

The Finish Line



Fall/Winter 2013



**2013 WIRA
Champions**
UC Irvine Strikes Gold at
Lake Natoma.

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WIRA Gold!

UC Irvine's Varsity eight dominates the competition to reign as champs once again.

Transition in Coaching and Vision for the Program

Duvall Hecht
Chief of Stewards

Nothing is more certain than change, and it is a healthy organization that not only takes change in stride, but plans for and implements it. That earns a pro-active label, one that accords with our temperament. Little was ever won by hanging back.

So the changes we have seen in the program, including the separation from the Athletic Department, have been healthy. That change in particular demanded that we make the program work on its own. It challenged oarsmen, coaches and alumni to assess whether we could handle the moral and financial challenges: is UCI rowing sufficiently important and worthwhile to justify the financial commitment we as alumni are going to have to make? The answer thus far – and we are only getting started – is a very solid affirmative.

The first priority has been to put our coaches on a solid financial footing, and we are moving in that direction. This year, for the first time since we left the Athletic Department, 2013-14, our coaches, both new to the program, are receiving a modest stipend paid by Men's Crew and helped by the Friends. Given the success of our crews in recent years – fourth in the American Collegiate Rowing Association National Regatta in Georgia, Varsity 8 Champions on Lake Natoma at WIRA the last weekend of April – we were able to select from a number of well-qualified applicants.

Leading the program as Head Coach is Pat Gleason, backed up by A.J. Brooks, Assistant Coach. Pat is well known as the successful coach of Novices at OCC; AJ returns to this area after graduating from UW, where he was a member of the Huskies National Championship Men's Eight. They have been at work all September with recruiting and pre-season workouts for returning oarsmen.

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Jubilation!

A well deserved dip in the river is in order for UCI's varsity eight.

The point is, we are part of something that has permanent value. If it didn't, we wouldn't be here and you wouldn't be reading this!

Friends of UCI Rowing have not been idle. We are making a major outreach to alumni, first step being getting a handle on data. In this we have been very greatly assisted by Mary Ann Mahoney, who has taken on the role of volunteer secretary to the Friends of UCI Rowing. In this capacity, Mary Ann has brought order out of chaos; chaos being the years and decades of material that were being organized and cataloged by Bill Butler before his tragic death. We are also indebted to alumni who have volunteered to contact their classmates, notably Christer Fiege-Kollmann, Nick Berkuta, Bruce Ibbetson, Bill Grant, Tom Kirksey and Powell Thurston.

With our data management now in place, a steady program of communications can now get underway. You will be reading this in our newly launched publication, *The Finish Line*. It will make a regular appearance in the months and years to come.

Also, invitations are on their way to Bay Area and Orange County alumni for two dinner meetings, one at the University Club in San

Francisco on October 24, the other at a location TBD in Orange County on November 7.

Planning has already started for our 50th Anniversary celebration 24 months from now, fall of 2015. Who would ever have imagined time flying by as it has? Who could imagine that oarsmen rowing for UCI this year will be younger than I am now when UCI crew celebrates its centenary in 2065? The point is, we are part of something that has permanent value. If it didn't, we wouldn't be here and you wouldn't be reading this!

Well over 500 athletes have come through the program since it was founded in 1965. Getting back in touch with large numbers of them has been a great personal pleasure for me. The entire purpose of our outreach is to connect alumni not only with other oarsmen of their era and in their boats, but also to connect them with the young men they were years ago, when they trekked to the boathouse at zero-dark-thirty to haul on an oar with seven team-mates who felt drawn to our wonderful, unique, demanding, rewarding and endlessly fascinating endeavor.

Good strokes, well rowed!

Duvall Hecht
Chief of Stewards
Friends of UC Irvine Rowing



poetry in motion



The Man Who Thinks He Can

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you'd like to win, but think you can't
It's almost a cinch you won't.
If you think you'll lose, you've lost,
For out in the world we find
Success being with a fellow's will;
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are:
You've got to think high to rise.
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.
Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger or faster man,
But soon or late the man who wins
Is the one who thinks he can.

- Walter D. Wintle

Our goal is not to just win WIRA, but also to be one of the top contenders at ACRA.



A solid Coaching team

Pat Gleason is known for his countless successes as coach for the Novice program at Orange Coast College, a very powerful crew. Backing him as assistant coach is A.J. Brooks, a four year oarsman from University of Washington. The experience that Pat and A.J. bring will be a good foundation for propelling UCI's eights across the finish line.



A new coaching squad with a solid winning experience take over the program at Shellmaker Island. Exceptional coaches, hard working experienced oarsmen; this should be another great year!

Varsity Coach's Message

Pat Gleason
Head Coach

As I write this newsletter, we have completed almost two weeks of practice. School started on Thursday, September 26th and crew started the day prior. The Varsity rowers have arrived early each day to run and train on the ergs. In an effort to help the Novice rowers get the feel for the boats and rowing in general, the Varsity oarsmen assisted the newcomers in launching the boats and getting their bearings around the boathouse. In the beginning, the Varsity men sat in each boat to make the learning curve a bit shorter for the new Novice rowers.

This year, we have 16 returning Varsity oarsmen and two coxswains. Four new Novice coxswains and 33 oarsmen have joined us so far and we are diligently continuing to recruit. The boathouse is extremely busy in the morning with both the men's and women's teams teaching and training new athletes.

Five of our returning athletes are from last year's WIRA Championship crew and we are setting our aim even higher this year. Our goal is not just to win WIRA, but also to be one of the top contenders at ACRA at the end

of the season.

- Pat Gleason, Head Coach UCI Crew

Assistant Coach's Message

AJ Brooks
Assistant Coach

The Fall Season is off to a great start, unlike other years we have decided as a coaching staff to yield some of the traditional fall head races to focus more on the internal unit of the program.

The work we are putting in now will pay off dividends when we reach sprint season.

We have and will be racing pairs and fours sparking the students to compete in inter squad competition. I believe in the philosophy that "if it was easy everybody would be doing it" with that said we are going to put some good solid hard work, leading into the winter.

I do not want to get ahead of myself by looking too far into the future but I believe the work we are putting in now will pay off dividends when we reach sprint season.

- AJ Brooks, Assistant Coach UCI Crew

WIRA Champs!



Irvine's 2013 WIRA V8 Members

(At Right, top row L-R)
Adam Johnstone (Bow), Nic
Carlson (2), Chris Bradburne
(3), Taylor Jones (4), Kat
Semel (cox), Kyle Starr (5),
John Sutton (6), Andrew
Troung (7), and Dane Wilkes
(stroke)

The Finish Line interviews Kyle Starr, a member of Irvine's eight that put the program on top of the medal podium.

Finish Line: What year of school is this for you?

Kyle Starr: This is my third year, I am a Junior.

Finish Line: What was it like your first year?

Kyle Starr: In my novice year I was approached on-campus. I was a little intimidated. Everyone was a lot taller than me.

Finish Line: How tall are you?

Kyle Starr: 6 feet 3 inches. Not only were they taller than me, they were a lot more muscular than me. I came in 6 foot three weighing 155 pounds. I was very skinny.

The first few practices I didn't have a car. I was biking to practice from campus for the first two weeks. I rode along Back Bay Drive for 6am practices. Then I made friends and hitched a ride from there. The first week we were on the water almost every day. We had a blast, it was something new.

Finish Line: Do you remember your first time in a boat?

Kyle Starr: I do. I was in the Jan sitting at eight seat. I remember sitting in there and missing water left and right, and shooting my slide, and rowing the blade in every single time.

Finish Line: So how did your team do your freshman year?

Kyle Starr: Our freshman year novice eight ended up with posting the fastest time in the Saturday heats at WIRA. We were seeded number one going into the finals. We ended up not having the greatest race. We placed fourth. We regrouped and re-gathered for the American Collegiate Rowing Association Championships in Atlanta. We trained hard for that month long period. We posted the first or second fastest time on Saturday. We hit a buoy in the final at the start. It wasn't terribly catastrophic, but with us being novice we couldn't regroup ourselves for another couple of hundred meters. We ended up placing fifth. We did end up learning from this experience.

Finish Line: Tell us about the weeks leading up to WIRA this year.

Kyle Starr: Going up to WIRA, we thought we had a set boat. But our coach Ben had an inclination to put a different bowman in there. So one day we decided to do some seat racing, we did 1000 m pieces, we did a total of five of them. So each of them had a fair chance. Adam (freshman) was able to win all of his by two seconds over 1000 m consistently. We just wanted the fastest boat possible. We gave it all out and it happened to be him. He was easy to row with. He added to the boat.

Leading up to WIRA we did a lot more work on our sprints. After every single practice before WIRA we would end with 10, one minute sprints just to get the rate up and our heart rate up and learn how to row at a 40-45.

Finish Line: Tell us about the race at WIRA.

Kyle Starr: A few weeks before the race, we had a duel at UCLA. We went into that race with a lot of us thinking it was going to be a very easy race. We had recently beat them at Newport. It was an afternoon race around 5 PM, instead of a typical morning one. We had the middle of Ballona Creek. We got drilled by the current. We lost by about five boat lengths. It was one of the worst races we had ever been in. Every single person had their heads down thinking we were going to get beat at WIRA by Coast, Santa Barbara, and UCLA. So, it took us a few days to snap out of that. Our coach, Ben Hise, got us back into the rhythm. We started training hard. We scrimmaged against Coast. We pushed hard all the way to WIRA. We get up there and we know that Santa Barbara thinks they are going to have the race in the bag. We know that everyone else thinks that Irvine is a first 1000 meter crew. It happened to us at San Diego Crew Classic. It happened at Newport Sprints. We go off the start, get a boat length, and at the 1000 meter mark we break down. Santa Barbara knows that we break at the 1000.

So on Saturday's heat we are paired up with Santa Barbara, Washington State, USC, and ASU. The top three schools went on from Saturday's heats into the finals. We felt that it would be pretty easy to end up in the top three. Coach Ben told us that our race plan was to race the first 500 m all out like we would on Sunday. Bring the next 500 to a solid race pace. And then at the 1000 m mark, where we would normally take a power 10 and make a move, to



The top of the medal podium is a great place for Irvine

just stay there and hold the beat at about a 34. We did just this. We ended up letting Santa Barbara walk on us at about 1000 meters. We let them take seats. They finished about 5 seats ahead of us. We ended up taking second place with Washington behind us. And this was with first through third making it into the finals. We were trying to get into Santa Barbara's head that we would die at the 1000 m mark again the next day. So that went well. We were happy with the outcome that Santa Barbara walked on us, it's what we wanted. When we got back and docked our boat our coach was happy with us, everyone was fine with the outcome. And as we walked by Santa Barbara they were all happy thinking that they were going to have an easy time on Sunday.

Our next day's race plan was focused on breaking up the race into four 500 meter portions. It helped us visualize the race as not one long race, but rather four small pieces. The first 500 was focused on segmenting your drive with legs and body. The next 500 was putting your arms away slowly. The next 500 was opening with your back. The last 500 was the sprint and giving it everything. So we lined up right next to Santa Barbara. In the race was Santa Barbara, UCLA, OCC, Washington State, Western Washington, and us. We started out our first 100 m with a perfect start sequence. We took about four seats right away. We had about a boat length after the first 500 m. Santa Barbara started walking on us at the 500

spoken, a man of few words. But he pulled a hell of a score on the ergometer. He was ranked number two on the entire squad (varsity and novice) for 2000 meters on his first and only ever 2000 meter erg test with a 6:25, all in early January before sprinting season. It was his freshman year, we found him on campus and he was a little intimidated to be in our boat. We pulled him up in about December, when Ben Hise started taking over the Varsity program. We started him out at eight seat, but found that he was too young and it was too early for stroke seat. We found out he worked best at four just following four other people. And he was just able to put all of his power on the face of the blade and move the boat. He definitely added to the boat, you could tell if he was rowing or if he wasn't.

Finish Line: After WIRA you followed up with another race at ACRA (American Collegiate Rowing Association National Championship). You performed very well coming in 5th out of 23 schools, beating Santa Barbara again.

Kyle Starr: After WIRA we dropped down to only practicing with the boats that were going to ACRA. This year it was only the varsity boat. We didn't send any JV's, pairs, or novices. In practices we were out on the water by ourselves with our coach on the launch. We got lectured on how we had to motivate ourselves and how there would be no boat next to us during practices to compete against. So that aspect made it a little bit harder. We



m and we were even at about the 700 m mark. And then came the 1000 m mark. We took a power twenty for Duvall. Duvall couldn't make it to the race as he was in the hospital at the time. After that 20 we pulled even further ahead gaining four seats back. Our coxswain was pretty good about calling the sprint. She ended up calling it at about the 400 m mark. Our sprint wasn't as great as we wanted it to be. We only ended up getting it to about a 38. But we were able to make it a strong 38. We held off Santa Barbara, they started walking on us in about the last 30 m. They started moving and moving but we had enough in us to pull it off by .7 seconds (about the whole bow deck and a seat). It's really not much. After we crossed the finish line, I was in five seat and I couldn't really tell from my angle. All I could hear was two buzzers, I didn't know who finished where. I kept my eyes forward.

Then all I could hear was splashing from behind me and our bow man was throwing his hands in the water, and our two and three were laying down screaming. After that I realized what had happened. At that point I looked over at Santa Barbara, they were just looking down in their laps. At that point I just collapsed. It seemed unreal at the time. And still, looking back it doesn't seem like it happened. It's hard to think about it. I look at pictures now and I just say "wow." It's pretty cool to get up there, to go on the podium, to get the flag, and collect all those shirts. For our bowman, this was his first race in the Varsity boat, he won the seat race two weeks before WIRA, knocking out our other bowman. That was his first race that he won. He's about 5'10", 150 lbs.

Finish Line: 5'10", 150 lbs?

Kyle Starr: Yes, 5'10", 150 lbs, as a novice.

Finish Line: A 5'10", 150 lb novice is a WIRA champ?

Kyle Starr: Yes. There was also our four seat, Taylor, who was also pulled up from novice. He was pretty shy coming onto the team. He was soft

ended up scrimmaging a couple of times against Coast novice, so that was helpful. Coast was sending a Varsity four and two novice eights to ACRA. We have a pretty good relationship with Coast so we ended up scrimmaging with their novice a few times. They were excited to race us and tried to beat us but luckily all the practices we were able to hold them off all of the time.

Finish Line: I hope so.

Kyle Starr: Well yes. They were quick. But in WIRA they posted a time only about four seconds behind us. So they were relatively fast. We spent some time with them, but we spent a lot of time on the erg, and a lot of time on the water. We did a lot of practices in the afternoon. We'd go out at 5pm and go on night rows. We spent a lot of time on the water just taking strokes and strokes. Duvall always said that the more strokes you can take the better. This all led up the the race in Georgia.

The Saturday morning heat we were in had us matched up against Michigan, UCLA, Colorado, Illinois, and Cincinnati. We had to place in the top three to move on to the semi-finals. We placed second in the first heat. Which was where we wanted to be. Luckily we didn't have to race Saturday afternoon (in the reps).

Finish Line: What was Sunday morning's second heat like?

Kyle Starr: It was a lot more challenging than Saturday's heat. We didn't want to spend all of our energy because we had the Grand Finals in a couple of hours. So it was more of doing what we needed to do to get into the Grand Finals. We still did our starts and our sprints and our moves. But coming down in our last couple of hundred meters we didn't do our all out sprint. We were trying to conserve some of our energy. We felt pretty good. We all felt that we could give a little bit more going into the Grand

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You can't beat being able to say all four years of college I woke up and rowed in Newport Bay.

Finals. We placed third behind Virginia and Grand Valley.

After Sunday morning's semi-final we went back to the hotel, and tried to sleep. But there was too much nerves. You can't eat, you can't do anything. You can't stomach anything. It takes a lot of nerves thinking of lining up next to all of these big name schools and representing Irvine and the West Coast. And they know that we did place first on the West Coast. Not only were Michigan and the other East Coast schools out for us, but we also had Santa Barbara in the Grand Final with us. They wanted revenge. At the race course, where they stored their boat was right next to ours. There were stares exchanged. So we go into the race mode and get there early. We launch pretty early. We want to make sure we have plenty of time. We do our typical warm-ups and go up to the line. We had lane 7 with Santa Barbara right next to us in lane 8. The other schools were Michigan, Michigan State, Virginia, Bucknell, Grand Valley, and North Carolina. Our start was very good. We ended up getting to a 49 on our start sequence. And we pulled up about 4 seats ahead of all the crews. We were in first at the time. But slowly Michigan and Michigan State started walking on us. They started getting even at about the 600 m mark. At 1000 m they had a lead on us of about a seat or two. We were in third at the time. At the 1400 m mark we got passed up by Grand Valley. Right there we were still pushing. This was our third race in about 24 hours. We were all feeling it. We were all trying to get through it. We wanted to place. We wanted to place first through third and we had three schools pass us. We got ready to start our sprint early. We were about 600 m to go. Our coxswain was telling us to get ready to sprint early. All I was thinking in my head was 600 m is the longest sprint I've done since the ACRA before. In ACRA my novice year we also did a 600 m sprint. At around 550 meters to go we bring up the rate from about a 37 to a 39. We hold that rate for about 250 meters. Our coxswain was trying to tell us to sprint. We were trying to get it up. It was hard. It was very hard. We managed the last 250 meters to get it up to about a 40-41. At that time we were in fifth place and we were pulling away from the sixth, seventh, and eighth place crews. We were catching up to the other crews. At about 150 meters to go, things fell apart a little bit. The sprint kind of died. We were crashing a little bit. Santa Barbara, which was in sixth at the time started creeping on us from our starboard side. We could see them. They were about three seats behind us closing in on one seat at a time. At one point, they were about even. With about one hundred meters to go we get our act back together. We put it together for our last hundred meters. We beat Santa Barbara by .1 seconds, a discrepancy of about a bow ball. We were basically even and happened to take the last stroke at the right time. That's what it came down to. And so our coxswain basically said "yes we won..." because she was really excited to beat Santa Barbara again. They beat us three times during the regular season, but we got them at WIRA and once again at ACRA when it really counted. Our victory at WIRA was no fluke.

Finish Line: What does your outlook like this year? How many oarsmen did you have return?

Kyle Starr: Out of our eight we had two oarsmen graduate after four years of rowing. Our coxswain graduated. We had six oarsmen return, although we had one of them decide that after two years, rowing was not quite his thing. It's a big commitment. It would be great to have him, but if it's not his thing, we'll find someone to replace him.

Finish Line: It's better to be honest with yourself because it requires a huge commitment.

Kyle Starr: I'd rather have someone on the team putting in their 100% towards a goal rather than a body making a half effort. So, we have five oarsmen return out of the varsity boat. We have two from the JV boat that were in my novice boat that was pretty successful to fill in. So we're looking for one more strong athlete to pull up. We want to be able to fill two strong eights, varsity and JV to fight each other. The key to success, looking at crews like Cal and Washington, they're so fast because they have four eights that can compete against one another. That's something



that we are looking to have. We picked up two great coaches. Pat Gleason took over our program as head coach. He has ten years experience as novice coach for Coast. He was very successful winning countless ACRA's, countless WIRA's. He's a great coach. He is a triathlete. He rowed at Coast and transferred to Washington. Our other coach is AJ Brooks. He is from Costa Mesa. He rowed at Newport Aquatic Center throughout high school for four years. He went to University of Washington and rowed there for four years. Out of his four years racing up there, he won every international title and only lost two races (two races that were not for tanks). He made sure to let us know. He basically won every race he's ever been in. He's a great asset. He's not a 6'8" guy. He's about 6 feet tall and he is very strong. He's able to put up some very good erg numbers and very friendly and easy to get along with. He's a great coach. He's been coaching us since August. He's been writing up weight plans that we're following weekly. And he's bringing small boats training plans to the table. We have four UCI pairs and two NAC pairs that we use. We hold trials and races every Thursday. Each week we can pick the same partner we want or a different partner if we'd like. We can rig the pairs how we would like. We can starboard rig it, port rig it, change the spread, anything we want. Thursdays are trials. It's a 1000 meter race around a buoy. Five hundred out and five hundred back. All on the clock. So you have to be able to communicate well, go straight, and turn the boat at a 180 around the buoy and get back in the race without flipping. We have eight pairs that do this. The top five pairs are able to row the following Monday. That following Monday, the five that got the fastest time on Thursday do a Lido lap for time. The top four of the five that do the Lido lap make up the eight for that Saturday. We've been doing that for two weeks now. It's been going well. It's definitely a challenge. It's something new for us. It teaches us a lot of technique and trusting in each other.

Finish Line: You guys are looking like you're going to be a strong crew again this year.

Kyle Starr: Hopefully. Santa Barbara is definitely going to bring the heat this year with their fast JV boat. They are bringing back about 4-5 returners. Coast will have another strong program. Their novice last year were successful and they will be quick this year. And they will be going after their coach from last year (our coach).

Finish Line: Tell us about school

Kyle Starr: I'm a double major of aerospace and mechanical engineering. That's about 20 units per quarter along with rowing. This year I am working. I teach sailing, paddle boarding, and kayaking. I also do maintenance on the crew shells and sailboats at NAC and UCI.

Finish Line: You've got a full plate.

Kyle Starr: Yes. It keeps me busy.

Finish Line: How do you fund the club program?

Kyle Starr: Since the program was moved out of the Department of Athletics we lost a lot of the perks of getting aid from the school. We used to use that money to buy parts, boats, and ergs. We lost that. We lost the privilege to flag certain students for admission. We lost priority registration in classes. We lost a lot. But with that it's brought good aspects as well. We have a little bit more free reign. We're not under their control so we can enter in races that we want. We can spend the money on other things. Although money is an issue, the school will cover the necessities like the lease on the land for our boathouse. They cover the salary of our rigger since he maintains their boats. But the rest of the expenses are up to the oarsmen. It comes to about \$400 per quarter for the athletes this year. This would cover all expenses for training and travel for the season up to WIRA. ACRA is additional. That will cover hotels, busses, boat entrance fees, and some other incidental costs.

Finish Line: \$1200 a year is a lot for a student athlete

Kyle Starr: It definitely takes its toll on the wallet. I spent this summer working 55 hours a week, teaching sailing in summer camps. So I was able to put in the bank enough money for this season. But it's definitely worth it. The experiences you get, the traveling, the friendships, and the family. You can't beat being able to say all four years of college I woke up and rowed in Newport Bay. Not many people can say that. Not many people can prove it with a box of tanks. I wouldn't trade the experience

2013-2014 Race Schedule

We hope to see you at one of our races this season. The details are still being finalized on some races. Below is the preliminary schedule. For updates visit our website at ucirowing.org.

November 9 - Long Beach Fall Regatta

Long Beach Marine Stadium

November 16 - Small Boats Regatta

Newport Harbor

December 7 - Newport Sprints

Newport Harbor

March 15 - Parker Cup

Ballona Creek (Marina Del Rey)

March 23 - Newport Regatta

Newport Harbor

April 4/5 - San Diego Crew Classic

Mission Bay, San Diego

April 12 - UCLA

Location TBD

April 26/27 - Western Intercollegiate Rowing

Association Championship

Lake Natoma, Sacramento

May 3 - Opening Day

Montlake Cut, Seattle, Washington

May 24/25 - American Rowing Association

National Championship

Lake Lanier, Gainesville, Georgia

Where are they now?

Greetings fellow alumni oarsmen! If you are like me, you are curious about what your fellow alumni are doing with their lives since the "rowing days." This exciting new addition to the Finish Line will give us the ability to share with our rowing family the new milestones within our lives. Please email your submission to nberkuta@gmail.com and include your name, rowing years, event and any related photos. Thank you in advance for making this new addition a success.

Nick Berkuta, '92-'96

Board Member

Friends of UC Irvine Rowing



2013 Spring Reunion

On April 20th, our club held a reunion for alumni UCI oarsmen/coxswains at the Harborside Restaurant in the Balboa Pavillion overlooking Newport Harbor. Over 80 oarsmen and their families representing several generations attended the event helping to raise funds for the program.

Our ability to come together to support the team demonstrates the strength of the program and the perseverance of the student athletes representing the team. It also comes to show the strong bonds of friendship that last throughout the decades.

Upcoming milestone

2015 will be our 50th anniversary as a program! Our 50th anniversary celebration and fund raiser will be a hit! We are looking for volunteers to help coordinate the event. To express interest, contact us by visiting ucirowing.org and clicking Contact Us



An appeal for your financial support

Theo Khachaturian, Treasurer, Friends of UCI Rowing

Rowing at UC Irvine is made possible with the help and financial support of oarsmen like you. Contribute today.

Hello friends,

October 1st marked the start of FUCIR's fourth fiscal year in the organization. It's amazing for me to think that it has been four years since we put this 501(c)3, tax-exempt organization together to help save rowing at UCI. Some of you will recall the despair that was going on around when the Department of Athletics pulled its funding from the crew. Fortunately, at that time, a few individuals (not me) knew the benefits of a having a 501(c)3 to support the crew, with or without support from the athletic department, and FUCIR was born.

So what has FUCIR done since 2009? Let's take a look.

FUCIR's financial support has been essential to the continuation of crew at Irvine. Some of our contributions have been seemingly mundane. We have repaired coaches launches, repaired trailers, purchased cox-boxes and repaired the boats themselves. Of course, the reality is that these expenditures are necessary. The program just doesn't work if the coach is constantly worried about his launch engine breaking down, and if the rowers can't hear their coxswain, cohesion breaks down.

We've also been able to pay for race admission-fees and travel expenses for the boats and for athletes. In the last few years, the athletes asked FUCIR to help them get to Georgia to row in the

ACRA regatta, and FUCIR happily agreed to pitch in for the costs. In 2011, we paid about \$5300 for air fare, room, and boat transport costs. In 2012, ACRA expenses came to \$7,000. Any year that the athletes come to us and say, "we've done well this year, and we think we can make a great showing at ACRA," we want to be able to say "YES!"

Not to downplay the absolutely necessary costs (eg, launch repairs), or the let's-make-this-crew-a-national-competitor-costs (eg, ACRA), it has been really special to invest in new, or almost-new racing shells for the crew to last for years to come. Since 2009, we have purchased four racing shells. New shells give the athletes and coaches the confidence of having top-of-the-line equipment, and greatly reduce maintenance costs that you experience with older boats. Also, new boats ensure that, even in down years when FUCIR is not doing as well financially, there will still be a base of quality equipment.

So why give to FUCIR? I don't need to tell you about the tax benefit of giving to a qualified 501c3 charity like FUCIR - you get a deduction on your taxes (yay money!) Of course, it's way

FUCIR's financial support has been essential to the continuation of crew at Irvine.



more than that. Crew invaluable enriches lives, and teaches us the value of friends, hard-work, and teamwork. When we rowed, we benefited from many others' money and time, but we rarely thought about these benefits, which were just given to us. Now it's our turn to give.

FUCIR welcomes your donations to help us keep crew going at UC Irvine.

Respectfully,

Theo Khachaturian

Treasurer - Friends of UC Irvine Rowing

Donating to the Friends of UCI Rowing

Set up a sustaining membership

It's easy to set up a sustaining membership. Simply visit our website at ucirowing.org and click on the Donate button.

..or make a one-time donation

It's just as easy. Visit ucirowing.org and click on the Donate button.

Membership Levels

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