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**Team USA to feature three Stone Ridge Alumnae in the pool:
Katie Ledecky '15 will be joined by Phoebe Bacon '20 and Erin Gemmell '23 on the
Paris-bound U.S. Olympic Swimming Team next month.**

BETHESDA, Maryland, June 25, 2024

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart

Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart alumnae Katie Ledecky '15, Phoebe Bacon '20, Erin Gemmell '23, and Eleanor Sun '23 competed in the 2024 U.S. Olympic Trials for swimming in Indianapolis last week. Ledecky, Bacon, and Gemmell all earned spots to represent Team USA in Paris next month.

While it is not uncommon for swimmers from the same college to be named to an Olympic Team together, it is nearly unheard of for three athletes who attended the same high school to do this. In total, only 20 women were named to the 2024 U.S. Olympic Women's Swimming Team. With Stone Ridge alumnae earning three of those spots, 15% of the 2024 U.S. Olympic Women's Swimming Team is composed of Stone Ridge Gators. This is especially impressive considering that the qualifying process for swimmers to make Team USA is one of the most difficult of any Olympic Sport.

Ledecky swam to victory in the 200, 400, 800, and 1500-meter freestyle events to secure her Paris roster spot and now stands a chance to become the most decorated female Olympic swimmer of all time. Bacon finished second with a strong second half in the 200-meter backstroke to make her second straight Olympic team by .07 seconds. And Gemmell finished fourth in the 200-meter freestyle to ensure a spot on the 4 x 200 Freestyle Relay squad that will also feature Ledecky.

All three swimmers have decorated careers both nationally and internationally. Paris will represent Ledecky's fourth Olympic team, and her most recent professional highlight was breaking Michael Phelps' record for most individual World Championship gold medals in July of 2023. Bacon, the 2021 and 2024 NCAA Champion in the 200-yard backstroke, will be swimming on her second straight Olympic team this summer, with the goal of making the podium after a fifth-place finish in Tokyo. The youngest of the group, Gemmell, represented the U.S. on the World Championship team in 2023 and earned a silver in the 4 x 200 Freestyle Relay.

Stone Ridge Head Varsity Swimming & Diving Coach Bob Walker, who coached all three swimmers during their time at Stone Ridge, remarked, "Katie, Phoebe, and Erin will always be Gators. We are so incredibly proud of what they have accomplished and continue to accomplish. The community spirit, dedication, and humility that all three of these young women bring to their successes are hallmarks of what it means to be a Stone Ridge student-athlete, and it is so inspiring to our younger swimmers, athletes, and entire community to see them achieving at such a high level with such

grace. I know they will be wearing their Stone Ridge blue and gold under their Team USA red, white, and blue!"

As the Stone Ridge community experiences great pride and excitement for these alumnae and student-athletes, Head of School Catherine Ronan Karrels '86 said, "Stone Ridge is incredibly proud of these athletes, not only for what they accomplish in the sport of swimming but for the values and character they represent. Our school community has watched these young women train for many years, consistently inspired by their dedication to hitting their goals in the pool and also achieving high standards in their academics or other pursuits. While swimmers strive for their personal best, each one of these champion swimmers is also fully dedicated to the concept of team and community. There's a lot to learn from them about the payoff of consistent hard work, discipline, and practice. And to top it off, these athletes genuinely love their sport and find so much joy in the experience of competition at the highest level—something that we aim to instill in all of our students. It is especially fun for us to see three of our alums on this team together."

Karrels went on to say, "Erin and Phoebe were both deeply inspired by Katie when they were younger, and the spirit of sisterhood they demonstrate is part of our school culture. It's hard to find words to express how happy it makes me to see three of our alums standing next to each other on the world stage, doing exactly what they love. I was in Indianapolis and witnessed Katie and Erin compete in the 200-free final and make the relay team together. What a thrill to see them hugging in the pool and then being announced as Olympians together that night! And when Phoebe made the team, within seconds of completing her swim I received a text from Katie with a 'Wooooohooo!!!' The Olympics are inspirational both as an expression of our global community and also because of the triumph of individuals and the hope and inspiration they model in terms of the human spirit. My heart is bursting with pride in these young women and I feel incredibly grateful to be inspired by them and learn from their dedication and grit."

Stone Ridge will be hosting a red, white, and blue Olympic Pep Rally on July 25 to celebrate Ledesky, Bacon, and Gemmell. More information about the Pep Rally and ordering SR Olympic t-shirts can be found at www.stoneridgeschool.org/olympic-gators.

About Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart: [Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart](http://www.stoneridgeschool.org) is an all-girls grades 1-12, Catholic, independent school, with a coeducational Little Hearts program for children age three months through Kindergarten, located in Bethesda, Maryland.

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