

WHEN A PROGRAM BECOMES A FAMILY

On Wednesday, November 13th over a hundred of Michael Heaney's family, friends, "brothers," and "sisters," gathered to pay their last respects to the most boisterous, caring, and full of life teammate many of us have ever known (even if you didn't technically swim with Mikey.) On that cold blustery day it was hard for me to not draw a parallel to the week of January 6th, 2002 when our same family said goodbye to TCNJ freshman, Caleb Bohman of Vernon, NJ. Whether you swam with Caleb, Mikey, or neither, as a member of the TCNJ swimming and diving family you have felt the love and the loss of both. Both young men, large in physical stature had an even larger heart and zest for life. You could not come in contact with Caleb or Mikey and not be affected by their selflessness, their "whatever it takes" attitude, their desire to succeed their willingness to work hard, and the ease in which they both gave 100%. As we came together and shared heartfelt and hysterical memories of Mikey I realized he had brought us all together once again. Those who swam before him, with him, and after him. A band of brothers and sisters spanning over 15 years of competition at The College of New Jersey who, through the leadership of Brian Bishop, and Jennifer Harnett, became one strong and unbreakable family unit.