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SIMONE MANUEL
 Olympic Swimmer

TOP 3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ At the 2016 Rio Olympics and at 20 years old, Simone made history by becoming the First Black Woman to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Swimming. Simone accomplished this historic achievement in the 100 M Freestyle (with a New Olympic Record Time of 52.70). Manuel left Rio with a total of 4 medals – 2 gold, 2 silver.
- ✓ At the 2019 FINA World Championships Simone won seven medals marking the record for most medals won at a single world championship by a female.
- ✓ In collegiate swimming, Simone is a six-time individual NCAA champion – winning the 50 and 100 yd freestyle.

FUN FACTS

Simone is a graduate of Stanford University where she competed on the team, forgoing going pro until her Senior year. She was competing at the Olympic level while pursuing her degree in Communications.

IMPACT

Simone almost quit swimming at a young age because of lack of representation and diversity in the (predominately White) sport. She continues to be a role model and advocate for diversity in Swimming – speaking out towards Minority families on water safety especially those with young children. “Sixty-four percent of African American children, 45 percent of Hispanic and Latino children, and 40 percent of Caucasian children have little to no swimming ability,” she yelled off the top of her head. “It’s the second-leading cause of death for children under the age of 13.” On top of training, she spends time working with foundations that teach lessons and water safety to underserved communities as well as creating a space of inclusion in the sport at large.

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TA-NAHISI COATES
 Author & Journalist

TOP 3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Coates gained a wide readership during his time as national correspondent at The Atlantic, where he wrote about cultural, social, and political issues, particularly regarding African Americans and white supremacy.
- ✓ In 2018 he received a “Genius Grant” from the MacArthur Foundation. He is also the recipient of the Hillman Prize, the National Magazine Award, and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, among other accolades.
- ✓ Between the World and Me won the 2015 National Book Award for Nonfiction.

FUN FACT

Ta-Nahisi has also written a Black Panther series and a Captain America series for Marvel Comics.

IMPACT

Ta-Nahisi Coates is one of the most celebrated journalists writing about race today. Politico named him to its list of 50 thinkers changing American politics and he has received numerous accolades. His timely, provocative and well-researched writings about race and this nation’s shameful history of inequality have been essential reading. Ta-Nahisi navigates the complexities and burdens of race in through soulful writing that makes the work a classic, prompting Tom Morrison to herald Coates as America’s new James Baldwin and the MacArthur Foundation to announce his genius. He continues to advocate for equality and remains one of America’s most compelling and thoughtful voices.

LEARN MORE

- ✓ Watch the HBO Docuseries based on Ta-Nahisi’s novel Between the World & Me
- ✓ Read his renowned essay for The Atlantic: The Case for Reparations

BOOKS

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KIMBERLY BRYANT
 Electrical Engineer & Entrepreneur

TOP 3 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ Kimberly Bryant is the Founder and CEO of Black Girls CODE (2011), a non-profit organization dedicated to “changing the face of technology” by introducing girls of color (ages 7-17) to the field of technology and computer science with a concentration on entrepreneurial concepts.
- ✓ The idea of Black Girls CODE was created due to her daughter’s interest in math and science. There was a lack of access to opportunities in the tech space for young girls of color.
- ✓ Kimberly has been nationally recognized as a thought leader for her work to increase opportunities for women and girls in the technology industry and has received numerous awards for her work with Black Girls CODE.

FUN FACTS/LEARN MORE

- ✓ She is a Capricorn.
- ✓ She attended Vanderbilt University, where she studied electrical engineering.



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