

Ready to Dive In

# Curran Squire

By Cynthia Robinson

Photography by Mike Force Photography

St. Simons native Curran Squire has a quick answer when asked what career she wants to pursue. "I always tell people I want to be a dolphin trainer because I have no ideal!" Curran says with a laugh.

However, the Frederica Academy senior and honor student isn't worried. She knows she has plenty of time to pick her ultimate path. She is currently taking multiple AP (advanced placement) classes while concentrating on "not getting senioritis" as she prepares for college.

"I've already been accepted to Auburn, but I'm hoping to get into UGA (University of Georgia)." A large diverse school appeals to Curran after spending her years of formal education in small schools. "I started out in Montessori and have been at Frederica since third grade. My class has only 47 students, and we're the largest graduating class the school has ever had. I think it will be good for me to go to a big school and break out of my comfort zone."

She also loves the UGA campus and has been spending many weekends there with her older sister, Hayden, a biology/psychology major. "I think it would be fun to spend a year at the same college as Hayden. Who knows, maybe later, Garrett (her younger freshman brother at Frederica) and I can spend a year attending the same school, too."

Whatever career Curran ultimately pursues, she said she wouldn't be surprised if it involved working with children. "I love working with kids," said Curran, a frequent babysitter.

That enthusiasm for working with children grew from her years attending as a camper, and then working as a counselor, at YMCA High Harbour Camp at Lake Burton in northeast Georgia. "My passion in life is camp. I've been going since I was 7." For the past two years, she's been a counselor. This past summer, she combined her love of boating with working with her young charges. "I was the boat driver at camp and taught wake boarding. I took boat safety training before camp started; it was a really great lesson for me," said Curran, who's also participated in several Girl Scout retreats.

"I feel like everyone is their best selves at camp. You don't have the distractions of cell phones and social media while there, you can be 100 percent yourself. There is no drama and no outside distractions."

Her positive camp experience, combined with her family's emphasize on helping those less fortunate, led her to volunteer for several mission trips with the Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA). "My favorite trips were to a Haitian refugee camp in the Spanish Bahamas, spending time working and playing sports with kids." She also formed a special bond with a 6-year-old girl, Cava, who remembered Curran when she returned the following year.

Curran and a friend recently spent four days in hurricane-ravaged Puerto Rico. "My friends' dad works with hurricane disaster services. Some places looked like no progress had been made, and there are power lines down everywhere. We saw some newer built houses that were fine, while other houses were destroyed. We were shown a video of a power truck driving up to a 25-story building as the people were out on their balconies screaming and cheering. The man showing us the video was sobbing. There are so many people there who still don't have power. We are so fortunate here."

According to her mom, Catherine, a fourth-grade teacher at Frederica, the Squire family hopes to volunteer together during the upcoming spring break on a volunteer trip to Frederica's sister school in Haiti—Jubilee School (Académie la Saline). This is the first time students and parents can go together. Curran's dad, Steve, is an anesthesiologist. "They want him there because they have a medical clinic associated with the school," Catherine said. "We want our kids to know how fortunate they are. Of those who are given much, much is expected."

Curran has taken her family's commitment to helping others to heart, spending hours performing community service, most recently as a face painter at an arts event for special needs students at Brunswick's Selden Park. She also helped organize an annual back-to-school clothing drive.

Additionally, she is in a leadership position with the local civic club, Pirates of the Spanish Main. "I organize fundraising events." Curran will lead the Pirates' team for next spring's American Cancer Society Relay for Life. "It's a lot of work, but I am learning so much."

While she said juggling so much as she prepares for college is stressful, Curran enjoys her downtime. "My friends and I like to spend time at the marina watching sunsets and playing music. And I love the beach," adding she likes to paddle board and wake board with her family.

Curran is also looking forward to her final year playing soccer at Frederica. "I love playing soccer and spending time with my teammates." Curran also ran track, cross country, and played basketball and volleyball before deciding to concentrate solely on soccer. "I'm also



hoping to be the team captain again like I was last year. We work really well together."

As her high school career winds down, she is keeping fingers crossed she gets to attend UGA. But whatever the future holds, Curran is nervous but ready. "I'm ready to get out of the small pond and jump into the big ocean."

## Up Close:

**In Focus:** "I started a photography club with a couple of my friends called Lost. We highlight the hidden beauty of St. Simons and the Golden Isles—places and things tourists and residents might miss. I love taking photos and am a big fan of sunsets."

**Current Favorite Class:** AP calculus. "We are working on derivatives. I'm surprised I enjoy it so much. I think a lot of it has to do with my teacher, Mrs. (Julie) Boatright."

**Awards/Recognitions:** Member of the National Honor Society. Winner of the Head of School (at least 90 percent GPA), Pre-Calculus and Spanish awards.

**Artistic Endeavors:** Enjoys painting and plays piano and guitar.

**Crush:** "I love Justin Bieber!" She's seen him three times in concert. "I'm very persistent with the parents with lots of tears and begging." She got close enough to touch Justin at his recent Jacksonville concert. "I was so excited...I broke my phone!"