

HUSKY CREW NEWSLETTER

A Washington Rowing Stewards Publication

July 2009



Sweep!!!

"What a great day to be a Husky!"

Vic Fomo shouted it first but more about him later.

By now you've read all the articles and reports about our team's historic victories at the IRA and you know that our men brought home four golds and a silver. But there is even more to the story.

For the first time in its 107 year history, the race was run on the West coast, and a large contingent of Husky parents and alumni made it to Lake Natoma to watch what happens when great athletes and great coaches finish out what they began one year ago.

In the first race of the day, the open four waltzed to the finish line. They were followed by the varsity four which rowed a magnificent, come-from-behind race on Thursday that had everyone on shore buzzing. But in Saturday's finals, Cal was able to hold the lead and our Dawgs won silver.

The freshmen followed and dominated their race, winning by open water and announcing to the rowing world that they have every intention of holding up the winning Husky tradition. The second varsity exploded from the starting line and held the lead through the full 2000 meters. Gold.

And then came the big Dawgs. The varsity took to the water with lots of comments from fans on shore about California and maybe Stanford being superior crews. Showing great maturity, our men rowed their race like the Huskies they are. It was a magnificent display of physical control, mental focus and rowing skill. Trusting their race plan and keeping their heads, they repeated their pattern from the day before by understroking the competition and walking through them in the last 500 meters. The last fifteen strokes showed such courage and determination, they turned the contest into a race for the ages, magnificent in its details and a throwback to the powerful, controlled, low-stroking Huskies of decades ago.

There was plenty of lung power on shore to help the boats along. A big contingent from the late 60s and early 70s showed up. **Dwight Phillips, Terril Efird, Mike Benner, Dave Covey, Bill Pitlick, Howie Wallace, Brian Miller** (who brought along his brother **Dick**), **Mike Buse, Dee Walker, Bruce Schwager, Bill Walker, Al MacKenzie, Fred Schoch** (who announced the races and then joined in our "Husky Celebration" in our tent area), and **Chris Allsop** (assistant coach to **Rick Clothier** at Navy) were all there. Several recent grads showed up, too. We talked to **Tyler Smith** and **Scott Gault** who brought along his Olympic teammate, **Wes Piermarini**.

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The **Simenstads** drove over – **Liz** from the Bay Area and her mom, **Marina**, from Napa (great cookies!). US National Team coach, **Tim McLaren**, showed up to congratulate the men and **The Chief** and **Olga** were there, of course, doing the same. **Mary Whipple** who knows a thing or two about the Olympics was there. **Paul Callahan** provided insight and humor and wonderful stories about a younger **Michael Callahan**. **O.D. Vincent**, who joined the athletic department recently and oversees the rowing program along with a number of other duties, joined us for his first IRA. And there was that great group from the early 90s that included **Ray Kimbrough '92**, **Derek Popp '91**, **Bill DeJarlais '92**, **Ryan Allison '95**, **John Kueber '93**, **Kyle Enger '92**, **Jason Scott '93**, and **Trevor Vernon '92**. Rowing legend, super Husky, and friend to all, **Mike Hess**, was there with his daughter, **Jo**, who was forgiven for rooting for the Yale lightweight men.

A large contingent of parents put together an amazing spread of food and snacks for the final day, and it was a very special joy on their faces as their sons and daughters were so well rewarded for their cold, early morning workouts and the constant struggle to balance school with the demands of the sport. We'd love to name all of them but fear we would leave some out. Nonetheless, they have been behind their sons and daughters from the beginning of this hugely demanding passion that is rowing, and without them and their participation Washington wouldn't stand a chance.

Maybe our two favorite sights – after the racing, of course – were these: **Bob Ernst** sitting calmly on a picnic table down by the boats, greeting his rowing friends, encouraging and then congratulating the athletes and, like a very, very proud parent, watching the results of the plans he set in motion a few years back; **Michael Callahan**, every bit as ecstatic as his athletes, as joyous as we have ever seen him in fact, and for one brief moment free from the competitive tension that lives in him.

And **Vic Fomo**? He was our personal favorite alumnus. He and his wife came over from Sun City for the Pac-10s, traveled a bit and then returned for the IRA. They were there every day doing a great job at passing for 65 year olds. Vic, however, is 89 and was a Husky cox in 1942. After the final race, he motored his wheel chair down to the **Chuck Holtz** and, with a grin as wide as Lake Washington, shouted: "What a great day to be a Husky!" You're the man, Vic.

The Holtz had a string of 17 straight intercollegiate victories before suffering its first loss. We remember Michael Callahan remarking at the time that he intended to get the shell back in the groove. It is. And the **Jon Runstad** donated Holtz also reminds us that victories like the ones the Huskies achieved on Lake Natoma are earned by many more people than just the teams and their coaches. Thank you, every one of you, for the part you have played in making this happen.



The Perfect Storm

Eighteen months ago we knew we were on the right financial path. With world-class athletes, coaches and supporters, we had raised our endowments to \$6.5 million and looked forward to closing in on \$11 million over the next few years. We had the strong and committed support of the Athletic Department, and we could count on over \$150,000 each year from our Annual Appeal. Then the storm hit.

We didn't see it coming. No one saw it coming. The decline in our endowment assets caused by the market crash a few months ago combined with significant tuition increases has changed our reality. Call it a perfect storm that left major damage to our financial structure. Fortunately, our hundred-plus years of experience at survival lends perspective; years from now, this financial upheaval will be just one more chapter in our winning tradition.

Here is the good news. We still have world-class athletes and coaches. We have the finest rowing program – top to bottom – in college sports today. We have the committed support of the Athletic Department which *has not* cut our budget as it has had to do with nearly all other programs, cuts which included significant layoffs within its own ranks and the loss of the University's swimming program. And we have you, our alumni, fans and friends, who contributed nearly \$160,000 in a year that was challenging for nearly all of us. And as you all know, our guys capped the year by sweeping Lake Natoma in the 107th running of the Intercollegiate Rowing Association's national championship races.

Here is the bad news. Our endowments took a massive hit. Although endowments are accounted for and reported by account, the assets are pooled and managed by the UW Foundation under guidelines set by the Board of Regents. For some time now, their guidelines called for annual distributions from the endowment fund earnings to the various schools, departments and programs of approximately five percent per year. That number was based on projections that would accomplish three goals: balance the performance of good and bad investment years over the long term, set aside excess earnings in strong years in order to increase capital in the accounts, and provide a level payout annually on which the beneficiaries could depend year after year. The guidelines worked well for a number of years.

When the storm hit, the Foundation, like most investment management operations, lost enormous amounts of capital over a very brief period. Our total endowment investments, for example, went from \$6.5 million to \$4.1 million. After due consideration, the Regents decided to drop the annual payout to an amount slightly more than two and one half percent.

You can do the math. Five percent of six and a half million dollars is a great deal more than two and one half percent of four million dollars. And because these funds are dedicated to student-athlete scholarships, you need to add the cost of the tuition increases to the deficit. The precipitous drop has put our program in danger. Stated as simply as possible, here is the point: We have commitments to our student-athletes and we must honor them; we must cover the shortfall and we will do so.

Over the summer, some of us will be making calls to a number of you to help the program get through this extraordinary challenge. Don't wait for the call. We are looking for three year pledges to carry us through 2013, the year the Regents will revisit the payout percentage. These pledges will be for an amount in addition to what you send the program each year during the Annual Appeal. If you want to discuss a three year pledge or if you want to help us find those pledges, call **Mike Hess** on 206 571-5613, **John Wilcox** on 206 443-3344, **Michael Callahan** on 206 543-5249, or **Bob Ernst** on 206 543-2136.



UW Men's Varsity 8+ acknowledging the Husky fans at the IRA Championships

Golf Tournament

August 15. Mark that day. A bigger and better Third Annual Dave McLean Memorial Golf Tournament is coming your way at Washington National Golf Course. Sign up today on www.davemcleangolf.com.

Bob Ernst, Michael Callahan and their staff will be there, athletes who are in Seattle in August will be there, the Husky cheerleaders will be there, and you should be too. Under the leadership of Dave's son **Pete McLean** and his entire family, and with the help and support of his friends and corporate sponsors - **CBUK, Cardiac Science Corporation, and Brotherton Cadillac, Buick, Pontiac, GMC** - this latest tournament edition promises to be better than ever. Set up like a normal charity tournament, any level of skill can play and have fun so whether you come out yourself or put together a foursome or twosome, do it soon before the field sells out.

Husky History in 2009

You already know about this year's amazing season. But, did you know...

The class of 2009 has won 27 IRA Championships during their time as Husky oarsmen. Don't worry, though - even though this highly successful class is graduating, the team is still in good hands. The freshmen class has won three of the last four Class Day races, and this year's freshman class went undefeated for the entire season (Class Day included) - when is the last time you can remember that happening?

Not only did the freshman boat win, they won BIG. Their average margin of victory was 15.5 seconds!

The Varsity men won the Championship 8+ division at the Head of the Charles. This is the first time a west coast collegiate crew has won this race in at least a decade. They will look to defend their title at the 2009 Head of the Charles on October 18th.

The varsity eight also traveled to England to race Oxford in a pre-boat race fixture. This is the first time the Huskies have competed in such a race. Husky alum Ante Kusurin stroked the Oxford eight, which went

Brotherton is sponsoring contests on several holes - hit the right shot and drive home in a new car. Each golfer will receive a **CBUK** goodie bag whose merchandise value will be greater than the cost of the tournament. And when you sign up, check out hole sponsorship. You or your company can sponsor a hole for only \$250. The tournament is priced competitively - less than the Husky Coaches Tour tournaments and substantially less than most area charity golf tournaments. And every dollar above actual expenses will be donated to the rowing program.

Golf will be followed by dinner, a silent auction, and a brief live auction led by a celebrity auctioneer. If you can't play golf or don't want to embarrass yourself on the course, join us for dinner at a greatly reduced price. We are focusing the evening event this year to keep things tasty, fun, speedy and attractive. It's going to be too much fun to miss. So put together a group or let us do it for you, but sign up today on www.davemcleangolf.com.

on to win The Boat Race less than a month after the fixture against the Huskies.

Washington swept California at the annual Cal Dual on the Montlake Cut.

The UW Rowing team finished off the year in historic fashion, winning the Varsity 8+, Second Varsity 8+, Freshman 8+, and Open 4+ at the IRA Championships. The Huskies swept the team points, winning the Ten Eyck trophy for the third consecutive year. Washington swept the eights at the IRA Championships for the sixth time in program history. Looking forward to another historic year for Washington Rowing in 2010!!



The Varsity 8+ passing Cal in the sprint

Awards Season

We take great pride in announcing awards received by our athletes and coaches but this year we want to start off with a made-up award that ought to exist. If it did, it would have been won and retired this year by a very special Husky mom, **Jody Browing**, who organized an amazing reception tent at the Pac-10s. Thanks from all of us, Jody.

In May we learned that **Adrienne Martelli** and **Kayleigh Mack** were named to the CRCA All-West Rowing team. In that same month **Isabelle Woodward** was named to the College Sports Information Directors Association Academic All-District Third Team. Isabelle has maintained a 3.75 grade point average in International Business.

Jesse Johnson, Blaise Didier, Hans Struzyna, Adrienne Martelli, Jenny Park, and Ariana Tanimoto were selected to the US U-23 camp. They will spend their summer on the East Coast with the team, and participate in international racing. Nine Huskies made the Canadian U23 team. **Stephen Connolly** will row in the 8+, Huskies **Will Crothers, Anthony Jacob, Max Lang, and Conlin McCabe** will make up the 4-, **Rosie DeBoef, Kim Kennedy, and Kira O'Sullivan** will row in the women's 8+, and **Erika Shaw** will row in the 2-. **Nenad Bulicic** is competing for the Serbian U23 team, and **Tom Lehmann** and **Mathis Jessen** will be a part of the German U23 squad.

It was no surprise to hear that Husky standouts **Will Crothers** and team captain, **Rob Gibson**, were named to the Pac-10 Men's All-Conference Team. It is a second career All-Conference selection for both of them.

Adrienne Martelli won a spot on the Pac-10 Women's All-Conference Team.

Senior Commodore **Rachel Powers** was awarded a Pac-10 Postgraduate Scholarship. This prestigious conference honor is given to only 40 students in the Pac-10 each year. Rachel will be using the scholarship to study linguistics.

You may remember meeting **Lowell Neal** in these pages about a year ago. He was the guitar and violin playing National Ski Patrol veteran enrolled as an aeronautical engineering student and walk on rower who found his way into the Husky varsity. We've just elevated his status from Jack-of-all-trades, to Ace-of-all-trades after his national championship performance at the IRA and his selection as keynote speaker for his department graduation ceremony on June 12. Check out the photo of his class project. He says: "Our SSQR (SuperSonic Quiet Research) was a 2 quarter long senior design project that focused on creating an unmanned supersonic jet transport to replace the Concorde. We used unconventional geometry with the engine and nacelle on top of the wing/body to reduce noise. Boeing donated some of its top engineers to help us during the year."

Even though we are mentioning a few names for their outstanding achievements, the entire Washington Rowing program should be commended for their excellence in the classroom and on the water. During spring quarter, despite all of the extra training, traveling, and pressures of racing season, the men and women managed to maintain the high academic standards of the program. The men had a 3.12 grade point average overall for the quarter, with 17 student-athletes making the Dean's List. Congratulations to all of the student-athletes for their excellence on and off the water.



Lowell Neal and the SSQR



Rachel Powers received the Pac-10 Postgraduate Scholarship

Season Review – Husky Women *by Katie Gardner*

Our women had one goal for the 2009 season – to hunt – and what better way to hunt for an NCAA Championship than in a boat named The Hunter. You have already heard the wonderful story of the Simpson family’s donation of a racing shell in honor of family patriarch and longtime Husky Crew supporter, **Hunter Simpson**. Through a complicated agreement with the manufacturer, U.S. Rowing and the U.S. Olympic Committee, the shell won gold at the 2008 Beijing Olympics with two Huskies aboard, and then arrived in Seattle in time for the season. It was good reason for our Huskies to dedicate themselves to hunt for perfect rhythm, to hunt for increased boat speed, and to hunt for an improvement of one spot from their second place finish at the 2008 NCAA Championships.

Youth was a theme for the 2009 women’s team. Seven freshmen raced for the Huskies at the 2009 NCAA Championships – **Veronica Tamsitt** and **Ariana Tanimoto** stroked and coxed the varsity eight, respectively, **Sarah Aylard** sat stroke in the JV, and freshmen **Sydney Collins**, **Adriene DeLeuw**, **Erin Lauber**, and **Lau-**

ren Wands raced with senior **Rachel Powers** in the Varsity 4+. The Pac-10 and NCAA crews better keep their eye out for these ladies – they are bound to lead the Huskies back to the awards podium next year. After good racing at Class Day (with a win by the Juniors), a solid showing at the San Diego Crew Classic (first place for the Novice and JV crews and second place in the Varsity), and a sweep of WSU on the Snake River, the team welcomed California to the Montlake Cut. While the novice women and the varsity four continued their undefeated seasons with dominating wins over the Bears, the Varsity and JV both came up short. The reality of the level of competition in the Pac-10 hit home for the Huskies, and they refocused their energies and efforts towards a more aggressive and determined hunt.

The first Saturday in May always means one thing to Washington Rowers – Windermere Cup. The Brazilian National team and the University of Miami came to race the Huskies, and the UW Women gave these teams from more tropical locales a taste of Husky rowing – rainy weather, passionate fans, and fast racing.

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Windermere Cup was the last time the Huskies would race in cool temperatures this season. The Pac-10 Championships were a scorcher, with temperatures above 100 degrees for the second year in a row. The Novice shook off an off race in the heats to capture a Pac-10 Championship for the first time since 2003. The Varsity 4+ and the JV both collected bronze medals, and the Varsity came in fourth, good enough to earn the team a spot at the NCAA Championships for the 18th consecutive year.

The last weekend in May, only one regatta remained, and only 16 teams were left to challenge for the NCAA title. The team had focused its energies all year on this weekend, and the hunt for a National Championship was within sight. The championships were held on the Cooper River in Camden, NJ. Each boat had reason to believe it could challenge for an NCAA title, particularly the 4+, which was the defending national champion. The weekend started off well, with all crews advancing to the semifinals. The semifinals, however, were a challenge. According to Coach Ernst, "the semifinals at the NCAA Championships are the toughest races of the whole year."

The semifinals cut the field to six crews and, unfortunately, the Varsity 8+ and the 4+ were among those cut and had to live with competing for a race win in the Petite Finals on Sunday. The JV boat had a great semifinal race, beating Cal for the first time all season, to earn a spot in the Grand Final. When it was all said and done, the team ended 11th in the Varsity race, fifth in the JV, and ninth in the 4+, earning them seventh place overall in the team standings.

While seventh place would be a wonderful result for almost any team in collegiate sports, Coach Ernst has stated that it is an unacceptable result for the women of Washington. A tradition of excellence and a drive for perfection will fuel these women during the off-season, as they set their sights on winning in 2010.

The hunt continues....

Scholar-Athletes Score

What is it about architecture, construction and rowing? Why are so many rowers drawn to the disciplines? It could be a research thesis for some bright, budding scientific sort.

Evidence at hand suggests that the desire to design and build lies in the hearts of many who row. We can recall names from decades ago who have done both – think **McCagg**, **Oistad**, and **Runstad**. The tradition remained strong five years ago – think **Kyle Larson** – and it continues today. Just last October we mentioned that **Heath Allen** had been selected the Pac-10 Medalist, emblematic of the top male athlete at the University of Washington in 2008. Architecture grad, of course.

And the curious pairing continues. Two present men's team standouts are juniors in the Architecture school and rowing program: **Jamie North** from Seattle's O'Dea High School, and his classmate **Graham Ogland** from Shawnigan Lake, B.C. Those with sharp memories will recall the profile we did of Graham in

these pages last January, and those with sharp eyes will have spotted Jamie and Graham in that same issue, standing in front of the re-installed cedar wall from the old shellhouse, a product in part of their work.

The Department of Architecture grants two Faculty Endowment Scholarships each year and recently Jamie and Graham applied for them along with just about every other student in the program. Our guys won, collecting combined awards of over \$1200.

Here is a sentence from an email they sent to coach Michael Callahan upon learning of their good fortune. "I know we miss a ton of practice but thanks for letting us work hard at both school and crew."

Nothing else needs be said except this: Husky rowers are special people, on the water, in school, in life and in their hearts. Call it character. Congratulations Jamie and Graham.

Annual Appeal Donors: 2008-09

Once again the world's best alumni, fans and friends opened their checkbooks and helped underwrite the world's best collegiate rowing program. We can speak for the athletes, coaches and staff when we give you all a huge thank you for your support. Without you, we're a club program; with you we are the Washington Huskies. We have been at the top for one hundred and six years and we are going to stay there.

Against all odds in this most difficult economic period, you contributed \$156,000 for the cause which is essentially the same number you contributed in 2007-2008. It caused everyone down at Conibear to breathe a huge sigh of relief.

For the first time, we published the names of our supporters. Most appeared in the March issue of the Husky Rowing News. You will find the full list in this issue. If we missed your name, please let us know so we can follow up to make sure your gift wasn't misdirected.

This year our contributions came from octogenarians, at least one student-athlete, and from all ages in between. They came from business and government leaders, public servants, retirees, teachers, physicians, foundations, and women and men of nearly all vocational interests. The only thing that really matters is that the gifts came from those who want to see the program succeed.

And succeed it has, thanks to you. We've got bright, talented men and women rowing out of Conibear and they are moving as fast as possible over water in the world's best equipment. They can look forward to continuing with their education and their passion thanks to you.

Yes, we will be back at you next near with the same appeal dressed up in new words, but in the meantime, take a moment to pat yourself on the back. You deserve it. Thank you, every one of you. Your support is critical and hugely appreciated.

The following endowments and individual donors made donations to the Husky rowing program between September 1, 2008, and June 15th, 2009

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University of Washington
Box 354070
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