



AVCA Announces 2013 Coaches 4 Coaches Scholarship Recipients *Sends record 12 coaches to the 2013 AVCA Convention*

Lexington, Ky. (October 28, 2013) – The American Volleyball Coaches Association (AVCA) is proud to announce the 12 recipients of the 2013 Coaches 4 Coaches Scholarship. The scholarship provides the opportunity for up-and-coming volleyball coaches to attend their first AVCA Convention with the scholarship money used to pay for convention registration and hotel costs.

After a successful campaign that saw AVCA members donate a record \$8,000, the AVCA is able to send a record-12 coaches, four more than the previous year's eight. In order to be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must be active AVCA members who are attending their first AVCA Convention. A selection committee reviews the applications and makes their decisions based on academics, contributions to the sport of volleyball on and off the court, a professional letter of recommendation, and a personal written submission outlining their desire to attend the AVCA Annual Convention and their aspirations in coaching.

This year's AVCA Convention will be held in Seattle, Washington from December 18-22, featuring over 70 educational sessions with more than 2,000 volleyball coaches expected to be in attendance.

2013 Coaches 4 Coaches Scholarship Recipients:



Jake Barreau – Currently a volunteer assistant coach for the No. 16 Wisconsin Badgers, Barreau graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2013 with degrees in business administration and Spanish. Previously, Barreau coached the Monona Grove High School Girls Volleyball team for three seasons, turning around a program that won only eight matches in 2010 to a 15-win season in 2011. In his letter of recommendation from Badgers Head Coach Kelly Sheffield: "Many young people enter the profession and they just want the 'fun' things associated with this career. The successful people are the ones that are willing to do anything and everything – and Jake is one of these young coaches."



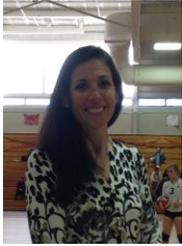
David Brown – Currently a volunteer assistant coach for UC Santa Barbara, Brown graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 2013. In addition to serving as a player and manager on UW-Madison's Men's Club Volleyball team, Brown was the head coach of the Oregon High School Girls Volleyball team in Oregon, Wisconsin from 2010-2012. Over three years, he accumulated a record of 85-29 while also serving as a head coach at the Capital Volleyball Academy. His responsibilities for the Gauchos include implementing the use of stat-tracking for practices and live-coding with Data Volley during all matches. From UCSB Head Coach Nicole Lantagne Welch: "Over the years, I have worked with many volunteers and I can say without a doubt that Dave is the most excited about coaching...he would be a great representative as a young professional in our community."



Kaylee Fifer – Currently a senior setter for Colgate University, is a history major. She ranks in the top-10 all time for the Raiders in both career digs and sets. In addition to her playing responsibilities, she serves as the Co-Vice President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee (SAAC) and is the Team Coordinator for Colgate's Susan B Komen Foundation For the Cure. At the AVCA Convention, she is most looking forward to meeting other coaches and hearing about the game from their perspective. From Colgate Head Coach Ryan Baker on his letter of recommendation: "I have been Kaylee's head collegiate coach for the past four years, and I can honestly say she is one of the most committed, most talented, and most overachieving person I have ever been around in my nine years of coaching."



Brittany Holbrook – Currently an assistant coach at Wayne State University (MI) and pursuing her master's degree, Holbrook graduated from Oakland University this spring with a bachelor's degree in social work and a minor in sociology. She played four years with the Grizzlies and put up big numbers, becoming just the fourth player in team history to record over 1,000 kills as a middle and second all-time with 377 total blocks. At Wayne State, she is responsible for on-court coaching, match preparation, team travel, recruiting, monitoring player academics, fundraising, arranging community service and assisting with camps and clinics. "I've worked with a number of coaches during my career, and I believe Brittany is going to be a wonderful college coach," said Wayne State Head Coach Phil Nickel on his letter of recommendation.



Michelle Hopkinson – Currently the Head Varsity Volleyball Coach at Reading Memorial High School, Hopkinson also serves as a coach and coordinator for the North Shore Juniors Volleyball Club in Massachusetts. Since 2005, she has worked with the Reading Recreation Department to offer youth clinics and camps in the community. The program has grown from 12 players per session to currently over 100 players to learn about the sport in a fun and supportive atmosphere. At the convention, she is specifically interested in how to grow the game at the youth level, particularly for elementary school-aged children. "She is diligent, enthusiastic and effective as one of the leaders of our sport in Massachusetts. I believe she is very worth of this scholarship," said former President of the Massachusetts Girls Volleyball Coaches Association Rob Slavin.



Kelley Johnson – Currently in her first season as an assistant coach at the College of Wooster, Johnson concluded her four-year college career in 2012 with the second most digs in Fighting Scot's history with 2,575. She was a three-time All-North Coast Athletic Conference selection, and was named NCAC Libero of the Year in 2010. Johnson helps out head coach Sarah Davis with all facets of the program, with special attention being paid to the defensive players and the team's recruiting efforts. "Kelley is the most outstanding example of the term 'student-athlete' I have ever coached," said Davis. "She is a coaching gem, the kind of young professional we need to keep in our game."



Kyle Luongo – Currently a volunteer assistant coach for No. 17 University of Michigan, Luongo spent the past three seasons as the assistant boys' varsity and junior varsity coach at Harvard-Westlake High School in Studio City, California. He began his coaching career at Gold Medal Squared in 2007 while simultaneously playing at Pierce College. He later transferred to Pepperdine in 2008, helping the Waves to an MPSF Finals appearance in his final year in 2010. His primary responsibility at Michigan is scouting opponents. Pepperdine Men's Head Coach Marv Dunphy explained why Luongo should earn the scholarship: "Some coaches are grinders and some coaches have talent, but Kyle has a combination of both."



Andrew Pile – Currently an assistant coach at Muhlenberg College, Pile graduated from Limestone College in 2012 where he was a four-year starter for the men's volleyball team. His main responsibilities at the Mules include scouting, recruiting, game management and help create practice and game plans. He is also in his first year as a head coach for Synergy Volleyball Club and the Lehigh Men's Volleyball Program. "New to the coaching staff at Muhlenberg College this year, Andrew has already made a great impact on our team," said Muhlenberg Head Coach Alexa Keckler on her letter of recommendation. "Andrew is a very passionate and motivated coach...he takes pride in how well we do and how hard we work."

(cont.)



Kristan Schuster – Currently in her second stint as the head coach at Finlandia University, Schuster has compiled an impressive resume over her last 20 years of coaching. While the head coach at Hancock Central High School since 1997, Schuster amassed a 316-132 record while receiving Coach of the Year honors in 2000, 2001 and 2003. She first joined the Lions volleyball program for their inaugural 2000-2001 season, where she implemented many of the recruiting policies used today. Additionally, she has six years of NCAA officiating experience. She had a fantastic playing career at Michigan Technological University, earning AVCA All-American accolades in 1994 and 1995 and was inducted into MTU's Athletic Hall of Fame. On why she pursued a career in coaching she explains, "I've been teaching and coaching for many years and knew all along it was coaching that was my true passion...there isn't any better feeling than to help others accomplish their goals."



Danielle Soubliere – Currently a graduate assistant coach at Springfield, Soubliere has proven to be a young coach with unlimited potential. She was a four-year letter-winner at Youngstown State and immediately wasted no time entering the coaching ranks. Over the course of the next three and a half years, she was a head coach for two clubs in Ohio: Club O.N.E and Premier Volleyball Academy. Upon joining the Pride, just a few of her responsibilities include generating scouting reports and practice plans, offense, recruiting evaluations and head coach of the junior varsity team. Springfield Head Coach Moira Long spoke highly of her assistant in her recommendation form: "It is my opinion that Danielle Soubliere would make an excellent coach for an institution. She has always been ambitious and hardworking and I know she will strive to meet certain expectations, if not exceed them."



Lauren Van Orden – Currently a volunteer assistant coach at No. 12 Colorado State University, Van Orden is using her national championship winning experience at UCLA in 2011 to propel her coaching career. In two seasons in Los Angeles, Van Orden averaged 11.37 assists per set, starting 61 of the Bruins' 64 matches. She began coaching in high school running summer camps and clinics and continued through college, coaching different clubs throughout the years at San Diego State then UCLA. "Her talent is her incredible understanding of volleyball and her ability and curiosity surrounding the process," said Colorado State Head Coach Tom Hilbert. "She is a game player, a student of the game and is willing to work very hard and be mobile in her career. She is also unselfish and wants a coaching career for the right reasons. These are qualities that make a great coach."



Rachelle Wiegand – Currently a senior outside hitter for No. 11 Juniata College, is majoring in Communication Sports Administration. Playing in club, high school and now collegiate volleyball since 2005, Wiegand says she knew starting her sophomore year she wanted to become a collegiate volleyball coach. To help get her started on that path, she's coached at camps not only at Juniata, but also the United States Naval Academy, Penn State Women's Express and Skills Camp and Penn State men's camps. On her letter of recommendation, Juniata Assistant Coach Stephanie Strauss says, "Rachelle is someone who goes all in when she commits to something...I feel strongly that her potential for continued development and work ethic will make her future a truly exciting one."

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About AVCA

The AVCA, with its headquarters in Lexington, Ky., is managed by Associations International. The mission of the AVCA is to develop the sport of volleyball and its coaches. With a membership of over 6,000 and counting, the AVCA provides a professional network for those individuals and companies dedicated to enhancing and promoting the sport. Members include collegiate, high school, club, youth and Olympic coaches, as well as volleyball club directors. The AVCA provides education to volleyball coaches, recognition of elite players and coaches, promotion of volleyball competitions throughout the world, and networking opportunities for volleyball products and services providers. Further information is available at www.avca.org.