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Academy 2.0 Inaugural Class Graduates Making Waves

July 18, 2018 – Graduates of the Alliance of Women Coaches’ [inaugural Academy 2.0](#) have made waves in the sports world in the eight months since the first class gathered in November 2017.

Over the course of three days, these women worked together towards their professional and personal development. The Alliance of Women Coaches designed the mastery learning program for graduates of its NCAA Women Coaches Academy.

“Looking back at what our first Academy 2.0 class has accomplished in the past eight months is nothing short of impressive,” said Alliance of Women Coaches Executive Director Megan Kahn. “As female coaches continue to draw national attention, we applaud the efforts and success of these women. To have so many incredible accomplishments from a class of ten is a testament to their commitment to advancing in the profession, to self-growth and gaining experience, and to building relationships and staying engaged with the Alliance.”

Both Jennifer Klein and Jennifer Patrick-Swift took head coaching positions at Power 5 conference schools. In February 2018, Klein took over as head women’s soccer coach at the University of Michigan after serving four seasons as associate head coach at the University of Southern California, where she helped lead them to the 2016 NCAA Division I national championship. In addition to her work at Michigan, Klein is also an assistant coach with the U.S. Soccer Under-19 Women's National Team.

Patrick-Swift accepted the head softball coach position at North Carolina State University this summer after earning back-to-back conference titles as the head coach of Saint Francis University and leading the team to consecutive NCAA appearances. Recently, Patrick-Swift and her staff at Saint Francis were named Coaching Staff of the Year for the Great Lakes Region by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA).

University of Central Florida assistant rowing coach Conny Kirsch and University of Nevada Las Vegas women’s golf head coach Amy Bush-Herzer both led their teams to conference championships this year. It was the fourth straight American Athletic Conference championship for UCF and Kirsch while their staff garnered AAC Coaching Staff of the Year. Bush-Herzer led her squad to their fourth championship in eight years and this spring, she was named the Mountain West Coach of the Year for the third time in her career.

Wellesley soccer head coach Missy Price, Ph.D. took on a national leadership role within her sport. Price, a former Chair of the United Soccer Coaches’ Women’s Coaches Member Group, is now serving on the United Soccer Coaches Board of Directors as Vice President.

In April, Stephanie Wheeler was inducted into the National Wheelchair Basketball Association Hall of Fame. Wheeler currently serves as the head wheelchair basketball coach at the University of Illinois. In 2016 at the Paralympic Games in Rio, as head coach, she led the women's wheelchair basketball team to the gold medal.

"They have set the bar high," said Kahn. I look forward to growing Academy 2.0 and watching other women follow in their footsteps."

The application period for [Academy 2.0](#) Class #2 will open September 4, and the program will take place November 28-30, 2018 in Denver, alongside the NCAA Women Coaches Academy. In 2019, the Alliance will expand Academy 2.0 to both a summer and winter session.

The Alliance of Women Coaches was founded in 2011 and has become the premier membership organization dedicated to the recruitment, advancement, and retention of women coaches of all sports and levels. For more information on the Alliance of Women Coaches and Academy 2.0, visit www.gocoaches.org.

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