabella was giving her sleeping annoyed face. To this day, my kids both fondly remember so many of you.

Thank you to all the teammates throughout the years, from national teams to pick up games; your energy, dedication, fierceness, and fun have been infectious, and I treasure the time we played together.

Thank you to some standout coaches along the way, especially Steve Quach, Si Moore, Dutchy (Alex Ghesquiere), AJ Tiarsmith, and David Melancon.

Thank you to Don Tom, Asif Mohammed and the local players of Houston for being the best training partners to prepare me for my biggest competitions and tryouts.

Thank you to my twin sister, Bex. Our careers ran in parallel and we enjoyed many playing experiences together. Even though we eventually abandoned our rule of not covering each other (that's next level defense when you telepathically know what the other person is going to do), I much prefer playing with you than against you!! I still think the best play ever was the Bliss twin play in our first year. It goes like this: each standing on the opposite end of the line when waiting to receive the pull. When the pull goes up, we each ran diagonally from the line, crossing around the middle of the pitch, from which we both cut deep to the opposite endzone corner. The hucker then took advantage of the momentary confusion in the defense – who suddenly doubted who they were covering. And, with 2 free deep options in the endzone – it was fun every time.

And finally, to someone who fits all categories. Sean McCall. My partner in life and frisbee. Thank you for all the roles: teammate, coach, strategist, founder, co-captain, husband, father, and being my #1 fan and supporter. Without you, I would not be the player I am, nor the recipient of a lifetime of VIP access to Sean McCall motivational huddle speeches. They are the best!

So, I accept this honour with profound gratitude. I am grateful to my family, teammates, coaches, and my ultimate "village" (so many more I could name!) for their unwavering support and inspiration.

Thank you all.

Katey #11

Dan Hyslop – Special Merit

Never, in my wildest imagination, did I ever think of being inducted into the HOF.

I got into ultimate with my classmates at the University of Nebraska College of Medicine, who, in 1978, took a stab at playing this new game called, "Ultimate." We called ourselves, "Death Frisbee." When I graduated from college or medical school, I don't remember, I got a camera for a present. I'd never owned a camera but my brother Dave did and I enjoyed the images he was creating including those of his own ultimate experiences with the Irvine Mudsharks.

I started my residency at Michigan State in 1982. Any time left over from Internal Medicine training was spent playing ultimate with Michigan State Ultimate and the Fisheads. It was at the practices and tournaments on Old College Field that I started taking pictures of ultimate. Becoming a member of the Ultimate Player's Association and getting the UPA Newsletter, I was exposed to the work of Karl Cook and the other photographers who were submitting to the UPA Newsletter. I just wanted to make images like them. Traveling to the bigger tournaments exposed me to those photographers and the gear they were using. The 50mm lens I was using wasn't going to cut it when it came to covering the game of ultimate. But I didn't have the money to buy the longer lenses that could capture the action at a greater distance. So I rented and started submitting my images to the Newsletter. I was thrilled at my first acceptance.

Somewhere along the line I was exposed to multi-projector slide shows. I was blown away by how still images, displayed by multiple projectors, one image dissolving into another while set to music, could achieve the emotional impact of cinema. I bought three used projectors and a tape recorder and started creating my own slide shows. In addition to photography, I interviewed players and recorded team cheers. After photographing and audio recording the national championships, I'd build a slide show and screen it at the party at the following year's ultimate national championships. I produced three or four slide shows covering Nationals in the late 80's and early 90's. My last show screened at the World Ultimate and Guts Championships in Utsunomiya, Japan in 1992. After that, everything went into the garage where it resides today.

To everyone's good fortune, historical images of ultimate have experienced a renaissance via books, the internet, and social media. The history of ultimate has been written by Pasquale Anthony Leonardo and Adam Zagoria in Joe Seidler's, Ultimate The First Four Decades and is being rewritten every day in places like the Facebook page, "The Ultimate Frisbee Alumni & Hall of Fame." In 2018, I published a book of my images titled, My Ultimate Life, to coincide with the 50th year anniversary of the sport. All proceeds from the book were donated to David Barkan's Ultimate Peace which seeks to bridge the Israeli-Palestinian divide through the game of ultimate.

I've had the incredibly good fortune to play ultimate, to photograph it, and make friendships that endure to this day. Being inducted into the Hall of Fame is the cherry on top. As for my images, they belong to everyone.

For my wife, Rebecca and my kids, Laura and Jack

Augie Kreivenas – Open division

I am extremely humbled and grateful to have been accepted into this Hall of Fame. It's an honor to be included in this great collection of former competitors. I am thankful to my many teammates who made Ultimate Frisbee such an important, rewarding, and impactful part of my life. I would not have been the same without my teammates, and I feel a number of them deserve special recognition, including Tim Brooks, Robbye Brooks, Bryce Tennant, Mike Soo, Bob Egan, Kris Bass, and Drew Preiss, among others. You guys will always hold a tender place in my heart for the ways you have influenced and inspired me. I am also extremely grateful to many friends and family who have been an important part of my life, without whom I would not be the man I am today, including my kids, Griffin and Sky, who are my heart and soul, my late ex-wife, Liz Mahanna, who supported me to play the sport I love for many years, and my close friends, Katherine Bliss and her late husband, Brian Dobyns, who have stood with my family and me with much love through many ups and downs. Finally, I'd like to express my gratitude to my current wife, Robyn Woodlea, who is my greatest supporter and who touches my heart like no other.

I appreciate being selected into this Hall of Fame, not for the wins and losses and the goals scored, but really for two reasons. One is for the recognition of helping form and build the North Carolina team, Ring of Fire, still standing strong today. And the other is for the acknowledgment of all the hard work put into this sport. I loved the practice and preparation that went into playing. I loved the solitary weight room workouts starting the day after finishing Nationals each year for 18 years straight. I loved the countless sprints and throwing sessions with teammates. I loved it all.

Thank you very much.

Fortunat Mueller – Open division

I am humbled and honored to be recognized with induction into the Ultimate Hall of Fame. This sport and this community have been a huge part of my life for over 30 years and have deeply shaped who I am today. The Hall and the broader Ultimate community include many of the most important and impactful people in my life: Coaches, mentors, team-mates, inspirations (on and off the field), as well as many of my best friends and fiercest rivals and competitors. And so, it is particularly meaningful and humbling for me to be recognized by and with all of you, and to have the opportunity to celebrate and reminisce together.

Ultimate is really a special game; a disc in flight is elegant and beautiful and the sport may be simple, but it's definitely not easy. It's a game that requires physical endurance and grit and also rewards creativity and mental toughness. But it's ultimately the community, not the sport, that makes it truly one of a kind. Ultimate is where I've made most of the best friends of my life, including of course most notably my amazing wife, Shana (who reminds me continually that she has won more championships than I) and for that I am forever grateful.

As a 16-year-old high school student, I was lucky to stumble onto one of the few existing high school Ultimate teams in the country at Scarsdale High School, and luckier still to have the opportunity to learn the basics of the game from coach Jon Gewirtz, one of the most dominant competitors in the sport at that time. Many of you, no doubt, have your own memories and impressions of Jon as a competitor, but as a high school coach, Jon was amazing. His passion for the game was infectious and he taught us that, whether at weekend pickup or in the finals of nationals, what separates good from great is teamwork and rock-solid fundamentals. He also taught us about self-officiation and Spirit of the Game and how Ultimate will challenge you to be a fierce competitor, but never at the expense of being your best self.

Learning to play ultimate in NY in the mid 90's was amazing. On any given night at the Westchester summer league, as an enthusiastic kid just learning to throw a forehand, I'd find myself lined up with, or across from, some of Ultimate's greatest legends. Dave Blau, Andy Sheeman, Kenny, Skip, Jonny, Cribber, Babs, and so many more. Every one of them was kind and approachable, and generous with coaching, encouragement, and advice, whether about frisbee or about life. Their joy for the game, their bond as teammates, and their passion and skill inspired me to imagine myself someday in a similar position.

Over the next thirty years, I was blessed to have the opportunity to play at all levels and all around the world with a huge array of amazing and inspiring teammates. Between 1995 and 2000, I had the pleasure of helping to build the Brown college program from a Sectionals level team into a perennial Collegiate Nationals contender, with a strong financial endowment, amazing alumni support, and steadfast programmatic commitment to excellence. I had the chance to play, and sometimes to win, at Club Nationals and at Worlds with San Francisco's Saucy Jack, with Providence's Snapple/Darkhorse and, of course, with Boston's Death or Glory and then Ironsides. I was proud to have the opportunity to represent the USA in international competitions five times, including as part of Ultimate's inaugural participation in the World Games in 2001 in Akita, Japan. I also spent a summer playing with the Grasshoppers of Hamina, Finland and another playing with Radical in Zurich, Switzerland. Everywhere I went and everywhere I played, I was welcomed, I was accepted, I was challenged, and I grew as a player and as a person. Whether it's running that last set of stadium steps in the cold rain or suffering through 19ers after a Regionals win or throwing up before a big game or hoisting a trophy together, the opportunity to push ourselves beyond our imagined limits, and to work hard at something together with people we love and admire is truly a rare gift that I can say with certainty has had a critical impact on who I am today.

In spite of what we've all shouted in the huddle at one point or another, Ultimate actually isn't life, but the beautiful game, and you, the amazing community surrounding the game, have most certainly made my life infinitely richer and better. Thank you!

Chris Perry – Special Merit

Chris caught the frisbee bug while attending Mesa Junior College in 1975. His enthusiasm continued as a fine art major at San Diego State University, where a (coed) group of players would gather on Sundays at the track field to freestyle and play Ultimate. The San Diego Free Flyers was formed and evolved rapidly. A competitive ultimate team was established and became a core activity of the club into the late '70s.

Chris enjoyed action photography and settled on shooting Frisbee events rather than competing. In 1980, UPA Newsletter editor/publisher Tom Kennedy encouraged Chris to send photos. Chris shot many tournaments in California and a few in Oregon and Arizona over the next six years.

Frank Revi – Contributor

Being in the Ultimate Hall of Fame is a hugely meaningful honor. Like so many others, Ultimate has been formative in my life, but I would never have guessed it would include this. Thanks so much to Suzanne and others who made the HoF, Moons for the recommendation, and others who supported my induction. Of course, also to my teammates from over the years - Egg, Mike T, Greeeen Light, too many to list.

Without Stork icon recognition, a little backstory is hopefully tolerable. My earliest disc memory is summer nights, hucking a Master back and forth with a friend at the outer edge of left field lights during park district softball games. On my first day in high school, 1978, I chanced on the frisbee club, in street clothes and sneakers, playing this thing "Ultimate" out back by the train tracks. Before I even dropped my backpack and joined in, I was hooked. At my first tournament, I was amazed to see for the first time sidearms, and people who really knew how to throw. Presciently, one of them had showed up in a Chicago Taxicab because that was his job.

On my very first day in Boston for college, 1982, I chanced on an Ultimate game, non-students just using one of the lawns. By way of awkward introduction, I asked the one wearing the "Veggies" t-shirt if he was a vegetarian. No, it was the name of an Ultimate team. Nice to meet you, Bob Evans. Anyhow, within weeks I'd joined the school frisbee club. By 2nd term, I was captain of the first MIT Ultimate team trying to get anywhere. Slightly lost in the new city, I arrived late to my first tournament, and wondered if I was even in the right place because in this whole enormous empty field, there was just one guy sitting way out by himself, in a lawn chair. He casually said yeah this is the place and went back to his newspaper. Once there were 6 full games going, I saw that Toby "lawn chair" Lou was on the team with the tall lanky guy at the helm

throwing the most amazing bombs I'd never even imagined...and the diving catches, holy s**t. I even got a non-team-issue t-shirt with their checkerboard logo. Mine doesn't say Rude Boys.

That year, I watched the finals of the first College Nationals at Tufts, Stanford vs. Glassboro. Even considering those "college" players, our team now had a reachable goal. We did make it to College Nationals the following 3 years.

I came to realize the importance of Spirit of the Game, not just to Ultimate, but generally. Competing *with* others; playing as a team; sharing responsibility for process and outcomes; no barriers to entry; honoring and respecting others who do likewise, even when we disagree; helping to spread that message in whatever small ways I can crystallized then as a core value.

I arranged indoor winter league in the big gym where local club players came; at one demonstration we did, some unlikely administrator regaled me about this guy who used to do half-time shows at Celtics games where he'd throw this disc in a huge arc almost touching the wall above the highest seats, and by the time it came down he'd be in mid-air to dunk it in the far net - name of "Stork" or Irv or something like that. I taught PE Ultimate where living-group league players (and kids who thought it was going to be easy credit) picked up a few skills.

As National College director, I headed up the ongoing effort to legitimize the College division by formalizing, and trying to enforce, the eligibility rules. College became the largest division; College Women's division became its own tournament series within a couple of years. I also took on rewriting the rules as head of the New Rules Committee; some of our wording may have made it into the 10th Edition and even beyond.

When I moved back to Chicago and started playing Open division, I played with Jose, the cab driver from 1978, and the rest of Windy City; went to Nationals twice with them. My competitive time ended on a de-mothballed pickup team at the very last tournament of the 20th century, December 31, 1999, sunset, West Coast time.

Retired from playing since my shoulder disintegrated, what's left is the indestructible Spirit of the Game. Play on.

JR Reynolds – Special Merit

J.R. was a Club Nationals video producer 1990, '91, '93, & '94. He also produced UPA training videos and media guides, and WFDF documentaries in '92 & '94.

Scobel Wiggins – Special Merit

Thank you. I did not see this coming.

Of everyone ever blessed with this amazing honor-- for which I am unspeakably grateful -- I am the one with the least disc talent. I've got no throws, no skills, no ball sense. Even my spirit is terrible.

It was all Ben. "Look mom," he said. "Watch *this*."

It was the coolest thing I'd ever seen. Crazy kids playing like their lives depended on it. Coaching themselves, eking out funding, staging tournaments. Anchored in the Spirit of the Game, they made each other better. They made games better. They made the sport better. They did a hundred thousand things I will never do.

I got to see it.

I got to catch it, like lightning in a bottle. The most amazing people, doing the most amazing things. Look. Watch *this*.

It was everywhere, this beautiful sport, around the world. With nothing more than a disc and wit, anything could happen. Serious athletes in a self-officiated sport dared to give it their best shot. And I got to photograph it, and give it back, and see what happened next.

Wow.

Let me say thanks to people too good not to mention.

To Joshua Greenough, the vortex of the tornado that turned the Pacific Northwest into a global phenomenon. That battered hat he said he'd wear until he won Nationals, that tattered thing he still wears at tournaments, is a crown made of sweat and dreams that any true king would envy.

To the countless athletes who were fascinating, brilliant, and among the people I admire most in this world. You know who you are -- you're the ones who made me look good.

And to the other photographers who understand the anguish of the shot you didn't get and are a comfort.

I appreciate this high honor more than I can say, but in the words of Ted Lasso, "It isn't about me. It never was."

----- CLASS OF 2022 -----
Induction Speeches/Statements

Mike Caldwell – Open division

Thank you to the Hall of Fame voters and trustees for this incredible honor. This is a childhood dream fulfilled on the backs of many, many giants who have guided, supported, and inspired me over the years.

From the bottom of my heart, thank you...

To my partner Ren. Your unwavering, enthusiastic support for this pursuit of mine still astounds me. No matter our financial situation, despite how much solo-parenting it asked of you, if it was good for me, you were down for it. For context, our son Jaeden was born in January of 2003, after which I played 14 more seasons with Sockeye. Our daughter Serah was born the night after semifinals of Worlds in 2008, after which you supported me in driving back up for the final. Thank you, thank you, thank you for everything. This honor has your name on it, first and foremost.

To my kids Jaeden and Serah, who grew up on sidelines and in huddles. Thank you for sharing all those experiences with me.

To Bryn Perkins and Sparky Palomino, who first taught me to play and brought me along for my first club sectionals in the fall of '94.

To Toby Holsman, Sam Rosenthal, Roger Crafts, Brent Olsen, Jon Remucal, and Kelvin Chan, for growing up in ultimate with me and being lifelong friends. Thanks also to the CUT past and present for making that possible.

To Dave Boardman. You showed me what greatness looked like at both the college and club levels. Your belief that I could rise to your example was transformative.

To Lou Burruss, my friend and mentor. You showed me how to navigate men's sports as a queer person. You created a culture on Sockeye that embraced and celebrated people for exactly who they were - for their differences - and where I felt safe to share my whole self in service to that team.

To Kevin Monohan, Chris Page, Mark Stone, Brook Martin, Josh Monaghan, Barney Ahouse, and the Sockeye old guard who took a chance on me.

To Sam CK, Alex Nord, and Chase Sparling-Beckley, Moses Rifkin, Andrew Fleming, Blaine Robbins, Giora, Danny Trytiak, Dave Bestock, Sam O'Brien. We built a dynasty together.

To all of the incredible players I lined up against -- Mike Grant, Hollywood, Damien Scott, Jim Schoettler, Mike Enns, Beau Kittredge, Mark Seraglio, and so many others. You pushed and inspired me constantly. Thank you for making every defeat deserved and every victory meaningful.

Last and most indelibly, to Matt Rehder, Phil, Danny, BJ, Nate, Spencer, Reid, Chris, Aly, Sam Harkness, Adam, Mark, Trent, Seth, and all of the talented players I got to call teammates over the years. This is for you. Thank you for giving me a place to grow and thrive and feel complete for so many years.

Love, MC

Sam Chatterton-Kirchmeier – Open division

I am honored to be inducted into the Ultimate HoF, and I share this honor with all my teammates and coaches, without whom I would not have reached the heights that I did or be the person that I am. Like most ultimate lifers, ultimate has been a source of community, friendships, growth, purpose, joy, and love from the first time I picked up a disc. I was lucky to be one of the first of the generation who started playing ultimate well before college, starting in 6th grade. So much credit goes to my middle and high school coaches – Joe, Mary, and Jeff – for inspiring me and a cohort of ultimate-obsessed

Seattle kids who would go on to win at every level of the game and include 2 fellow HoF members, but also create friends for life. Despite being a shy and awkward teenager, I felt grounded and more confident because I had a community and a passion for ultimate with MoHo (Seattle juniors) and later the UC Santa Cruz Slugs. I even met my wife Liz through ultimate – a teammate who inspired me with her absurdly athletic on-field feats and the way she could will her team to win. When I joined Sockeye, it became my extended family, and with our brand of boisterous, goofy intensity we reached the pinnacles of accomplishment and camaraderie. Our success is the reason I am receiving this honor, and this belongs to all the Fish.

My hope for the future of ultimate is that it continues to be a community that is welcoming and inclusive, joyous and competitive, and just a little weird, so that other shy and awkward kids like me can call it their own and love their journey. Thank you to the HoF organizers for this opportunity.

Scotty Conway – Mixed division Starting Class

From the moment I hauled myself up from my very first layout, in my very first pick-up game realizing I had just broken my very first bone; I knew I had found my sport. For better or for worse, each of those firsts would most certainly not be my last. I wasn't the fastest or the tallest. I didn't have premier throws. But in each and every game over the ensuing 15 years, I left everything I had on the field.

It is an incredible honor to be recognized for the impact my passion had on the game and on my peers.

To funnel that drive into something profound, though, required the good fortune of playing with the best teammates and being on some remarkable teams.

My early days on Colorado State Men's ultimate included the throws of disc golf pro Mike Randolph, the mental strength of Justin Groneck, the energy of Brian Robinson, the heart of Doug Arensman, the balanced coaching of Rob Eberle, and, oh, the impatience of Sam Berry. Those guys gave me the foundation and confidence to grow into an impact player.

Then I transitioned to Mixed and discovered the mountain home of all ultimate mountain homes in Lake Tahoe, landing in a hotbed of talent that was ripe for some overzealous encouragement from a naive kid fresh out of college.

Who knew all we needed to do was to get the ambidextrous luminary, Jeff Fillinger, into a pair of cleats again, sparking Jen Mader's dependable defense, Christine, CJ, Johnson's positivity, Johnny Brokaw's focus, Katy Carmen's poaching prowess, Topher Manahan's competitive wisdom, Mary Burke's break mark bombs, Frankus' fire, Lilith Anderson's steady play and presence, Timmy Peterson's ridiculous receiving, Eric, EJ, Johnson's chill, Heather Perry's dedication, Toby Johnson's layout D's, Annie Chicken Dixon's acumen at moving the disk, Big Jim Frost's determination, Jamey Eichert's wit, both Dawn and George Grass's perfectly timed contributions, Jeff Marvan's resolve, Jeff, Jefe, Cutler's shrewdness, Tim Weil's intensity and Will Sutton's impact all over the field (only to name a few) and delivering the most dominant mixed team since the inception of the division. The icing on my career was getting invited into the Mental Toss Flycoon establishment where I played with some of the Big Sky legends that inspired my evolution to the mixed division many years prior.

Like most ultimate players, it is impossible to disentangle the sport from my life.

Forged experiences and relationships have provided me with the kind of meaning and foundation some folks search for throughout life.

As I navigate the challenges and joys of growing a family and a career at the forefront of climate change resilience, I lean into the skills I learned on the field with all of you: camaraderie, collaboration, spirited competition, but most importantly; true grit & timeless love. The reality is that I owe this sport and what all of you have given me more than I will ever be able to repay. Even though I hung up my cleats long ago, I will make good on paying it forward to ensure the sport's and my teammate's fingerprints extend well beyond the cones.

My children: Kate, Tommy Rocket, Finn, and Aspen get the brunt and benefit of that commitment. I am already witnessing what the sport taught me in their play on fields and courts. But the reality is that they are educating me how to better prepare and compete. I am proud of the humans they are in and out of sports and can't wait to see the adults they become.

Most importantly, my life partner, Annamieka, who wasn't a part of my life during my playing days, gets the man the sport made (for better or worse). If you have had the opportunity to meet her, you would know I got the better end of that deal. She is a distinguished ophthalmologist, who somehow has the capacity to care for countless patients and our four

children. She is a world class climber...an athlete in her own right who overcame significant individual challenges on the rock and in life without the support of the plethora of teammates I relied on. AND she is my co-captain on yet another storied team, but this time one gilded with devotion and not medals.

"I'm going where there's lakes and mountains, to a land free of care; I'm going where the snow meets the heavens, my home 'sin Tahoe, I'M GOING THERE!"

Scotty "Rocket" Conway #39

Cara Crouch – Women's division

Sometime around my second year of college, my obsession with ultimate already in full swing, I read the book Vision of a Champion by Anson Dorrance. The winningest coach in college soccer history advised that "what you do when no one is looking will determine how good you will be." For most of my ultimate career I subscribed to that mantra and spent many extra hours throwing, running, lifting, or doodling ultimate plays in notebooks. Thanks in part to what I was doing when no one was looking, I achieved many accomplishments and I'm very proud of that.

But contrary to Anson's vision of success achieved in isolation, the things that I am most proud of and that shaped me most are those that I was doing in the company of others. Together with my teammates, co-captains, co-coaches, best friends, and life partner, we constructed spaces where we, and others then and after, could reap the life-affirming rewards of sport and community. So, I'm using this opportunity to shout out and celebrate what we accomplished together, and share deep love and gratitude to:

- my teammates at the University of Texas, who showed me the power of building and striving for something together and who continue to be some of my closest friends.
- my Buttercup teammates, who introduced a crucial vision of a supportive athletic community where women lifted each other up for the good of the team.
- my Ozone teammates, who brought my game to the next level and showed me how to not take myself too seriously.
- my World Games teammates, who fulfilled a life dream, inspired me, and modeled how to play with poise on the world stage.
- the international ultimate community from Australia to Hong Kong, Slovenia to Colombia, who opened their homes and communities to us as we traveled around the world chasing plastic.
- the youth kids I have coached the past 15 years at Kealing MS, UT, and on Texas Tango, who remind me that it's even more rewarding to witness others grow and succeed than to do it yourself.
- my Showdown teammates, who created something beautiful and powerful against tremendous geographical odds, and whose costumes and cheers were as good as our on-field game.
- my parents and family for providing the opportunity and encouragement to play sports, and for their unwavering support of my ultimate habit.
- my brave, kind, smart, and beautiful kids, Sybil and Parker, who cracked my heart wide open and who I can't wait to cheer on in all they do.
- my teammate in life, Michael "Tank" Natenberg, who shows me every day what it looks like to be a great teammate.

I am honored by my induction, and especially grateful for the opportunity to reflect on my time playing ultimate and the people I was fortunate to share it with.

Downtown Brown – Special Merit

Represented by Damon Adlao, Manisha Daryani, Jody Dozono, Frank Flores, Ken Leiserson, Mike Namkung

Ultimate. This perfect world where our desire for victory and success gets tempered by the fact that none of us can do it alone. We need a team, and we need an opponent, and we need our passion to be powerful. Holding all these things together at once requires keeping our egos and self-esteem in check, at the same time as we reach for everything we can possibly gain. The spirit of the game, the balance of so many opposing forces.

Downtown Brown lives in this perfect world, and the people who play on DTB benefit in two unique ways. By elevating an ethnically diverse group of players we increase our relevance to each other and to Ultimate, making the game stronger. At the same time, by bringing the group together within this ideal world, the players can more clearly see each other and the strength we each exert, preventing the opposing forces of our own lives from pulling us apart. We revitalize and heal, as we strive for victory.

Where DTB lives relates to all of us, no doubt.

The Downtown Brown family just happens to be lucky enough to have found a sport and a community full of people also searching for a similar joy, desire, and tribe where we are welcome to express ourselves and hopefully discover what all people hope to find: that we are enough.

With love and deep gratitude to the sport where we experience so much joy and growth to this day, Downtown Brown thanks the Ultimate Hall of Fame for acknowledging our importance to the sport with this Special Merit induction.

Downtown Brown's Mantra: Pride, Diversity, Knowledge, Heritage, Unity, Strength, Struggle, Foot to Ass, Victory

Joey Gray – Mixed division Starting Class Contributor

Way limlmt, mahsi cho, miigwech, merci vieumau, danke, bedankt -- thank you -- first to the first people, families, citizens, and bands of the Kumeyaay Nation who have been here, from the mountains to the sea, taking care of these lands since time immemorial. They're a people whose traditional lifeways intertwine with a worldview of earth and sky in a community of living beings. This land is part of a relationship that has nourished, healed, protected, and embraced Kumeyaay people to the present day. It's part of a world view founded in the harmony of the cycles of the sky and balance in the forces of life.

As a guest here, my purpose is to gather with friends to play, eat together, reflect on the educational goals of the organizations and events I ran, and to honor those near and far who contribute as player-organizers, athletes, and teammates to the sport and community of flying disc ultimate.

My dad Jerry was Métis, Okanagan, Ojibwe, Scottish, French-Canadian-American; he contributed to skiing as an organizer, journalist, and coach at a similar stage as I did in ultimate, and he co-founded the first environmental agency in the U.S. My mom Herberta (Scottish, German, English-American) is a geologist, cartographer, and weaver who, in keeping with her pilgrim ancestors' migration, managed the team that mapped the moon for the first moonwalk.

By starting this way, I hope to reinforce some of the relational aspects that keep spirit in the game. It's accountability.

Thank you to all nations from here to the Dënéndeh, Lheidli T'enneh, and Dakeł Keyoh (ᑕᑭᑦ ᑭᑎᑦ), to the Naumkeag, Pawtucket, Mohawk, and Algonquin, to the Seminole, Tocobaga, Mascogo, Calusa and Miccosukee territories, and in Waimanalo, for allowing me to play and to organize events on your lands.

Thanks to all teammates and player-organizer friends, from grassroots pickup to world championship teams, from Singapore to Switzerland, Japan to Brazil, in Aotearoa, Australia, Germany, UK, in Bunun, Kanakanavu, Rukai, and Saaroa territories, and more.

Thank you for bringing spirit to the game. Thank you for setting up and cleaning up the fields.

Thank you for knowing all genders can play as equally valued teammates, and for knowing that almost everything ultimate is more so in mixed thanks to diverse speeds, heights, and perspectives.

We led as the only team sport under the patronage of the International Olympic Committee to administer three overlapping gender divisions equally, each strengthening each.

We led with the inaugural appearance of disc golf and ultimate as medal-earning sports at The World Games.

We led with the resilience and strength of communities woven together, as one of the only, or only, in-season sport league in the U.S. to hold all our events after September 11th.

We innovated with tennis and korfbal to set the stage for 18 mixed events at the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games and for four other sports to hold their first gender-balanced events.

As Executive Director, Founding Innovation Grants Director, and first National Coed Director of the Ultimate Players Association (UPA), my vision was that, like any successful team, we'd stay together through a fractious time and that our infrastructure and behavior could scale up to sustain the creation and expansion of equitable spaces for all.

As Secretary-General, Treasurer, Ultimate and Spirit of the Game Committees Member, and Head Official for Ultimate at The World Games for the World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF), my vision was that the joy of play and the assumption of gender equity would be realized worldwide, with the rules of ultimate representing a shifted worldview in team sport.

As Founding President and Executive Director of the Northwest Ultimate Association (DiscNW), my vision was to serve as a regional resource to support growth in the sport while instilling the spirit of sportsmanship at all levels of play.

Thank you to the first North American Coed/Mixed Committee Members; core co-organizers Fumio Morooka, Thomas Griesbaum and Dan (Stork) Roddick; friends who wrote recommendation letters: Billy Rodriguez, Calvin Lin, Jennifer Christianson, Lili Gu, and Retsu Takahashi; and everyone who stepped up to be a first coed sectional or regional coordinator, the celebration hosts, the first coed worlds demo game players, first mixed teams at sectionals and worlds, task force members, plus everyone I missed.

Thank you for the honor and responsibility of Hall of Fame membership.

Sources: <https://ais.sdsu.edu/land-acknowledgement> <https://native-land.ca/> <https://www.thelanguagehouse.ca/>

Anja Haman – Women's division

As a young adult I didn't think of myself as athletic. I remember telling people "I'm energetic, not athletic". But I loved being active, and throwing the frisbee was magic. My dad captured a silent film of my mom throwing a frisbee with me, age 4, in a snowsuit in rural Alberta in March 1968. It must have been fate. <https://youtu.be/K7GHB5-pK-4?si=RQQYdDjxBscvvVzO>

I went on to play a version of ultimate on the meadows in Edinburgh in 1986, and then back in Calgary, Alberta when Cheryl Claibourne took me under her wing in 1990. That first summer, I played my first tournament - where I danced into the wee hours at the party with a room full of open-minded, athletic, and energetic people. I was hooked.

Through ultimate I met my community; people with whom I shared values, a passion, and an outlook on what sports could be. The community supported me in becoming a better person, a better leader and... an athlete. It allowed me to travel the world, expand my horizons, and challenge myself in so many ways. I am so very grateful for the gift of ultimate in my life, for the many moments of pure simple joy, the safe space to grow, and for the extraordinary people I've encountered.

When I reflect on the individuals who warmly welcomed me onto their teams, who supported our vision and goals for women's ultimate, and who prodded me to play competitively, I realize how small actions of support can change lives. They can even fundamentally change who you think you are.

Miranda Roth Knowles – Women's division

It is my honor to accept this induction into the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame. As a lifelong athlete I have always dreamed of achieving at a level of excellence that could be deemed Hall of Fame-worthy. But better than being voted into posterity for basketball or soccer, today I stand within the ultimate community that has helped me mature into an adult, elevated me into positions of leadership in sports and education and made me a better person by challenging my upbringing and preconceived notions about what it looks like to be an elite female athlete.

I am humbled, today, to join so many of my heroes, like Nancy Glass, Chris O'Cleary, Molly Goodwin, Lesley Calder, Cat Pittack, Tiina Booth and Angela Lin who are already members of the Hall of Fame. Any plays I made, schemes I devised or championships I won were only possible because I saw them do it all first. I modeled my game after them, developed my ultimate mind in their image and only believed in myself because I knew it was possible seeing what these unbelievable athletes could do on the field.

Today, I also look to the future with a sense of excitement, wonder and anticipation, looking forward to who will join us all in the Hall of Fame someday. I watch the players on the fields here in San Diego at club nationals, or the youth in my home,

Atlanta, at the local park and wonder who's next? There are so many great options! Ultimate is available to so many people at such a young age that we will surely see more and more amazing teams and players come into their own over the next few decades. I am privileged to stand here and be a pillar for what is built henceforth.

What means the most to me today is the group of teammates and competitors who stand beside me. Enessa, Nancy, A1, Alex, Cara, Gwen, Chelsea and I are all within three years of college graduation of each other. I believe any one of us would have been great on our own, but what truly made us Hall of Famers is how we pushed each other to elevate our games. In an era where traveling to tournaments was still a rare occurrence, we dragged our teams across the country multiple times per year so we could match up on each other at Easterns, the Stanford Invite, and Centex and then in club at the Boston Invite, Emerald City Classic and Labor Day. While I made a career out of trying to be better than all of you, I can look back now and appreciate each of us in our greatness. The chinks I put in your armor only made you better and more unstoppable the next time we battled. The ways you got impossibly low on your throws, covered 40 yards of width in the deep space or caught a disc trailing edge fading away from you in the back corner of the endzone...it made me want to train harder and get back out on the field as soon as possible to try to emulate you.

There is a Paideia ultimate saying that goes "It's not the disc, but the space around the disc that counts." You were my space around the disc and man, did we make it count.

Michael Namkung – Open division

Dear Iris and Dear Clyde,

They asked us to write speeches about what being inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame means to us—speeches that ironically will never be spoken, but whose final destination is the printed event program, and later, the internet.

As I write, I imagine there are adults dressed up and sitting at large round dinner tables with fancy napkins and wine glasses and white tablecloths. Some have their heads down in the program. Some are chatting, socializing. Someone is standing at a microphone giving an actual speech. Some are listening. Some are awaiting their turn. What will you be doing? Will you be sitting with Mama with your feet swinging under the table, bored out of your minds? Or finding ways of escaping these adult formalities, finding refuge with other kids? I am imagining by the time either of you actually read these words, you will be grown. Perhaps I will be gone—at least the version of me writing this letter will be. Like this unspoken speech, this letter is an act of imagination.

I think a lot about being a father. Clyde, as I write this, you are in your last year of elementary school, and you, Iris, are on the precipice of your teen years. Each year I enjoy the privilege of watching you grow into new versions of yourselves, and each year I find myself challenged to do the same—to let go of the father I thought I needed to be in order to become the father you actually need.

Today, I am being recognized for a body of work I completed long ago, long before you were born. I feel proud to look back on my accomplishments, and I feel incredibly honored to have my work acknowledged by my peers. There are times to look back, to reflect on the past. Perhaps you are looking back right now—looking back at a version of me who is looking forward to future versions of you while trying to imagine what could be relevant to tell you about this much earlier version of myself.

Sports was where my imagination came to life. It was where I learned to test myself and to question what was possible. Again and again, I challenged myself through repeated acts of pushing my body against the limitations of my own mind. Through these disciplines, I learned how to pay attention to the world around me and to the world within me. As I did, I became aware of new limitations, internal places of pain and darkness that I hadn't yet seen. Or hadn't wanted to.

I discovered that the battles I fought on the field of play were versions of the hidden struggles within myself. The enemies I made of my opponents were the parts of myself I was loath to face. At times I was truly lost, chasing accomplishments to soothe an internal ache, to fill an emptiness. Sometimes the stakes were so high that a single loss could leave me heartbroken. Sometimes I was so focused on the destination that I lost sight of the path and the people in front of me.

At other times, I was lost in a different way. When I became joyfully immersed in the flow of play, I discovered a boundless source of creativity and light. When I allowed the world and my own personal drama to fall away and put my attention in the present, the stakes disappeared. When I fell in love with the moment, everything was possible and I could fly. We all could fly, my teammates and I, in perfect sync, moving as one. When we managed to do it together, it was blissful and it was

beautiful. Our shared imaginations led us into domains of life impossible to find on our own. My great hope is that you too, will nourish your imagination and let yourself fall in love with whatever games you choose to play.

I am grateful for how I was shaped by it all, how it taught me how to love my teammates as well as my opponents. All were my teachers. Just like you two are, right now, teaching me day after day about the present moment, about joy and wholeheartedness, about play and playfulness, about paying attention to what truly matters. By the time you are reading this, I hope that these words mean something to you.

There are times for looking back. I feel very honored today to be inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame. But I much prefer to be inducted into this moment, alive and brimming with possibility, loving everything you are right now while looking forward to all you are becoming and ready, again and again, to be shaped by you.

Love,
Daddy

Alex Nord – Open division

I started playing ultimate on a middle school blacktop at recess with friends I'm still tight with, all of us introduced to this new, weird sport by our teacher Joe Bisignano. Back then, there was no juniors frisbee scene in Seattle. A few of us who wanted more chances to play joined Joe's team in the DiscNW co-ed adult spring league on Sunday mornings. The timing was perfect in that youth soccer, basketball, and baseball usually played on Saturdays. It was imperfect in that I was several years from the growth spurt that would have made me better competition for an adult. Fortunately, the next year, Joe – along with organizers like Mary Lowry and Jeff Jorgenson – launched Seattle's first middle school league. All these years later, I love hearing about the booming youth ultimate scene in Seattle, which has spread from a few middle schools to the whole city, bridging socioeconomic and geographic boundaries that can be hard to breach in Seattle. I want to thank those who opened the door to this great sport for me. I also want to recognize the generations of coaches that continue to create opportunities for NW kids to play this game and to grow as people by embracing the spirit of the game and connecting to an incredible community.

So many people and teams have shaped my time playing ultimate. Three teams in particular are central to my experiences on and off the field – Carleton CUT in college, Seattle Sockeye in Open, and Voltron in Masters (following many one-off tournaments through the years). Of these, Sockeye was my longest-running ultimate family. I joined in 2004 and played my last season in 2011 before moving on from Open after three years of major injuries and the birth of our first kid. I want to recognize the teammates that I looked up to when I started with the Fish, as well as the core of the team that I ran with. Notably, seven of us that grew up in the early 1990s Seattle juniors scene went on to win national championships playing together for Sockeye. I have the honor of being inducted alongside two of them: Sam Chatterton-Kirchmeier and Chase Sparling-Beckley. Over the years, I played with so many teammates that excelled at playing frisbee and being wonderful humans, and I thank them all.

There is a strange element to achieving individual Hall of Fame recognition in a team endeavor. My success was only possible thanks to the amazing players I counted as teammates. For every point or game where I made a big play or helped my team win, there was another time where my teammates picked me up and covered for my failures. Similarly humbling, I had the privilege of lining up against amazing players (including years of matching up against Northwest rivals Furious, Jam/Revolver, and Rhino). While this honor recognizes my successes in some of those battles, I was often beaten individually, and my teams often lost. The wins and losses, successes and failures, the feeling of giving everything I had – for a layout, a point, a game, a tournament, a team – these are many of my most treasured life experiences, and I have this sport and this special community to thank.

Joe Seidler – Contributor

When I heard that I had been nominated for the UHoF, I was shocked. I had never considered I would be a candidate. And then when I was voted into the UHoF, I was very proud. It meant a lot to me. Everyone in my family was calling to congratulate me, as they all knew how much work I had put into documenting ultimate history. Sometimes I'm asked why I did so much over such a long time, and my answer has always been *"to make sure the names of the best players and teams and their accomplishments did not disappear over time."*

I organized the collection of data, facts, stories, anecdotes, and all the other elements that comprise the history of the sport of Ultimate. In addition to my self-appointed role as Sport Historian, I also served for three years on the board of the UPA (predecessor to USA Ultimate) and for nearly three years on the board of Ultimate Peace.

I was never a player; I began my love of ultimate watching my son, Jason, play at UCSB in 1993. I often thought and told people that *"attending tournaments with my family brought us even closer than we ever thought possible."* I am happy to say my entire family is here tonight to celebrate with me. I was motivated to document the sport and write its history because I was so impressed by what I saw on the field, by the people I met who were involved with the sport, and realized while serving on the UPA board that even board members had little sense of the sport's history.

I gathered the data on championship records, team rosters, special player accomplishments and so much more to create, organize, and manage all the content into an accessible website format for almost 20 years and then found a successor, through www.ultimate-reference.com, to carry on the work. To create the Ultimate History books, volumes I-IV, I arranged and motivated the various authors of the books to do the primary research and interviews of the individuals and teams who made our history before their stories were lost to time, and then got the funding to publish two high-quality volumes of the books plus a third and fourth volume published as e-books. Here are the books (more info at <https://ultimatehistory.com/ultimate-first-five-decades/>):

'ULTIMATE—The First Five Decades, Vol. I' covering 1968-2004

'ULTIMATE—The First Five Decades, Vol. II' covering 2005-2018

'ULTIMATE—The First Five Decades, Vol. III' e-book covering history of UPA/USAU, Rules, Discs & HoF.

'ULTIMATE—The First Five Decades, Vol. IV' e-book covering International 1980-2018

My message to ultimate players:

I loved being the ultimate historian and keeping in touch with so many ultimate players. You are the best people I know, and the sport is the best I've ever watched. Keep the camaraderie, culture and drive to win for only winning's sake started by Tom "TK" Kennedy way back in 1978 when he started the UPA.

I am extremely proud to join the elite group of UHoF members, many of whom I communicated with often over the past 20 years about ultimate history. They were the best in the sport, and I felt honored that they helped me so willingly. I can hardly believe I will be on the induction stage along with them. Look for the old guy with the big grin... that will be me.

Messages that made all my work well worth it from people I revere:

"Your unparalleled contributions to capturing our sport's history are a rare gift - one that continuously brings pride, powerful memories, and pure joy to all of us. I believe your work will be even more recognized and valued over the next decades. In the meantime, I hope you are taking in the love and appreciation being sent your way."

David Barkan

"I can't tell you how exciting it's been to have you in the Ultimate world, interviewing players and bringing facts, stories, and Stats to everyone. You have a great caring family, and your Ultimate history accomplishments will always be a highlight to all seeking things to know about the sport. I think Brodie will carry the torch proudly. What you embarked on is more than words can say, bringing our accomplishments and most importantly, Ultimate memories with friends to the surface, for us to cherish."

David Buzz Ellsworth

Emily Smith-Wilson – Mixed division Starting Class

Thank you for believing myself worthy of such an honor. The sport of Ultimate has enhanced my life immensely and to sum up over 2 decades of life in a few words seems futile. But I will say that Ultimate gave me a purpose and an outlet; it provided a reason to focus on and take care of myself as well as to think beyond myself. It forced me to consistently push myself to improve both physically and emotionally. And most significantly, it gave me a global community of like minded people and friends that have become family. It filled void after void and was one of the only consistent aspects of my life for the longest time. To say I am grateful to have found Ultimate is a severe understatement.

Ultimate ground me down and then polished me, showing me that inside, I had a level of determination and discipline that I doubt I would have found otherwise. It taught me to believe in myself and my teammates. It taught me the magic that came from believing in each other and a system to accomplish something much greater than ourselves.

I certainly didn't get here on my own, I was surrounded by my incredible (Mixtape) teammates and close friends that saw what I had inside me. Thank you for giving me the support and providing me space to grow, make mistakes, laugh, and inevitably shine. You all know who you are, and you each played a crucial part in my journey. Thank you to my daughter, Aliyah, for spending countless hours at the track, on open fields, and at practices, and tournaments in all the weather. I hope you understand that Ultimate fed my soul for the longest time, and I hope that my journey / our journey inspires you to search for and find what it is that feeds your soul too. And of course, to the people who made it known that you didn't believe in me, wanted to see me fail and even told me words that were intended to cut me down, I truly can't thank you enough. You added the fuel to my fire that made it burn hotter. I know you had no idea who you were dealing with or the depths I had already gone to and conquered. You didn't have to be afraid of what you couldn't tame...I would have brought you along had you let me.

Alex Snyder – Women's division

I am deeply humbled by this incredible honor and overwhelmed with gratitude to the committee and community for selecting me to be a member of the Hall of Fame.

As we all know, Ultimate is not just a sport but a way of life, a community, and a family. It has shaped my life in more ways than I can express and has truly made me the person I am today. From Vancouver to Colorado to the Bay area and beyond, all the teammates and coaches I've had along the way are the heart and soul of my Ultimate story and successes. You all inspired me, challenged me, made me laugh, shared your wisdom, and pushed me beyond my limits. The bonds we have formed go far beyond the field and our relationships, shared memories and experiences are priceless treasures that I hold in my heart.

Lastly, thank you to my family and friends for your endless support and strength throughout my career. Especially to my father who has followed me around the world, posted on rec.sport.disc, told everyone who would listen what an amazing sport Ultimate is and who has always been waiting on the sideline with open arms no matter the outcome. Pa, I would truly not be here today without you. Thanks for always being my biggest fan.

Congratulations to my fellow inductees and here's to the greatest sport on earth!

Bart Watson – Open division

What an honor to be included tonight amongst so many other amazing hall of fame inductees. While achieving this type of honor undoubtedly comes on the tail end of a lot of individual hard work, I want to focus my few brief words on saying thank you to the wide-ranging group of people that made it possible for me to make it to this point.

That starts with my parents – thanks for always supporting my sports adventures - from driving me to hundreds of soccer games all the way to being at my induction... and thanks for not immediately pulling your support for my Stanford tuition when you found out I was playing ultimate with most of my free time.

I first played organized ultimate in the summer before college in the Iowa City summer league – and I doubt I would have made the team as a freshman without that experience and the support of my teammates. So thanks to “team purple” if I remember the color correctly.

Thanks to the Stanford ultimate team for seeing potential in a raw and cocky freshman and welcoming me into that storied program. Next, thanks to Mike Payne, who took over as coach my sophomore year, and helped that raw kid continue to develop into a contributor and then a team leader.

Up next, thanks to all my Jam teammates, a few of whom are also being honored tonight or who have been in the past, for being the ultimate family that made me want to continue in this sport after college and who taught me so much about how this game could be played and how it could be a larger part of life. When's the next Tahoe reunion?

My amazing teammates didn't stop there and after Jam's untimely demise I was lucky to fall into another amazing program in Revolver. Thanks to those teammates who over the next few years taught me new things about a sport I thought I knew and who collectively pushed my game in new ways.

Finally, thanks to the Colorado community; Bravo, Encore, Walker and more who welcomed me into a new home and have kept ultimate a part of my life through today.

When I first tossed a disc in Willow Creek Park so many years ago, I would have never imagined where ultimate would take me. I've played in dozens of US states, on European beaches, been flown to Japan just for ultimate, ridden a float in a small-town parade, heard crowd roars in Taiwanese stadiums, and drunk celebratory beers in German beer halls all thanks to ultimate. So thanks to all of the hundreds if not thousands of people who made that possible. There are so many teams/people/players that 750 words isn't enough just to type the names.

The final thank you is for my wife Liz (and now daughter Audrey) who was by my side for many of those adventures, but when she wasn't there supported me from afar. Thanks for allowing me to pursue this passion for so many years. Love you.

Alicia White – Women's division

I've had the honor of playing with and against the legends of this sport.

I've been coached and captained by the greatest minds in the game.

I've had incredible teammates who have challenged, motivated, and inspired me.

My time playing Ultimate has truly shaped me into the person I am today.

Thank you to all the people who pushed me and supported me through the years.

To the top, together!

The M.O.B. – The Masters of the Bee - Special Merit

David Blocker, Rembert Ervin, Kenneth Hofler, Eugene Jackson, Michael Kidd, David Love, Ervin Riddick, James Riddick, Jerome Stallings, Fred Stephenson, Larry Sturdivant, Timothy Taylor, Glenn Williams

Good evening, everyone. I am Jerome Stallings. On behalf of the Masters of the Bee Ultimate Frisbee Team, better known as the MOB, I am truly honored to express our gratitude and appreciation.

First and foremost, let us take a moment to give thanks to the Creator for granting us the gift of life and the opportunity to gather here today.

Today, we find ourselves humbled and filled with gratitude as we reflect on our journey in Ultimate Frisbee. We are deeply appreciative of receiving Special Merit recognition by the Ultimate Hall of Fame. We are proud that this institution has recognized the Masters of the Bee as an integral part of its storied history, spanning over five decades.

We would like to give a special thanks to Adam Zagoria, who penned the first article about the MOB many years ago. His words not only inspired subsequent articles but also earned us a place in the book, "ULTIMATE – THE FIRST FOUR DECADES," – you can see it on page 59, to be precise.

We also extend our heartfelt thanks to Suzanne Fields, who, on a memorable team Zoom call, shared with us the incredible news of our induction into the Hall of Fame. That night, she witnessed a group of grown men transform into excited kids once again.

But above all, we want to express our deepest gratitude to our families. Many of us were starting our own families at the same time we were dedicating ourselves to Ultimate Frisbee. We spent countless days at the park, away from home, and numerous weekends from April to November on the field. Even in the winter, we found gyms to train in. Our families sacrificed alongside us, and we wouldn't be here without their unwavering support. We wanted to compete with the best teams, and our families' sacrifice made it possible.

To all the remarkable men and women who were inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame, we extend our hearty congratulations. Your extraordinary play has set a standard that we can only aspire to. I am sure it must have been a privilege to watch you play this game.

We also salute the special Merit photographers and writers, as you are the storytellers who bring our journey to life for others to appreciate and admire.

Lastly, we'd like to acknowledge Downtown Brown. Your story serves as a testament that we are not alone in our experiences, and it fills us with hope for the future of Ultimate Frisbee.

I remember our first tournament. Someone in the crowd said, "Look, it's a basketball team!" Little did they know that we were there for one thing and one thing only: that flying disc.

We may not know what everyone in the Ultimate community thought when we arrived on the scene, but I can share what I experienced, and I'm confident my fellow teammates here tonight will agree. The Ultimate Frisbee community welcomed us with open arms and made us feel like family. To this day, that sense of belonging continues.

I also recall our first real tournament and the early encounters with teams like UMass, KaBoom, The Heifers and the Rude Boys, to name a few. We faced defeat, but that only fueled our determination. We returned home and worked harder, and by the next season, many teams couldn't beat us anymore and a couple of the elite teams found themselves locked in intense battles with us.

One aspect that we brought to the game, which might not be widely noted in the history books, is our incorporation of the 3-man weave. It's a basketball drill that kept us moving, anticipating the disc, and ready to strike when the opportunity arose. When we executed it on the Ultimate field, it was something unique and transformative. While other teams often played more methodically with precise cuts and passes, we brought a fast-paced, dynamic style that caught our opponents off guard.

So, from now on, when you see that give-and-go play on the field, remember that it comes from an East Coast team known as the Masters of the Bee. We are proud to have left our mark on this incredible sport and its community.

Thank you all for your support, your memories, and your shared love for Ultimate Frisbee. Tonight, together, we continue to elevate this sport and celebrate its history.

Thank you!

Eugene Jackson – The MOB

I'd like to thank the UHoF, UPA, MoB & our families for supporting us.

This being the achievement of a lifetime being recognized by the UHoF committee.

I want to say thank you!

Larry Sturdivant – The MOB

I am very humbled and honored to be inducted into the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame. It has always been a good time in my life and one that I have fond memories of. I am honored to have made a small contribution to the game with the group of guys that made up The M.O.B.

I was introduced to the game in the early 80s and instantly fell in love with the game. My love for the game of Ultimate started much differently than my fellow teammates. For one thing, I was older than the rest of the team hence I was tagged with the name "Pops". I had learned about the art of throwing the disc long before I knew of the sport of Ultimate.

This was something new in my culture, coming from an inner-city environment where the likes of Basketball, Football and Baseball was more the norm. Ultimate was a breakaway from the traditional sports scene and one I came to appreciate even more. As an athlete I had played football and ran track for my high school, (Shout out to "Crosby High*") where I was All City and All State. I've always been highly competitive. Those early days of playing Ultimate were very grueling and the training was challenging but I loved the challenge. The group of men that came together for this adventure were awesome. We felt we belonged on whatever field we went to. When you played The M.O.B you had better brought your "A Game" because we were determined to prove that we could play this sport, and boy what a ride.

My fondest memories were the traveling we did as a team, the road trips, the music, and the all-around love of the sport. We came ever so close in 1985 to advancing out of the Northeast Regionals; we gave it our all. I was very proud to be with this group of guys and it was an experience that I will always cherish.

I don't want to neglect the fact that we were a team made up of African American men, that at that time was unheard of but, we were respected, and we also gave respect. Ultimate showed me that indeed it builds character and strength. Ultimate was a positive motivating force in my life and I was privileged to be a part of it.

In closing I wish to thank the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame for recognizing our efforts as a group of men coming together for a great cause and to be placed with others that came before us. The ride has been great. Many memories stored in our memory banks, and so very grateful for this opportunity to be a member of the Ultimate Frisbee Hall of Fame!

With gratitude,

Larry " Pops" Sturdivant
One Nation Under a Groove

Tim Taylor – The MOB

This has been an unexpected honor. Which makes it even more gratifying. David "Doc" invited me to come out and toss the disc.

I had played Junior College Basketball and possessed considerable hops. I equated going after the disc to snatching a rebound at the highest point. I remember hearing sighs or "whew's" when the guy covering me would suddenly be looking at my socks.

And in an all out sprint to run down the disc I was seldom beat.

As a sport, ultimate has a great future. This honor encourages me to become an ambassador of the game. It offers a tremendous workout, true sportsmanship and good will. And it doesn't cost a fortune for equipment to play. Players can hone their tossing skills all by themselves.

Thank you, HOF committee.

And the MOB's unified spirit 4 life.

"Terrible Tim" Taylor

----- CLASS OF 2023 ----- Induction Speeches/Statements

Mary Burke – Mixed division

To the fun!

I celebrate and share this honor joyfully with my family, my brood, and all of my teammates.

By centering our experience as women, the mixed teams I played with realized a synergy that produced a sum greater than the parts. Indeed, I also share this honor with many mentors who spent hours sharing their craft with me. In turn, I can envision a future where our mentorship centers the experiences of youth who will realize the greatest benefit from being in an ultimate community and together we build a peaceful world. A fundamental value that we've all enjoyed is that a little time, a disc, some new friends, and a flat open space can equal a life changing experience.

May the spirit of the game be timeless insistent and persistent.

May the joy of playing never fade.

Kendra Frederick – Mixed division

I've written many versions of this speech over the past few weeks, once this surreal honor became real, but I've struggled to choose a single tack. Do I go for self-deprecation and tell the embarrassing story of when I first met Alex Nord? ("You're Alex Nord!") Do I focus on my bewilderment at this accolade, and convey my feelings of being an imposter amongst this

prestigious group? Do I opine on others' observation that Ultimate simultaneously delays adulthood and propels us towards the mature(ish) beings we are today? Do I thank a litany of people, and risk alienating those I omitted, whether through oversight or intention? Do I tell the Kendra Frederick Ultimate origin story??

Regardless of the form my drafts took, certain points and themes kept recurring. And so, I thought it perhaps best to simply write about them, since they seem to be at the heart of my so-called success as an Ultimate player and of my extreme gratitude looking back on my career.

Teammates are the one thing that can possibly begin to explain why I'm receiving this award. They supported me, pushed me, and quite frankly, made me look good. I would not be here today were it not for my great fortune of competing alongside so many amazing athletes, talented throwers, and comrades in the cup. There is no post-Ultimate replacement (that I've found) for the relationships forged through blood, sweat, tears, and finding coffee on the way to the fields. So, for them, and for this opportunity to reminisce about all the good times and wonderful people this silly sport brought into my life, I am incredibly thankful.

Naming names is a slippery slope, but there are two I must mention: Frank Fellone and Sean Laing. They coerced me into waking up early that fateful Saturday morning for Slow White try-outs, forever changing the course of my Ultimate career and my life (not to be dramatic). Slow White became more than just a decent team I played on; they became my family, and Frank and Sean my brothers. I firmly believe if you love what you're doing, and who you're doing it with, good things will follow. There's nothing quite like over-performing at Nationals that first time and being the talk of the beer tent (yes, kids, there used to be a beer tent at Nationals) – giddy with disbelief and pride, how can you not bond with your brethren in that moment without an end? And, on the other end of the emotional spectrum, there's nothing quite like losing to your beloved former team in the Finals of Nationals – (another) silver for you, but what an achievement for the program you in some small way helped build, and what joy for your friends of over a decade. Medals and championships aside, during one of the hardest periods of my life, years removed from having been associated with the team, Slow White had my back in a way other people at the time didn't. If that's not family, I don't know what is.

Not that the other teams I played on left me a worse player or were devoid of lasting bonds! I benefited from the more...disciplined nature D5 and Metro North provided, and it introduced me to the peculiar joy of playing *with* those annoyingly good players from opposing teams instead of *against* them. And while I am/was a Mixed player at heart, my two years playing Club Women's with BENT afforded me some female friendships I'd struggled to foster up to that point in my life. It certainly helped that some of them were even more competitive than I was. The coach was OK, too.

Finally, not all success is attributable to on-the-field teammates – we all have a supporting cast whose names don't feature in any published roster. Thus, I also need to acknowledge my "New Haven" friends, who have **always** been there for me no matter how bad my flick (or my marriage). And thank you to the current captain of my support team, Jaime "Idaho" Arambula. "I couldn't have done it without you" would be as false as it is trite, but I do feel like together, we can handle anything life throws at us (global pandemics, trans-Pacific moves, Packers-Raiders games, etc.).

Tyler Grant – Mixed division

I have a hard time imagining life without frisbee and the surrounding community. It truly has become both my immediate family and an extended family unlike any other. Our community is warm, welcoming, competitive, and silly. I enjoy competing, but it's the other intangibles that keep me coming back, seeing friends, and traveling the world.

It wasn't always like this. I grew up playing soccer and running cross country or track. At the time, I was aware of frisbee, but it was mostly what we did to avoid distance runs in high school. I'm honestly surprised that the coach never questioned why we were covered in mud when we should have been on local streets.

Once in college, I joined Clockwork Orange in '00 and it provided my first taste of what the next 20+ years would be like. During summer breaks and shortly after graduating, I connected with a group of people who would go on to form the core of early Mischief. There were trivia nights after track and communal dinners. Regular events and parties kept everyone together as we took different paths through the frisbee world. Even when I played open with Kaos, I was never truly far away. These connections let me practice with Mischief the year prior to joining the team officially in '06 when we took home gold at nationals.

Outside of the strong Mischief connections, the bay area community was a hotbed for frisbee and socialization. The SF winter league provided competition and fun, but it also allowed me to meet players from other teams. There was a regular Saturday beach game too. These events formed the basis for teams at LeiOut and Paganello. To say the options for playing were good would be an understatement. During this time, I also played on Revolver and Blackbird, taking home gold multiple times, and I landed a spot on team USA for Beach Worlds twice.

In short, I credit much of my career to the friendships and community that kept me engaged with the sport year-round. The push of competition helped, but long-term success was truly made possible by all of the amazing people that turned frisbee from just a game into a fulfilling lifestyle.

I'd like to thank my wife Beth, who I met while playing Mischief, and all of my awesome teammates over the years. I can't list everyone's name but many of them played on these teams: Mischief, CGNU, Huck Finn, Sexxxpensive, Revolver, Blackbird, and Shadows.

Now, on to the most important question: Where's my sandwich?!
Tyler smash!

Enessa Janes – Women's division

Being inducted into the HoF has been a surreal experience for me. Thank you to the Hall of Fame Vetting Committee, to my peers, and to the Ultimate community for recognizing me for this extraordinary honor.

I want to thank my family for their interest in (and support of) my Ultimate habit. I love you forever.

I grew up as a swimmer and I found Ultimate in college, largely by chance. It was with Stanford Superfly that I learned the fundamentals of the game and the spirit of the community. In addition to chasing championships with my Superfly family, I also had the privilege of being part of the Bay Area club ultimate scene during an incredibly dynamic time. Playing club with the hard-working and fun-loving women of Fury was an unbelievable experience and I continue to be inspired by my teammates today.

Over the years, my teammates have played an essential role in my growth as an athlete and as a person. For this reason, I consider Ultimate to be one of the best things that has ever happened to me. Not only have I made lasting friendships, I've had the privilege of competing at a high level with some of the most generous and open people on the planet.

I would never have had the honor of being inducted into the HoF without the years-long support of my teammates and coaches. These are the people who taught me the skills, inspired me, pushed me, and picked me up. We celebrated together during our highs and comforted each other during our lows. I want to thank the coaches and teammates who have motivated me to be the best I could be, both on and off the field.

And to my fellow HoF-ers, this honor feels so special because of my respect and personal admiration for all of you. Regardless of our backgrounds, we share an important part of our identities as Ultimate Frisbee players. The experiences we've shared as leaders and athletes in this community have shaped me into who I am today. I'm privileged to know you and I'm grateful that the universe brought us together.

Congratulations to all the inductees (past and present) on your achievement and thank you again for the honor.

With gratitude,
Enessa #7

Beau Kittredge – Open division

My

favorite thing about Ultimate is the community. Since the moment I joined the sport, I was surrounded by people that helped me grow. This community taught me many things and made me who I am today. Here are a few of my favorite things that I learned.

We

have the power to shape this sport. No one is going to wave a magic wand and make the sport what we want. It is up to all of us to create the sport we want to be a part of.

Spirit

of the game matters and can be passed on. I watched players choose to do what was right over what would win, it inspired me to do the same. Eventually I learned that when passions run high and we are on competing sides, we all end up seeing reality differently and that is okay.

Appreciate

the unknown. I started off thinking I didn't need anyone and ended up seeing just how much we all need each other. I thought I needed to hate my rivals till I discovered them to be some of my best friends. Changed my anger into patience and unlocked a whole new world of understanding.

Teamwork

is everything. I let go of my ego and saw teamwork for what it could be: people helping people become their best selves. I found that getting someone to believe in themselves is the greatest gift you can give them. I realized at the end of the game, we are all part of the same team. When a player is struggling, it's not the time to push them away but to reach out and pull them in. Some of my most cherished memories are teammates lifting me up after I made big mistakes and lost important games. Compassion can change lives.

It

takes a village to make a dream come true. If we can dream it, we can create it. When I look at where the sport is today, I think we should all be proud of what we helped create. This sport is special because the people in it are special and I look forward to seeing the sport becoming even better in the skilled hands of the next generations. It's been an incredible journey and I am extremely thankful it was with this community of fellow weirdos who taught me to embrace my passion. This sport became my life for almost two decades. A life I wouldn't trade for anything.

Josh Markette – Open division

I was very fortunate to find Ultimate when I did. In high school I lived in two worlds. In one world I had a challenging family life, made poor decisions, and had a negative self-image. I honestly didn't believe that I would live through my mid 20s.

The other world was ultimate and the community it provided. A place for me to excel and challenge myself. A place where I felt valued and welcomed. A place where I was surrounded by people who believed in me and saw things in me that I couldn't see myself.

I lived in both of those worlds for many years until I met my wife and best friend, Shimrit. Her love, strength, and unwavering positivity helped crystallize the version of me that I am today. Her patience and support has given me the freedom to pursue my passion and continue to grow as both a player and person. And I'm even a little more self-confident now than I used to be.

A few teammates stand out too for consistently giving me positive reinforcement over the years. Thank you to Dylan Tunnel aka Big Boy, Jon Hammond aka Kid and Kyle Weisbrod. At times, when my own self-talk wasn't enough, I could often pull from their kind words to keep me level.

Lastly, I'd like to thank Josh McCarthy for representing me throughout this HoF journey. If you make it far enough in the process, someone must go to bat for you in front of the selection committee. This person must know you very well, care about you enough to volunteer their time and be wise and eloquent enough to convey your attributes to people who may be less familiar with them. Josh, aka Papa JMac, thank you, I know I could not have chosen a better representative to speak on my behalf. You've been a great coach, mentor, and friend.

Chelsea Putnam – Women's division

It is such an honor to be included in the Hall of Fame! This sport has absolutely changed my life in the best ways possible. My experiences in Ultimate and the incredible people I have met have shaped me into who I am today.

Treasured Ultimate experiences:

The unmatched magic of Potlatch! Vagabonds beating Team USA in the semis in 2005. Winning with Rodeo Clowns & Hip Hop were total highlights. Playing in the USA vs Canada final in 2009, an epic battle I will never forget.

Being chosen to be on the 2009 World Games team. It was a very bonded and special team. I will never forget our huddle before the gold medal game. Winning and being on Sports Center Top 10 were such highlights, but the teammates were the win of a lifetime.

Playing on Schwa with all my incredible teammates I was able to play with and learn from. They embraced me as an 18 year old college kid. Such determined women with so much talent and tenacity. I am so grateful for all the opportunities and friendships Schwa brought me.

Helping coach the US Junior teams in 2008 and 2010 and watching many of those young women now thrive and dominate in women's club ultimate!

Winning Kaimana with the Coyotes. Mondo's incredible and infectious spirit. And of course, the Kaimana dance floor was 100% fire.

Making Oregon Onxy in 2023 at age 41. Proving to my kids and students to never give up on their childhood dreams. I loved representing for my generation in the pro world.

Winning NW regionals in 2012 and making it to the National Championship semifinals with the Wolverines (PDX mixed pick up team).

Winning the Callahan and the honor of it being voted on by peers. It was extra special to win it with Ben Wiggins, who taught me to play this game!

Winning Masters and GM Natties with Golden Poppies and Elderflowers – simply epic to be teammates with so many women I had battled on the field against for years.

HUGE thanks to:

My incredible parents Wolfgang and Maryanne who supported me 100% in sports since I was 6. You sacrificed so much so I could thrive in sports and have opportunities. I truly would not be here without you. I am so proud to be your daughter.

My amazing sister Bethany, your unwavering support is inspiring. I am forever grateful and honored to be your sister. My kids Ayla, Harper, and Elias – thank you for your sacrifice so I could chase my dream of playing pro frisbee. The day you watched me play pro, my heart burst with pride seeing you cheer me on.

Anna Neraas for truly being my favorite teammate of all time. Your fierce play, your fire, your grace, and your stunning athleticism are unmatched. I loved the way we played together and will forever treasure our memories on and off the field. Voltron for life.

Ben Wiggins, for not only introducing me to this game, but playing it so beautifully. My guardian angel since childhood, Ben convinced me to play frisbee at University of Oregon. Ben, you are one of a kind. You played an integral part in my Ultimate

success, and I am forever grateful for you. And huge thanks to Scobel for your unique ability to capture the awesomeness of our sport!

Tray Satterfield for being my biggest mentor in this sport. Tray has such a strategic mind, grit, insanely sick throws, and knew how to inspire me to be my best. I loved going deep for your epic hucks and watching you dominate on the field. Thank you for putting up with my crazy, for taking me under your wing, and for believing in me.

Mary, Bird, Jdawg, Dara, Hodad - you make life so much better. I love playing with you all!

Dylan Tunnel for being an incredible human and dear friend. I will always treasure getting to play this game with you.

Mike Knapp and Tully Beatty for believing in me and inspiring me to push my boundaries.

Miranda, Gwen, A1, and Cara – I am so proud to have shared the field with you inspiring women in our awesome generation of college and beyond.

My induction is 100% a team accomplishment. Thank you to all my inspiring Schwa teammates, and teammates over the past 25 years. It is a true gift to play this special sport. I will certainly treasure this honor for the rest of my life.

Jon Remucal – Open division

As others have noted, when we were in the thick of our playing careers, most of us weren't thinking about being inducted into the Hall of Fame someday. We were playing for the love of the game—for the battles, the incredible plays, the victories when so fortunate, and the relationships built on and off the field. Being able to now say I'm a member of the Ultimate Hall of Fame—a recognition bestowed upon me by the community that has welcomed and nurtured me for so long—is something I never would have imagined happening when I started playing.

Thank you to the open division peer pool members, the vetting committee, and the voting members of the Hall for this unbelievable honor. Having had the great privilege of playing with and against so many of the recent and current inductees, I realize just how special it is for me to be recognized alongside such terrific players and people.

I've played with quite a few teams over the years. One thing I grew to appreciate along the way is how special each team was, with every team's identity uniquely shaped by the individuals comprising it. On every team, I benefited from being exposed to incredibly talented leaders and so many overwhelmingly gifted athletes. I always tried to absorb what knowledge of the game I could from my teammates and incorporate that knowledge into my own game.

To all of my teammates—from CUT, SubZero, Sockeye, Jam, Flying Angels Bern, Surly, Downtown Brown, and all the teams I had the great pleasure of being a part of at the World Games, Potlatch, Paganello, Lei Out, and so many other tournaments—thank you for your friendship and dedication, for providing so many examples for me to follow, and for allowing me to grow and play what role I could in so many achievements, both big and small.

To my parents, thank you for your undying support throughout all my years of training and competing, whether in ultimate, tennis, basketball, or any other endeavor. You have always been such great role models for how to live life with respect and integrity.

To my brother David, thank you for introducing me to ultimate. I have such fond memories of learning to throw on the beach and laying out into the ocean during family vacations. You started me on a journey that has lasted decades, opened doors to so many unforgettable experiences, and given me so much. For that I owe you everything.

To my brother Michael, thank you for showing me how to be a leader both on and off the field. Your hard work and dedication to any undertaking have always been a guiding light for me.

To my wife Christy and children Sophie and Evan, thank you for always being there for me and for putting up with all my training and time away from home. Each of you inspires me to be a better person. Christy, you've put in all the time and hard work during your own ultimate career. It means so much to me to share this journey with you in ultimate and in life. Sophie and Evan, you keep me grounded, helping to put the ups and downs I experience in perspective. The most important thing I do every day is simply being your father. I hope you are blessed to find something in life that brings you as much meaning and happiness as ultimate has brought me.

Kevin Seiler – Mixed division

While I am humbled and honored to be inducted into the Ultimate Hall of Fame, I must admit I am an unorthodox entrant. I never represented Team USA at Worlds, never attended college nationals or had a Callahan campaign or earned all-region honors, never even won a USAU nationals title in the division I am inducted in! This is perhaps fitting given my pre-ultimate sports background. During elementary school I participated in the Elks National Free-Throw Shooting Contest, making 0/25 free throws, shooting mostly airballs. In 7th grade, my football dreams were shattered when *after 1 rep in 1 RB drill* I was asked to report to the TE group for the rest of the year. After 8th grade baseball tryouts, I was one of 3 of about 100 kids to be held back to play another year with the 7th graders. I played no sports in high school. This was my paltry sporting resume when I joined my dormitory's house-floor ultimate frisbee challenge the Saturday before I started college at Iowa State University.

I scored most of our floor's goals that day, discovering a joy in sports that I had yet to experience. The ultimate club captain lived on my floor and convinced my roommate and I to attend practices. I went for a month before I slowly stopped prioritizing ultimate. I skipped the club's only tournament that fall, but my roommate went and encouraged me to attend a tournament before finalizing a decision to quit ultimate. "It changes everything," he said. He left at semester, quit the ultimate club and joined a fraternity. I never saw him again, but I took his advice and kept playing until the first spring tournament.

We went 0-7 at that tournament, not even playing competitively in most games, but I was hooked and never looked back. My college team I.S.U.C. went 1-12 that year, our only win coming at sectionals on universe point against a similarly hapless team. Victory was still sweet and I wanted to taste more. It was against this backdrop of sports failure that I was trusted with helming The Chad Larson Experience not too many years later. This small cadre of Iowa-born players plus friends found themselves in the national mixed final in 2004 at the end of a whirlwind year of success. In the years to come the team would become a fixture in the mixed division, with the high-water mark of a 2010 WUCC World title in Prague.

If I am worthy of the Mixed Ultimate Hall of Fame it is testament to the CLX teammates I've had and the efforts we gave together. I served in many roles for CLX over the years, but I wasn't an island unto myself. If I was catching goals, then there were great throws from teammates like Mike Lun, Andrew Wimer, Jessy Brisbois and Jon Staron. If I was throwing assists, players like Amy Sheldahl and Kurt Brorsen simplified it. If I made highlight-reel worthy plays, I was inspired by similar plays from teammates like Melissa Gibbs, Dave Karsten, Rachel Goldbach and Austin Gangel. If I gave an all-out defensive effort, I was motivated by similar play from Taiwo Misra, Joe Brisbois, Becca Miller and Doug Jacobs. If CLX benefitted from my leadership, I had people like Rachel Derscheid and Neal Hanke serving with me. If CLX profited from my strategic influence, I had a trusted advisor in Dan Kresowik. If I played with pure love for the game and exemplified SOTG, then I was mirroring the best aspects of teammates like Steph Jacobs, Shawn Walding, Magon Liu and Jason Saienga. There are many other CLX teammates not mentioned above but are no less important in the history of the team. I consider myself to share this Hall of Fame honor with all of them, because without them it wouldn't have been possible for me to achieve this distinction, nor would I have had as much enjoyment along the way.

I've traveled the United States and the world playing ultimate, I've gained many lifelong friendships with teammates and opponents, I've experienced the thrill of many comeback victories and the team I played on was once the best mixed team in the world. I met my wife playing ultimate and we shared almost all of it together. I owe a thank you to that roommate Brian Nash for convincing me to attend a tournament many years ago before quitting the sport. He was right, it changed everything.

Chase Sparling-Beckley – Open division

I am honored and humbled to be included in the Ultimate Hall of Fame Class of 2023 and owe a debt of gratitude to the ultimate community and sport for the gifts given to me through my years of competition.

I want to specifically thank my teammates, captains, mentors and coaches on Seattle MoHo, The Northwest School, Carleton CUT, Subzero, Sockeye, Team USA, ECU, Axis of C'ville, Rhino and Voltron 2020 – love for these teams and the teammates I was blessed to share the field with was always my singular motivation in sport.

I want to thank the greater community of volunteers, organizers, wild personalities, free thinkers and oddballs that drew me to Ultimate. Potlach, New Year's Fest, Kaimana Klassik, Poultry Days, Fools Fest – these were foundational cultural experiences that blew my mind, expanded my identity, and solidified bonds of friendships that will last my lifetime.

I want to honor the hard work of the teams and players against whom I competed. There is no game without seven opponents on the line. Playing the game against you all, win or lose, was my dearest pleasure. I hope you enjoyed our battles as much as I did.

Lastly, I want to thank my family for their boundless support – Keith, Presha, Riley, Anna, Arlie and Ren. I love and appreciate you more than I can tell with words. Thank you for your tutelage, monetary assistance, guidance, and hard work. Thank you for teaching me to love myself and those around me unconditionally. I am deeply grateful, and I love you.

Nancy Sun – Women's division

I feel lucky to have been able to be an athlete in this sport for over two decades, to have competed with and against so many standout players and gifted athletes in those years, and I'm honored and humbled to be considered among them by this individual recognition.

This honor also feels bigger than me and a reflection of all the people that I got to share the field with from high school at West Windsor Plainsboro, to college at MIT, and then club with Brute Squad and Fury. I have so much gratitude for the local communities where I found belonging, the sport that taught me so much about competition and hard work, and the teammates and coaches that created many lifetimes worth of inside jokes and memories.

Alyson Walker – Women's division

Good evening, it is an incredible honour to be here today, surrounded by extraordinary people who have given so much of themselves to building community, growing a sport built on the foundation of integrity and pushing themselves to their very best in athletics, competition, and friendship.

My name is Alyson Walker and I'm humbled to stand here today on behalf of the women that paved the way for me and my teammates and co-captains who deserve this recognition with me.

Accepting a Hall of Fame induction is a strangely contradictory notion for a team sport athlete who has spent their competitive years espousing the values of teamwork, collaboration, and a collective vision. I accept this honour with gratitude and in partnership with those who came on the journey with me and will pay it forward to those it may inspire.

I was fortunate to be afforded the opportunity to compete in many sports growing up – a rare gift in today's world of competitive sports where young kids are forced to specialize - so many lessons learned, so much gained. I was able to apply the fundamentals gained in other sports, and particularly soccer – having played varsity soccer at university – to the sport of Ultimate and feel deeply fortunate to have had a dream to chase after graduating.

In a world where we are finally seeing women's sports find their stride, audiences tuning in, investments being made and the very best athletes in the world being recognized – we have so many to thank. The female athletes who didn't take no for an answer, fought for equal prize money, didn't give up the fight and paved the way for so many generations to come. We also benefited from pioneers in our sport. Women who fought for 4-3 vs 5-2 in co-ed play, women who trained harder, practiced more, and elevated the level of women's play to new heights. In Canada – Leslie Calder, Anya Haman, Erin Huck, Mon Kerr-Coster and so many more. In the US, the women who are in the Hall, my good friends Alex Snyder and Chelsea Putnam here tonight, fellow Canuck VY Chow, the incredible women being inducted today – Nancy, Enessa, Kirsten, and so many more. Thank you.

The Capitals were a combined effort – the very best from Toronto and Ottawa came together in an effort to unseat perennial winners, Vancouver, and teams south of the border. I was extremely fortunate to play with the imitable Vancouver led Team Canada in both Turku, Finland in 2004 and Vancouver in 2008 – winning gold and bronze, respectively. The collective desire to increase the quality of the game across all communities is a philosophy that has made this a truly global sport and a model for so many to emulate. Thank you to USA Ultimate and the Ultimate Hall of Fame for continuing to welcome Canadians into your ecosystem and your hall – we are all grateful and believe the game is better as a result.

Ultimate has shaped the person that I am today – and perhaps I shaped ultimate along the way a bit as well. Ultimate taught me that it's the work we do when nobody is looking that wins championships, that it's about the journey not the end goal, that winning as a team is so much more rewarding than winning on our own and that the points, matches and tournaments will fade but the friendships will last a lifetime. As a captain, I felt a deep responsibility to share those lessons with my teammates and always saw an opportunity to lift heads, draw out smiles and inspire greatness.

I am honoured to have two incredible friends with me today – Adriana Withers, founder of VC Ultimate, and a pioneer in her own right. Adriana's efforts to advance gender equity, inclusion and sustainability in the ultimate community have truly made a difference.

Carla DiPhilippe was a Capitals teammate who has advanced the foundation the Capitals built as an incredible coach, mentor, and advocate for female athletes – including as coach of the 6ixers here this weekend. She gives back tirelessly and makes our sport better.

Finally, thank to you my husband, Jamie, and son, Jack, for making the trip to San Diego with me – it's possible their motivations were more oriented around the beach and surfing but I'm grateful, nonetheless. I hope this recognition motivates Jack and the next generation to work hard, persevere and do it with integrity so they can reach their greatest potential in life.

Thank you.

Kirsten Unfried Zalisk – Women's division

I'm not one for spotlights or speeches, but it's been a privilege to have played for great coaches, with great teammates, on great TEAMS.

Thank you all for making me better and for being amazing.

--- Previous Inductees by Class ---

2018: Michael Baccarini – Contributor // Paul Brenner // Bob DeMan // Dominique Fontenette // Ian Hue // Greg Husak // Angela Lin // Joanie Merrill // Tina McDowell // Brian "Biscuit" Morris // Allan "Al Bob" Nichols // Michele Pezzoli-Kennedy

2017: Dave Blau // Leslie Calder // Jeff Cruickshank // Steve Dugan // David "Buzz" Ellsworth // Pam Kraus // Mark Licata (d) // Mary Lowry – Contributor // Caryn Lucido

2016: Nicole "Sprout" Beck // Tiina Booth – Contributor // Stu Downs // Cindy Fisher – Contributor // Paul Greff // Pat "Bagger" Lee // Andrew Lugsdin // Jackie Watson Pierce // Cat Pittack // Randy Ricks // Christine "Wags" Wagner // Amy Wibur

2015: Rich "Gags" Gallagher // Skip Kuhn // Lori Van Holmes // Billy Rodriguez // Bob "Bert" Sick

2014: Liz Marino // Jim Parinella // The "Johnny Appleseeds" – Special Merit (Joe Barbanell, Walter Belding, Dan Buckley, Jon JC Cohn, Ed Davis, Jim Diehl, Dave Dinerman, Jeff "Yogi" Durra, Bob Evans (d), Steve Frieman, Kevin "Igor" Harper, Jon Hines, Bill "BJ" Johnson (d), Bruce "Frisbee" Johnson, Al Jolley, Irv Kalb, Ron Kaufman, Rick Labasky, Dave Liewant, Jim Lovell, Andy Magruer (d), Dave "Buddha" Meyer (d), Mike Miller, Jim Pistrang, Jim Powers, Dan "Stork" Roddick, Larry Schindel, Ed "Zoop" Summers, Geoff West)

2013: Joey Giampino (d) // Jim Ingebritsen // Chris O'Cleary // Chris Van Holmes

2012: Nancy Leahy Glass // Molly Goodwin // Keay Nakae // Dennis "Cribber" Warsen

2011: Kenneth Dobyns // Tom Heimann // Cliff Marhoeffer // Mike O'Dowd // Wende (Coates) Pinz // The Discraft Ultra-Star – Special Merit

2010: David Barkan // Michael Glass // Peggy Hollinger // Jeremy Seeger

2009: Andy Borinstein – Contributor // Robert Evans (d) // Pat King

2008: Frank Bono // Carney Foy – Contributor // Gloria Lust-Phillips // John Schmechel

2007: Christine Dunlap // Harvey Edwards // Brian Murphy – Contributor // Dan Weiss

2006: Tom “Timba” D’Urso // Steve Mooney // Ann (Cohan) Orders // Heather Morris Raker // Robert “Nob” Rauch – Contributor

2005: Jon “JC” Cohn // Kelly Green // Jim Herrick // Kathy Pufahl (d) – Contributor // Sholom “Eric” Simon - Contributor // The Founders – Special Merit (Joel Silver, Bernard “Buzzy” Hellring (d), Jonathan “Jonny” Hines

2004: Inaugural Class: Suzanne Fields // Irv Kalb // Tom “TK” Kennedy // Dan “Stork” Roddick // Larry Schindel // The “80 Mold” – Special Merit

2023 Ultimate Hall of Fame Celebration and Induction Ceremony Planning Committee:

**David Barkan
David Blau
Suzanne Fields
Miranda Knowles
Ken Leiserson
Angela Lin
David Love
Brian Murphy
Larry Sturdivant
Chris Van Holmes
Lori Van Holmes**

Ultimate Hall of Fame Board of Directors:

**Dave Blau // HoF '17 - Board President
Lori Van Holmes // HoF '15 - Board Vice President
Pam Kraus // HoF '17 – Board Vice President
Brian Murphy // HoF '07 – Secretary
Ken Leiserson // HoF '22 - Treasurer
Suzanne Fields // HoF '04 – Administrator
Dominique Fontenette // HoF '19 – Board member
Andrew Lugsdin // HoF '16 – Board member
Jim Parinella // HoF '14 – Board member
Deb Cussen Scheibe // HoF '19 – Board member**

To learn more about the Ultimate Hall of Fame, our Mission and Vision, Strategic Plan, and get to know the Hall members:

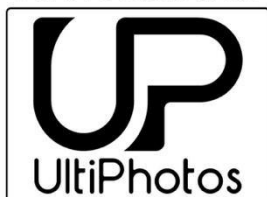


SCAN ME

Thank you to the organizations and individuals within the ultimate community that support the work of the Hall and contributed to this special weekend.



OFFICIAL EVENT
PHOTOGRAPHER



Ultimate-Reference

Living Life In Community

Poet: Catherine Pulsifer

In this vibrant tapestry, we intertwine,
Community diverse, a collective shine.
Perspectives dance like colors of the sun,
Talents unite, creating tales yet unsung.

Living life this way builds a dynamic hue,
Excitement fills the air, possibilities anew.
Together we soar, excited about what's unknown,
In this mosaic of souls, our unity is shown.

Share how Ultimate has impacted your life and the lives of others by adding to the INTERACTIVE TAPESTRY in the hallway. ALL are welcome!

PHOTO CROWD SOURCE!!!

The Ultimate Hall of Fame invites you to share your photos for the weekend events. Capture special moments and memories that we might otherwise miss!

Upload your photos of the people, events, and celebrations organized by day including.

- **Thursday Welcome Reception**
- **Friday Induction Ceremony and Celebration**
- **Saturday Dance Party**
- **Fun photos of competition, friends, and family enjoying the weekend events!**



