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Donor Profile - Tri, Tri Again

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Tri, Tri Again

Winston Allen, former criminal investigator and ageless triathlete, runs one more lap for DePaul

Working in the criminal justice system, whether you're a police officer, attorney or victim advocate, requires fortitude and endurance. Winston Allen relates to those traits better than most.

Allen, who resides in St. Augustine, Fla., served as a special agent in the U.S. Air Force's Office of Special Investigations, the U.S. Army's Criminal Investigations Division and the U.S. Department of Defense's Defense Criminal Investigative Service in the 1950s and '60s. He investigated and audited firms in the petroleum industry for the Internal Revenue Service in the 1970s and '80s.

And from age 53 into his late 80s, Allen competed internationally in more than 200 triathlons, 13 of which were grueling Ironman competitions, racking up gold and silver medals along the way.

Now 94, Allen is looking back at one memorable milepost—his brief but impactful enrollment at DePaul University as a young man—and helping current students fuel up for a career in his past line of work.

Allen served the U.S. Air Force as a criminal investigator and Japanese linguist in Kyushu, Japan, in the 1960s.



Winston Allen won a gold medal at the ITU World Championship Series Grand Final in Beijing, China, in 2011.

"I'm extremely passionate about the critical need for highly qualified personnel in the challenging and fulfilling field of law enforcement," says Allen, who has established the Winston M. Allen Endowed Scholarship in Criminology at DePaul University in an effort to fill this need.

The scholarship Allen funded with a generous gift to DePaul benefits students pursuing a bachelor's degree in criminology at DePaul's College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences who exhibit academic merit and have financial need. The program teaches students about the criminal legal system and provides the analytical, research and organizational skills needed to improve the system for both victims and offenders.

Allen might have earned a degree at DePaul himself if fate hadn't intervened. In 1950, he transferred from Ohio State University, where he was a pre-law student, to DePaul, which had offered him a scholarship for its newly formed swim team.

"I was housed with DePaul basketball players when Ray Meyer was the coach," Allen recalls. "During the summer break of 1951, I was drafted into the military to serve during the Korean War, never to return to DePaul again. While my time at DePaul was brief, it was a rich and rewarding experience for which I am forever grateful. Now it's payback time."

Personal striving and stamina may have enabled Allen's accomplishments. But he is quick to credit the support of his late wife, Carolyn, their son and daughter, and others who helped him climb atop the podium. Now his payback involves giving DePaul students a clearer path toward college graduation and a career.

"By anyone's measure, my life has been one of success and achievement, but this did not happen alone," Allen says. "It was because of others offering opportunities, words of wisdom, encouragement and support." —*Craig Keller*

