

Spartan Alumni Rowing Association

Team SARA Update

SpartanAlumniRowing.org

Alumni Organization Born

Special points of interest:

- Alumni Row September 20, 2003
- Case Crew coming off best Spring ever!
- Team Fundraising for New 8
- Student and Alum Profiles
- Lend a Hand

Welcome to the first "official" newsletter of the alumni organization for Case Crew, the Spartan Alumni Rowing Association (SARA)!

As a group we'd like to:

- ◆ Help the students run their club
- ◆ Inform alumni of team activities and accomplishments
- ◆ Encourage alumni to keep in touch with one another and the team
- ◆ Organize a yearly alumni event/row at the Head of the Cuyahoga in September
- ◆ Provide an economic base to help the club operate

At the urging of the two present coaches, Chris Sheridan & Tim Marcovy, a few alums still

located in Cleveland decided to lay the groundwork for an organization to represent rowing alumni from Case. At the moment, the organization is remarkably informal and without any resources, but that will change soon.

Coach/lawyer Marcovy is completing the paperwork needed to make the rowing alumni organization its own, separate tax-exempt entity. If you have a few available dollars, you will soon be able to contribute Case Crew. Last year the students discovered that it is almost impossible for an alum to make a donation to the University and have those funds appear in the team's account. The SARA will allow you to contribute directly to the

team with all the same tax benefits available through the school.

At the same time, we are working to build a database that includes contact information for all previous members of the club. Please forward this newsletter to everyone you can think of.

We've done our best to reach everyone, but we know we've missed a significant number of people. Check out our website (www.spartanalumnirowing.org) to see who's listed.

Head of the Cuyhoga September 20, 2003. Save the date! We hope to enter an alumni boat or two this year. That evening we'll also be having an alumni dinner so we can all gossip even more. Send an email if you're interested to

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Fall 2003 Schedule of Regattas

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September 20, 2003

Head of the Cuyahoga, Cleveland, OH

October 4, 2003

Head of the Ohio, Pittsburgh, PA

October 18-19, 2003 (tentative)

Head of the Eagle, Indianapolis, IN
(or Head of the Charles if entry is accepted)

October 25, 2003

Speakmon Regatta, Columbus, OH

Come to a race and cheer the team on (or row yourself in the Alumni Row in Cleveland). Or better yet, let some of the kids crash on your floor when they come to your town or help defer the costs of traveling to one of the events. Check the web for the most up to date schedule.

Entry fees for a typical regatta run about \$250 and truck rental and fuel is another \$350-400. The team would like to compete in more events, but the \$1900 the school provides each year does not go far. The rest must come from dues and fundraising.

SARA Officers:**President:**

Doug Rathburn '97, G'00
doug@rathburn.net

Vice President:

June Whittaker (Lee) '96
june@cwru.edu

Secretary:

Eric Matyac '94, G'97
ejm4@alumni.cwru.edu

Treasurer:

Fraser Hewson G'02
fraser@genvac.com

Please contact us for donations or to lend a hand.

*A Case Crew Women's
Four Won their heat
by open water at Dad
Vails this year. The
team's trip was
partially funded by the
Philly CWRU alumni
organization.*

A Coach's Perspective

**By Chris Sheridan
Head Women's Coach**

I've been in the crew and coaching game for awhile, but nothing quite prepared me for working with CWRU's women rowers. For one thing, most of them are science majors; make a reference to a major national historical event more than 10 years ago and you get blank looks.

For another, they spend more time in front of their computers than any students I've ever seen. Got a friend in the room next door? Don't step in the hall to tell her something - - IM. Always, IM. Want to see the new movie Chicago? Download off the wonderful super-server CWRU's spanking new wireless network allows - - it'll only take about 3 minutes.

Now I was a history major - - didn't take a single math class all four years and proud of it. And with my 56k dial-up modem, it takes me at least 5 minutes to download a single song. So yes, now and then we didn't quite "get" one another's lingo. Perhaps the most painful example for me: I'm trying to get the ladies to accelerate their finishes big-time, and it's just not happening. So I use an old stand-by, "Bring that oar to you like it's Brad Pitt."

One woman literally stuck out her tongue in disgust. "He's SOOO OLD." (Which is exactly how I felt in that moment.)

Ultimately we bridged the generation and humanities-math/science gap because the young women who joined the team last year and I shared an overwhelming passion for this beautiful sport. They trudged through the snow 5 days a week for winter training at Veale. They stroked through pouring rains and Cleveland's coldest spring in memory. And yes, they came home with impressive hardware. Freshman Erin Brandt won second place in the women's open event at the Hammer Ergatta, with a 7:47.5, while freshman Katherine Allen - - recovering from an ACL torn in November - - won the novice women category in the same race with a 7:46.1. A novice 4+ placed second at the Jack Speakmon in Columbus, first at the Red Hawk Sprints in Oxford, Ohio and third at Governor's Cup in West Virginia. The Varsity 4+ placed second at Red Hawk, while the Varsity Pair of Brandy Hedger and Lindsey Schilling placed second at Governor's Cup.

For the women, the year's highlight probably was the Dad Vail regatta, where the Novice 4+ of Allen, Brandt, Hillary Emer, Shannon Armstrong and coxswain Tanujai Pillai won their heat by several lengths of open water. The ladies earned that sweet victory through an awful lot of work during the year, but also had hidden weapons:

four oars used by Case rowers of yore, the Doug (for Doug Rathburn), the Scott (Atkinson), Craig (Agricola) and Tuck (Pescolido). No matter where you are, alums, you're with us in ways you can't even imagine.

Unfortunately the competition was far more stiff in the semi, and they failed to advance. Still, everyone who attended this event - - including Hedger and fellow grad student Meg Grow, as well as men's team members Evan Halprin and Pete Whittaker, found this Philadelphia celebration of rowing incredibly inspirational. Several attendees have worked hard over the summer to ensure an even stronger showing come next spring.

The varsity's fall season kicks off with the first practice Aug. 23. Our first major goal is to take the both the men's and women's Open 4+ sprints at the Head of the Cuyahoga, a feat that would gain the program two new coxboxes. Of course, first we have to qualify for those sprints by virtue of finish in the actual HOTC head race. Translation: the ladies will be working their tails off the first four weeks of school. If you're in town for the racing Sept. 20, please make sure they hear you - - they appreciate every cheer.

*You can email Chris at
CSHERIDA@plaind.com*

www.SpartanAlumniRowing.org

Alumni Organization Born

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Fraser Hewson at fraser@genvac.com.

For the near term, we've self-selected officers for the alumni organization to allow Tim to complete the tax paperwork. This step is entirely temporary; we hope eventually to hold elections. We plan to hold meetings electronically so you don't have

to be in or near Cleveland to help out. Please, let us know if you're interested in a more active role.

In this newsletter you'll read some highlights from the previous spring season from the women's head coach and her plans for this upcoming season. Also, we'd like to share the recent developments of an alum and a current rower on the team. Our

intention is to send out a newsletter three times a year: before the fall season, during the winter, and before the spring season. Go to the website and get involved. Help us organize an event, show up for the alumni row, spare some extra cash for the team's new 8+, or just make sure your contact information is updated so you can keep receiving this fine newsletter.

The 2003 Governor's Cup in West Virginia was Case Crew's most successful to date. Medals in: women's & men's novice 4+ and women's & men's 2-

Alumni Spotlight: Amy Kozlowski

Graduated: 1996, Political Science & History

Home: DC Metro Area

Job: Various political campaigns over the years, currently for a defense contractor, but applying to nursing school now.

Rowing Club: Alexandria Community Rowing Club

Best 2k: 7:32

Years Rowing: 10

Why She Started Rowing: To get in shape and her friends were on team

Most Memorable Rowing Moment: Winning A 8+ at 2001 Masters Nationals & 3rd place at 1994 Head of the Ohio in 4+

Favorite Thing About Crew: Combination of athletics & friendships

Favorite Athlete: Amy Fuller

Most Embarrassing Crew Moment: Catching a crab in first race wearing bright pink Umbro shorts

Email: rowklo@hotmail.com



Amy getting ready to stroke the women's 4 for Alexandria at the 2002 Independence Day Regatta

Student Spotlight: Brian Chorney

Year: Sophomore

Major: Mechanical Engineering

Hometown: Portland, Maine

Years Rowing: 1 year

Best 2k: 7:02

Hobbies: Baseball, Computers

Why He Started Rowing: Better option than cross country at the time, just fell in love with it

Most Memorable Crew Moment: Winning Novice 4+ at Governor's Cup, 2nd at Pittsburgh Erg Sprints (1twt, novice)

Favorite Quote: "When life gets you down get right back up and knock him on his ass"

Favorite Thing About Crew: Winning and seeing hard teamwork pay off

Favorite Athlete: Ken Griffey Jr.

Most Embarrassing Crew Moment: Night before 2003 Redhawk Sprints and woke up with team mate's butt in his face

Where He Sees Himself in Ten Years: Wants design and build roller coasters

Email: bsc6@po.cwru.edu



Brian a year or two ago

We're on the Web
www.SpartanAlumniRowing.org

Remember When? - *CWRU Magazine, August 1994*

Were you here for the dedication of the Aggie? Do you remember how we got our blade design? Did you row in the shell before it was mangled in a few river and trailer accidents? If so, then you must be an alum of Case Crew.

As you know from your days with the team, Case Crew has always been strong in fours, but this fact does not negate the fact that the team needs a decent eight. The students have worked for the last few years fundraising and were able to buy a brand new lightweight four to supplement the *Sweet J*. Their next target is a new-used eight for the varsity and novices.

The addition of a new eight and a set of oars will greatly enhance the team's ability to compete. The students already have many fundraising plans for the upcoming season, but they are hoping the we, as an alumni organization, can help them along.

We were lucky enough to have Mr. Pytte give us the money for the team's first shell, but this time around it'll be us, the alumni, that will make the next shell happen.

