



**2008 Paralympic Games – Story Angles**  
**Beijing, China**  
**Sept. 6-17, 2008**

**FAST FACTS**

**Number of athletes:** 213

**Female athletes:** 89

**Male athletes:** 124

**Delegation size:** 375

**Asian American athletes**

Danielle Fong (New York City, N.Y./shooting) – Chinese descent

SuGui Kriss (Edmond, Okla./women’s sitting volleyball) –Chinese descent

Steven Toyoji (Redmond, Wash./track & field) - Japanese descent

Will Groulx (Portland, Ore./wheelchair rugby) – Korean descent

**Adoptees**

SuGui Kriss (women’s sitting volleyball) was adopted from China at age 8. In 2007, she returned to China to spend seven weeks volunteering at the orphanage where she earlier lived. She is in China again, only this time to compete in the 2008 Paralympic Games.

**Jessica Long** (Baltimore, Md./swimming)

Long was born in Siberia and was adopted from a Russian orphanage at the age of 13 months. Because of lower leg anomalies (fibular hemimelia), her legs were amputated when she was 18 months old. She learned to walk with prostheses and has been unstoppable ever since.

At the 2004 Paralympic Games, Jessica Long won three gold medals as a 12-year-old - the youngest athlete on the U.S. Paralympic Team. In 2008, it's safe to say the level of expectation will be much higher for her in Beijing.

Long had 18 world record-breaking performances in 2006, and is the current world record holder in 15 events (one as part of a relay). Her stellar performance at the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships - nine gold medals in nine events (seven individual, two relay) and five world records - drew attention from outside the world of Paralympic sport. In 2007, Long became the first Paralympic athlete selected as the

Amateur Athletic Union's Sullivan Award winner, given to the best amateur athlete in the United States.

**Elizabeth Stone** (Grand Rapids, Mich./swimming)

The 2008 Paralympic Games will mark Stone's second appearance in the Games. After earning bronze in the 100m backstroke at the 2006 IPC Swimming World Championships, she'll also be targeting her first Paralympic Games medal in Beijing. Stone was adopted from Georgia, a former Republic of the Soviet Union.

**Tatyana McFadden** (Clarksville, Md./track & field)

McFadden was adopted from an orphanage in St. Petersburg, Russia, and has been engaged on adoption issues for the past few years. She has spoken before the United States Senate Subcommittee on Adoption and was part of a film for the National Angels in Adoption Awards.

In 2004, McFadden emerged on the scene by winning two medals (silver – 100m; bronze – 200m) at the 2004 Paralympic Games in Athens. Now a household name on the international wheelchair racing circuit, McFadden will look to earn even more hardware at the 2008 Paralympic Games.

**Military veterans** (16)

Will Groulx (Portland, Ore./wheelchair rugby) – Navy, retired

Lee Hinson (Brunswick, Georgia/wheelchair tennis) – Navy, retired

Chuck Lear (Lee's Summit, Mo./archery) – Marine Corps, retired

Carlos Leon (N. Lauderdale, Fla./track & field) – Marine Corps, retired

Angela Madsen (Long Beach, Calif./rowing) – Marine Corps, retired

Kari Miller (Edmond, Okla./women's sitting volleyball) – Army, retired

TJ Pemberton (Edmond, Okla./archery) – Marine Corps, retired

Oscar Sanchez (San Diego, Calif./cycling) – Marine Corps, retired

Jennifer Schuble (Homewood, Ala./cycling) – Army, retired

Laura Schwanger (Elkins Park, Pa./rowing) – Army, retired

Scot Severn (Caro, Mich./track & field) – Army, retired

Melissa Stockwell (Colorado Springs, Colo./swimming) – Army, retired

Kevin Stone (Kodak, Tenn./archery) – Army, retired

Casey Tibbs (San Diego, Calif./track & field) – Navy, active duty

Scott Winkler (Grovetown, Ga./track & field) – Army, retired

Russell Wolfe (Williamsburg, Va./archery) – Army, retired

**Note:** *Leon, Stockwell and Winkler all served a tour of duty in Iraq. Both Stockwell and Winkler were injured while serving in Iraq.*

### **In the Family**

Danielle Fong (New York City, NY/shooting) will be competing in her first Paralympic Games. Fong's sister, Sandra, competed just weeks ago at the 2008 Olympic Games. Shooting runs in the family, as it was Dad who introduced both Danielle and Sandra to the sport.

### **Dual sport athletes**

Both a Paralympic cyclist and skier, Beijing will mark Allison Jones' (Denver, Colo.) fourth Paralympic Games (2002, 2004, 2006). Jones won gold in the slalom at the 2006 Paralympic Winter Games.

Two-sport Paralympian Brent Poppen (Paso Robles, Calif.) first competed in the Paralympic Games in 2004, where he won bronze with the U.S. Paralympic Wheelchair Rugby Team. In Beijing, Poppen intends to score some more hardware, only this time in wheelchair tennis.

Paul Moran (Chicago, Ill.) retired from the U.S. Paralympics Men's Sitting Volleyball Team in 2005, one year after its best finish – sixth place in Athens. He decided to turn his focus to wheelchair tennis. Having already won two singles titles in 2002, he made it to the finals of seven tournaments in 2007 and 2008. Moran looks forward to playing his best tennis ever in Beijing in September.

### **A Mother's Story**

Paralympic sailor Maureen McKinnon-Tucker (Marblehead, Mass.) will be the first woman to represent the U.S. in sailing at the Paralympic Games. Also noteworthy, McKinnon-Tucker is the mother of two children, Dana, 8, and Daniel, 2. Daniel was diagnosed in January of 2008 with a brain tumor. After months of aggressive chemotherapy and radiation treatment, Daniel is now cancer-free, but still undergoing heavy radiation treatment. For mom, it was a tough decision to leave him for Beijing, but McKinnon-Tucker knows he's in good hands with Dad. She hopes to bring a shiny, gold medal back to Daniel.

### **Iron Will**

Paralympian Laura Schwanger thought her competitive career was over. In 1996, the 38-year-old Schwanger had retired with an impressive resume that included three Paralympic Games and 11 track & field medals. But it wasn't until after a routine mammogram 10 years later that she faced her most daunting opponent yet – breast cancer.

After grueling rounds of chemotherapy and radiation in 2006, Schwanger was left feeling weaker and more fatigued than ever before in her life. Her inner-athlete yearned to get back into form.

"I knew I had to do something to get my strength and endurance back," Schwanger said. "I saw documentation on how good rowing and paddling is for breast cancer survivors. It was the ideal thing to use my upper body and regain my strength and range of motion.

“Also, I wanted to be part of those breast cancer survivors who are out there rowing.”  
Nearly 50, Schwanger trains like she’s 20.

“I would not be doing this if I had not had breast cancer,” Schwanger said. “To be able to say I’ve survived cancer, anything that I do is a success. And if I can beat cancer, I can beat any of those other young women in the competition.”

### **Stay at Home Dad**

Wheelchair basketball player Jeff Glasbrenner (Little Rock, Ark.) knows all about fatherhood. In addition to training full time for basketball and triathlons, his newest athletic endeavor, Glasbrenner is a stay-at-home dad to his two young children, daughter Grace, 2, and 10-month-old son Gavin.

Grace was born seven weeks premature. “I wasn’t on the team for the 2006 World Championships because of the trouble with her health wise. I know I made the right choice to stay home with Grace – you have to have your priorities,” said Glasbrenner, who also attends speech therapy with his daughter.

It is not easy for Glasbrenner to balance family matters with gold medal dreams. “I really learned how to be organized when I became a dad. Before the kids, I wasn’t the most organized with everything but I have to be now,” he said.

### **Repeat Gamers - Competed in the Most Games**

#### ***Five-time Paralympians***

Jennifer Armbruster (Birmingham, Ala./Colorado Springs, Colo.) – women’s goalball (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

Aimee Bruder (Birmingham, Ala.) – swimming (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

Barbara Buchan (Bend, Ore) – cycling (1988, 1992, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

Aaron Paulson (Portland, Ore.) – swimming (1992, 1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

#### ***Four-time Paralympians***

Scott Danberg (Cooper City, Fla.) – track & field (1988, 1992, 2004 & 2008)

Andrea DeMello (New York, N.Y.) – fencing (1996, 2000, 2004 – competed for Brazil, and 2008)

Tony Iniguez (Aurora, Ill.) – track & field (1992, 1996, 2000 & 2008)

Allison Jones (Colorado Springs, Colo.) - cycling (2002, 2004, 2006 & 2008)

Tahl Leibovitz (Ozone Park, N.Y.) – table tennis (1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

Hope Lewellen (Palos Park, Ill.) – women’s sitting volleyball (1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

Laura Schwanger (Harrisburg, Pa.) – rowing (1988, 1992, 1996 & 2008)

Andre Scott (Fort Worth, Texas) – table tennis (1992, 1996, 2000 & 2004)

Stephen Welch (Bedford, Texas) – wheelchair tennis (1996, 2000, 2004 & 2008)

**Youngest**

At the age of 14, wheelchair racer Chelsea McClammer (Benton City, Wash.) is the youngest member of the 2008 U.S. Paralympic Team. McClammer is entering her freshman year at Kiona-Benton High School in Benton City, Washington. She plans to compete on the school's cross country and track teams, as well as continue to compete in track, road racing and basketball.

**Oldest**

Archer Chuck Lear (Lee's Summit, Mo.) is 62-years-young. Lear competed with the U.S. Paralympic Archery Team in 2004 in Athens and is a veteran of the U.S. Marine Corps.

**New Colors**

Fencer Andrea DeMello (New York, N.Y.) will wear red, white and blue for first time at a Paralympic Games. While Beijing is her fourth Paralympic Games, this time is the first time DeMello will compete for the U.S. DeMello previously competed for Brazil (1996, 2000 and 2004).

**New sport: Rowing**

Rowing is making its Paralympic debut in Beijing. The sport was selected for Paralympic inclusion in 2005, just three years after adaptive rowing made its debut on the world championship level in 2002.

Paralympic rowing competition is open to male and female athletes with a variety of physical disabilities.

The 2008 U.S. Paralympic Rowing Team is comprised of the following nine athletes:

Scott Brown (Collingdale, Pa.)

Simona Chin (Houston, Texas)

James Dean (Pickerington, Ohio)

Ronald Harvey (Long Beach, Calif.)

Jesse Karmazin (Palm Beach Gardens, Fla.)

Angela Madsen (Long Beach, Calif.)

Emma Preuschl (Indianapolis, Ind.)

Laura Schwanger (Harrisburg, Pa.)

Tracy Tackett (Phoenixville, Pa.)