

# PARALYMPIC ATHLETES TO LEAD KIN 100 SKILL LAB EXPERIENCES

Four celebrated Paralympic athletes, as well as three accomplished wheelchair basketball players, will be on campus on February 22nd to lead Paralympic Skill Lab experiences with select Kinesiology 100 classes. Paralympic Skill Lab combines Paralympic ideals and values with educational activities to promote engagement and education related to adapted sport, inclusion, and sociocultural norms. Kinesiology Professor Dr. Cathy McKay ('98) organizes the experience, which is funded by an Innovative Diversity Efforts Award (IDEA) Program Grant, and a Faculty Senate Engagement Mini-Grant, as part of her ongoing research on Paralympic sport, social inclusion, and contact theory. Students will be participating in wheelchair basketball skill stations, engaging with adapted sport athletes, discussing the Paralympic experience, and learning about Para-Soccer.

Prior to the skill lab, students will be viewing the award winning adapted sport documentary, "The Rebound: A Wheelchair Basketball story" ([www.reboundthefilm.com](http://www.reboundthefilm.com)), produced and directed by JMU alumni Mike Esposito ('10) and Shaina Koren ('11). Watching the film allows students to immerse fully into the lives of adapted athletes, build empathy, and understand the adapted sport culture. Documentaries help create cultural understandings, which can prompt engagement and action in social awareness campaigns. The mission of The Rebound is aligned with Dr. McKay's research, where inclusivity, equal opportunity, and sociocultural attitude change and action are paramount.

## Athletes leading the education stations include:



Paralympian Rose Hollermann won gold at the 2016 Rio Paralympic games, and was the youngest player on the U.S. Women's Wheelchair Basketball team. Rose started competing in the sport by playing on the Junior Rolling Timberwolves, leading the team to three junior national championships in a row. She also competed in the London Games, where the Women's team just missed the podium, finishing in 4th place. Rose is a student-athlete at the University of Texas at Arlington, and was named the National

Wheelchair Basketball Collegiate Player of the Year in 2016, a year in which her collegiate team, the Movin' Mavs, also brought home the National Championship title. Rose was recently named to the 2018 Women's National team, and has her sights set on Tokyo 2020.

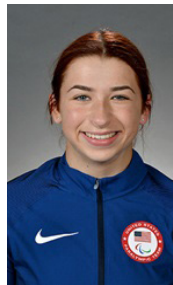


Paralympian Adam Ballou is a 2015 James Madison University Graduate, and a member of the U.S. Paralympic Soccer team. Adam completed in both the London and Rio games, and has spent the past two years training and competing full time with the U.S. Team in San Diego. Adam was the leading goal scorer for the Rio games, was the joint leading scorer for the 2017 World Championships, and was voted disabled player of the year by U.S. Soccer in 2016. His team is currently ranked 5th in the world, the highest ranking they have ever held.

Rose, Adam, Alexa, and Trey will be joined by collegiate All-American and Roanoke native Jacob Tyree, who played Wheelchair Basketball at the University of Illinois, and was a member of Team USA's U23 Wheelchair Basketball team. Also leading the education sessions are Brandon Rush and Tom Vandever from the Charlottesville Cardinals Wheelchair Basketball team. Brandon played on the Edinboro University Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball team, is currently a coach for the National Championship winning Sportable Spokes (Richmond, Va) Junior team, and is the captain of the Charlottesville Cardinals team. Tom is the founder of the Charlottesville Cardinals program, and also is a player for the team. This dynamic group of athletes is an amazing representation of national, state, and regional adapted sport advocates.



Trevon Jenifer, Team USA Wheelchair Basketball player, is a two-time Paralympian who won gold at the Rio games, and bronze at the London games. Trey is a graduate of Edinboro University, is a two-time collegiate All-American, and recently played professionally in France for two years. Trey continues to train, with Tokyo 2020 in his sights, and recently was selected for the 2018 U.S. Men's Wheelchair Basketball Team. Trey was an accomplished wrestler in high school, and penned an autobiography, *From the Ground Up* when he was 17 years old. Along with being an accomplished athlete, Trey has served as an Assistant Coach at the University of Edinboro, is a motivational speaker for children, veterans, and college students, and currently plays on the 4th ranked Medstar NRH Punishers (Washington, DC).



Paralympian Alexa Halko, Team USA Wheelchair Racer, won two silver medals and one bronze medal at the Rio Games. Alexa is a member of Richmond's Sportable Spokes Wheelchair Basketball team, and is a Senior at Jamestown High School in Williamsburg, VA. She was the youngest team USA athlete to qualify for the Rio games. Since the Rio games, Alexa has continued to compete, and brought home a silver and a bronze from the 2017 World Para Athletic Championships held in London. Alexa is headed to the University of Illinois this fall, where she was recruited to compete as a student-athlete on the Intercollegiate Wheelchair Track team.

