



Dr. Danielle Peers (Bachelor of Arts, University Transfer '98) is one of the best Canadian wheelchair basketball players ever (photo courtesy Bogetti-Smith & Wheelchair Basketball Canada)

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Former Griffin Dr. Danielle Peers receives the Order of Sport Award and is inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame

Edmonton - A former captain of the Griffins women's basketball team is a recipient of the Order of Sport Award and has been inducted into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame for their contribution to the sport of wheelchair basketball.

Dr. Danielle Peers (Bachelor of Arts, University Transfer '98) is an advocate, activist and academic who continues to educate, inspire and motivate countless students and community members.

Dr. Peers was the captain of the Grant MacEwan College women's basketball team in 1998 and was an Academic All-Canadian. They were also an assistant coach with the Griffins in 2000.

"As a rookie, I remember co-organizing and somehow pulling off a fundraiser 3-on-3 tournament with one of our veterans, Kristen 'Hutch' Hutchinson," says Dr. Peers. "That off-court collaboration and friendship built an on-court chemistry that was amazing. It also taught me a lot of skills I would use to help start

sport organizations later in my career. We tend to play and train for the on-court time, but looking back, it's the off-court time that really forms you."

Dr. Peers began playing wheelchair basketball before being diagnosed with muscular dystrophy. They then played for Team Canada and won numerous team medals and individual awards at the national and international level from 2003 to 2009.

After retiring from playing, Dr. Peers earned a PhD in physical education and recreation and is currently an associate professor in the Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport and Recreation at the University of Alberta. Dr. Peers is an advocate for parasports and is a national ambassador for Muscular Dystrophy Canada. They received a Distinguished Alumni Award from MacEwan in 2008. Peers also leads a number of arts collectives in Edmonton as an award-winning 2SLGBTQIA+ artist.

"*Grand as a Griffin* is the perfect way to describe all of Danielle's accomplishments," says Dr. Annette Trimbee, president and vice-chancellor, MacEwan University. "We constantly encourage our students to get involved in their community after graduation. Danielle is a shining example of working to create positive change and educating the next generation. I am thrilled to see they are being recognized with the Order of Sport Award and induction into Canada's Sports Hall of Fame."

Dr. Peers' time at MacEwan has left a lasting impression on the athletics program at the university.

"I have been fortunate to see Danielle speak at various symposiums over the years," says Joel Mrak, director of athletics. "They are an exceptional person and it is amazing to see the great things that they have achieved. This is a fantastic accomplishment for Danielle and well-deserved. On behalf of Griffins Athletics, we would like to extend a sincere congratulations to Danielle on this recognition!"

For more information, please contact archerj24@macewan.ca

Founded in 1971, MacEwan University inspires its students with a powerful combination of academic excellence and personal learning experiences. Offering more than 90 programs including undergraduate degrees, applied degrees, diplomas, certificates, continuing education and corporate training, the university provides a transformative education in a creative, collaborative and supportive learning environment where creativity and innovation thrive. Located in Edmonton, Alberta Canada, MacEwan University offers a unique student experience that opens up diverse pathways for achievement and growth.