As a new school year starts, the Thunderbirds are back in the water gearing up for another great season! This year, both the men's and women's teams will be looking to defend their 3-year USPORTS championship titles. With it also being an Olympic year, we are looking forward to seeing some great swimming!

Over the summer, we had quite a bit going on, with swimmers at 3 different international competitions, as well as at Senior Nationals in Winnipeg. Representing the T-Birds at the FISU Games in Napoli, Italy, were Megan Dalke, Olivia Ellard, Hillary Metcalfe, Ingrid Wilm, Dmitriy Lim, and Jaren LeFranc. Hoi-Lam Tam was also there representing her home country of Hong Kong. Additionally, Assistant Coach Derrick Schoof was the head coach of the FISU Team Canada, making for a lot of Thunderbird representation at these games! It was the first time representing Canada for some of these athletes so it was a very exciting meet! As well, Wilm was able to capture a bronze medal, swimming the backstroke leg of the 4x100m medley relay.

We also had some T-Bird representation at the Pan-Am games! Alumna Erika Seltenreich-Hodgson traveled to Lima, Peru, along with Haley Black of the High-Performance Centre-Vancouver. As well, HPC-V assistant coach Ben Keast accompanied the two to the competition.

At the FINA World Championships, we had plenty of Thunderbirds competing. Markus Thormeyer, Emily Overholt and Alex Pratt, as well as Alumni Josiah Binnema, Carson Olafson and Yuri Kisil all traveled to Gwangju, South Korea to represent Team Canada. As well, Hoi-Lam Tam competed in this competition, representing Hong Kong. There were amazing swims all around, but one of the highlights included third-year Overholt’s bronze medal and Canadian record on the women’s 4x200 freestyle relay. Thormeyer also brought down a 10-year old Canadian record in the semi-final of the men's 200m backstroke, in a time of 1:56.96.

Fifth-year Hau-Li Fan also had a busy summer on the open-water circuit. Some of the highlights of his performances included his 17th place finish in the 10km race at FINA World Championships. Accompanying him at worlds was current first-year Raben Dommann, who placed 16th in the 5km race. A month later, Fan competed at the FINA World Series in Quebec, earning a bronze medal in the 10km.

Finally, the remaining T-Birds travelled to Winnipeg to compete at the Canadian Swimming Championships. It was a tough meet after a long season, but we had some great results, including three podium finishes!
ALUMNI MEET AND SOCIAL
Make sure to mark your calendars for the Alumni Meet and Social coming up on November 15th! We look forward to catching up with you all with some racing at the beautiful UBC Aquatic Centre, followed by a night of socialization at the Gallery 2.0 in the NEST.

FAMILY LINES
Ladybird Alumni: As some of you recall, one of our long-standing traditions is our Mama Bird/Lady Bird families. We want to build a series of family trees to document our “family lines” as far back as we can! In order to gather information for this, we are looking for your help. If you remember who your mama/baby was, please email Kirsten at kirstendouglas98@gmail.com with their names! We will be unveiling the final product at this year’s Alumni Meet. We look forward to seeing what we can put together!

THANK YOU!
From the entire team, we’d like to thank our amazing alumni for all of your support. It is thanks to your generous contributions that we are able to carry on the T-Birds’ legacy of excellence!

Yours truly,
Kirsten Douglas (4th year) & Hillary Metcalfe (4th year)