



University Marketing and Communication
10900 Euclid Ave. ■ Cleveland, OH 44106-7017
Phone 216.368.4440 ■ Fax 216.368.3546 ■ case.edu

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Contact: Tricia Schellenbach
216.368.6949 (o)
330.701.1505 (c)
tricia.schellenbach@case.edu

Doug Rathburn
312.375.8612 (c)
president@spartanalumnirowing.org

FATHER OF GMAIL JOINS WITH ROWING ALUMNI AND CASE WESTERN RESERVE TO GIVE \$100,000 FOR RIVERGATE PROJECT

Donation to the Cleveland Rowing Foundation will be used to match challenge from Peter B. Lewis

Case Western Reserve University graduate Paul Buchheit today joined with the university and the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (SARA) in announcing a \$100,000 gift for a permanent boathouse site in Cleveland.

The donation to the Cleveland Rowing Foundation will support its Rivergate Project, and will be used as matching funds for the challenge grant philanthropist Peter B. Lewis made to the foundation. Buchheit, a 1998 graduate of Case Western Reserve and Silicon Valley technology entrepreneur, rowed as a member of the university's crew club as a student.

"To have the support of someone who rowed in Cleveland more than a dozen years ago highlights the positive impact of the sport and the sense of community it helps to create," said Jon Adams, co-chairman of the foundation's Rivergate Fund. "All of us are grateful to Mr. Buchheit, SARA and Case Western Reserve."

Case Western Reserve students have rowed on the Cuyahoga River since 1991, the year they founded their club at the university. In 2003, graduates came together to found SARA; since then the alumni group has funded the acquisition of several shells and a trailer.

"Rowing is a lifelong sport that changes every person who participates," said SARA President Doug Rathburn, a 1997 CWRU graduate. "We are profoundly grateful to Paul Buchheit for his support of this important project."

Buchheit earned bachelor's and master's degrees in computer science from Case Western Reserve in 1998, and then went on to work for Intel Corp. for one year. In 1999, he became the 23rd employee of Google, and ultimately served as the lead developer for Gmail. Google's free email system that today numbers more than 170 million users. Buchheit retired from Google in 2006, and the following year founded FriendFeed, a service that allows users to share information – links, photos, videos and messages – online with select individuals. Facebook acquired FriendFeed in 2009.

"The Rivergate Project is a promising one for Cleveland, Case Western Reserve and for our student athletes," said Barbara R. Snyder, the university's president. "We are pleased to be part of this effort, and honored by the ongoing engagement of our graduates in the university and community."

About Case Western Reserve University

Case Western Reserve University, one of the country's leading research institutions, offers a unique combination of forward-thinking educational opportunities in an inspiring cultural setting. We provide learning from leading-edge experts in a collaborative, hands-on environment. Our nationally recognized programs include arts and sciences, dental medicine, engineering, law, management, medicine, nursing and social work.