

## THE 2015 JOHN CARROLL UNIVERSITY ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME DINNER



One of the best female swimmers in John Carroll history almost didn't wear blue and gold.

### THE CLASS OF 2015

Lindsey Meier began her college career at Purdue University for two years before she decided to return to Northeast Ohio.

On a whim, the Chagrin Falls, Ohio native decided to visit John Carroll. Meier fell in love.

"Having grown up in the area, I had always heard about John Carroll and how great of an education it was," Meier said. "So I just said, 'Hey, it's right here, let's just look at it.' I fell in love with the small classes."

Even still, Meier did not immediately decide to continue her swimming career.

"I was kind of in a funk with swimming because at Purdue, it was a job," Meier said. "I got tired of not being able to take the classes I wanted to take because they interfered with practice schedules. So at that point, I wasn't sure if I wanted to continue swimming. But I decided to try it, and it sparked a whole new interest. I started getting faster again for the first time in a few years. I really loved the team and the coach."

Meier's career took off as the Kenston High School grad rewrote the record book. Meier enjoyed one of the most illustrious swimming career in JCU history.

During her time at JCU, Meier earned All-OAC status 14 times, won 10 individual OAC Championships, All-American honors three times, and OAC Swimmer of the Year recognition twice.

Meier's favorite individual accomplishment is none of the above, however. Her proudest moment as a Blue Streak occurred in her last collegiate race – the 1650 free in 2005. Meier set a school record with a third place finish at Nationals.

"I went into it knowing that it was my last-ever competition at nationals," Meier said. "My first event was on a Thursday night. I completely

flopped. I did so bad. I was just caught up in the moment with nerves and excitement. I remember [former head coach] Matt Lenhart pulling my aside, telling me everything he could come up with to get me in the right mindset. On Friday, I swam the 400 IM, which I knew wasn't my strongest event, but I did well.

"Then, with that 1650 on Saturday, I swam in the middle of the afternoon, and I wasn't even in the last heat. I just said, 'This is it. I want to go out with a bang.' And then I had that third place finish, which was exciting as an individual."

Meier also enjoyed fun times with her teammates. The women's team won the OAC Championship in 2004, the last time the Blue Streaks earned the title.

A swimmer from the age of five, Meier struggled at first with adjusting to life without swimming.

"It felt weird. When I was done swimming, I actually swam for a year to a year and a half after John Carroll: I wasn't done. Obviously I didn't compete at the same level, it was more for fun at that point, but swimming was such a part of my life for so long that the first day after NAAs, I said, 'What do I do now?'"

Meier decided to turn her love for swimming into a career. She now works at nearby Hathaway Brown School as a physical education and swimming instructor. She also coached for six years at John Carroll.

"I love it. I coached for six years, and my coaches were such an important part of my life. Now, I love that the girls who I've coached will send me text messages with updates how they're doing with their meets, or at school, or anything."

Meier is married with four children: Brady, 14; Ryan, 12; Ashley, 10; and Finnegan, 2.