



# TRIPLE THREATS

Keeping Stride with Carroll's International Student Athletes | By Jack Sherman '18

In basketball, perfecting the triple threat position is crucial: with knees bent and body poised, players can either shoot, pass or drive the ball down the court for that game winning layup. The trick is knowing which to do—and when to do it. **To Bastien Seiller, Carroll's first international basketball player, split-second decisions like these are second nature. Coming to Carroll wasn't.**

**"I had a big conversation with my father. I will always remember it for years," the six-foot-four, 17-year-old from Rennes, France, remarked. The exchange sparked an avid search for a school with the right amount of rigor both on the court and in the classroom.**

For someone who has competed since he was four, earned a spot on the Nationale Trois at 15—three years before most players are admitted—and has already amassed a sizable collection of trophies, finding a university that could keep stride was crucial. Carroll fit the bill.

He's not the only one, either. Carroll has been attracting more and more international students, many of them strong athletes in addition to scholars. Rie Sakurai, a Japanese student with a passion for the court that rivals Seiller's, has always taken the front seat in driving her education toward excellence. Carroll is lucky to have her. When she isn't dribbling, shooting or passing, Sakurai's plucking away at the violin, soloing on saxophone or practicing one of the five different languages she knows. While she's put basketball on hold in order to jumpstart a career in accounting, she hasn't grown any less ambitious.

"I want to compose music, learn electric guitar and also own a business someday," she said with a giggle. She contemplated for a moment, laughed, and added, "I also want to be a millionaire." Going by her track record, it's not an unreasonable ambition.

"She is a very purposeful young woman," echoed Beth Tinkham, Carroll's international student adviser, who meets with students like Sakurai regularly to help them adjust as they begin their journeys in higher education. She points to an ornate green tapestry hanging on her wall that was presented to her as a gift from Rie's family. Purposeful, yes—and friendly, too.

Then there's Amy Kyle. She doesn't just play—she manages. A softball-playing Irish native, Kyle

worked her way to the top of Carroll's team and is now responsible for everything from taking inventory to boosting morale. The catch? She'd never even played until she came to the states.

"Through joining other clubs on campus I started to make friends who played on the team," says Kyle. "As I learned more about the sport, one thing led to another and I was asked to be manager."

So how does Carroll find such multi-disciplinary all-stars? What does it take to attract worldly and talented individuals with something to prove and more than enough ambition to prove it?

It all starts in the office of Jeannie Burns Jaworski '14. As the director of international education, Jaworski oversees Carroll's efforts in representing 35 different countries—all from her cozy headquarters built into a street-side home in Waukesha's McCall Street Historic District. Under her guidance, the department hired a dedicated international recruiter and admissions counselor in order to improve communication and outreach to prospective international students. Has it worked?

Undeniably. "Carroll University has welcomed 90% more international students within the past two years," noted Jaworski. Additional efforts have been made to increase Carroll's global presence, welcoming new students from places as far as Indonesia, Nepal, Malaysia and more.

But a university can't just will interesting people to attend. It has to interest them, too. That's where Carroll's return to the prestigious College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) comes in. For aspiring student athletes, it's certainly appealing.

"We're expecting very difficult games," said Seiller with a grin. "But I think we're doing well. We can do better, of course. Every time we can do better, but we're doing really well."

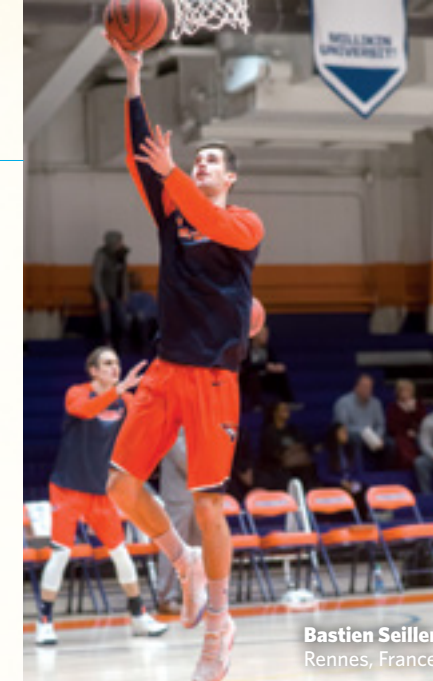
There's also Carroll's efforts to promote a more culturally diverse campus. In addition to 95 students from 35 countries speaking 23 different languages this semester—the largest incoming international class to date—Jaworski and the Office of International Education facilitate a variety of ways to help international and local students connect. Coffee hours, international dinners and an International Education Week all serve as great opportunities for Pioneers to get to know one another better.

**57**  
NUMBER OF INT'L STUDENTS JOINING CARROLL IN FALL 2016, OUR LARGEST CLASS EVER

**90%**  
OVER 90% OF INTENSIVE ENGLISH STUDENTS INTEND TO ENROLL IN A CARROLL UNDERGRAD PROGRAM

**95**  
TOTAL CURRENT INT'L STUDENTS ATTENDING CARROLL

**23**  
LANGUAGES SPOKEN ON CAMPUS



**Bastien Seiller**  
Rennes, France

"The people here are so kind," Sakurai remarked. "They smile so much that at first I thought I was doing something wrong."

Make no mistake: Sakurai isn't saying things are always easy. She made the difficult decision to sideline basketball for now because she wants to take the field in an entirely different way: she's currently pursuing a winter internship with the sports monolith Nike.

"I'm very excited, but it is hard. I am doing so much, I give up on things I love, like socializing

time. I see my friends on the weekends maybe once a month."

**"It's definitely challenging, changing the environment, going in a new country, a new culture..." Seiller agreed. "But that's also why you come here, I think. Because you want to discover other cultures and not be close minded about that." For a 17-year-old, he has a remarkably mature worldview.**

They all do, in fact. It's something these students share, and something most athletes will tell you: success doesn't come easy. It's hard, gritty—and it takes individuals with limitless ambition. Sakurai remembers a quote from her coach that has kept her motivated through it all: "In life there are opportunities you want to go out and take, but you're scared. Go out and take them anyway."

Sure, perhaps Sakurai, Seiller, Kyle and others like them are a little scared. If they are, they don't show it. Instead, they push past their fear to open doors on the court, in the classroom and across the globe. They apply the triple threat position to their daily lives: knees bent and bodies poised, working toward futures bright with all the promise and excitement characteristic of an education rooted in pioneering spirit.

## INTERNATIONAL PIONEERS

Students from 35 different countries called Carroll University home in fall 2016

Austria   2	Ghana   1	Northern Ireland   1
Bangladesh   2	Hong Kong   4	Saudi Arabia   7
Canada   2	India   5	South Korea   5
China   9	Indonesia   1	Spain   1
Costa Rica   1	Italy   1	Sri Lanka   2
Democratic Rep. of Congo   1	Japan   4	Thailand   1
Denmark   2	Kenya   2	Turkey   1
Ecuador   1	Kosovo   1	United Kingdom   2
Egypt   1	Mexico   3	Venezuela   1
Ethiopia   1	Myanmar   1	Vietnam   6
France   5	Nepal   11	Zimbabwe   1
Germany   5	Nigeria   1	