

Men's & Women's Swimming
2007-08



njithighlanders.com



ERIC RASMUSSEN

Head Coach



Beginning his 23rd year of college coaching, Eric Rasmussen returns for his third campaign as head coach at NJIT.

Rasmussen's 14 years experience coaching at the NCAA Division I level will be invaluable as he leads the Highlanders in their reclassification to Division I.

Rasmussen's Division I experience includes work with some of the top college and international-level coaches in the country. As a graduate assistant at the University of Texas, he worked directly under eight-time NCAA Coach of the Year Eddie

Reese, who will lead the US Men's Swimming teams in the 2008 Olympics. A member of every US Men's Olympic coaching staff since 1988, Coach Reese has led the Longhorns to nine NCAA crowns, including two when Rasmussen was his assistant.

Rasmussen also worked as the head counselor/coach for the Longhorn Swimming Camp for many summers, guiding some of the most promising age-group swimmers in the nation. In that role, he worked under two more Olympic head coaches; Mark Schubert and Richard Quick. After an outstanding college coaching career, Schubert was named USA National Team Coach/General Manager and will direct Team USA at the 2008 and 2012 Olympic Games. Quick, also a six-time U.S. Olympic coach, recently took over at Auburn after a 17-year run at Stanford.

"Having the opportunity to work for and, more importantly, learn from these outstanding coaches has been a major influence on my coaching technique," says Rasmussen. "Observing their styles, all different but all incredibly successful, provided me a lifetime worth of knowledge about swimming and about people. To have had the opportunity to be mentored by these men early in my career is priceless."

Returning to his native New Jersey from Texas, Rasmussen served eight years as a head coach at Division I Saint Peter's College in Jersey City, leading the men's and women's swimming and diving teams. During his eight-year run, he orchestrated a mass overhaul of the school's records, with many of the records being broken numerous times. Upon his departure, only two school records predated Rasmussen's tenure as head coach.

Immediately prior to his taking over at NJIT, Rasmussen was an assistant at Division I Loyola (MD) College. During his three-year stay in Baltimore, the Greyhounds experienced a great deal of success and Rasmussen was instrumental in recruiting of some top swimmers, including a high school state champion and a USA Swimming senior national qualifier. In 2004 and 2005, he helped guide a swimmer to consecutive conference MVP titles. The culmination of his efforts came at the 2005 Metro Atlantic Athletic Conference championship meet where Loyola swimmers recorded over 50 personal best swims, breaking 19 school records and three conference records.

Rasmussen began coaching at Ocean County College (NJ). During his six years at OCC, Rasmussen led over 40 athletes to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) championships where they collected nine All-American certificates.

Additionally, Rasmussen has coached at three NCAA YES clinics, worked as an assistant to the meet directors at the 1988 Olympic Swimming Trials, and served as the assistant ticket manager at the 2004 Women's NCAA Division I championships. He recently completed a six-summer run as a guest coach at the Lehigh University Swimming Camp and was a guest coach at the prestigious Navy Swimming Camp.

A 1983 Phi Kappa Phi graduate of Ithaca College with a bachelor of science in Physical Education, Rasmussen also attended graduate school at the University of Texas. Born in nearby Irvington, NJ, Rasmussen resides in Toms River, NJ.

ATHLETICS FACILITIES

The NJIT men's and women's swim teams compete and practice in Fleisher Pool. The six-lane facility on the first floor of the **Estelle and Zoom Fleisher Athletic Center** is also staffed by certified lifeguards for recreational swimming.

Additionally, the teams have access to all of the other facilities in the athletic center. These include the **fitness area** (containing computer-controlled biking equipment, Cybex resistance units and an indoor track), **two weight rooms** (free-weight and hammer-strength), **four racquetball courts**, a **martial arts center**, and **four lighted outdoor hardcourt tennis courts**.

The Highlanders' men's and women's basketball and volleyball teams play their home events in the main gymnasium of the **athletic center**. The facility can entertain crowds of up to 1,500, and is also open to the campus community for recreation during selected hours.

Lubetkin Field, home to the men's and women's soccer teams, recently underwent a \$1.2 million renovation project, including the installation of SprinTurf artificial grass and a running track. It contains a midfield scoreboard and pressbox facilities, and its bleacher seating can hold approximately 1,000 spectators.

NJIT is in the midst of a multi-year agreement with the independent Newark Bears Professional Baseball Club to play Highlanders home baseball games at **Bears & Eagles Riverfront Stadium** in downtown Newark.

NJIT SWIMMING FACTS

Location	Newark, NJ 07102
Founded	1881
Undergraduate Enrollment	5,380
Nickname	Highlanders
Colors	Red and White (blue accent)
President	Dr. Robert A. Altenkirch
Director of Athletics	Lenny Kaplan
Athletics Department Phone	(973) 596-3636
Athletics Department /Swimming FAX	(973) 596-8295
Athletics Department URL	http://athletics.njit.edu/
Head Coach	Eric Rasmussen (Ithaca '83)
Record at NJIT (men)	13-12 (2)
Record at NJIT (women)	2-26 (2)
Phone	(973) 596-5229
E-Mail	rasmussen@njit.edu
Captains	Mike Lawson, James Paccioretti
First Year of Men's Program	1967-68
First Year of Women's Program	1995-96
Home Venue	Fleisher Athletic Center Pool
Pool Office Phone	(973) 596-5229
Affiliation	NCAA Division I (reclassifying from Division II)
Conference	Metropolitan Swim Conference
2006-07 Men's Record	4-8
2006-07 Women's Record	2-17
Assistant Athletic Director for Sports Information	Tim Camp (973) 596-8461
Assistant Sports Information Director	Stephanie Pillari (973) 596-8324
Sports Information FAX	(973) 596-8440
Camp E-Mail	timothy.camp@njit.edu
Pillari E-Mail	pillari@adm.njit.edu

2007-08 SCHEDULES

Date	Day	Opponent(s)	Time
October			
21	Sun.	vs. Saint Peter's (M/W)	3pm
		vs. Manhattan (W)	3pm
27	Sat.	SACRED HEART (W)	1pm
November			
3	Sat.	at Mt. St. Mary's (MD)(W)/vs. Howard(M/W)	1pm
9	Fri.	WAGNER (W)	6pm
10	Sat.	at Manhattan(W)/vs. Saint Peter's(M/W)/vs. Canisius (M/W)	1pm
December			
4	Tue.	WILLIAM PATERSON (M)	6pm
8	Sat.	ST. PETER'S(M/W)/ST. FRANCIS (NY) (M/W)	1pm
January			
14	Mon.	at Siena (W)	3pm
19	Sat.	at Fairfield(M/W)	1pm
26	Sat.	at St. Francis (NY)(M/W)/vs. Howard (M/W)	1pm
29	Tue.	SUNY MARITIME (M)	6pm
February			
2	Sat.	MANHATTAN (W)	1pm
4	Mon.	QUEENS (M)	6pm
22-24	Fri.-Sun.	Metropolitan Conference Tournament (M/W)	All Day
28-1	Thu.-Tournament	ECAC Tournament (M/W)	All Day

WOMEN'S ROSTER

Name	Yr.	Event	Hometown/High School
Karen Cilento	Fr.	free	Staten Island, NY/Curtis
Ashley Craig	Sr.	free	Laurel, MD/Laurel
Lorin Diaz	Jr.	back/free	Williamstown, NJ/Williamstown
Alaine Fairweather	Jr.	fly/free	Ocean, NJ/Ocean Township
Bonnie Fiallo	Fr.	free/fly	Newark, NJ/St. Dominic Academy
Teresa Higgins	So.	free	Whiting, NJ/Manchester Township
Sadie Mele	Fr.	back/fly	Rio Rancho, NM/Rio Rancho
Lauren Thompson	Sr.	free/back	Staten Island, NY/Tottenville

WOMEN'S SCHOOL RECORDS

Event	Time	Date	Record Holder
50 Free	25.62	2000	Stephanie Dubyna
100 Free	57.58	2006	Ana Ossa
200 Free	2:05.92	2006	Ana Ossa
500 Free	5:34.87	2006	Ana Ossa
1000 Free	11:40.23	2005	Ana Ossa
50 Back	32.57	2004	Ana Ossa
100 Back	1:07.44	2004	Ana Ossa
200 Back	2:22.07	2004	Ana Ossa
50 Fly	28.92	2006	Ana Ossa
100 Fly	1:03.71	2005	Ana Ossa
200 Fly	2:28.54	2006	Ana Ossa
50 Breast	32.85	2006	Ana Ossa
100 Breast	1:10.76	2006	Ana Ossa
200 Breast	2:32.09	2006	Ana Ossa
100 IM	1:06.05	2006	Ana Ossa
200 IM	2:19.60	2006	Ana Ossa
400 IM	5:03.69	2006	Ana Ossa
200 Free Relay	1:55.71	2004	Recine, Jelinek, Small, Ossa
200 Medley Relay	2:09.93	2005	Garnant, Ossa, Jelinek, Pence
400 Medley Relay	4:15.07	2005	Pence, Garnant, Jelinek, Pence
800 Free Relay	9:48.53	2002	Ribelin, Allnatt, Reeber, Jelinek

TOP PERFORMERS

HAYK ESKSHIAN

Senior • Free/Fly • 5-10

Westwood, NJ/Westwood HS

Holds five individual school records and has been part of three school relay record quartets ...

2006-07: Broke his school record with a time of :53.26 in the butterfly at the 2007 Metropolitan Swim Championships placing sixth ... a member of the 200-yard medley team that reached the Met finals and broke the school record with a time of 1:41.60, good for eighth place ... **2005-06:** By year's end, held three individual school records; member of four school record-setting relays ... first NJIT swimmer to qualify for the ECAC Championships. ... **Prior to NJIT:** Swam for Galatasary swim club in Turkey before moving to the United States at the age of 13. ... Swam for the New Jersey Wave under coaches Robert Clemmer and Ken O'Reilly. **Personal:** Hayk

Eskshian ... son of Joyce Yerchanig an Cankar and Dikran Ekshian. ... Architecture major. ... born 1/1/85 in Istanbul.



ALAN ROBERTS

Sophomore • Free/Breast • 6-0

Middletown, NY/Middletown HS

Holds one individual and three relay school records ... **2006-07:** In December in Buffalo, NY, where his time of 1:01.19 in the 100-yard breaststroke broke the school record, although it was slower than his lifetime personal best ... at the Metropolitan Swim Conference Championships, his time of :57.43 in the 100 breast marked another school record and another drop in the personal best category ... His silver medal marked the highest Met championship finish ever by a Highlander swimmer ... Also played baseball for NJIT, but is focusing on swimming in 07-08 ... **Prior to**

NJIT: At Middletown HS: 2006 MVP and captain; ESSL champion 100 breast (2005-06); Section 9 champion 100 breast (2005). ... Regional football Punt, Pass and Kick champion (15th nationally) in 2003. ... Three-year varsity baseball starter; 2006 captain; 2006 Puma preseason all-America. ... College Select Norwich Showcase defensive standout. ... Played for the Hudson Valley Hurricanes ... **Personal:** Alan T. Roberts ... son of Thomas and Elizabeth Roberts ... majoring in information technology. ... born 6/24/88 in Middletown, NY.



JAMES PACCIORETTI

Junior • Free • 5-10

Oak Ridge, NJ/Jefferson Township HS

Part of two school-record relay teams ... **2006-07:** Placed first against Queens in the 200 free relay with a time of 1:37.34 ... **2005-06:** First-year swimming at the collegiate level ... **Prior to NJIT:** Swam for Lake Forest swim team. **Personal:** James Edward Paccioretti. ... son of James and Ginny Paccioretti. ... majoring in chemical engineering. ... born 6/27/87 in Secaucus, NJ.



MIKE LAWSON

Junior • Free/Fly • 5-10

Lake Hiawatha, NJ/Parsippany HS

2006-07: Against Canisus, picked up points in the 200 individual medley ... **2005-06:** Lawson finished first vs. Ocean (second vs. Drew) with a 1:09.61 in the 100 breast ... **Prior to NJIT:** Top 10 Morris County Champions (Breast and IM) for coach Beth Cox at Parsippany ... Top 10 Iron Hills Conference (IM) and Honorable Mention Iron Hills Conference. ... also swam for the Morris Center YMCA swim team ... **Personal:** Michael R. Lawson. ... son of Catherine and John Lawson. ... architecture major. ... born 6/8/87 in Morristown, NJ.



ALAINE FAIRWEATHER

Senior • Free/Fly • 5-5

Ocean Township, NJ/Ocean Township HS

2006-07: Finished second against Manhattan in the 100 yard freestyle with a time of 28.91. **2005-06:** Swam season best times in the 100 fly and 100 free at the Metropolitan Swimming Championships ... **Prior to NJIT:** Four year varsity swimmer at Ocean Township High School ... swam for coach Paul Buerck on the Monmouth Baracudas ... **Personal:** Alaine Fairweather. ... daughter of Delmarie and Alton Fairweather ... architecture major. ... born 3/30/87 in Red Bank, NJ.



SADIE MELE

Freshman • Free • 5-6

Rio Rancho, NM/Rio Rancho HS

Fall 2007: Goalkeeper for the 2007 NJIT women's soccer team ... **Prior to NJIT:** Record-setting high school swimmer with state qualifying times in the 100 backstroke (1:05.48) and 100 butterfly (1:07.65) ... in soccer she was goalkeeper District 1 Player of the Year and second team all-state ... in addition to soccer and swimming she finished in the top 25 in the New Mexico state high school golf championships. **Personal:** Sadie Josephine Mele. ... daughter of David and Debbie Mele ... engineering major ... born 4/26/89 in Rio Rancho, NM.





MEN'S ROSTER

Name	Yr.	Event	Hometown/High School
Brian Amaro	Fr.	distance	Toms River, NJ/Manchester Township
Rajendra Bahadur	Sr.	distance	Parsippany, NJ/Parsippany
Dmitry Bohdan	Fr.	free	Lake Hopatcong, NJ/Jefferson Township
Pablo Botero	So.	free	Parsippany, NJ/Parsippany
Justin Branco	Fr.	free	Holmdel, NJ/Holmdel
Dan Carrera	So.	free	West New York, NJ
Hayk Ekshian	Sr.	free/fly	Westwood, NJ/Westwood
Michael Finley	Sr.	back/free	Hazlet, NJ/High Technology
Mike Lawson	Jr.	free/fly	Lake Hiawatha, NJ/Parsippany
Stefan Mitrovic	Fr.	free	Podgorica, Montenegro /Midlothian, TX
James Paccioretti	Jr.	free	Oak Ridge, NJ/Jefferson Township
Alfio Racite	Sr.	free/back	Woodbury, NJ/West Deptford
Alan Roberts	So.	breast/free	Middletown, NY/Middletown
Daniel Schittone	So.	back	East Brunswick, NJ/East Brunswick
Steve Schreyer	Jr.	free/back	East Brunswick, NJ/East Brunswick
Sean Stafford	Fr.	free	Lake Hopatcong, NJ/Jefferson Township
Edwin Walker	Fr.	free	New Brunswick, NJ/New Brunswick

MEN'S SCHOOL RECORDS

Event	Time	Date	Record Holder
50 Free	22.10	2006	Hayk Ekshian
100 Free	49.22	2007	Hayk Ekshian
200 Free	1:51.16	2007	Marc Ubaldi
500 Free	5:13.67	2006	Marc Ubaldi
1000 Free	11:05.82	2003	Ryan Walton
1650 Free	18:30.04	2005	Ryan Walton
50 Back	28.91	2006	Daniel Botero
100 Back	59.59	2007	Hayk Ekshian
200 Back	2:14.78	2006	Daniel Botero
50 Fly	24.38	2006	Hayk Ekshian
100 Fly	53.26	2007	Hayk Ekshian
200 Fly	2:30.54	2006	Ed Lui
50 Breast	29.13	2006	Rob Franc
100 Breast	57.43	2007	Alan Roberts
200 Breast	2:19.19	2006	Rob Franc
100 IM	59.37	2006	Marc Ubaldi
200 IM	2:03.53	2007	Marc Ubaldi
400 IM	4:39.68	2006	Marc Ubaldi
200 Free Relay	1:29.27	2007	Ekshian, Roberts, Franc, Ubaldi
200 Medley Relay	1:41:60	2007	Roberts, Franc, Ekshian, Ubaldi
400 Free Medley	3:20.33	2007	Ekshian, Roberts, Ubaldi, Paccioretti
400 Medley Relay	3:44.57	2007	Roberts, Paccioretti, Ekshian, Ubaldi
800 Free Relay	8:15.52	2005	Walton, Finely, Massa, Franc

ABOUT NEWARK

NEWARK: THE RENAISSANCE CITY

NJIT is located in the heart of New Jersey's largest cities. A major urban center, Newark is a city on the move. Some 30,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students attend classes in University Heights at the city's four public institutions of higher learning: NJIT, Rutgers-Newark, the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey[®] and Essex County College.

Attractions in Newark's revitalized downtown include: The Newark Museum, New Jersey Performing Arts Center, The Newark Public Library, Symphony Hall, Branch Brook Park, Art galleries, restaurants, and shopping, an urban architectural laboratory, Professional minor league baseball (Newark Bears) and New Jersey Devils hockey and other events at the Prudential Center.



NEWARK: PRUDENTIAL CENTER

The new home of the National Hockey League New Jersey Devils opened in October 2007 in downtown Newark at the corner of Mulberry and Edison streets, about one mile from the NJIT's University Heights campus.

The building is the newest indoor major sports facility in North America and has opened to rave reviews as the centerpiece of the city's Downtown Core Redevelopment Project. In addition to the world's best hockey, 'The Rock' will be home to numerous entertainment and sporting events, including NCAA Division I basketball, as NJIT will host six games in the Prudential Center in 2007-08.

The arena, with seating for 17,500 spectators, will feature a 4,800 square-foot exterior LED screen, as well as the latest in ice-surface technology and a gourmet restaurant overlooking the ice for the Devils games.



UNIVERSITY INFORMATION



New Jersey Institute of Technology, the state's public technological research university, enrolls more than 8,000 students in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in 92 degree programs offered by six colleges: Newark College of Engineering, New Jersey School of Architecture, College of Science and Liberal Arts, School of Management, Albert Dorman Honors College, and College of Computing Sciences. NJIT is renowned for expertise in architecture, applied mathematics, wireless communications and networking, solar physics, advanced engineered particulate materials, nanotechnology, neural engineering and e-learning. In 2006, Princeton Review named NJIT among the nation's top 25 campuses for technology and top 150 for best value. U.S. News & World Report's 2007 Annual Guide to America's Best Colleges ranked NJIT in the top tier of national research universities.

NJIT's history spans from the Industrial Revolution to the Information Age. Newark was a factory town when the tuition-free evening school was founded in 1881 to support local industries. From the early days, science and technology have been the engines fueling the university's development.

Over time, the university both anticipated and responded to change by expanding its curriculum and mission. By 1975, NJIT offered a broad range of undergraduate and graduate degrees. All programs included significant research and public service components with the goal of providing an academic environment that fostered intellectual depth and breadth, as well as social responsibility.



The clock tower and carillon sit in a European-style plaza adjacent to the Campus Center.

Today, continuing a fourfold mission of instruction, research, economic development and public service, NJIT is among the leading comprehensive technological universities in the nation, with state-of-the-art facilities on its 45-acre campus in Newark and a solar observatory in Big Bear, California.