Your dad, Dr. Carlos Swanger, and your older brother, Alex, both played soccer here. What’s it like to have a family tradition like that?
It is very special playing for the school that my dad once played for, and it has been an incredible experience getting to play with Alex for so many years. Part of me always knew that I would be going to school and playing soccer at UR.

Coach Apple said your grandfather and your dad are your inspiration for soccer. How did that come about?
My grandfather introduced my father to soccer when he was just a kid. My grandfather educated himself on the game, and it became a sport that they both loved. Soccer was a game that they enjoyed together, and they passed that enjoyment on to me and all of my brothers. You might say that it is still a young family legacy, and the “journey” to continue it has been a very meaningful one.

You played at Penfield High School before coming to the University. There’s a terrific UR connection there. Women’s coach Libbie Tobin, was an All-American here. One of the men’s coaches was John Butterworth. Both of them are in the UR Athletic Hall of Fame. Was Coach Butterworth your high school coach?
Yes, for my freshman, sophomore, and junior year.

Did he or coach Tobin provide any input on UR for you? Or did you have all you needed from your dad and your brother?
I was aware that they both played for UR, but I would say that I had all I needed from my brother and my dad.

You played in the USSF Development League with Empire United. Can you talk about what that was like?
It was a tremendous opportunity to play with and against some of the best soccer players in the country. It was a unique experience because we travelled all across the country to play games. Academy was tough at times because it was a massive commitment for four years, but I always tell people I would go back to it in a heartbeat.

Three of your seven career goals have come in the NCAAs. What kind of a thrill is it to score in the playoffs?
Those are definitely the most exciting goals to score. Every goal that we score as a team in the NCAAs is incredibly exciting and important, and brings us one step closer to advancing to the next round.

Do you remember any of those goals specifically?
The goal I scored against Salisbury is the one that I remember very specifically for two reasons. One being that the assist came from my brother (and quite honestly he did all of the hard work and the goal itself was just a tap in for me). And the second reason being that the entire team ran to the fence to celebrate with a group of alumni who had come out to support us.

You spent the summer as an intern at a hedge fund in New York City. What kind of work did you do?
The internship was in mid-town Manhattan, and I did research and analytic work to assist the short and long analysts in the office.

Did your work there give you any ideas of what you may want to do after graduation?
I became very interested in short selling and forensic accounting while I was working in NYC. After graduation I would like to pursue these interests.

Ben Swanger

What have your favorite courses been here, especially tied to your Financial Economics major?
I have really enjoyed the accounting course that I have taken, and I am considering accounting as a career path in the future.

Have you taken any courses outside of your major that you’ve really, really enjoyed?
Yes, I have taken several architecture courses through the Art History Department, and have actually obtained a minor in this field.

You serve as a volunteer coach for boys aged under 11. What’s it like to work with youngsters?
It’s has been a rewarding experience giving back to the next generation of players in the club that has given me so much. Working with Jack Burgasser (the head coach of our U-11 team) has been a fun experience and I have learned a lot about the game and coaching from him.

Does the coaching work make you think you might want to coach one day?
I definitely think that I want to get my state and lower level national licensure at some point, but I think I would only stick to the youth level in the future.

Your mom also played soccer, is that correct? How has she encourage and inspired you to become the player you are today?
Yes, she played in high school and is still playing recreationally today. Most importantly, my athleticism comes completely from my mom. Without her, I would be slow like my dad. She has been incredibly supportive my entire life. I have her to thank for bringing me back and forth from practices and games for 18 years. She is the best soccer mom out there.