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SWEEP

THE WASHINGTON ROWING QUARTERLY

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W ROWING

What Husky Rowing Means to Me - guest commentary by Lowell Neal

With this issue we inaugurate a new feature, What Husky Rowing Means To Me. Submissions from guest contributors are welcome and should be sent to jwilcox3@msn.com. Please limit your submission to 300 words and enclose both your email address and telephone number so we can contact you prior to publication.

A large ponderosa provided shade for the meeting. We were sitting at the end of a parking lot on the banks of Lake Natoma, site of the 2006 PAC-10 Rowing Championships. Michael Callahan, the UW freshman coach at the time, was giving his eight a last talk before we put our shell in the water and headed for the start.

"Max, don't go crazy at the start. Then when you see 500 meters, go nuts for the next 1500. Kaitlin, execute the race plan just like we talked about, and if Cal makes a move and runs the rate up, lengthen out and dispense knowledge on them with the boat's power."

He continued working his way through the boat, rower by rower, providing each individual with his or her part to play during the race. The eight was full of recruits from high school crews, all of whom had rowed together in that boat for the earlier races of the season, save one. Callahan eventually made his way around the circle to the bow seat, a lanky walk-on for whom this would be his first race with the freshman eight.

"Lowell, Hold On!"

That statement described much of my Gruntie and Rookie years rowing at Washington. While talk of erg scores, pair trials, strategy and seat races floated around the boathouse in those first years, rowing for me came down to showing up and going as hard as possible. If you truly give it your all, the rest will work itself out. Rowing taught me that lesson, and many more that developed me through my college life. So when the question is posed: What does Husky Rowing mean to me, it is not something that can be summed into a series of adjectives. Husky Rowing is four years of inexplicably valuable experiences along-side fellow Huskies, a group with which I am inordinately proud to be associated.

And now the story is about the next set of athletes getting the same value of experiences and going as hard as possible.

Lowell Neal and his freshmen teammates won the national championship at the IRA in 2006. He followed that with a second national championship in the 2007 second varsity 8+, a silver medal finish in the 2008 varsity 8+, and a third national championship in the 2009 second varsity 8+. Lowell graduated with a degree in aeronautical engineering in 2009 and currently works for a firm that designs and builds drones for the U.S. government and private firms. He is a multi-talented Husky: scholar, athlete, Eagle Scout, National Ski Patrol veteran, violinist, guitar picker and great friend to all who know him.

Lowell (fourth from left, holding trophy) and his teammates were the 2009 IRA Champions in the second varsity 8+

Celebrate With Our National Champs

Our 2011 National Champions, the men's varsity 8+, second varsity 8+, varsity 4+ and open 4+ will be recognized on Homecoming weekend, October 28th and 29th. Be sure to mark the dates on your calendars.

There will be a celebration at Conibear Shellhouse on Friday, October 28th. The program will start at 7:00 p.m. Be sure to be there to meet and congratulate these great young student-athletes.

The following day the teams will be recognized on the field during the Washington-Arizona Homecoming game. The stands should be full so it will be great publicity for our National Champions. If you don't have tickets to the game, order them now on www.gohuskies.com and join the rest of the Husky nation in celebrating the epic 2011 IRA victories.

Turbak Issues Challenge

Chuck Turbak and the Rowing Stewards board members have been hard at work all summer. In a recent note to ***Sweep***, Turbak reported that each of the seven new board members have been tasked with work that supports the program.

Straight away after his election, Scott Carter contacted Sally Munn who heads up the parent group to offer help with the tent venues at the PAC-12 and IRA Championships. Scott is working to ensure that there is a place for alumni, family and friends to gather on the shoreline at each event the Huskies enter.

Howard Lee worked with Peter McLean to provide Rowing Steward support to the Dave McLean Memorial Golf Classic. Howard's company, Spoken, signed on as title sponser of the tournament. In addition, he solicited several high end auction items and several alumni foursomes. He also reached out to Denni Nessler who heads up the women's alumni Class Day event, and to Sally Munn to rally support for the golf tournament. Leah Downey, who recently took on responsibility for the Class Captains program, found several hole sponsorships through the program.

Kjell Oswald, Andrew Beaton, Adrienne Hunter, and Denni Nessler met with John Wilcox to review the Stewards fund raising history and methodology in order to affect a smooth takeover of this key responsibility. Going forward, the business of reconnecting alumni, friends and family with the Husky rowing program and encouraging their support will be managed by Kjell, a man with long and successful experience at the work.

Phil Henry and his family are relocating to Singapore for career reasons so it was necessary for him to relinquish his new position on the Board. He will be replaced by John Kueber (see aricle below)

The learning curve problem of board turnover will be resolved by an initiative Chuck introduced. Each board member will develop a mission statement and business plan for his and her responsibilities to be used for educating new board members and volunteers.

Chuck stated: "As you can see, we are putting in our erg time in the trenches." And he added a challenge: "What have you done to help? Contact me at turbakgrp6@aol.com for a seat in the next boat."

Chuck Turbak (far right) with his 1961 classmates on Class Day

Riding In On a White Horse

What is the next great challenge for the Stewards? Jobs.

Husky Crew has a critical need right now for paid internships for our volunteer coaches. There has been a lot of talk over the years about building a mentorship program that includes a job bank but Coach Michael Callahan probably put the issue best when he said recently: "(Right now) I want mentorship through jobs. Some of our volunteer coaches are Ivy League graduates and they can't find work pouring coffee or filing." Our coaching volunteers proved themselves both in the classroom and on the water. They love what they are doing at Conibear but they love food too.

For years we Huskies have pointed to our alumni, family and friends as a strength of our program, and we have taken pride in the reactive speed of the network when the program has a need. But the network has been curiously silent in helping with "food on the table" jobs. Perhaps we haven't made the issue prominent enough but it is easily the next great challenge for the program and for the Rowing Stewards.

Less critical at the moment but of real importance as 2012 arrives, our student-athletes also need summer employment. You already know that these men and women are bright and that they are dedicated to both the classroom and to rowing. Now they need your help. Nothing is too simple and nothing too complicated: caddy, coffee shop, filer, commercial real estate, engineering, medicine, retail, computer programming and on and on.

Enter John Kueber. John earned varsity letters in 1991, 1992 and 1993 and became a successful entrepreneur after graduation. One of his projects was bought by the national firm Tiger Oaks Publications. He currently serves as Publisher, Pacific Northwest. Tiger Oaks publishes regional magazines throughout the U.S. Here in the Northwest you will recognize their successful titles such as Seattle Business and Seattle. A month ago John agreed to take responsibility for developing jobs for our volunteer coaches and student-athletes. Those who know John know that he is the right guy in the right place at the right time.

The initial push will be to secure part-time, full-time and summer employment opportunities. With a base of jobs, the program will grow into a true mentorship effort that provides guidance, advice and contacts for the future as well as work.

John will contact you sooner or later but don't wait for that call. The need is now and it is critical. Pick up your telephone and call him on 206 452-2961 or on 206 510-2941. Or you can call Bob Ernst on 206 543-2136 or Michael Callahan on 206 543-5249. Emails work as well; here they are: john.kueber@tigeroak.com, ernrow@uw.edu and rowing@uw.edu.

Huskies On the World Stage

(l-r) Alex Bunkers, Rob Munn, and Ty Otto won gold for the USA

Huskies at the USA U-23 Training Camp in Oklahoma City

The rowing year doesn't end with the NCAA and IRA Championships. Student-athletes from both programs continue their conditioning and their training during the summer, and many attend pair camps or find other ways to get time on the water. The rest are selected for national teams.

No program in North America has representation and success on national teams like the Huskies. The racing this summer in Amsterdam at the Under-23 World Championships is a case in point. Twelve Huskies competed.

The USRowing 8+ featured three Huskies, Rob Munn, Ty Otto and Alex Bunkers. It was a repeat trip to the Worlds for Munn and Otto who came home with silver last year. This year they moved it up a notch. In a tight finals and undaunted by a steady rain, the team nosed out the Czech Republic 8+ by two seconds to win. On the medal stand Munn draped himself in the U.S. flag and joined his teammates in singing the national anthem.

In an email to the University of Washington athletic department just after the finals, coach Michael Callahan said: "They compete at this level every day in practice. The Conibear Shellhouse is an inspiring place to be right now."

And so it is. Sophomore Sebastian Peter, rowing for Germany, won silver in the double. Kerry Simmonds placed fifth in the women's 4-, Ambrose Puttmann rowed in the 4-, and Mijo Rudelj rowed in the double for Croatia.

But the inspiring story of the U-23 Worlds had to be the US 4+, an all-Husky boat made up of Jay Thompson, A.J. Brooks, Niles Garrett, Patrick Marre and coxswain Seamus Labrum. The men decided to challenge for a spot on the U.S. team by qualifying through trials rather than through the USRowing selection camp. They won their spot and, in Amsterdam, they finished a respectable sixth.

Think of their accomplishment in another way. For more than four decades members of U.S. international teams have been chosen through selection camps and placed by the U.S. coaches in various boats as the coaches deemed best. Although trials have been held and non-camp teams have prevailed on occasion, the incidence of five university athletes from the same school putting together a boat as these guys did, and then winning a place on a national team has been extremely rare – especially in fours. It says a great deal about the depth and training of the Husky rowing program, and every bit as much about the student-athletes it attracts.

Husky rowers on the USA U-23 team

Huskies On the National Stage

The USRowing Development Camp at the University of Washington had a full complement of rowers this summer, including a number of Husky men and women. Racing teams were selected from the group and traveled back to Indianapolis for the USRowing Club National Championships. Our Huskies came back with much of the hardware.

Skye Pearman-Gillman teamed with a non-Husky rower from camp, Rebecca Kinchen, and won gold in the Women's Intermediate Pairs. Second place in the same race was captured by Huskies Monique Moore and Sarah Velling. Margaret Dobrowolski teamed with non-Husky, Alexandra Reilly, to win bronze.

Six Husky men raced as well, four of them doing splendid double duty. Samuel Dommer and Ryan Schroeder captured gold in the Men' Senior Pairs, and Robert Squires and Michael Thornton won gold in the Men's Intermediate Pairs. Brandon Taft and Max Mannisto came in second to their teammates in Intermediate Pairs finals. And then, with cox Samuel Ojserkis, Ryan Schroeder, Max Mannisto, Sam Dommer and Brandon Taft raced once more, this time capturing first place in the Men's Intermediate Fours.

Bob Ernst coached the women. Michael Callahan and Conor Bullis coached the men.

World Stage Redux

Note to all our supporters: Do you know what you have wrought?

The Husky rowing program is more than intercollegiate rowing. If you followed the 2011 World Cup in Lucerne, Switzerland, and the 2011 World Championships in Bled, Slovenia, you understand that our extraordinary group of rowers includes Husky graduates who helped carry the U.S. National Team to glory this summer against the best competition the world has to offer. We've been writing about some of these Huskies forever it seems, and their accomplishments just keep getting better. Make plans for the 2012 Olympics now before it is too late – it's going to be a purple and gold show.

You know the names: Dave Calder, Will Crothers, Blaise Didier, Scott Gault, Rob Gibson, Anthony Jacob, Megan Kalmoe, Giuseppe Lanzone, Conlin McCabe, Adrienne Martelli, Brett Newlin and Mary Whipple. They are seriously great athletes at the top of their games and at the top of the world rowing order. Make no mistake: they rank among the finest athletes on the planet.

Mary (l) on the medal podium as a World Champion

It began in Lucerne in July where Mary Whipple led the U.S. women's eight to gold at the 2011 Samsung World Cup. Three out of the four seats in the U.S. 4- were manned by Husky graduates Scott Gault, Giuseppe Lanzone and Brett Newlin who took bronze. In that race they rowed against another Husky, Anthony Jacob, whose Canadian boat placed 2nd in the 3rd level final.

Long-time Canadian national team racer, Dave Calder, placed 3rd in the Canadian men's 2-. Megan Kalmoe and Adrienne Martelli placed fourth in the U.S. women's quad. The Canadian men's 8+ with Will Crothers, Rob Gibson and Conlin McCabe aboard placed 5th.

Adrienne (second from right) and Megan (far right) with their World Championship silver medals

Then the athletes gathered in Bled for the long Labor Day week and weekend and where six Huskies won World Championship medals.

First off the starting line were Megan Kalmoe and Adrienne Martelli who powered to a silver medal in the U.S. Women's quad. Then came Will Crothers, Rob Gibson and Conlin McCabe who took bronze in the Canadian men's 8+. The following day the amazing Mary Whipple led her women's 8+ to a gold medal finish. All six qualified their boats for the 2012 Olympic Games. These Olympic spots aren't guaranteed to the athletes, only to the boats, but look for the names next summer in the lineups. We have no doubt where they will be.

As the Labor Day weekend progressed, all hands in Seattle stayed glued to their monitors and screens and they were rewarded with more strong results. Scott Gault, Giuseppe Lanzone and Brett Newlin took 4th in the men's 4-, prevailing over Husky Anthony Jacob who placed seventh in the Canadian men's 4-. Dave Calder took fifth in the Canadian men's 2-. Blaise Didier came in sixth in the men's 2+.

And the opportunities keep coming for Husky rowers. Ty Otto has recently earned a spot on the USA Pan-Am team that will compete in Guzman City, Mexico October 15-19. Ty will compete in the 2^- event. Stay tuned to www.gohuskies.com for news and results.

We can't think of a stronger or better statement about the place of Husky Crew in the country and internationally than the results this summer. In Bled, Lucerne, Amsterdam, Indianapolis, and Camden, New Jersey. Whether student-athlete, alumni, family or friend of the program, it is an extraordinary time to be a Husky.

University of Washington professor, Shwetak Patel, was selected last month for a John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur "genius" award. Patel, who holds a joint appointment in the computer engineering and electrical engineering departments, will receive an unrestricted gift from the foundation worth $500,000.

The good news got us wondering about you. You may not have won your genius award yet but we are interested in knowing how you put your University of Washington degree to work after graduation. Send us a brief report on the demonstrable value of your degree and we will highlight it in these pages. Send your submission to jwilcox3@msn.com and be sure to include your email and telephone number.

McLean Memorial Classic

For the fifth year in a row, the Dave McLean Memorial Classic shattered all records for fun, scores, camaraderie and dollars raised for the Husky rowing program. Founded in 2007 by the McLean family, this annual golf tournament has become the program's biggest fund raiser of the year. And it comes with a lot of participant fun.

Rowing Program Director and Head Women's Coach Bob Ernst was there once more to handle the auctioneer duties. The guy has become a true auction professional, urging, cajoling, teasing and demanding better performance from the spirited bidders, and his skill was noticed at the cash register. Once again, the tournament set a new record for dollars raised. The Dave McLean Memorial endowment will grow by $27,000 thanks to the sponsors, golfers and bidders.

The tournament was won by the foursome of Mike Hennick, Matt Walters, Chris Hedein and Alex Dunlop who came home with a score of 56. The winning class was 1988 and their victory will be inscribed on the oar blade trophy at Conibear. The men's long drive champion was Steve Hardie and the women's long drive champion was new Stewards board member, Adrienne Hunter. Closest to the pin honors were won by Shane Williams for the men and by Tori Marcum for the women.

There were rumors that Adrienne, at home on a golf course as well as in a shell, might have out-driven the men in the contest but no one could attest to the actual yardage. We will pay closer attention next year.

Another attendee who knows his way around the golf course was there to welcome the crowd. O.D. Vincent, our Senior Associate Athletic Director who oversees Husky rowing, thanked the group for their participation in the great fundraiser. Although he maintains a round the clock work schedule these days and doesn't get out on the course as much as he would like, we know he can still play Washington National several strokes under par. Maybe we can get him out a little early next year to dispense advice, and maybe Adrienne Hunter will do the same.

We give special thanks to Spoken, the tournament's title sponsor, and to tournament sponsors Brotherton Cadillac, Cutter and Buck, Cardiac Science, Pro Golf Discount and Heineken. There was a long list of hole sponsors as well, including: Art Burke, Andrew Dempsey, Barry Glenn of State Farm Insurance, Ty Graham, Andrew Jordan, Kim Klauer, the McLean Family, Bob Mowad, Jr of John L. Scott Real Estate, and Sally Munn.

In a growing tradition of class sponsorship, hole sponsors included the Class of 1961, the Class of 1962, the Class of 1966, the Class of 1967, the 1971 Men's Varsity Lightweight Crew, the Men's Lightweight Class of 1972 and their coach, Dwight Phillips, and the Class of 1991.

Notable News

The Dobrowolski Challenge

When Casey Dobrowolski came home from his winning National Champion effort in the Husky varsity 4+, he signed up to compete in the Lake Stevens Half Ironman in August. Not to be outdone, his sister Margaret, a UW sophomore returning from the Club Nationals with a bronze medal in the 2-, decided to challenge him.

So began Team Dobrowolski. Margaret convinced her parents to join her as a relay team and the older Dobrowolskis, accomplished athletes themselves, agreed. Margaret chose the running segment, dad John chose swimming, and mom Jean Anne chose the bike segment.

Who won? Casey clocked a 5:46:54 time followed by his family who finished in 6:32.51. But before he gets too proud about the result, there was Kara Sawyer '08 crossing the line in 5:47:14, just an eye blink behind him. We concluded that the truth of the matter is that the whole Dobrowolski family won that day.

The Dobrowolski family celebrating Casey's 2011 IRA Championship

Marine OCS Graduates

Clarence Miller '12 and Reiner Hershaw '12, graduated from the Marine Corps Officer Candidate School this summer. Hooo*rah*!

Clarence (C.J,) and Reiner in front at Conibear Shellhouse

Our Husky Academic Champs

Remember Seamus Labrum? He's the cox who led the Husky men's 4+ to IRA gold, and then joined the 4+ that challenged and won a rare, all-Husky team spot on the 2011 USRowing Under-23 team. Seamus wins in the classroom, too. He earned the highest grade point average among University of Washington male student-athletes for spring quarter. In case you didn't catch it, he put up this winning effort during a National Championship racing season.

As we reported previously, his teammate, Josh Klein, won the same top honor last Winter quarter with a 4.0 grade point average, and fellow cox, Sam Ojserkis, continues to maintain the highest grade point average among all intercollegiate athletes at the University of Washington.

Sounds to us like the competition is heating up on two levels, each the sort we like to see.

Atlantic Crossing Update

You may remember our piece a year ago on Rick Tarbill's preparations for an Atlantic crossing in a 29 foot, oar-powered boat . Rick '05 has teamed up with Adam Kreek of Victoria, B.C. who won a gold medal in rowing at the Beijing Olympics, Greg Spooner of Bellingham and Jordan Hanssen of Seattle. They plan to row from Africa to South America in late 2012. But meanwhile, they are planning a warm-up next April – a non-stop 14 day row around Vancouver Island. They hope to break the 15 day record for the 700 mile trip.

The Oar Northwest boat cheering on the Huskies at Windermere Cup

Michael Benner

Michael Benner lost a long battle with cancer on September 14. A former Commodore from the late '60s, he was known, respected and loved by his teammates and legions of Husky alumni. "Uncle Ben" graduated from the UW dental school, joined the US Army, eventually retired and established an endodontic practice in the Olympia area. He was a frequent fan at Husky football and basketball games and loved the crew races. But the highlight for him was traveling to Lake Natoma in 2009 where, with dozens of old oars, he cheered home the Husky varsity in their epic IRA victory. Our condolences go out to Mike's family.

A Very Special Thank You

Once more you came through like the champions you are. The details of our fund raising success are outlined elsewhere in this issue of Sweep but here we take the opportunity to thank all of you who supported us through the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Without you, there would have been just a shadow of the enormous success the Husky student-athletes enjoyed.

In a new feature this year, those of you who have contributed for five consecutive years or more are indicated by an oar blade.

If you don't find your name on this list and it should be here, please let us know as soon as possible. The University and the rowing program continue to make this list as accurate as we possibly can so your input will be important.

Washington Rowing Endowments

James & Marjorie Beardsley Scholarship Endowment
John D. Bracken Scholarship Fund
Class of '76 Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship
Crew Scholarship & Travel Endowment
James S. & Elree Eagleson Crew Endowment
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Wayne E. & Stella S. Graham Crew Endowment Fund
Chuck Holtz Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship
John W. & Rosalind Jacobi Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship
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Michael S. LaFromboise Memorial Fund
Carl M. & Louise C. Lovsted Endowed Crew Scholarship
Carl & Louise Lovsted Endowed Crew Scholarship
Thomas W. McCurdy Memorial Fund
Dave McLean Scholarship Fund for UW Men's Frosh Crew
Kari Osterhaug Endowment for Women's Crew
Jon Runstad Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing
Jon Runstad 2008 Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing
Alison & Brian Urback Crew Endowment
Washington Rowing Stewards Endowment
Willard Wakeman Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship
Wilkerson Family Scholarship Endowment for Husky Athletics
John W. Zevenbergen Jr. Endowed Scholarship for Men's Rowing

Olympians ($10,000 and Up)

Fred Fox
Wayne & Anne Gittinger
Michael & Andrea Hess
Jean K. Lafromboise Foundation
Blake Nordstrom
Peter Nordstrom
H. Jon Runstad
Brian & Alison Urback
John & Nancy Zevenbergen

National Champions ($5,000 to $9,999)

William Denman
John Dobrowolski
San Diego Crew Classic
John Vynne
Washington Rowing Stewards
John Wilcox

Pac-12 Champions ($2,500 to $4,999)

Scott Hannah
William Labrum
Sally Nordstrom
Polly Soules
Trevor Vernon
Robert Wilkerson

Patrons ($1,000 to $2,499)

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Walter Roubik
Roy & Sally Rubin
Jacqueline Rudeen
Joseph Ryan

Norman Sanderson
Charles Schluter
Hank & Helen Schmidt
Paul Schmitz
James Schneider
Marcus Schneider
Brad Schock
Les Seelye
Kass Sells
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Kevin Smythe
Paul Snorsky
Benjamin & Annette Snowden
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Edward & Pauline Stern
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Men's Rowing and the NCAA - by John Morris

It took me 43 years, but I think I finally have a small sense of what it feels like to be recruited by a Division I coach. In the span of about 10 months, and without even noticing it, I went from having almost no involvement with the Intercollegiate Rowing Association (IRA) to somehow becoming the first President of the newly-constituted IRA Board of Stewards. And it was all at the subtle but effective behest of Head Coach Michael Callahan.

I'm still trying to figure out exactly how Coach Callahan pulled this off. It was a gradual recruiting process that started innocently enough with a casual visit to my office one day about a year ago. Coach Callahan asked if I'd be willing to join him at the upcoming 2010 IRA Coaches Association Meeting in Boston. "If you could just come out to Boston for a few hours to attend this one meeting," Coach Callahan said, "that would be really helpful to our rowing program." All he needed, he assured me, was a little help making sure the new governance model being considered for the IRA was fair and in the best interest of the UW men's rowing program. Using the stockpile of frequent flier miles he amassed traveling the country and the globe in pursuit of his real recruits, he even threw in a first-class upgrade to make a red-eye cross-country flight a bit more palatable.

My plate was pretty full, but I really respect Coach Callahan, and his passion for his sport and his student-athletes is infectious. So I agreed to go to Boston -- and as he secretly may have predicted all along, I found the topics being discussed fascinating and important. Over the course of the next few months, Coach Callahan somehow got me to write an article for the January 2011 edition of Sweep, to actively engage in the national debate about the proposed IRA governance documents, and to represent UW at the IRA Annual Meeting in Camden, New Jersey. It was in Camden that the new IRA Constitution and Bylaws were formally adopted (and, even more important, where the Huskies won the national championship in convincing fashion!). And after some gentle post-Camden prodding from Coach Callahan, I now find myself representing the UW and the Pac-12 as President of the new Board of Stewards.

Truth be told, there really wasn't much arm-twisting by Coach Callahan. This is a very exciting time to be associated with the sports of men's rowing and the IRA governance system. Perhaps the most significant change relates to the leadership of the IRA as an organization. As most readers of Sweep are aware, the IRA had always operated under the leadership of the same five collegiate institutions: Columbia, Cornell, Penn, Navy and Syracuse. Under the new IRA governance model adopted in June, however, that has all changed. There is a Board of Directors (known as the "Board of Stewards") consisting of seven rotating members with staggered three-year terms who are representative of the entire IRA membership. The inaugural Board of Stewards is comprised of athletic department administrators from around the country, including Washington, Princeton, Harvard, UC-San Diego, Wisconsin, Holy Cross and Penn.

The new Board of Stewards has met several times since June, including an all-day in-person meeting in Chicago on August 17, 2011. At the in-person meeting, the Board of Stewards agreed that two of its most important goals/principles are: (i) Protecting student-athlete welfare and creating the best possible championship experience for men's rowing student-athletes; and (ii) Working together in the spirit of compromise to prioritize what is best for the sport of men's rowing nationally over what may serve one's institutional or regional self-interest.

Other important actions/decisions by the Board from its in-person meeting include the following:

- Confirmed that the IRA Regatta will return to the West Coast in 2013 (May 31-June 2 at Lake Natoma in Sacramento, CA). The regatta will take place Friday through Sunday rather than the traditional Thursday-Saturday format.
- Created a Sponsorship & Marketing Committee to develop and implement a strategy to secure corporate sponsors for the 2012 regatta and beyond. The Board is hopeful that the growing popularity of the regatta (evidenced in part by the 30,000 page views from the live webcast of the 2011 regatta) will make it an attractive sponsorship opportunity. Sponsorship dollars would be used to supplement the IRA operating budget and fund enhancements to the championship experience (e.g., improved regatta webcast, a live on-site Jumbotron broadcast, physical site improvements at the regatta).
- Agreed to create a new legislative process for the IRA that is transparent and organized and will encourage greater participation by coaches and athletics department administrators from throughout the IRA membership.
- Asked IRA Commissioner Gary Caldwell to study and make recommendations to the Board for an improved IRA presence on the internet. The Board agreed that an IRA-specific website should include high-quality regatta videos, regatta information and history, sponsorship materials, IRA governance documents, membership information and the like.
- Acknowledged that the debate about whether to retain the "Freshman Rule" continues to be an important national issue that should be addressed in an open and comprehensive manner during the next 12 months.
- Decided not to increase the IRA annual membership dues for 2011-12. However, entry fees for the 2012 IRA Regatta were increased by $500 (from $1,500 to $2,000) for all institutions participating in the Men's Heavyweight Championship Eight event.
- Appointed a new four-member IRA Eligibility & Infractions Committee. The new committee includes representatives from both the Pac-12 and the WIRA.

Again, this is an exciting and important time in the history of men's rowing, and it's an honor to be representing UW on the new Board of Stewards. Coach Callahan and I remain committed to playing an active leadership role in shaping the future of this great sport, and we will do our best to keep the generous supporters of the UW men's rowing program updated on the progress being made.

John Morris is Senior Associate Athletic Director at the University of Washington Deptartment of Intercollegiate Athletics

William Peter Allen

By now you may have learned of the tragic loss of our friend and teammate Peter Allen. On Monday, September 5, he and several teammates were hiking in the Snoqualmie Pass area. He fell and although a great effort was made to save his life, he passed away.

Michael Callahan sent the following words to the Husky community. "Peter was a member of the UW rowing team, and was a part of the Class of 2013. Peter was a great friend, fine rower and excellent student. He rowed on the freshmen team two years ago and was eagerly looking forward to rejoining the rowing team after a year off to focus on his academics. Peter was a Dean's List student studying biochemistry. He was also very active in his church and the community. He will be missed. This is a tremendous loss for his family and our rowing community. Our thoughts are with his family and his teammates, particularly those that were there with him on the hike."

PoWer³ Campaign Update

In the first two years of the PoWer³ Challenge, your donations nearly topped $700,000 towards our million dollar goal. And in this final year ahead, even with a shaky economy and unpredictable financial markets, we are on track to close out the effort on target. Will we do it? Come on, of course we will.

Our performance over the three years ending next July will be unprecedented in the history of Husky rowing. But don't forget that your continued support this year may be needed now more than it has been at any time in our history. The numbers are in from last year and the budget has been set for the new year (July 1 through June 30). The revenue shortfall for the year is $300,000, all money we need to find from our incredible alumni and fans.

That said, you have proven that the Husky rowing program has the best support system of any rowing program in the country. We are going to get this job done together, just as we once did at the white oars. Fill out the form below today. Give now and consider a second gift next spring, or sign up for periodic payments. And don't forget to inquire about matching gifts by your employer if they are available

The cost of education at the UW has gone up – way up. The Regents recently raised non-resident tuition to $28,058, an increase of nearly 10% over last year, and resident tuition to $10,540, an increase of slightly more than 20%. The school now estimates the cost of tuition, room and board, and books will be $39,190 for non-residents and $21,706 for residents.

Washington remains a bargain among the nation's universities but it will be a tough increase for the men's program to swallow. Financial aid remains the responsibility of the Stewards and the new numbers will add new challenge to our fundraising.

Pledge/Gift Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home or Business Phone _____ Email _____

Gift Amount: _____

____ Credit Card (V/MC/Amex) Card Number: _____ Exp Date _____

____Check (Payable to University of Washington)

_____**Payment Information**: I have arranged a matching gift from my employer

Return to: University of Washington Athletics, Attn: Husky Crew Fund, Tyee Office – Box 354070, Seattle, WA 98195

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Washington Rowing
Fall 2011

Sunday, October 1	Tail of the Lake Regatta	Seattle, WA
Sunday, October 23	Head of the Charles Regatta	Boston, MA
Friday, October 28	IRA Championship Celebration	Conibear Shellhouse
Saturday, October 29	IRA Championship Ceremony	Husky Stadium
Saturday, October 29	Head of the American	Rancho Cordova, CA
Sunday, November 6	Head of the Lake	Seattle, WA
Friday, November 18	Turkey Trot “Fun Run”	Conibear Shellhouse