



Case Western Reserve University

Alumni Newsletter
April 2012

Recent Events:

- **Pittsburgh Sprints**
Jan. 28th
- **JCU Scrimmage**
Jan. 24th
- **The Hammer**
Feb. 11th
- **Erg-a-thon**
Feb. 24-25th
- **Spring Break Training Trip**
March 10-15th
- **Homeschools**
March 24th
- **Boat Naming Ceremony for The Jolly Scholar**
March 24th

Alumni Regatta- April 14th. Where will YOU be?

By Anna Czekaj

I am certain that everyone will agree that spring season is always the best season! Not only are the races better and more competitive, but it is also when we have the chance to hang out with our amazing alumni!

On April 14th, the CWRU Crew Team will be hosting the famous Alumni Regatta. It has become a yearly tradition that everyone on the team looks forward to, especially the new novices who are dying to meet all of you!

No words can describe how

thankful the team is for the continued support we've received from our alumni on SARA. It often brings tears to our faces when we reflect on how lucky our team truly is (at least mine).

A simple thank you won't show justice for everything that has been done to make our crew team such a astounding success. So instead of individually emailing all you alumni for everything you've done, I ask that you come celebrate the successes of the past year

with us! Enjoy meeting the team, the fresh Cuyahoga smell, and Cleveland.

Where will you be on Saturday? Simple— wearing spandex and trying to beat our unstoppable team! I hope to see you there and don't forget, **BRING THE HEAT!**



In Mem-OAR-ium

**By Douglas Brubaker
And Patrick Delbarba**

This past Fall, Case Crew lost one of its very own. In a tragic accident, one of the donated sculling oars from Doug Rathburn was taken from us in an accident one morning practice. It was a clear, cool October morning, rowers Brubaker and Delbarba were training in their double, the Kaizen. As the practice came to a close, Doug and Patrick were making their way around the last turn near Columbus Road to head back to the dock; they heard a cry in the night! Patty called for a "Weigh Nuff!" and the

double checked it down just in time. Out of nowhere, on the completely wrong side of the river, a novice 8 from John Carroll collided with the unsuspecting double! Oars raked the rowers and there was a loud "CRACK!" as the port oar held by Brubaker snapped in twain. Yet upon investigation, it became clear that

the oar had sacrificed itself for the boat which didn't have a single scratch on it! We are eternally grateful for the sacrifice of that brave oar and a funeral service is being planned. Controversy has erupted over whether a traditional burial or Viking funeral are to be considered, but a cremation might be the likely compromise.



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Bye Bye *The Hot Sauce*, Hello *The Jolly Scholar*

By Mallory Miller

Keeping the tradition of naming the novice four after a restaurant, the new Vespoli will be known as *The Jolly Scholar*. Located inside Thwing center, *The Jolly Scholar* is not your average campus restaurant. It is a place where students can relax in a social environment, put their knowledge to the test on Tuesday Trivia nights, or simply stop by to grab a drink and watch the Cavaliers play. More importantly, the restaurant will be home to our new spring fundraiser, the “Jolly Relays”. We will also be hosting Case Crew nights throughout the year, where percentages of the profits are donated to our team

Matt Vann, owner of the *Jolly Scholar*, has been incredibly supportive of the crew team with donations of food to all of our



events, including a generous donation of over **100** donuts, five cases of fruit, chips and salsa, Gatorade, and bottled water at the Hammer this past year. Obviously enough food to feed a

small Army...or Case Crew! He also gave his support at the annual Erg-A-Thon and most recently at the Collegiate regatta. The picture above is from the naming ceremony that took place at Homeschools.

“Not everyone wins, and certainly not everybody wins all the time. But once you get into your boat and push off, tie into your shoes, then ‘lean on the oars’, you have indeed won far more than those who have never tried.”

The Novice Experience

By Chloe Milliman

My first exposure to the crew team was at the SatCo (an event where the clubs introduce themselves and in this case, take you out on the water). I decided then and there that I was interested in crew and would commit myself at least to test out the team. After a few shaky practices and some scary almost-flipped-into-the-water moments, I felt as though I was starting to understand how to use an oar and make a boat move without being afraid of hitting into anything because I couldn't see where we were going. Everyone made me feel really welcome, especially after the

first two regattas. This was when I had a better idea of who everyone on the varsity team was and the overall atmosphere of the club.

I doubted my decision during the winter months because of the many hours on the ergs but then

gave in to the fact that crew had definitely grown on me and there was no escaping it now. After a very suc-

cessful first regatta, I hope to continue the trend and improve with my other novices and see how far we can go. My time as a novice might almost be up, but the fun that accompanied will not soon end.



Meet Ken Klika: Team Advisor 2011-2012

By Doug Brubaker and Patrick Delbarba

To say Ken Klika is a renaissance man would be a bit of an understatement. He is a professor of civil engineering, skydiver, USMC Vietnam War veteran, former US Masters swimmer and marathon runner, concrete canoe racer, Assistant Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences, and the team's newest novice. Ken began his rowing career eight years ago after purchasing a personal erg. He started rowing on it regularly about two years ago and this past September purchased a PM4 monitor which he used to help track his meters on the Concept 2 website. When Ken began posting meters to Case Crew, our very own Doug Rathburn invited Ken to join the Virtual Team Challenge against Chicago.

When the spring semester resumed, Ken got in contact with team president Mallory Miller and asked to join. It took only a few meeting to see that Ken is totally committed to the team and excited to be a part of it. The team has had a transitional adviser the past year, but not one who could commit much time outside of his busy teaching load. By the end of March the team officially asked Ken if he would assume the role of team adviser for the 2012-2013 school year and to our delight he has accepted. He now regularly attends practices and is excited for his first regatta, Alumni regatta, though as he says "I feel bad that I can't go to every practice," we're glad to have him when he can.

Ken has three primary goals for himself and the team. He hopes to bring experience, knowledge, and wisdom from his life outside of rowing to the team, provide academic advice and support to the rowers, and to learn to be a better rower himself. Though he has a busy schedule and is always on call if something goes wrong in the college, Ken has made himself readily available to the team. His extensive experience as a professor, both at the University of Akron and CWRU, as well as his research in applied cognitive science make him a unique resource for student academic concerns. At one point, he was even teaching at both universities simultaneously, driving to Akron on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and Cleveland Tuesdays and Thursdays to teach the same class. Finally, Ken's desire to become a better rower himself is best evidenced by his participation in practices as a regular member of the team. Before joining Case Crew, Ken spent a brief time sculling on vacation in Florida. When commenting on the differences between rowing sweeps and sculling, he finds sculling to be the more technical of the two, but enjoys the team aspect of sweeps quite a bit.

Finally, when asked if Ken had any message for the Alumni, he expressed his gratitude for all they have done and continue to do for the



team. He's happy to be considered part of the newsletter and finds it incredibly inspiring that the alumni continue to come back and contribute to their team. Ken also expressed his personal gratitude for SARA's existence since without the organization, he never would have found the team and we never would have found him. For Ken, SARA has been significant for the success of the team in the past, and will continue to be an integral part of the team's growth going forward, "their [SARA's] contributions as rowers were great, but their contributions as alumni are even greater."

We would like to thank Ken for all he has done for the team thus far, and look forward to continuing to work with him going forward.

Apparel Fundraiser— *Great Success!*

By Anna Czekaj

Thank you to everyone who had purchased apparel through our online fundraiser in January. Within only a week, we made a profit of \$240.06! If you asked for free shipping, your order was shipped to the team and you will be able to pick it up at the Alumni Regatta on April 14th.

We plan to host the apparel fundraiser once a semester to allow anyone and

everyone to have the opportunity to buy CWRU crew apparel. Be sure to send out the information to all your family and friends!

The team has the flexibility to include different types of apparel as well as different logos. If you have any suggestions, please let me know. Feel free to contact me with any questions or comments by emailing aec47@case.edu. Once again, thank you for your purchases!



*"Coming together is
a beginning.
Keeping together is
progress. Working
together is success."*

-Henry Ford

Case Crew goes to South Carolina

By Caitlin Bowerman

The Crew team decided to break out of Cleveland this March for a spring break training trip to South Carolina. Last year, the team encountered blizzards and rainstorms throughout all of spring break and after Coach Jim Mack's launch flipped in cold water conditions, I decided that we were not staying in Cleveland for another Spring Break. We decided on Camp Bob Cooper in South Carolina, which is a popular spring destination for many northern crew teams. With funding from hosting the Hammer, apparel sale, and money



from USG, we were able to significantly subsidize the trip cost and bring along 16 rowers as well as coaches Patty Wolford and Bob Gannon.

The basic schedule of Spring Break went something like eat, row, eat, row, eat, row, eat, games and finally sleep. The team was able to row STRAIGHT for kilometers and had to deal with sunny skies and 70 degree weather all week. The efficiency of our practices increased significantly with each practice running around 90 minutes and every rower practicing 3 times a day. Of course our hands did not fare as well. We brought along one novice, Matt Brown, who had never been in a

boat before. On his first day in the novice men's 4+ they managed to flip the Vespoli; however by the end of the week, Matt and the novices were racing a 2k against teams such as Carnegie Mellon, Bowdoin, and Liberty College.

Many of the teammates even chose to go for optional fourth rows after dinner trying out smaller boats such as pairs and some even learning to scull in singles and doubles. For a couple practices the Hudak got re-rigged as a quad and the team got to try some sculling. On the way back 4 of our more crazy rowers I decided return to Cleveland by biking the last 200 miles. Two cars dropped off varsity rowers Mallory Miller, Jeff Chin and novice rowers Evan Lanese, and Chloe Milliman on the border of West Virginia and Ohio and they biked for 2 days back to Cleveland.

Overall Spring Break was one of the best experiences I have had with this team. The convenience of having boats 5 minutes away from our dorms and being away from Cleveland, allowed the team to focus only on row-



ing. In addition, the novice team and the Varsity team got to spend a lot of time together lessening the separation between the two. The effects of this training trip definitely showed at the Cleveland Collegiate Regatta. Case not only won every race, but we won by boatlengths. Our novices were finishing far ahead of John Carroll and Cleveland State even in the 500m sprint.

We will definitely look into going back for next year; however without the help of the Hammer, Case Crew will definitely have to explore new options in funding to afford not only dues but also the extra cost of the trip. Look out for the Spring Break video made by Freshman Patrick Del-Barba when we finish our new website.



2011-2012 Fundraising Update

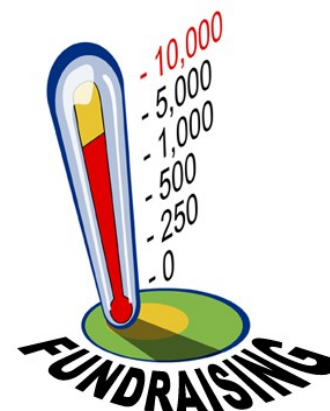
By Abby Sevier

This spring semester, the Case Crew Club hosted its annual fundraiser the erg-a-thon. During this event, the crew club transports several ergs from Veale to Wade Commons on north side so students on campus could try erging for fun. As an extra incentive, we offered two gift certificates donated from Guys Pizza Company to the male and female student who had the best 500 meter time. This turned out to be a tremendous success as we had over 20 students who attempted to win the gift certificates. The winner for the women ended up pulling an average 1:54 split and the winner for the men pulled an average 1:24 split that even impressed Patrick DelBarba. We are cur-

rently trying our hardest to recruit both these members.

The crew club itself came together and managed to pass the entire 24 hour period with at least one team member on an erg. The entire team managed to erg a total of 568,485 kilometers which is the closest we have ever gotten to our goal of erging to Dadvails, a distance of 690 kilometers. Another record that was broken was that we had six members of our team erg a marathon, including three novices. Due to the entire team's hard work and dedication, it was a giant success! We ended up raising over 1800 dollars from donations from friends and family as well as from students on campus.

The Crew Club is currently planning its next fundraiser *The Jolly Relays* which will take place sometime during this spring semester. We're working with the local restaurant on campus the Jolly Scholar to host a relay that contains the perfect combination of fiery hot wings with erging.



Homeschools– Definition of *SWEEP*

By Katie Kershenbaum

On Saturday March 24, 2012, the Case Crew attended the annual Homeschool's Regatta at the Cuyahoga River, competing with Cleveland State University and John Carroll University. This race challenged all three crew teams against one another; first in a 500-meter sprint to determine the two fastest boats, and then in the final 1500-meter race between the top boats. This was our team's first regatta back from spring break and it officially started off our anticipated spring season. To say we were a bit excited to race again would be an understatement.

Although the Cuyahoga's suspicious sharp turns and bends can get tricky at times, we were able to push through and

blow straight past our competition, earning all the wins. The women's novice 4 race was first, starting off the day with a satisfying victory. Anna Czekaj, who is usually a coxswain, decided to whip out her crazy rowing skills for the day and rowed in the four. The women won the first heat, moving on to the final race against JCU. With one of our varsity women as the coxswain, Caitlin Bowerman, we were able to pull ahead and take the lead for the majority of the race, beating our component and earning our first win of the day.

Varsity men's 4 race was next, which only added on to our collection of wins. The speed and synchrony of this boat was incredible, finishing the race two whole boats lengths ahead of CSU.

The women's varsity 4 race was next, which included one novice woman, Chloe Milliman. The women didn't have a 500-meter sprint, so they proceeded directly to the final race against JCU. In the beginning of the race JCU was ahead, but even-

tually tired themselves out too quickly. With the combination of power and consistent ratios, the Case varsity women easily caught up and took the lead, contributing to our pile of wins.

Next in line was the men's 8. This boat included both varsity and novice rowers, yet their strength and focus was quite evident, attaining yet another win.

The last race of the day, the mixed 8, was probably the most memorable and enjoyable race of the day. The race started off with the first heat, against both CSU and JCU. At first, we were behind until CSU and JCU clashed some oars, getting us ahead, and later leading us into the final race against CSU. Our start wasn't the strongest, but throughout the numerous power ten calls made by the coxswain, Anna Czekaj, we pulled ahead with a straight shot to the finish. The fact that the majority of the mixed 8 boat was novice rowers was even more rewarding. After finishing the race with quite a lead, we sang a victory song, *Build Me Up Buttercup*, with our coxswain leading us back to the dock. After all the races were complete, we all felt extremely proud of our successful morning.

We concluded our victories with a naming ceremony for the team's new Vespoli. The regatta was an overall success and great start to our upcoming spring season.



Fall 2011 Regatta Results

Prepared by Matt Steadman

Head of the Cuyahoga (September 17th, 2011)

- Women's Open 4+, 1st/7, 20:20
- Women's Open 2-, 1st/1, 23:21
- Women's Open 2x, 1st/2, 21:34
- Men's Open 4+, 5th/7, 20:16
- Men's Open 2-, 2nd/2, 20:58
- Men's Open 2x, 1st/2, 19:08
- Mixed Open 8+, 1st/5, 18:06

Head of the Ohio (October 1st, 2011)

- Women's Open 4+, 14th/22, 19:32.09
- Women's Open Pair, 5th/5, 22:45.35
- Women's Open LWT2x, 1st/2, 20:29.92
- Men's Open Pair (A), 4th/9, 19:13.82
- Men's Open Pair (B), 7th/9, 20:24.11
- Men's Open 2x, 4th/4, 18:58.08
- Men's Open Single, 2nd/6, 17:57.16

Speakmon (October 15th, 2011)

- Women's Collegiate Open 4+, 5th/8, 22:11.777
- Women's Open 2- (A), 3rd/10, 21:53.843
- Women's Open 2- (B), 9th/10, 27:03.924
- Women's Open Novice 8+, 23:52.479
- Women's Collegiate Open Novice 4+ (A), 2nd/5, 26:06.4
- Women's Collegiate Open Novice 4+ (B), 5th/5, 28:32.8
- Mixed Open 4+, 2nd/4, 20:20.601
- Men's Open 8+, 5th/5, 20:26.551
- Men's Open 4+, 5th/10, 19:16.055
- Men's Open 2x, 1st/18, 18:00.898
- Men's Frosh 8+, 4th/4, 21:26.274

- Men's Open Novice 4+ (A), 2nd/7, 19:57.642
- Men's Open Novice 4+ (B), 7th/7, 25:00.176
- Men's Open 1x, 1st/7, 19:38.189

Head of the Charles (October 22nd, 2011)

- Club Fours Women (Event 16), 24th/45, 21:08.23
- Champ Double Men (Event 25), 17th/21, 18:40.46

Head of the Hidden Dragon (October 29th, 2011)

- Men's Open 2x, 1st/2, 21:10.04
- Men's Collegiate Novice 8+, 2nd/3, 22:01.76
- Women's Collegiate Novice 4+ (B), 1st/3, 24:59.57
- Women's Collegiate Novice 4+ (A), 3rd/3, 26:51.67
- Men's Collegiate 4+ (A), 1st/3, 22:10.96
- Men's Collegiate 4+ (B), 3rd/3, 23:55.18
- Women's Open 2x, 4th/10, 24:51.52
- Men's Collegiate Novice 4+ (A), 2nd/4, 25:19.87
- Men's Collegiate Novice 4+ (B), 3rd/4, 27:24.74
- Women's Collegiate Novice 8+, 2nd/2, 27:52.82
- Men's Open 2- (B), 1st/5, 23:10.11
- Men's Open 2- (A), 2nd/5, 24:15.78
- Women's Collegiate 4+, 1st/2, 23:25.51

*"If winning isn't
everything, why
do they keep
score?"*



Meet the Novices

Prepared by Gavin Brown

Name: Evan Lanese

Year: Freshman

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Cleveland Heights, OH

Reason for Joining Crew: To get in shape, make new friends, compete, and to feel a sense of community and comfort in a group of people.

Favorite Part of Rowing: The teamwork that is involved to make a fast boat.

Name: Matt Hall

Year: Class of 2012

Major: Doctor of Medicine

Hometown: Olympia, WA

I rowed for a year in high school and during my undergraduate education, and always wanted a chance to get back on the water. With my schedule clearing up during my fourth year, I thought that joining Case Crew would be a great way to reintroduce myself to the sport.

Name: Valerie Michel

Year: Freshman

Major: Chemical Engineering

Hometown: Charlottesville, VA

Reason for Joining Crew: I love water, since I swam for 12 years I thought it would be better to be on it than nothing.

Name: Emile Katz

Year: Freshman

Major: Undecided

Hometown: Haifa, Israel

Reason for Joining Crew: To get swole.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Going fast.

Name: Katie Kerschenbaum

Year: Freshman

Major: Nursing

Hometown: Kansas City, MO

Reason for Joining Crew: Get jacked.

Favorite Part of Rowing: The people and the water

Name: Matt Holdren

Year: Freshman

Major: Mechanical / Aerospace Engineering

Hometown: Brunswick, OH

Reason for Joining Crew: Stay in shape and get involved.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Meeting some of the coolest people I've met at Case

Name: Harsha Chandupatla

Year: Freshman

Major: Engineering Undecided

Hometown: Columbus, OH

Reason for Joining Crew: Get big.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Get big.

Name: Larry Mulstein

Year: Sophomore

Major: Computer Science & Cognitive Science

Hometown: Pennington, NJ

Reason for Joining Crew: Something to work towards outside of academics

Favorite Part of Rowing: Being part of a team.

Name: Willis Mathews

Year: Freshman

Major: Political Science

Hometown: Gurnee, IL

Reason for Joining Crew: "The Social Network"

Favorite Part of Rowing: Team effort.

Name: Matt Steadman

Year: Sophomore

Major: Electrical Engineering

Hometown: New Hartford, CT

Reason for Joining Crew: I didn't know anything about crew but when I heard about it, it sounded fun.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Regattas

Name: Steph Merlino

Year: Freshman

Major: Nutritional Biochemistry and Metabolism (Pre-med)

Hometown: Natick, MA

Reason for Joining Crew: The awesome people and the swanky crew gear.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Being able to find a sport that I actually enjoy doing.

Name: Estrellita "Tita" Romero

Year: Freshman

Major: International Relations & Anthropology

Hometown: Las Vegas, NM

Reason for Joining Crew: Looked like a lot of fun.

Name: Abby Sevier

Year: Freshman

Major: Mechanical / Aerospace Engineering

Hometown: Boise, ID

Reason for Joining Crew: Good workout, meet new people.

Favorite Part of Rowing: I get to hear Anna Czekaj's beautiful voice all practice.

Name: Matt Brown

Year: Freshman

Major: Computer Science

Hometown: Lafayette, CA

Reason for Joining Crew: My friend Abby made me.

Favorite Part of Rowing: Winning

Name: Ava Kotvas

Year: Freshman

Major: Chemistry

Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA

Reason for Joining Crew: I rowed for a season in my senior year of high school and missed it, so I joined here! (In short, rowing is awesome.)

Favorite Part of Rowing: Looking at the water during sunrise/sunset.

Name: Gavin Brown

Year: Freshman

Major: Physics

Hometown: Mount Gilead, OH

Reason for Joining Crew: I got in a boat on a lark and haven't looked back.

Favorite Part of Rowing: The last 500 meters.



Looking Back on the past year...



Thank You For Your Support!!