This summer we welcomed current Hall of Famers and new inductees in town to share their lacrosse experiences on video for their induction to the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame on September 29. While talking about the past, the conversations invariably turned to the current state of lacrosse and how so much has changed, quickly followed by a nod of gratitude to US Lacrosse for honoring and celebrating the history and people who built this sport through the National Lacrosse Hall of Fame and Museum.

It is our responsibility to value and respect the contributions of those who came before us, and to share those values with the next generation. However, it is not ours, alone.

Mike Rupolo couldn’t agree more. On Saturday, July 7, he brought his team – Rapid Fire ’91, a girls club team from Bellport, NY who joined the Keeper of Lacrosse Project in 2016 to promote the values that give lacrosse its roots and wings –to visit US Lacrosse and practice on Tierney Field. They took the field with a tribute for the men lost in the helicopter crash in Iraq in March. “The father of one of my girls is in that unit, luckily he was stateside when the copter went down. The men of that same unit flew a mission a few weeks ago with a US flag in the helicopter. That flag was presented and carried out to the middle of Tierney Field to start our day.”

Mike’s purpose for this trip was to “strip away the madness of youth sports, the upcoming stress of recruitment and instill in the girls the importance of the sport’s history, the quality of people who have built US Lacrosse, and the significance of the lessons I’m trying to teach them now for later in life.”

“I can’t find the exact words to express the level of gratitude I have for what you all helped put together this weekend for our team. This was game changing for our families, to understand the history of the sport and the importance of your organization. My hope is that lacking the words to express our gratitude is made up for in the way we are raising these young women,” said Rupolo.

**LACROSSE IS A GIFT**

The Wooster School, Root Hog Lacrosse and the Wooster School Center for Impact hosted “The Medicine Games” last November, a 7 v 7 lacrosse jamboree in Danbury, CT. “Lacrosse was a gift from the Creator, to be played for his enjoyment and as a medicine game for healing the people. We wanted to present an opportunity for players to honor the roots of the game and play for something bigger than themselves,” said Bill Rexford, boys head coach at Wooster School and the 2014 US Lacrosse Oregon Man of the Year and National Spirit of the Sport Award recipient.

Each team’s entry fee was donated to a community organization of their choice. The Brewster, NY, Lacrosse 3rd/4th grade team, under the direction of Jim Cunningham, chose to support the US Lacrosse First Stick Program. Their gift will give new equipment to new lacrosse players.

Lacrosse is a vehicle to reinforce values that build strong communities, enrich the lives of others, develop a sense of belonging and promote physical and mental well-being. Minding what matters keeps it that way.
Chairman’s Perspective

The Growth of the Game

Edward P. Nordberg, Jr. | Chair US Lacrosse Foundation

While watching the Federation of International Lacrosse Men’s World Championship this past week, I paused to reflect on the growth of our great game. Twenty years ago as our national governing body was in its formation, Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore hosted the world championships.

In one of the most exciting games in the history of the sport, the United States team fought off a furious comeback from Team Canada to win the championship in overtime, 15-14. This July, in Netanya, Israel, the United States and Canada played another classic with the U.S. winning on a last second goal, 9-8. Given these results, one might think that not much has changed in the sport of lacrosse over the last two decades — but the sport has experienced tremendous growth and change and we have much to celebrate. In 1998, 11 countries participated in the world championships; this year Israel hosted 46 nations in games played at multiple venues in the city of Netanya.

In 1998, US Lacrosse members barely topped 40,000 with concentrations in a few regions; today, US Lacrosse serves over 450,000 members across the country in 45 states. From its spiritual Native American roots the game of lacrosse is now poised to be welcomed into the Olympic family with a chance to participate in the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles.

This growth and recognition could not have been accomplished without your philanthropic support. We thank you for your continued loyalty to the game of lacrosse and pledge to always honor the spirit of the game as it continues to grow both in the United States and around the world.

CEO’s Perspective

Bright Vision for World Lacrosse

Steve Stenersen | CEO and President US Lacrosse

I’ve had the privilege of serving as vice president of the Federation of International Lacrosse (FIL) since 2014, and I was honored to be reelected to a four-year term in that post last month during FIL meetings in Netanya, Israel prior to the 2018 FIL Men’s World Championship.

I’m proud to say that our U.S. Men’s Team represented our sport and our nation with distinction in defeating Canada for an unprecedented 10th world championship in one of the most dramatic lacrosse games in history. It’s a very exciting time to be associated with the FIL.

Just over a year ago, the organization hired its first CEO -- former United States Olympic Committee chief executive Jim Scherr. Over the last year, Jim and our board have led the development of the FIL’s strategic plan, which was approved by the FIL’s member nations in Netanya.

The plan’s three key strategic priorities are to: successfully present the case of lacrosse to the Internal Olympic Committee and host cities; build the brand and increase the popularity of the sport globally; and, expand the core competencies and infrastructure of the FIL to enable plan success.

Significant philanthropic support has been secured to fuel this “Olympic Vision”, the culmination of which would be the inclusion of lacrosse in the program of the 2028 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. Plan implementation has already begun, and US Lacrosse and our US Lacrosse Foundation will play important supporting roles in pursuit of this historic goal. Stay tuned.
In a dramatic finale to the Federation of International Lacrosse Men’s World Championship, Tom Schreiber converted a Rob Pannell feed with 0.2 seconds left to lift the U.S. to a 9-8 win over Canada on July 21, 2018, wrestling the gold medal from our northern neighbors, Canada.

Many in the States arose early, or simply stayed up for the 10 a.m. faceoff in Israel (3 a.m. Eastern time), but even those that did not likely have seen the tense final moments. And the glorious moments following the win with the team singing the national anthem with family and friends in the stands were shared hundreds of times on social media.

Even before the team had played a game, the men went about capturing hearts in the most unlikely of places. Returning from practice to the hotel at 11 p.m., just as the Croatia-England World Cup Soccer game was winding down, players dropped their bags to watch the ending in the restaurant off the hotel lobby.

As Marcus Holman put down his bag, a young boy named Sal, speaking in broken English, started pointing at one of the sticks in Marcus’ equipment bag. It started simply with Marcus saying the word “lacrosse.” When Marcus handed Sal his stick to hold, Sal’s eyes lit up. He pointed at the head and Marcus retrieved a soft pink ball from his bag. And just like that, they started to play catch in the lobby. Marcus, with his own eyes lit up now, started teaching Sal how to scoop and throw. Then another boy, Michael, joined in. And then Kyle Hartzell joined in. And then Paul Rabil.

Nearby, a woman from Australia, a man from France and a woman from South Africa had just experienced lacrosse for the first time in their lives, and the magic it brings.

Growing the Game and Championing the Child in...

PASSAIC, NEW JERSEY

“Meghan Chaplick’s (senior manager, programs) concept of introducing the game of lacrosse into schools and connecting them to their local rec programming is working! Love to see communities coming together through the sport of lacrosse. Yesterday, with the support of the Passaic School District and Passaic Recreation Department, we had a two-hour clinic for 200 5th graders at School 11 in Passaic. Thank you for the equipment and support.”

~Jim Robbins

NEW BRAUNFELS, TEXAS

In April, history was made in Texas as the first ever lacrosse game consisting of only Comal Independent School District students took place at Canyon High School between Canyon and Smithson Valley High School. Comal Independent is a fast-growing, progressive and innovative public school district based in New Braunfels, TX, northwest of San Antonio.

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

“Great time spent in Indianapolis with the folks from Indy Rip, who received a Diversity and Inclusion Grant from US Lacrosse, and the Milwaukee Eagles, two of our Midwest Adaptive Lacrosse organizations. This was certainly the most extraordinary experience I have had the pleasure of being a part of here at US Lacrosse,” said Bryce Woodson, US Lacrosse Regional Manager, Midwest. After winning the Midwest Regional Tournament, Indy Rip is heading to Denver in late August to play in the Wheelchair Lacrosse USA Nationals, another recipient of a US Lacrosse D&I grant.
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Atlanta Youth Lacrosse, Atlanta Blaze and the Georgia Chapter of US Lacrosse hosted an introductory clinic for 65 kids with volunteers from the STAR program and chapter serving as clinicians. “Thanks to donors, Brandon Perkins of ATL Lacrosse was able to provide the campers with sticks, t-shirts, bags, lunch and tickets to the Atlanta Blaze game where they participated in the opening ceremony,” said Lou Corsetti, US Lacrosse Regional Manager, South.

ROSEBURG, OREGON

The small town of Roseburg in the woods of Southern Oregon have boys and girls HS teams and are now expanding their youth offerings with support from soft stick in the schools and a First Stick Program grant.

“We just had our kick off clinic. It turned out fantastic! We had about 50 kids or so sign up; but ended up letting the siblings in the stands join in on the fun, too, like the boy in the baseball cap (pictured).

Needless to say he will be playing with us on Monday,” said Lyn Porterfield, US Lacrosse Regional Manager, Pacific Northwest.

ST LOUIS, MISSOURI

The TryLax Clinic in March in St. Louis served over 130 boys and girls youth players who were able to try our great sport for the first time! TryLax is a 90-minute introductory lacrosse experience for kids ages 6-14 who have never played before, but are thinking they might want to. For just $35, each participant receives a Warrior or Brine stick, a ball, a t-shirt and one-year membership to US Lacrosse.
Train With the Best

Shout-out to the US Lacrosse Coaching Development Program (CDP) Certified Trainers who have served, coached or played on the international stage.

For the 2018 FIL Men’s Lacrosse World Championship games, James Johnson (JJ) was once again at the helm of the French National Team, and newcomer to our Training Team, Steven Luna, was playing attack for the Netherlands National Team.

We have quite a rich history of national team participation on our CDP Training Team, including:

- Feffie Barnhill (FIL President)
- Abby Burbank (Wales/Denmark)
- Lisa Christiansen (USA)
- Megan Douty (USA)
- Wendy Kridel (USA)
- Joanna Lignelli (FIL)
- Jane Pirie (FIL)
- John Pirie (Germany)
- Kristin Porcella (USA)
- Bonnie Rosen (USA)
- Carol Samuels (USA)
- Denise Wescott (Germany)
- Natalie Wills (USA)

GO WORLD!

US Lacrosse welcomes Michael Cather as the new Vice-President and Chief Relationship Officer, a new role that provides leadership to the membership and regional development program and the US Lacrosse Foundation. Membership growth and engagement is one of his top priorities, as is securing philanthropic support.

Stewarding members, similar to donor stewardship will be one of his first focus areas. “Members need to understand how their membership dues help facilitate the growth of the sport, make it safer and provide opportunities to those who are less fortunate.” His deep roots in the development arena will be an asset to US Lacrosse as a new Strategic Plan is launched in 2019.

Mike brings 25 years of experience in fundraising and constituent engagement from higher education and healthcare organizations. Prior to joining US Lacrosse, Mike served in leadership roles at the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Towson University, MedStar Health and the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation. He earned his undergraduate degree from Towson (State) University and his graduate degree from University of Maryland University College.

Mike lives in Anne Arundel County, with his wife, Melissa and his two sons AJ (13) and Matthew (10). In his free time, he enjoys cycling, going to the beach and watching his sons play lacrosse.
As former athletes, Kristin and Anthony Noto understand and value the role that sports play in children's lives, and choose to pay it forward by supporting US Lacrosse and its work to grow the game for all players in all geographic areas.

“We love that US Lacrosse is making a conscious decision to broaden the base of the sport and be more inclusive. Helping to plan and build new foundations for the sport has been truly rewarding on so many levels. It has been exciting to watch The Lacrosse Communities Project evolve, from conception. It is thrilling to watch Team USA and see that platform expand and provide a growth mindset for the younger athletes, so they can aspire to be part of the program,” said Kristin, the current secretary of the US Lacrosse Foundation board and a board member since 2013.

All five Noto children are lacrosse players: Marisa played at University of Pennsylvania (2016 Graduate); Gabriella is a sophomore attack player at Stanford University; Elison is a high school freshman playing for Tenacity Club in Northern California; twins Anthony and Avery, sixth graders, also play.

“They each came into the sport on their own; no one was following in anyone else’s footsteps. Each one of them has become passionate about the game, and although I never played, I have grown to love it,” said Kristin. “Our summers are filled with cross-country treks to tournaments and camps, but I wouldn’t have it any other way. I appreciate the one-on-one time all the travel provides and watching them doing something they love.”

A $10,000 grant from the Bicknell Fund has helped Lacrosse Communities Project-Cleveland volunteers reach the 80 percent mark in their campaign to raise $300,000 in overall support make the program self-sustaining.

Launched in September 2017 with the dedication of the Gallagher Family Field at Urban Community School, LCP-Cleveland is one of three pilot programs (the others are in Albany and Brooklyn, NY) intended to make the most racially, ethnically and economically diverse neighborhoods in cities across the country focal points for growing lacrosse. These communities become the place where “the rock hits the pond,” from which the sport ripples out as newly-trained players and families work with coaches and officials to share their love of the game across the surrounding metropolitan area.

“What’s great about the city of Cleveland is that there are a lot of philanthropic organizations that are actively trying to improve the lives of young people,” said David Cerny, past president of the North Coast Chapter of US Lacrosse. Founded in 1949 by Cleveland businessman and philanthropist Warren Bicknell, Jr. and his wife, Kate Hanna Bicknell, the Bicknell Fund has a strong focus on education and health and human services.

Cerny and fellow LCP-Cleveland volunteers Meghan Brennan and chapter president Drew Roggenburk built on strong relationships with Fund board members—most of whom are Kate and Warren’s children and grandchildren—explaining how the goals of the LCP aligned with the Fund’s priorities.

“It was a learning process, both for us and them,” Cerny said.
INDUCTION CELEBRATION

CLASS OF 2018

KEVIN CASSESE
LEIGH BUCK FRIEDMAN
A.J. HAUGEN
ALEX KAHOE
PHYLLIS KILGOUR
DAVE MORROW
RYAN POWELL
DENISE WESCOTT
TAMI WORLEY

Saturday, September 29

THE GRAND LODGE OF MARYLAND
304 INTERNATIONAL CIRCLE, HUNT VALLEY

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT USLACROSSE.ORG/HOF