



# sports

## Grace Reichard: swimming to new records

BREE GANNON  
@BreeGannon

Purple and gold walls follow her as she walks to the white and silver blocks. Right foot, left foot. She adjusts herself on the block and stands tall yet confident as she peels her goggles off her swim cap and places them gently over her eyes. A slight body shiver, stretch of her arms and she bends over and grabs the front of the blocks as a deep breathe is let out. The sound of the buzzer and the flash of the bright LED light goes off and Grace Reichard disappears under a splash of water.

Reichard is a senior on the swimming and diving team, majoring in Dietetics and is a person to look up to when it comes to academics, earning academic All-America and All-District. Since leaving her hometown of Nevada, Missouri and stepping foot on campus for her freshman year in 2014, Reichard has made a name for herself.

The success that Reichard has had in and out of the pool started when she was four-years-old and continued to be a passion of hers throughout her life.

During high school, Reichard was a model scholar athlete, all-district athlete and an all-state athlete.

She was also named to her high school's most valuable swimmer and the career high-point swimmer.

Upon coming to Ashland the academics had a weighted pull as she was a member of the honors program for her first two years as an eagle. Reichard said that she knew she was going to academically challenged but was ready for it.

During the 2014-2015 season, Reichard's first season, she took



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Senior Grace Reichard competing in a freestyle event during the 2016-2017 season.

home the gold in three events against Hillsdale, two against Malone and was part of the 400 medley relay that finished with a time of 4:07.17 to take the gold over Wayne State. She competed in the GLIAC Championships and took home a title in the 200-yard freestyle. The end of the season also brought a program best record in the 100 breast (1:04.65) and in the 200 breast (2:20.19). Reichard was also named GLIAC All-Academic Excellence and to the Dean's List.

The 2015-2016 season brought even more success for Reichard as she continued to improve in her events and set program records. She competed in the GLIAC Championships once again and earned a number of academic honors which included the GLIAC Women's Swimming & Diving All-Academic Excellence Team and honorable mention for the College Swimming & Diving Coaches Association of America Scholar All-American.

Reichard's program best time came in the 200 IM with a time of 2:12.63 and in the 200 freestyle relay with current teammate Julia

Grady, alumna Megan Schultz and Kaylyn Murphy, with a time of 1:36.45.

The following season was a big one for Reichard, as she recorded three more program best records and three academic honors mentions.

Reichard was able to write her name down in the program best record book for her times in the 50 freestyle (23.61), 100 freestyle (52.05) and in the 200 freestyle (1:51.67).

She also received academic All-America third team, All-District and CSCAA Scholar All-Americans with honorable mentions. So far in the 2017-2018 season, Reichard has won the 50 freestyle, 100 freestyle, 200 freestyle and in her relays.

Her best time so far this season comes from the 50 freestyle with a 24.06 time, barely missing the cut for the NCAA Division II "B" cut which requires a 24.05 time. Her 200 relay with Grady, Zoe Scarpone, and Erin Staley took home the gold with a 1:46.46 time. Reichard has also had finishes in the 400 freestyle and the 100 IM.

From her freshman year to now, Reichard has proven to everyone that she is quite the athlete that is making a name for herself. Some of that help comes from previous head coach Derick Roe to current coach Ron Allen.

"Coach Allen is the only coach I have been able to do filming sessions with," Reichard said. "We have been able to address big and little flaws. He says, 'Don't just focus on training harder, find ways to also train smarter'. He deserves more thanks than I will be able to give."

Allen is in his second season as the eagle headcoach and has brought over 20 years of experience in NCAA swimming to help the team.

Reichard's future is bright, according to her teammates, and she plans on taking what she has learned during her four years as being an Eagle and applying it to her life post graduation.

Reichard and the rest of the swimming and dive team are back in action on Saturday (Dec. 9) against Cleveland State starting at 1p.m.

## THE WEEK AHEAD

### Women's Basketball

Dec. 9 vs. Davenport

Dec. 16 @ Tiffin

Dec. 18 vs. Indianapolis

Dec. 30 vs Bellarmine

### Men's Basketball

Dec. 9 vs. Davenport

Dec. 16 @ Tiffin

Dec. 18 vs. West Va.

Wesleyan

Dec. 30 @ Northern

Michigan

### Swimming & Diving

Dec. 9 vs. Cleveland State

### Wrestling

Dec. 16-17 @ Midwest

Classic

### Track & Field

Dec. 8-9 @ Golden Flash

Gala

# AU names women's lacrosse coach

MEGAN FURBY  
@meganjfurby

Ashland University announced earlier this year that two new varsity sports were being added along and one of those has a new coach.

Ashland University's Director of Athletics, Al King, announced on Tuesday October 31 that Shawn Williamson will be the first ever women's lacrosse coach in school's history.

The University women's lacrosse program will start their competition in the spring of 2019.

Shawn Williamson has 15 years underneath his belt as a head coach before coming to Ashland. He has also built up programs like Ashland's three other times.

He was a head coach at NCAA Division 3 School Berry College in Mt. Berry, Georgia for the last 7 years also launching the program.

At Berry, Williamson became the first women's lacrosse coach and he built the program.

His overall record at Berry was 60-52-1. Ashland will be his fourth program project.

He has mentored a 2017 SAA Newcomer of the Year and the 2013 Offensive Player of the Year. Williamson has also coached 26 All – Southern Athletic Association players and five Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association Region All – Americans. Also his last four teams his been a part of have all been named IWLCA Academic Honor Squad.

Williamson was also a coach at Belmont Abbey where he spent four seasons where he has a 42-32 record before Berry.

He made huge success at Belmont Abbey with coaching seven regional All – Americans and three All-Americans. Also he was named 2008 WomensLacrosse.com National Coach of the Year for Division 2 and for eight weeks his 2009 team was nationally ranked in the IWLCA coaches' poll.

His teams at Belmont did not just

do well on the field, but off the field as well. They were ranked nationally as high as fifth, earning two IWLCA Academic Honor Squad citations. Williamson spent two seasons at Lees-McRae, where he started his first head coaching job and built the program up from the ground.

He was the SAA chair for women's lacrosse coaches, he has served for many committees with the IWLCA and he also had the experience of coaching for USA Athletes International.

Last Williamson is a 2002 graduate of Lees-McRae, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in history. He was a letter winner for the Bobcats who was a starting attackman who opened up the lacrosse games as a player who went head-to-head with the opponent.

In 2009 he earned a Master of Arts degree in intercollegiate athletic administration and sports management from California



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Shawn Williamson was named the women's lacrosse coach for the spring of 2019.

University of Pennsylvania. Due to Williamson's experience and being respected across the country his opinion will strongly be valued.

His athletes have also done extremely well on the field and in the classroom, something that Ashland University goes by as well.

# Cheering for co-captains

BREE GANNON & RACHEL RAMSEY  
@AUCollegian

While many AU sports are in the midst of their season or just ended their season, there is one group that is constantly working to throw in their school pride.

Members of the cheer team are usually seen on the sidelines at football games or courtside at basketball games, however, to be the loudest you have to be taught by the best which includes the team's coach and the senior co-captains, Emily Cutler and Kylie Brzycki.

Before coming to Ashland, Cutler began cheering nine years ago and fell in love with the social aspect of being able to cheer.

She is also a four year member of the dance team where she serves as the co-captain alongside fellow

senior Chloe Halblaub and junior Rachel Ramsey.

"I love cheering because of the people I get to meet in the process," Cutler said. "From other athletes, to fans and the Ashland community."

Cutler graduated from Perkins High School in Sandusky and came to AU to study Middle Grade Education with a focus in mathematics and science.

The choice to continue her cheer path came with wanting to be involved in a campus setting.

"I chose to cheer in college to get involved on campus," Cutler said. "I also wanted to increase my skills as a cheerleader in the hopes to be a cheer coach one day."

With aspirations to be a cheer coach, Cutler also hopes to find a teaching job near her hometown

as well.

When she is not on the sidelines, she can be found with friends, studying or participating in the AU Student Ambassador Program, which she has been involved in for the last three years.

The right hand to Cutler is fellow captain is senior Kylie Brzycki. Brzycki has been a member of the cheer team for four years but has been enjoying the sport for the past 10 years.

The decision to continue her passion was an easy one and it came with the plus of being around those who share the same passion she has.

"I chose to continue cheer in college because I thought it would be a good way to meet people that I have something in common with," Brzycki said. "I am also able to

continue doing something that I love to do."

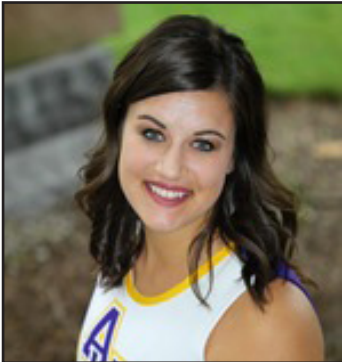
Brzycki is from Canton and attended Jackson High School, where she was a member of the Bear's cheer team.

Similar to Cutler, Brzycki likes the personal aspect that she is able to get from cheering, such as meeting new people.

"I love cheering because it allows me to get involved with the school and community," Brzycki said. "Cheer has also provided me with some of my best friends."

Brzycki is a Forensic Biology major and hopes to find a job in a crime lab after graduation.

Cutler, Brzycki and the rest of the AU cheerleading team can be found courtside at the basketball games and at other various events around campus.



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Emily Cutler is a senior co-captain of the Cheer and Dance team.



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Kylie Brzycki partners with Cutler as the other co-captain on the cheer