

HUSKY CREW NEWSLETTER

A Washington Rowing Stewards Publication

June 2010

National Champions!

Once again, Washington rowing had a season to remember. The standard of excellence was evident week in and week out, with every Washington boat going undefeated in the regular season and at the Pac-10 Championships.

The racing began just three short months ago with the annual Class Day Regatta. We predicted that the latest batch of Grunties – the class of '13 – would extend the Class Day string of freshmen victories to three but the juniors had other ideas. Victors just two years ago as freshmen, they took the **George M. Varnell** trophy in a highly spirited victory. **Virginia Varnell Dunn**, George's daughter, presented the Varnell trophy.

On April 3 down at Redwood Shores, the men faced off against the Stanford Cardinal and swept the event. The following weekend, the team brought their success at Redwood Shores back to the Montlake Cut, where they swept both Oregon State and Washington State.

The next weekend found the men and women in Berkeley for the annual dual regatta. The varsity put on a rowing show that announced to the world that they were after it all, defeating California in a Redwood Shores course record time of 5:31.6. The second varsity, freshman eight, and the varsity four also won, continuing the undefeated season.

An estimated 40,000 turned out for Opening Day and the Windermere Cup Regatta on May 1. The Huskies hosted Syracuse and Oxford University, stroked by 2006 Husky captain, **Ante Kusurin**. Once again, the Dawgs took first in all their races.

After Windermere Cup, the team focused their sights on the Pac-10 Championships. Despite annual success at duel races and at the IRA Championships, capturing Pac-10 Championships has been a difficult task in recent years. According to Coach **Michael Callahan**, "We've had a circle around this day for a while." Certainly the main focus of the year is

always an IRA Championship, but Callahan believed that being able to capture the Pac-10 Championship was an important stepping stone in the ultimate goal of success at IRAs. The Huskies did not disappoint, and raced to yet another regatta sweep. The Varsity 8+, Second Varsity 8+, Freshman 8+, and Varsity 4+ all came away from the weekend with Pac-10 Championships, certainly a great accomplishment for the program.



The end of May means only one thing in the Conibear Shellhouse - Championship racing season. One week after the Pac-10 Championships, the Husky men traveled to Camden, New Jersey, to defend their four 2009 national championship titles and the Jim Ten Eyck team trophy, and they came away just an eye blink from success.

The Open 4+ started things off well with a bronze medal performance, and they were followed by three straight National Championship victories: the Varsity 4+, the Freshman 8+, and the Second Varsity 8+.

Dawg fans licked their chops in anticipation of the featured Varsity race. Following their fabulous 2009 IRA victory and this season's undefeated record, all bets were on the men to repeat. What a race it was - nearly perfect, blistering fast and thrilling from start to finish.

Racing with a tailwind and hot water, the Huskies took the lead early but were down to Cal by three seats at 750 meters. Settling into their race plan, they drew even with California at the 1500 meter mark and had two seats on the Bears at 1750. Cal responded with a furious sprint and won by .263 seconds. In the words of senior **Max Lang**, the team "ran out of water."

Once again, the Husky men put up a great performance. Three golds, a silver, and a bronze gave them their fourth straight Ten Eyck team trophy.



Thank you - Michael Callahan

Dear Friends,

In the past few days I've been receiving a flood of emails from our supporters and friends. Thank you for being there not only when we were on the top but now that we are 0.3 from the top.

The last few weeks posed some real challenges for the coaching staff and student athletes. I think we handled them well and put our best effort on the race course last weekend. I'm very proud of that and who we are as team and organization.

For the past four years, we have consistently had the deepest, best and fastest team in the nation. We couldn't have done that without your support. Thank you from me and the oarsmen.



I often think back to the quote from Rusty Callow on the extreme highs of winning and lows of defeat. "Rowing here at Washington is bigger than you or I: It's bigger than our daily pains, or occasional joy. It's the combined effort of all of us-it's all the sweat, all the disappointments, all the sore muscles, all the pride and all the work that is put together by us as oarsmen to produce that fine looking and polished swing between the white blades of Washington."

I'm proud of who we are.

All My Best,
Michael



Thank you - Bob Ernst

"Husky Nation"!!

As we wrap up another great season I want make sure that you are all thanked. Without the unique support that our program gets from our friends we would never accomplish the goals that we have.

I was in Camden to see the total dominance of the guys over the rest of the mens rowing world. I would have loved to seen the Varsity make it a sweep for the second year in a row, but five Seniors in that Cal crew still felt the pain of a year ago and managed a great victory. If you can imagine, third place was two lengths behind Cal and Washington!!!

Our guys will now feel that frustration for months and will be back with more determination to win next year.

I still have a lot of work to do with the women.....but we are not that far off!!

Thank you all for making Husky Crew the most special sports program in the world!!!

Sincerely,

Bob



National Champs to Henley - by Eric Cohen

Washington's National Champion Freshman 8 will be traveling to Henley to compete in the 2010 Henley Regatta's Temple Cup event. This is the first trip to Henley by a Washington crew since the Varsity Eight won the Ladies' Plate in 2003.

The Temple Cup is offered for "student eights", limited to athletes who have not won at Henley previously. In Henley tradition, events follow with the Grand Challenge (unlimited experience, generally open national teams or composite squads made of elite level oarsmen); The Ladies' Plate (generally for top university squads or lightweight national teams, but usually Varsity 8's and pre-elite oarsmen); and the Temple Cup (often raced by varsity lightweights, smaller college V8s, open 2V8's, and champion frosh crews). Washington has only entered this event once before, the 1997 National Champion 2V8 advancing to the quarterfinals, the eventual winner Goldie taking that race. In 2009, the U.S. National Champion Princeton lightweights won the event over Brown's frosh 8 by 3/4's of a length.

As our friends, alums and parents know, the Stewards are in the midst of a three year campaign to raise a million dollars to support the program. Trips like this fall outside of the operating budget, and are dependent on other sources of revenue to make them happen. As a team, all nine athletes and their families are committed to this trip. For the most part, it is currently being funded by the students and parents. But for our friends and alums who are looking for something other than scholarships and equipment gifts, this trip is an excellent opportunity to support the goals of our program. It has been seven long years since the white blades of Washington have cut the Thames, and this promises to be a very special trip for nine National Champion athletes that are only now beginning to make their mark at Conibear.



This is the first time since 1978 that a Washington freshman contingent will visit Henley. That year, a composite crew made up of the stern 4 and cox of the frosh 8, along with four 2V8 rowers, were knocked out in the first round of the Thames Cup (now limited to only club crews) by Neptune RC. Of those 5 freshmen however, all would ultimately have storied careers at Washington, two (**Charlie Clapp** and **Marius Felix**) becoming Olympians, another (**John Zevenbergen**) a world championship bronze medalist.

The trip will cost \$3,500 per student and some additional dollars for the coaches and related travel expenses. While the parents of the athletes are underwriting the expenses for their student athletes, we are making a special solicitation to our alumni and friends to help defray the other costs associated with the trip. For those of you who have not been inspired to make a scholarship or equipment gift in the past, this is a perfect opportunity to support your Husky oarsmen.

If you wish to help, mail your checks to **Michael Callahan**, Conibear Shellhouse, University of Washington, PO Box 354070, Seattle, WA 98195.

Remembering George Varnell

Those who rowed from the 1940s through the 1960s will recall **George M. Varnell**, the famed **Seattle Times** sports writer, columnist, editor and close friend of the Husky rowing program. His frequent presence at the shellhouse back then, and his obvious love of our sport helped define an era for a generation of Husky rowers.

Last March we had reason to recall our friend when his grandson, **Ned Dunn**, contacted **Michael Callahan** and asked if his mother, **Virginia Varnell Dunn** (Washington '37) could attend the Class Day award ceremony. Michael responded instantly. By all means, he said, we'd be honored. Ask her if she will present the trophy. And so it happened. Those of you who were there know that Virginia did a wonderful job presenting the trophy to the junior men and helped connect several generations of Husky rowing fans.

George knew that football paid the bills – both at Washington and at the Times sports department, and he gave those Husky teams – including some of the greatest football teams in Husky history – all the ink he could muster. But you old oars will recall, too, that he had a special relationship with the rowing program

and an obvious love for the selflessness and purity that were – and are – an intrinsic part of our sport. It is hard to recall a better friend of the program.

What a sight it was on March 30 to see Virginia and her family on the dock with the coaches and athletes. She is wheelchair bound but spry, so we expect to have her as part of the annual celebration for years to come.



Husky Women Are Back

The 2010 racing season is in the books for Washington Women's Crew. And while the 10th place team finish at the NCAA Championships may have been a disappointment to Washington rowers and alums who expect to see championship crews year after year, a look back at the season shows many reasons to be hopeful for fast crews in 2011.

The racing year began as it should with the seniors taking honors at the annual Class Day race. This was the second Class Day win for the class of 2010, and they displayed their superior racing experience with a wire-to-wire win on the Montlake Cut.



As the regular season began, the Washington women showed the country why the Pac-10 is dominant in women's rowing - sweeping races against Wisconsin, Iowa, and Syracuse. In fact, the only varsity losses of the regular season came against Pac-10 foes.

The JV raced fast all season long, with only one loss during the regular season, en route to a silver medal at the Pac-10 Championships. With three sophomores and a freshman in the boat, the speed of the UW JV should encourage UW Rowing fans to look for great racing from these young Huskies in the next few years.



Speaking of Husky Pups, the Novice eight went undefeated for the second year in a row. Under the guidance of Coach **Nicole Minett** ('00) and her assistants **Kim Kennedy** ('09) and **Andy Foltz**, the novice women dominated their competition, with no real challenge until the Pac-10 Championships. At Pac-10s, the freshmen found themselves in an unusual position - second place through the first 500 meters. Their toughness prevailed, however, and the boat threw down a fast and consistent second half of the race to end up winning the Pac-10 Championship by more than 4 seconds.

Like the novice eight, the Varsity 4+ boat won every race they entered during the regular season. At the Pac-10 Championships, the boat led the field from start to finish, winning the gold by 6.9 seconds over California.

Rest assured, Husky fans, the Washington Women are not content with just making it to the NCAA Championships on an annual basis. They are training hard to win, and already have their sights set on 2011.



Alums Recognized for Service, Commitment to UW- by Jeremy Cothran

During an interview several years ago, **Lex Gamble** said that while he did receive a degree from the prestigious Harvard Business School, his education came from the University of Washington.

Perhaps more so than any institution, Washington alums are known for being proud of and loyal to their alma maters. That holds true for Gamble and **Bruce Nordstrom**, two alums who were recently recognized for their service to the UW. This year, Gamble received the Alumni Association's Distinguished Service Award, an honor for his lengthy commitment to philanthropy to Washington. Nordstrom – a member of one of Seattle's first families – was given the *Alumnus Summa Laude Dignatus*, one of the most esteemed awards the UW bestows to graduates. Nordstrom is the 70th recipient of the honor.

A grateful Nordstrom joked that looked at the list of past honorees and questioned his inclusion in that group.

"I was extremely excited and flattered and honored, having said that, I was humbled and a little embarrassed," Nordstrom said. "To see the list of names that preceded me, to have gotten that honor, as I told (president) **Mark Emmert**, 'you have all those wonderful scientists and teachers, accomplished in all fields, and then you have a shoe salesman. You ran out of gas.'"



Bruce Nordstrom (second from left) and the 1953 second lightweight boat. Tyee photo.

One particular connection for Gamble ('59) and Nordstrom ('55) is the time spent manning oars for the Husky crew team. Gamble, although undersized for an oarsman, was on a freshmen boat that placed third at the IRA Championships. Nordstrom rowed on a lightweight team in 1952. Another mutual connection is their support of the crew program. Their charity was part of a large-scale effort to help construct the sleek Conibear Shellhouse, giving the Huskies one of the preeminent rowing facilities in the nation. Nordstrom's son, **Blake** ('82), also rowed at Washington and is now the president of the company.

Both awardees have also lent their support to the Foster School of Business, which has helped prepare many rowers for entry into the professional world.

"It's fantastic that we have such distinguished alums that support the University of Washington and the (rowing) program," said men's coach **Michael Callahan**. "These guys are involved in the community, both locally and globally. They've made an investment in the future of our University."

Gamble is the glue that solidifies the Husky bond on the East Coast. He's known for his famous annual salmon bakes in Chappaqua, N.Y., where NYC Huskies bond over the traditional Pacific Northwest offering, flown in from Pike Place Market in Seattle. Callahan attended a salmon bake years ago and was pleased to see the dedication UW alums have made to connect, even when they're 2,500 miles away from Seattle. Gamble also serves on the advisory board at Foster School of Business, and has made it a mission to soften the landing for UW business school graduates who seek careers on Wall Street.



Lex Gamble (third from right) and the Class of 1959. Tyee photo.

Nordstrom is a name in Seattle that needs no further descriptors, synonymous with one of the nation's most prominent retailers. During an interview for a recent profile piece in the UW "Columns" magazine, Nordstrom said that every family member holding a management position in the company has graduated from the UW.

"Bruce is such a warm, distinguished person," Callahan said. "He's one of the kindest people I've ever had the pleasure to meet."

Part of what makes Gamble and Nordstrom proud alumni is what Callahan hopes to instill in his student-athletes. As oarsmen for the University of Washington, the crew program teaches loyalty to alma mater. Callahan also stresses that his rowers become leaders in the local communities after graduation. It's no secret on Montlake that the crew program fosters some of the strongest bonds of any intercollegiate sport at Washington. Alums have made it a mission to support rowers as their lives transition from sport to the real world.

"We continually talk about pride in our University," Callahan said, "and building relationships with people."

Nordstrom, a 50-year season ticket holder for both basketball and football, has upheld those tenets. He is the former chairman of the Tyee Board of Advisors. In 1994, he received the first Frank Orrico Award for his support of UW athletics.

"The University of Washington is important to me on everyone front, as a student, as a participant in life," Nordstrom said.

The Boat Race Is On!

Do you remember The Boat Race? No, not Oxford-Cambridge. We're talking about the inter-class challenge to fund our **Husky poWer³ Challenge**. We'll give you the race results in a moment but first let's review the causes of our crisis and what we've done about it.

Regular readers of this newsletter will recall that we predicted we would break even for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2010, but those projections were upset by the financial markets crash. In the aftermath, our endowment holdings lost nearly 40% of their value, the UW Regents dropped the payout on those holdings from approximately 5% to approximately 2 ½%, and then exacerbated our challenge by raising the cost of tuition and housing. Those events put a \$350,000 hole in our 2010 budget, and it became clear that we would experience a similar loss through the 2013 fiscal year.

After five years of stepped up fundraising, this hit to our stability was a difficult blow. All of us get exhausted by the need to find funding – you as well as the coaches and the Rowing Stewards –



but we had no option in the face of the perfect storm. So we launched the **Husky poWer³ Challenge**, a three year effort to close a projected three year funding gap of something over \$1 million. The next several years will be challenging but your support this year bodes well for the future. Said another way, we think we can see the finish line of this long, perfect storm tossed race.

The Athletic Department continues to underwrite traditional expense items as it has in the past, and it has stepped up its efforts to find ways to overcome the program's long-standing underfunded status. Meanwhile, your Washington Rowing Stewards have closed that gap by soliciting contributions for men's scholarships, rowing and exercise equipment, travel and lodging expenses for the Head of the Charles race, and race site tents and food at out of town venues.

We are now one year into the three year program. For the 2010 fiscal year, your Husky Crew received \$382,997 in cash gifts, \$85,994 in endowment additions, and \$91,192 in pledges for fu-

ture years, for a total of \$560,133. These numbers do not include equipment gifts such as the new men's eight, the **Tom McCurdy '52**.

Leading the donor's list were names familiar to all Husky rowing alumni: **Jon Runstad, Carl Lovsted, the McCurdy family, the 101 Foundation and the 101 Club members, Blake Nordstrom, Peter Nordstrom, John and Nancy Zevenbergen, Wayne and Ann Gittinger, Mike and Andrea Hess, the Laframboise Foundation, the Osterhaug family, and the McLean family**. Without their generous leadership, we would have had a difficult time closing the gap.

And you? Well, you were magnificent. We heard from long-time contributors, many of whom raised their support significantly. We also heard from old alumni and young alumni, from parents and fans and friends, from occasional contributors, and from the largest number of new donors in the history of the program. Of special interest was the number of Tye Club donors who chose to support the program as part of their football and basketball seat

renewals. Together, you Huskies rose to the challenge, floated the season and made headway on upcoming financial demands of the next two years.

Here is something to consider: In June 2005, in an editorial in these pages, we promised to deliver a team that could row against anyone and win. All we needed, we said back then, was your financial support. You responded and look what has happened. In the last two years at the IRA, your Huskies have won seven gold medals, one silver medal, one bronze medal and two Ten Eyck team awards. Thank you, every one of you, who believed in what **Bob Ernst, Michael Callahan, Luke McGee, Nicole Minett** and their staff are doing down at Conibear.

Here are the donor standings at the 750 meter mark. The 50s, 60s and 70s are in a dead heat with an equal number of donors each. The 80s are one donor down. Get busy, talk to your classmates, and show us you are winners by donating to the **Husky poWer³ Challenge**.

Being a Husky - by Adrienne Martelli



To me, being a Husky rower entails many things. A strong work ethic, a commitment to the team, and an understanding of tradition are just a few values that all of us share. But it also means joining a community of people and forming friendships that will last a lifetime.

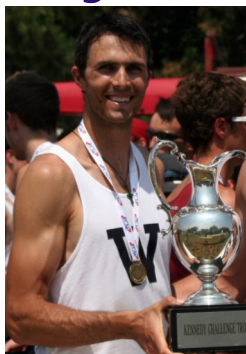
One of the most valued experiences I will take away from being a Husky is getting to be a part of the class of 2010. When I first joined the team I knew no one and at times felt a little out of place, especially never having rowed before. However, just within my freshmen year, I discovered an incredible support system; essentially a second family. The bonds we've made as a class have only gotten stronger through the years. When I've had a bad day, I know I can turn to any one of the seniors and they would have my back in a heartbeat, and I would have theirs.

Some of my favorite memories with this group come from this past year, when we would try to get together every month to cherish our last season rowing with the team. These dinners were always so much fun, reminiscing about living in the dorms, being rookies, races, friendships, etc. They were always good food, good company, and lots of laughs.

And of course Class Day will always be near and dear to my heart. We would always have a little dance circle before the race to get warmed up and we had some of the best slogans. And winning the past two years was an added plus!

Thanks so much Senior Class of 2010 for a great four years and helping me learn to be a Husky!

Being a Husky - by Simon Taylor



I came in as an 18 year old from New Zealand who didn't know a lot about anything. Maybe the only thing that changed is a few more years and a bit more facial hair, but I don't think so. Such thoughts don't do justice to what I now see as the most defining four years of my life. When I think back over this time, no specific experience stands out, no defining moment captures the essence of my Washington experience; it has been a journey.

Coming in as a freshman to the 'new world' was overwhelming. I quickly learned the demands of a student-athlete and sickness soon followed as the lack of sleep and stress took a toll on my body. Nevertheless, I was having the time of my life, being part of an awesome, tight-knit team, and enjoying the international experience. It was great forming relationships with the guys on the squad that I know will continue on for life.

As time went by I found my stride and life became a bit more regular. I began to take more advantage of the great opportunities that are offered here; developing relationships with professors, finding fulfillment in my study, and taking internships during the summer. I met a girl one day at church and we became best friends, 9 months later we started dating, and on our second anniversary this May, we got engaged. Washington had a knack for making me grow up fast.

What I came to deeply appreciate on the varsity squad were the values of teamwork, hard work, and having a killer instinct. **Michael Callahan** was good about drilling these in to us, and I believe they will stay with me for life.

It has been a pleasure being part of the class of 2010 that has had Michael for the entire four years. As we developed as athletes, we have had the unique opportunity to see him take great strides as a coach. Now, as the head coach, he exudes a cool calm confidence that is grounded in trust in his athletes-a trust that we young men had to earn, and that young Washington oarsmen will continue to earn. Mike exemplifies the tradition of excellence that is expected of Washington oarsmen.

Having dreamed of coming to a U.S. university since I was 14, it is with great pleasure and fulfillment that I can say that this journey has been far better than what I imagined and I am proud to be a part of the Husky family.



Racing the Atlantic - by Rick Tarbill

"You're nuts."

This by far is the most common response I hear from people who learn that three friends and I are going to race across the Atlantic Ocean. Maybe it's true but perhaps not.

You Husky alumni and friends might have noticed a small capsule-like boat loitering just past the Windermere Cup finish line on Opening Day. Onboard were the four members of Ocean Adventure Rowing Northwest, or OAR Northwest. In December of 2011 we will race our new, 29 foot carbon rowboat across the mid-Atlantic, from the Canary Islands to Antigua, roughly 2500 nautical miles of unpredictable weather, waves, and searing heat. We will row in shifts: two hours on and two hours off, twenty four hours a day until the finish line is crossed.

Building off the success of the last Guinness World Record row set in 2006 from New York to England – 72 days unsupported at sea and over 3200 nautical miles – race alumni **Jordan Hanssen** and **Greg Spooner** will be joined by World and 2008 Canadian Men's 8+ Olympic champion **Adam Kreek** from Victoria, B.C., and me, **Richard Tarbill**, Husky Crew class of 2004. Never has a team of four experienced and successful oarsmen been assembled to tackle an ocean. We plan to make the fastest crossing in a four-person boat by beating the previous record of 36 days.

We have chosen to work with **Right to Play**, an international non-government charity, built by Olympic athletes, that uses sport and play programs to improve health, develop life skills, and foster peace for children and communities in the most disadvantaged areas of the world.

Are we nuts? I chose this effort for reasons such as adventure, pride, a bit of existentialism, and recognition of mortality. But I am not completely sure. The others surely have reasons of their own as well. What I can tell you is a bit about my background and what I drew from Husky Crew.



My rowing experience isn't a story of championship success, or even one of athletic prowess; it is about dogged persistence. Stories from my father and his undefeated 1971 UW lightweight team, which took pieces in the Montlake Cut from the vaunted IRA winning UW heavies, along with a passion to prove my athletic worth, spurred me to give rowing a go. So in the fall of 2000,

I came down to the boathouse to try out for the men's team. Never mind the fact that I weighed around 130 pounds my senior year in high school and had never picked up an oar in my life.

Somehow, I made it through several cuts and was the second-to-last guy to make the freshman team. From that point on, life was an exercise in stretching all levels of comfortable existence. I remember extra personal weight lifting sessions with the football weight trainer, spurred on by enormous football players urging me to lift one last giant bar curl. I remember being sent by the athletic nutritionist down to McDonalds before afternoon practice to have Supersized Value Meals in an absurd attempt to gain weight. At one point my coach, **Fred Honebien**, suggested that I get on a steady supplementary diet of Ensure, the drink old people use. My runner's musculature began to change, but my metabolism and the high calorie work load didn't allow me gain weight.



Fast forward three years. Although I still couldn't gain additional weight, I had learned how to move boats. My favorite memories of crew focus on the fall when **Bob Ernst** would schedule "Self-Selection" races in which we rowed in pairs against the top ten pairs on the team. Racing through Portage Bay, I remember yelling "Get the hell out of the way!" to those other more esteemed rowers we were overtaking.

But my rowing career wasn't just about self-improvement and gratification. The concept of TEAM was equally important. As **Bob**, **Mike Callahan**, **Colin Sykes** and others have often said, Washington rowing is built upon the foundation of walk-ons and competition. Everyone pushes. Hard. And in turn those above you are spurred day in, day out, to give everything they have to be the fastest they can be. How else would one explain a team where twelve guys rowed under six minutes on their 2K ergometer tests? Thousands of rowers haven't made the top boat over the years but their contributions to the team are a vital and necessary part of the storied program's success.

From these experiences, this is what was reinforced: Washington rowing is the ultimate team sport. I also learned that regimentation and habituation are keys to success. Someone once told me that you approach every stroke like it is the best and most proficient stroke you will ever take. Once you figure that out, repeat it a million times. This of course is a metaphor for life. Four years of

battling big 6'5", 200+ pound "brutes" starkly reinforced the simple fact that that athletics isn't fair; yet fulfillment is derived from continually stretching levels of comfort. Masochism and I have a special bond to this day.

And quite possibly this is another reason why I have chosen to race on the Atlantic Ocean. All four of us are living embodiments

of this drive to excel. Together we will risk our lives through the extraordinary and mundane, by simply rowing.

I welcome you all to follow our training rows that will lead to next year's race at www.oarnorthwest.com and our associated Facebook page.



Notable News

Once again the Husky men proved their prowess in the classroom. For winter quarter this last year, our men's GPA topped all large sports teams once again. That's two quarters in a row and heading for a record.

A remarkable 24 rowing student-athletes made 2010 Pac-10 All-Academic team. **Niles Garratt, Jeff Gibbs, Tom Lehmann, Rob Munn, Sam Ojserkis, Ty Otto, Simon Taylor, Adrienne Martelli** and **Isabelle Woodward** were all First-Team awardees.

Congratulations to **Michael Callahan**, who was named Pac-10 Coach of the year!

Hannes Heppner was named the Pac-10 newcomer of the year, and **Anthony Jacob, Max Lang, Conlin McCabe, and Hans Struzyna** were all named to the All-Conference team. On the women's side, seniors **Kayleigh Mack** and **Adrienne Martelli** were named to the Pac-10 All-Conference team.

Husky great **Matt Deakin** was elected to the National Rowing Hall of Fame. Matt was a three year Husky letterman and was voted captain for the 2002 season. He was a member of the U.S. National Team from 2001 through 2008 and was a member of the 2004 Gold medal U.S. Olympic eight in Athens.

Recent grad **Rob Gibson '09** raced to a bronze medal performance with the Canadian team at the first World Cup stop in Bled, Slovenia.

Ursula Grobler (who played a big part in the design of the Michael Callahan newsletter article in December) captured her first World Cup win for the USA in the lightweight double. **Carlos Dinares**, Husky Volunteer Assistant, has coached Ursula from pure novice to this terrific achievement.

Several current Huskies have been selected for US Under-23 national camps this summer. **Hans Struzyna, Rob Munn, Blaise Didier, Ambrose Puttmann, Ty Otto, Matt Zapel, and Robert Squires** will all represent the UW men's team at various U23 training camps, trying for a spot on the U.S. Under 23 team that will compete in Belarus at the end of July.

On the women's side, **Jenny Park, Kerry Simmonds, and Ariana Tanimoto** will be competing for spots on the U.S. Under-23 team.

Graduating senior and team captain **Adrienne Martelli** will join the Senior National team in Princeton, NJ.

Be sure to check back to www.gohuskies.com and www.huskycrew.org throughout the summer for updates on their progress!

The Nostalgia Trap *Commentary by John Wilcox*

From time to time our subscribers tell us they wished today's rowing experience more closely mirrored their experience years or decades ago. But recreating a remembered past is tricky. Memories and the passions that fuel them can lead to an imagined near perfection, a nostalgia trap. But we can do this: let's compare your college experience to that of our current student athletes to learn how it is different and how it remains the same.

Regarding the University. First and foremost, the University of Washington is a vastly different institution than it was thirty or forty or fifty years ago. Today it ranks as one of the finest public universities in the nation. In 1960, 1970 or 1980 it didn't. One of the more obvious consequences is that competition for a freshman slot at the University of Washington is fierce. It follows that our student body is more diverse today by several measures than it was several decades ago.

In 1970 out of state students represented less than 15% of the student population. Philip Balinger, Assistant VP for Enrollment and Admissions, told the Seattle Times that percent will climb to "27% next year and 33% in five years." Blame financial necessity among other reasons. With respect to higher education, the state has opted to eat its seed corn leaving our school to find ways to boost revenues dramatically. In state tuition is \$7,700, out of state tuition is \$24,400, and non-state residents don't qualify for financial aid. Need we say more?

Regarding academics. It may be hard for us old dogs to admit, but our current student athletes, taken as a group, are very likely more academically gifted than we were. University entrance standards almost guarantee it. And as we all know, rowing athletes generally perform better than typical student athletes, and better than the general undergraduate population. Last fall and winter quarters our men finished first in GPA among sports with 20 or more student athletes, and they are set to do it again this quarter. The women are posting a similar record.

As specific examples of our academic focus, our current women's captain, **Adrienne Martelli**, has a 3.52 GPA in Biology. She is also a true walk-on. She played basketball and ran cross country at University Place High School but didn't know port from starboard when she arrived at Conibear. She learned quickly: 2008 gold medal at NAAs in the 4+, 2009 silver medal at the U23 World Championships in the eight. Look for her on the senior women's national team this summer. Our current men's Captain, **Ty Otto**, maintains a 3.62 GPA in a double major, physics and political science. Ty is an Eagle scout, a National Merit Scholar, a Mary Gates Scholar and the son of an Air Force General. His mother, uncle and grandfather are UW graduates.

Regarding walk ons and recruits. While it is true that our world class university draws from a greatly expanded geographic area, chances are strong that today's student athletes walked on in early October just as you did. They might hail from Spokane or Shreveport or Stuttgart, but they came here for the same reasons you came – the standing of the university, the Pacific Northwest lifestyle, the rowing program's success, and the intangibles that make Washington unique.

Unlike most of us, many of our current athletes had rowing experience in high school. That reflects the growth and popularity of the sport and the recruiting skills of **Bob Ernst, Nicole Minett, Michael Callahan** and **Luke McGee**. You should know, too, that our coaches comb high school basketball, football and volleyball teams for athletes unfamiliar with rowing. Many have listened, come to Washington and found an athletic home at Conibear.

Regarding recruiting. Yes, our coaches recruit. Rowing has had explosive growth across the country at the junior level. In a wonderful and ironic twist, that growth can be traced, in part, to Title IX and the surge in popularity of women's rowing which helped to spur the surge in club rowing and their youth programs. The venerable Green Lake program, the younger but stellar Sammamish Rowing Association and Pocock

Rowing Center programs, and hundreds of other clubs like them throughout the state and across North America are introducing legions of young people to the sport. We will continue to recruit the best of them.

Regarding local and out of state athletes. The men's freshmen and varsity rowing roster published on the official Husky website listed 69 student-athletes on the men's team on the day of this writing. Of these, 25 (36% of the total) hail from Washington state and 47 (68%) from Washington's traditional drawing territory west of the Mississippi. Of that number, seven (10%) are from western Canada which has always made up a healthy percentage of the University's student body. Another 12 student athletes (17%) come from east of the Mississippi and, curiously, five of those 12 are coxswains. Finally, we have 10 foreign students (15%): three from Germany, two each from Croatia and Serbia, and one each from France, Australia and New Zealand. All of these student athletes are the appropriate age, all are full time students and all are doing well in school.

Regarding scholarships. Private, endowment-rich schools make up much of our principal competition, and they have generous financial aid packages available for students from their endowments. The NCAA doesn't classify financial aid as an athletic scholarship even if a student on financial aid is involved in inter-collegiate athletics. Consequently, the aid lies outside of the NCAA's jurisdiction, control and rules.

Washington doesn't have financial aid available for similarly situated student athletes. We concluded, therefore, that endowed scholarships would be a valid offset. We have worked hard to raise endowment funding to underwrite scholarships here. Our success in doing so has critics among some of our competitors but we paraphrase Gertrude Stein in response – logically and aptly: a scholarship is a scholarship is a scholarship.

We have a long way to go to close the gap between the aid available for student athletes at Harvard, Dartmouth, Stanford and other private schools – and at California. Most of our scholarships are partial in nature, some as little as \$600 a year. For a few it is a better deal than the "jock jobs" that **Al Ulbrickson, Fil Leandersson** and **Dick Erickson** doled out to a few needy members of the team, but not for many.

Regarding funding. The UW is one of the very few schools in the nation whose athletic department is self-funded. Revenues from football and basketball support all revenue and non-revenue sports, their playing fields and stadiums, and the athletic administration. It follows that the financial fortunes of each sport rise and fall in direct proportion to the major teams' successes. Fortunately, our Athletic Department understands that rowing is part of the University's DNA and it has been very supportive of our program – and in this time of economic challenge, even generous. Yes, we are underfunded but the department and the program are working to close the funding gap inherited from earlier administrations. Meanwhile, the need for financial support from our alumni, families and friends continues.

Regarding similarities, past and present. Our college years were a time of gifts, a time when our developing maturity was imbued with youth, curiosity, health, competition, and with lust for both life and our futures. We came to Washington for the education but our time in the shells helped us discover and define our character and our values. Those facts remain true today among our student athletes; in what matters most there has been no change.

"Our student-athletes ... are so eerily similar to the friends you remember from your college years, you will think you have entered a time warp."

My modest proposal. Words are cheap. I invite you to come down to Conibear shellhouse and judge the make-up of our student athletes and their coaches for yourself. I know you will find them so eerily similar to the friends you remember from your college years, you will think you have entered a time warp. Were you 19 or 20, you would fit into the group perfectly. Yes, the building has been rebuilt and the equipment is new. Yes, they train with modern, updated techniques unknown to many of us back in the days. And yes, they move across 2000 meters faster than we did. But the fact remains that the type of person drawn to rowing has remained the same. Their quality as human beings and as members of society – now and in the future – has never been higher.

Thanks for staying with the Huskies this year and for reading these pages. Without you there is no program; with you – as I promised back in 2005 – we can take on the world and win. So until next fall when our student athletes, coaching staff and this paper return with the 108th Husky Crew season, work hard, play hard and win all your races.

PoWer³ Pledge/Gift Form

Name _____

Address _____

Home or Business Phone _____ Email _____

____ **3 Year Pledge.** *I want to support the Husky Crew with a 3 year pledge as follows:*

2010 _____ 2011 _____ 2012 _____

____ Check or credit card info enclosed for 2010. Please bill me in _____ (month) for 2011 and 2012.

____ **1 Year Gift.** *Sorry, a one year gift makes the most sense for me right now.*

Payment Information

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

____ Check (Payable to University of Washington)

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

(CRW11)

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2010 Seniors

