

SWEEP

THE WASHINGTON ROWING MAGAZINE

**SPRING
2023**

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ROWING



Sweep is published two to three times a year for dedicated donors, alumni and fans who value their impact on Washington Rowing and their contributions to the storied history of Seattle as 'Rowtown USA.'

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**Donate to the
Annual Drive here!**

Winter in Seattle —The Husky Advantage

As we write this letter for Sweep, the water in Seattle is almost perfect for rowing. It is a bit cold, in the high 30s, but the water is flat from Lake Washington to the Ballard Locks. While programs in other parts of the country are indoors due to snow and ice, we can be on the water along with a very rigorous cross-training program. Although the wind does blow sometimes in the winter, the water is peaceful and beautiful today!

Winter days will lead, of course, to the excitement of spring and the upcoming racing season. UW Rowing is again in an outstanding position to compete with the best crews in the country and to be ranked among the best university crews in the world. Seattle is an advantage for us, but the people are the reason for the excellence of the programs. The student-athletes, coaches and many volunteers lead with a work ethic focused on building on the history and legacy of the 1936 Olympic champions as described so well in "The Boys in the Boat." With the release of the movie directed by George Clooney, the character and values of UW Rowing will be displayed for the world to see!

Spring will also be a time for UW Rowing alumni, family and friends to support our world-class programs. Competition is intense, and support for endowments, scholarships and other funds is extremely important. As co-chairs of the Board of Stewards, we are committed to working with the UW's Advancement team to support Husky Giving Day in April and raise funds for the options that are listed on the revamped website here:
<https://www.washington.edu/giving/husky-giving-day/>

We hope that many of you will join us in making gifts to UW Rowing!

Go Huskies!

Jane Powers *Paul Ramsey*

Jane Powers Paul Ramsey

CO-CHAIRS, WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS



We Are the Boys in the Boat

It's a global story now. What was once a Washington story is — thanks to Dan Brown's bestseller "The Boys in the Boat" — now known around the world. And it is about to get even bigger as it heads for the big screen in 2023.



Currently in post-production, the feature-length film — directed by George Clooney — is receiving the final touches before an as-yet-to-be-determined

release date. What we do know is everyone associated with the movie is excited for it: "It's everything I would've hoped it would've been and so much more," said actor Chris Diamantopoulos of working with Clooney in a recent Moviefone interview (Diamantopoulos plays iconic Seattle P-I reporter Royal Brougham). "I said this to him, that I was going to have a real hard time going to any other project after doing that because I was working with the

best of the best on every level and making an epic feature about such a beautiful story."

Filmed predominantly in England in the spring of 2022, sets, costumes and boats were created using exact measurements and material and replicated to perfectly reflect the period. On the last day cameras were rolling in June, the UW men's team, competing at Henley (and ultimately winning the 2022 Visitors Cup), had the opportunity to visit the set. "The production has gone to great lengths to get it right, and Production Designer Kalina Ivanov couldn't wait to show the team her detailed recreation of the shellhouse," said Murphy Gilson, UW Creative Director and the point person for UW coordination with the production team. "Between the cast and crew and our team, I'm not sure who was more excited to meet whom!"

"It was an amazing experience," said men's head coach Michael Callahan. "The guys got to meet the cast and Mr. Clooney, and watch the entire production team in action as they shot some of the rowing scenes. Sort of one of those 'once-in-a-lifetime' experiences — made possible, once again, by the generosity of our alums and fan base — that made this trip that much more memorable."

As of press time for this issue of SWEEP, there has been no word yet on a release date for the movie, but "based on what we saw, we are confident that the movie will accurately depict the history and legacy of our 1936 Olympic Champion team," said Michael. "And, as importantly, that it will capture the unique character and values of Washington Rowing. Keep an eye on our Facebook and Twitter feeds; as soon as we hear anything we will let you know!"



The Boys in the Boat Endowment Your gift to the Boys in the Boat Endowment creates infinite opportunities for future rowers on our men's team to make us proud and to make their own marks on Washington and the world.

New Life for a Landmark Shell House

HOME TO LEGENDARY HUSKY CREWS SLATED FOR RESTORATION

The ASUW Shell House — located on the Montlake Cut, home to multiple National and Olympic Champions and an iconic piece of Washington Rowing history — is about to receive a much-deserved makeover.

Built as a seaplane hangar for the Navy at the end of WWI, the building became our home from 1919-1949, a time span that produced some of the greatest teams in our history, while providing a workshop for famed boat-builder George Pocock.

Fast forward through the decades and the wood-framed, expansive space served multiple purposes, well-known in the mid-20th century as the “Canoe House.” “The shell house was also home to our women’s team when they first started out as a club sport in the ‘60s and ‘70s,” said Yaz Farooq. “Nothing came easy for them, but they were happy they could row and be recognized as athletes, not just as participants in sports.”

Nicole Klein, the UW Capital Campaign Manager for the restoration of the building, is getting close to the \$18.5 million goal, with over \$13 million raised so far through gifts, pledges and grants.

“The interest in preserving this space for future generations has really been community-wide,” she said recently. “I have felt — and the UW has felt — a great deal of support for the history and the meaning of what this building represents.”

Brad Smith, President of Microsoft, and his wife Kathy Surace-Smith, have provided a \$5 million anchor gift for the project, with an additional \$2 million pledged by Microsoft. “When you walk into the shell house, you are immediately struck by the historic nature of it, by the stories that have happened here,” Surace-Smith said. “We hope others see what we see, which is the tremendous potential and value of opening and restoring this iconic space for the community.”

A public campaign to build awareness and excitement for the shell house will launch later this year, with the goal of having fundraising finished by the end of the year. The completed building will be operated by the Department of Recreation, under the Division of Student Life (not the Athletic Department). According to the University, admission fees and events will support this “dynamic and flexible space to gather and gain a greater understanding of our region’s many layers of history.” The interior walls will feature displays covering the full history of the building and land (including rowing), but George Pocock’s shop will be “one of a kind,” according to Klein. “I like to call it the ‘heartbeat’ of the building, a step back in time ... a live, working shop where boat builders will be on site working in the same space and with the same tools and material Pocock used.”

A positive synergy between the project and the rowing team continues, with an agreement in the works to funnel a portion of the revenue, when open, back to the program.

“This was the home for so many of the people who built us into what we are today ... Ulbricksen, Pocock, Callow ... and the incredible teams they coached,” said Michael Callahan. “We feel so fortunate that it will be brought back to life ... a permanent reminder of our past and how this program builds young people — and has for generations — into the strong men and women they become.”



To learn more about the ASUW Shell House, or to step inside, contact Nicole Klein at [kleinn@uw.edu](mailto:klein@uw.edu) or 206-221-8517. More information can be found at: www.asuwshellhouse.uw.edu.

Made for Strong People

By Michael Callahan

Head Coach, Washington Men's Rowing



This sport was made for strong people. You may not come in here strong, but when you leave you are.

One hundred years ago nine men from Washington won our first National Championship in June of 1923. They did that as underdogs, after stroke Dow Walling suffered a leg infection from the Hudson River and could not get out of bed. But like Don Hume in 1936, he got out of bed for the race. In a grueling 3-mile showdown against dominant east coast crews, he stroked his team to a one-length win, and the first National Championship for any west coast team and in any sport at Washington.

Not only did that win not come easy, but the five years leading up to it were some of the most difficult in the history of our program. Our founder, Hiram Conibear, had passed away in 1917; WWI drained the campus of men; we lost our boathouse on Lake Union; and west coast rowing, across the board, had lost its momentum.

Yet none of that stopped the Rowing Stewards, who led the effort to keep it going. Ed Leader, a student of Conibear, stepped up to coach and started to rebuild. He moved the team into a cold and abandoned Navy Hangar in 1919 (now being restored, see our article in this issue). Then Rusty Callow, another student of Conibear, took on the lead role and continued. The two of them, with the Seattle Community always by their side, saved this program from the abyss by committing to the values Conibear taught, and by 1923 Washington was the best in the country.

Since those very early days, our legacy here is to lead and embrace change, and we have been consistent at it. We did that 50 years ago with Title IX, and within seven years had the first of five National Championships in a row (1981-1985) from our Women's Team, a point of pride for this program that we still celebrate. By the early '90s we had women coxswains leading the top crews in our men's program (read about these trailblazers in this issue).

Positive and forward-thinking change is a defining characteristic of who we are.

As we stare down a post-COVID intercollegiate athletics landscape that looks very different from just a few years ago, you can feel the anticipation of something new in the boathouse every day now. An ASUW shell house about to be reborn, a "Boys in the Boat" movie, new practices, new blood, new life. It feels transformational. It has driven a solidarity on this team that feels right: a solidarity of purpose that strong teams thrive on, a competition that pushes and drives and defines us to our core.

I am so proud of my coaching group this year and of this team. They understand change, they understand challenge and they have been on board with all of it from the very first day.

Washington Rowing was made for strong people. You may not come in here strong, but when you leave you are. Ed Leader, Rusty Callow and the 1923 National Champions understood that. As do we.

Respecting the Legacy

By Yasmin Farooq

Head Coach, Washington Women's Rowing

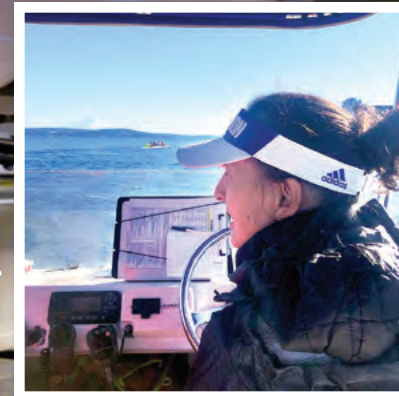


PHOTO: Alika Jenner



In every corner of the Conibear Shellhouse, you feel the spirit — and spirits — of generations of Husky rowers.

Each morning, the larger-than-life image of famed boat maker George Pocock gazes wisely into the boat bays, welcoming us into the boathouse and the work that awaits us. Storyboards in the upstairs lobby showcase the impact of Husky rowers through the decades. In the Champions Room, Olympic medals and national championship trophies are proudly on display, reminding us of the successes of those who came before us. The legendary Husky Clipper hangs from the ceiling of the Windermere Dining hall, overseeing the annual induction of rowers and coxswains into the 112-year-old Varsity Boat Club.

Every day, squeezed in among classes and practice, today's Huskies care for this immensely special and sacred place. For the women, the frosh sweep out the erg room every night, while the sophomores clean the boat bays. Juniors vacuum and neaten the Champions room and Higgins Student Lounge. The coxswains hose out the launch

house every morning and the seniors ensure the locker room is an organized and welcoming sanctuary for all.

The team approaches these chores with an abundance of respect. Respect for the legacy we humbly carry on. Respect for the opportunities the sport offers us. Respect for each other and respect for each of you — the alumni, donors and fans who make everything possible through your financial generosity, mentorship and race day support.

This year's team represents everything that's great about Washington Rowing! We are rich in experienced senior and fifth-year rowers while we also welcome first-year student-athletes who had never picked up an oar before tryouts.

Roughly half our team hails from Washington or has ties to the program — including co-commodores McKenna Bryant '22 and Victoria Park '23. McKenna learned to row at local club Mount Baker, and Tory, a "Hometown Husky," walked on to the team, just like her aunt in the '90s. The rest of our team is a mix of star athletes who hail from

other sports, along with top rowers from the U.S. and around the globe — now all proudly wearing purple and gold.

They'll be put to the test for our opening regatta in San Diego the weekend of March 31-April 2, facing powerhouse teams including Texas, Stanford, Cal, Oxford Brookes, Notre Dame, USC and WSU. At home at the Cal Dual, we'll celebrate the 50th anniversary of Title IX. Then we'll welcome the Australian National Team to the Windermere Cup to get ready for the Pac-12's and NCAA Championships.

As we em"bark" on the season (Woof!), we look forward to creating extraordinary moments together and celebrating the Washington Rowing legacy. We've come a long way in the last century. Thank you for all you've done to help us get where we are today.



Your gift to the **Title IX Legacy Endowment** celebrates our history and ensures the future of our women's rowers.



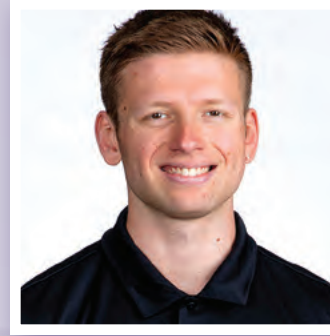
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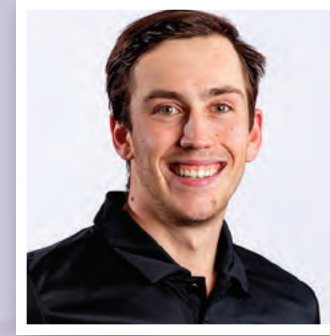
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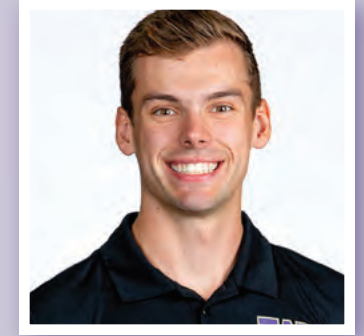
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Joel Cullen
Chilliwack, B.C., Canada
Science & Master's Of Management



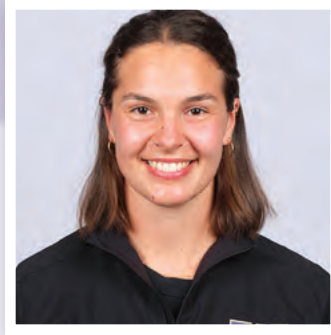
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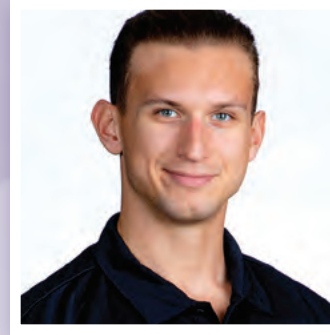
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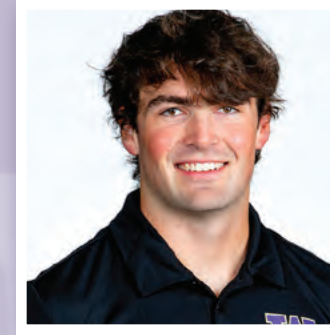
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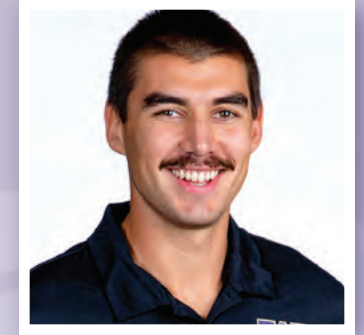
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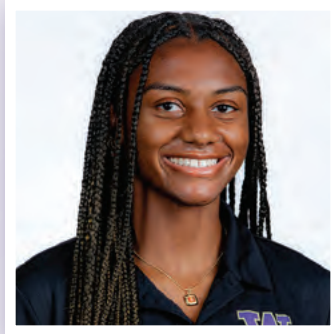
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Grace Murdock
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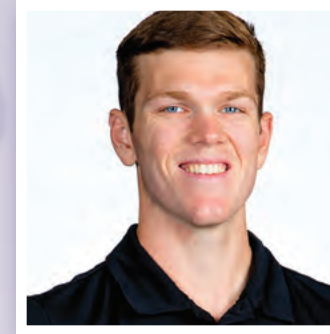
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Class of 2023

Leaders of the Pack

One thousand meters into the 2009 IRA Varsity National Championship final, California was slowly drawing away, Washington trailing in third almost a length back. “We still had contact, but we all knew it was now or never,” said Katelin (Snyder) Guregian, the 2009 men’s varsity coxswain.

Guregian, one of the most decorated UW coxswains in the history of the program (2-time Varsity IRA champion, 2-time Olympian, 2016 Olympic Champion and five-time World Champion with the USA Women’s Team), would end up calling a power move and her Washington teammates responded, clawing back Cal in the final 200 meters in a comeback win for the ages. “That team believed. All of us trusted each other completely. I can still remember it like it was yesterday,” said Guregian.

Focused, intelligent and fiercely competitive, Guregian is not alone as a highly successful female coxswain from the men’s team. In fact, the inclusion of women coxswains on the men’s team has been a part of the program for over 40 years. With the opportunities made available through Title IX for women to compete in varsity athletics, Dick Erickson welcomed any coxswain, male or female, who would commit to the team.

Bob Ernst took the helm of the men’s team in 1988 (after coaching the UW women to six National Championships from ‘81-‘87) and began elevating women coxswains into his top boats almost immediately. By 1992, Kristin Bailey — a sculler in high school — was leading the JV team on the men’s side, becoming the first female coxswain at Washington to win an IRA Championship in 1993.

“It was one of those once-in-a-lifetime boats,” said Bailey recently. “There are few sports where you



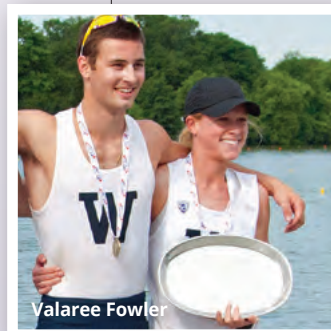
Lisa Caldwell



Mellisa Collins is the only coxswain ever to win a National title in the IRA (men) and NCAA (women) Championships.



Kimmons Wilson



Valaree Fowler



Guregian and the 2009 IRA V8 Champs

have nine athletes together like that and there were times it was like magic ... they were incredible athletes, and we had that trust and that humility that comes with being together that long.”

“There were four female coxswains in 1993,” she continued, “and we felt like trailblazers but we were respected as teammates, and there was no sexism with Bob or any of the coaches. Sometimes it was strange to be a woman on the men’s team just

because of the gender differences, but the reality is when the goal is excellence, you’re going to be hard on each other anyway.”

Kara Schocken Aborn — another high school rower turned men’s coxswain — took over the JV coxswain position in 1994 and in 1995 became the first female elevated to the varsity boat at Washington. Asked in a 1995 *Seattle Times* article how she fit in, she noted “I forget most of the time that I am different. Maybe it’s just easier



Dr. Leah Downey



Michelle Darby V8



Kristin Bailey

for me to relate to the guys ... [and] it’s much easier just to yell at them.” That met the approval of 1936 Olympic legend Bob Moch, who was quoted in that same article stating, “A coxswain has to have certain qualities, and she’s got them ...”

“It was a point of pride for me to be a first,” said Aborn recently. “I played tackle football in middle school, so I was used to being the only girl on a team. I knew what to expect. My mom was the first female ski patrol at Crystal Mountain and raised us



Lia Roberts



Kara Schocken Aborn



Dr. Laura Denman

to not see gender as a barrier. So, when I was out at practice I just was part of the team, and I felt like one of the guys.”

“Bob (Ernst) really respected me as a coxswain and as an athlete and as a member of the team. He was serious about practices ... you felt the weightiness of the history and the level of talent and the expectations. Bob conveyed that in everything we did, and his love for the sport and the team came through all the time.”

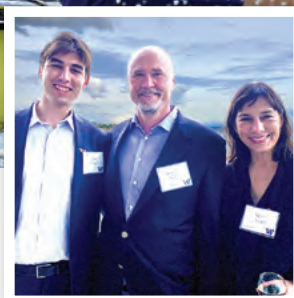
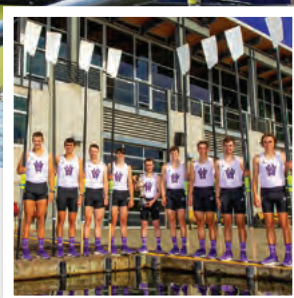
From that point forward the team and coaches actively encouraged women to join the men’s team as coxswains, with Guregian becoming the first female coxswain to lead the men to victory in the Varsity Challenge Cup at the 2007 IRA and then again in 2009. “At the core of it were my teammates and my coaches” said Guregian recently. “I remember being with these guys that were so talented, and they treated me with so much respect ... they understood how to make me better. When someone respects you that much it makes you want to step up, and it made me want to step up for them.”

For the 2023 season, there are currently four women coxswains on the team, including first-year coxswain Lilly Kurtz. Kurtz, a four-year coxswain in high school at Holy Names in Seattle, joined the men’s team because, “I like trial by fire — I sought to take myself out of my comfort zone, challenge my knowledge and understanding of rowing and learn from some of the best coaches, rowers and coxswains in the sport today. I get to face myself every day on the water in a very raw manner, which I see as nothing but a gift. I think above all, I feel an incredible amount of gratitude and respect for the female coxswains in the past that paved the way to not be bound and defined by gender, but rather by how and what I can contribute to the team.”

For Michael Callahan and the rest of the coaches, the goal remains focused on building fast crews. “We have had women — highly successful women — on this team for long enough now that it would not be the same if they weren’t here,” said Coach Callahan. “That makes men’s rowing unique, no doubt about it. But it is something we highly value, not only because it can often bring a different perspective, but because competition, regardless of gender, makes us better. And there is no question that throughout my time here, that has proven to be true.”

Leave it better than you found it

COMMODORE BUILDS ON THE LEGACY HE HOPES TO LEAVE BEHIND



Pablo Matan, senior and commodore rower, applies a strong-willed, work-ethic based mentality that pushes him to be a leader for his team. On the horizon of what Coach Michael Callahan describes as his breakout season, Pablo reflects on his love for rowing, his approach to leadership and the legacy he hopes to leave behind following the 2023 rowing season.

Although Pablo has been thoroughly involved in sports for as long as he can remember, rowing was one that he was especially familiar with before ever trying it for himself. His father rowed at California Berkeley, and his brother rowed at Stanford. "I grew up around it and attended races. In high school I did wrestling, football and threw shot put. When I tried rowing I fell in love. The rowing program is the reason I chose the University of Washington."

On the rowing team, Pablo has worked hard to be a strong leader for every class, attributing his success to his strong values. "A lifetime of sports shaped me and how I view life and my work ethic. I find there are a lot of similarities between sport and life, and usually work ethic is the answer to most things. My mom and dad work really hard and always taught me to 'try to outwork every single person you know.' That's how I view sports and life."

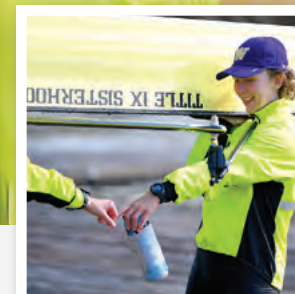
When asked what it means to him to have been voted into an important leadership position, Pablo shares that, "It's an honor. It's meaningful to me that so many people trust me as commodore. I've looked up to a lot of people in this role and I want to live up to the impact that they have had on me."

After a challenging yet successful 2020-2021 season, Pablo acknowledges the huge impact that leadership and cohesion have on a team and has made tremendous strides in mentoring freshman rowers and instilling a legacy to "leave it better than you found it." "Whether it's in the mentality that everyone brings to practice or the team culture in general, I hope that's the legacy we leave."

In his role as a leader and mentor, Pablo experiences the incredible impact of donor support daily and expresses gratitude to you on behalf of his team. "We can't thank you enough. There are a lot of people who have an opportunity here because of you. Though often unseen, your selfless giving is having a profound impact — it's changing lives each and every day."

All in the Family

UW'S FIRST-EVER 2ND GENERATION WOMEN'S COMMODORE



PHOTOS: Aika Jenner

UW Women's Rowing Mentorship Database



Mentor a current women's rower or recent graduate.

As the clock ticked down in her last high school water polo match, **Victoria Park** thought she was counting off the final seconds of her competitive sports career. Growing up, her life revolved around sports — from soccer to cross-country skiing to water polo. When that final buzzer sounded, she thought her time in team sports was over. "I was really sad," Victoria said. "I thought, 'I'm never going to work this hard at something difficult again.'"

A second-generation Husky from Bellevue, going to UW was always "Tory's" plan. Rowing for Washington was not. But, the love for water runs deep in her family. Dad, Jamie '95, played on the UW water polo team, and her mom, Christie '91, competed as a member of Washington's varsity swim team. Tory's aunt, Ellen (Park) Rowland '95, a former commodore on the rowing team, encouraged Tory to try out for crew, although she cautioned Tory that at 5'6", she "might be too short."

"Halfway through tryouts I started to realize I might actually be able to make it," Tory recalls. She was also training for the Seattle Marathon at the same time and realized she needed to make a choice. "Being on the water and on the erg with the whole team was such a cool experience. I was just in awe the whole time. I realized, 'I can run a marathon whenever I want, but I have a chance to try out for rowing right now.'" Tory put the marathon on hold and instead focused on the upcoming erg test — and earned her spot on the final roster.

"Tory has a lot packed into that 5-foot-6 frame that goes far beyond her size," exclaims Head Coach Yaz Farooq. "She's always positive, incredibly focused, loves to work hard and is genuinely dedicated to excellence and elevating everyone around her."

Tory's teammates found in her the same qualities that her Aunt Ellen's teammates saw 27 years ago, electing Tory to the position of co-commodore (along with McKenna Bryant '22). Tory is grateful for the group's confidence in her. "Being voted as a commodore by my peers means so much. It feels good being around people who have the 'rowers' attitude' and the 'I'll try that' mindset. It makes you think anything is possible. I am inspired by my teammates every day, and it's an honor to be lifted up by all of these women."

Tory is humbled by the opportunity to be part of Washington Rowing. "Being on the team has been the most impactful, incredible and defining college experience. As a gay woman, it's such a welcoming environment and a real community; everyone is great at embracing the team as they are."

Thanks to your generous donations to the program, Tory has enjoyed an unforgettable experience. "The donors made my rowing experience possible. Women's sports are such a positive force. We're inspired every day to show up and push the boundaries of what's possible."

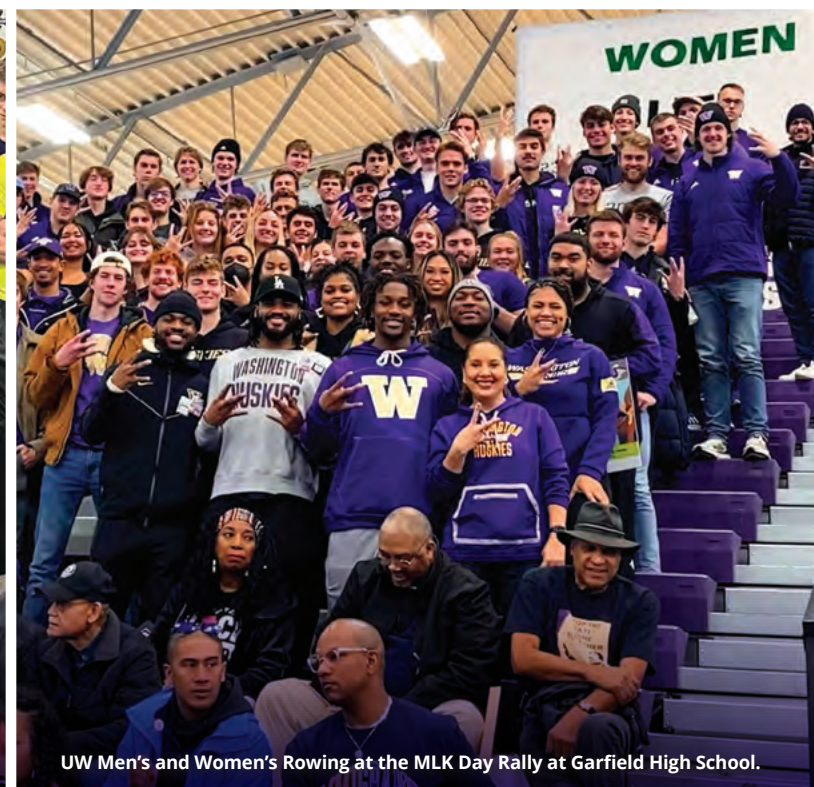


Support Washington Rowing on April 6th – Husky Giving Day!

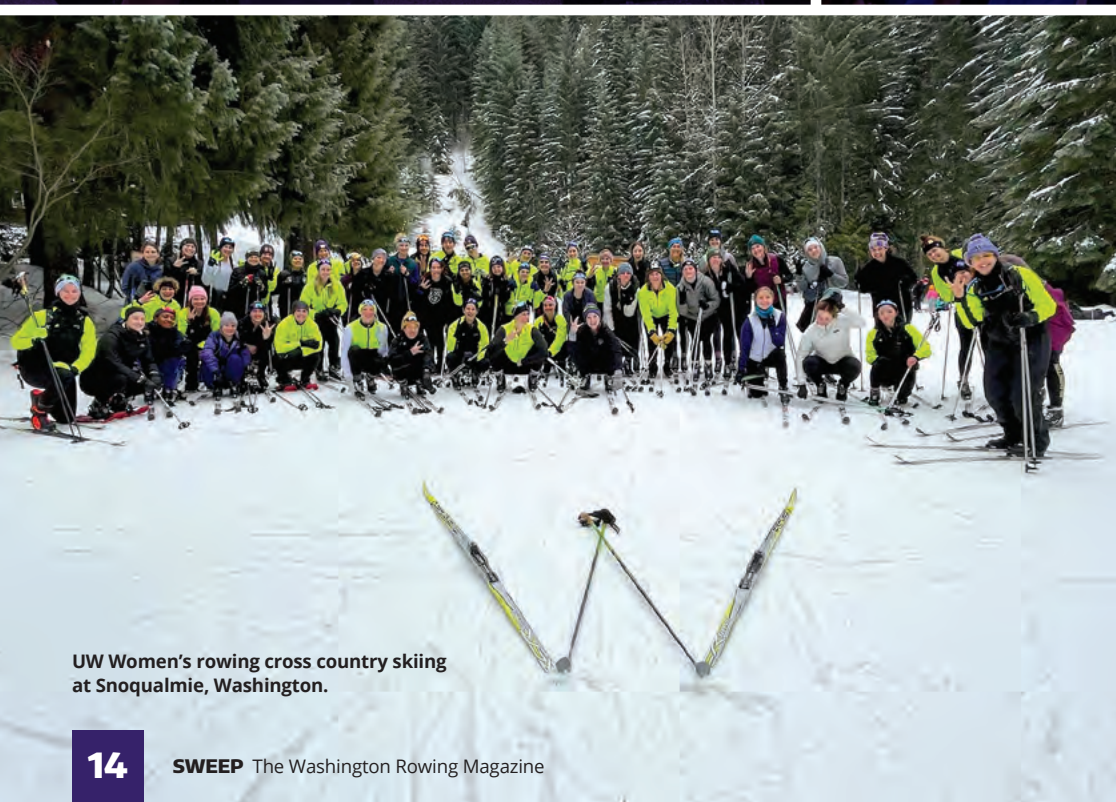
This is the time that serves as a moment to reflect on what UW Rowing means to you. On **Thursday, April 6**, we hope to have you, your family, friends and coworkers become a champion for our student-athletes on Husky Giving Day. Your generosity will help every facet of Washington Rowing, from supporting scholarships and academic services to training and equipment. **Become a champion today and don't forget to Give on April 6!**



Alex Gonin '25 and Logan Ullrich '23 during Purple & Gold games.



UW Men's and Women's Rowing at the MLK Day Rally at Garfield High School.



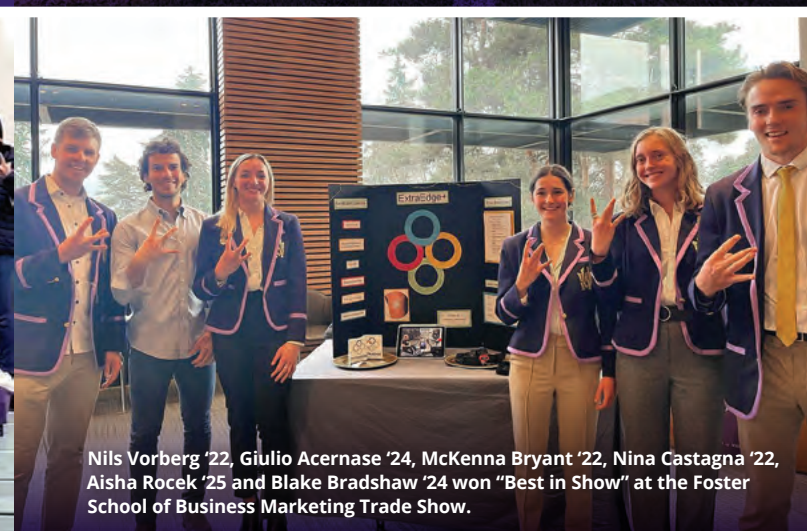
UW Women's rowing cross country skiing at Snoqualmie, Washington.



Pablo Matan '23, Jack Walkey '23, and Logan Ullrich '23 at the top of Mt. Si during the annual team hike.



UW Men's Rowing playing Tugowar in the annual purple and gold games.



Niels Vorberg '22, Giulio Acernase '24, McKenna Bryant '22, Nina Castagna '22, Aisha Rocek '25 and Blake Bradshaw '24 won "Best in Show" at the Foster School of Business Marketing Trade Show.



Jennifer Wren '19, Julia Paulsen '18, Phoebe Marks-Nicholes '18, and Kenzie Waltar '18 at the Women's Rowing Alumnae Brunch.



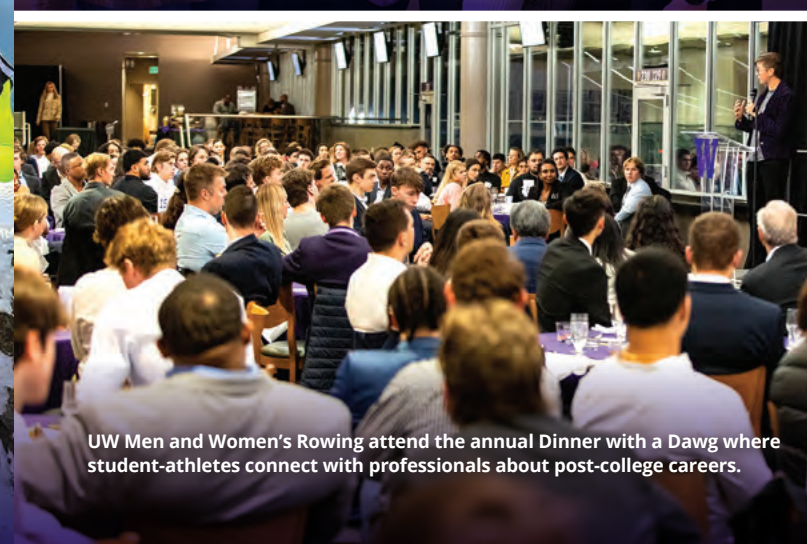
UW Men's Rowing pairs in action on Lake Union in RowTown USA.



Honoring former UW athletic administrator and Husky Hall of Famer Kit Green at the 7th Annual Women's Alumnae Brunch.



Noelle Broom '08 hosting the 7th annual Washington Women's Alumnae Brunch



UW Men and Women's Rowing attend the annual Dinner with a Dawg where student-athletes connect with professionals about post-college careers.



Coxswains Carina Baxter '23 and Ashlyn Wilshire '26 square off in "Coxswain Arm Wrestling" at the Purple and Gold Games.

Rowing Round-Up

WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS

University of Washington Box 354070
Seattle, WA 98195-4080 USA

ROWINGU

SAVE THE DATE:

March 19th: **Class Day Races and Cruise**

April 22nd: **UW Title IX Celebration**

WashingtonRowing.com

For more information on receiving SWEEP, to submit story ideas or to update your contact information, please contact Julia Paulsen at juliap44@uw.edu or 206-321-6580.

2023 Washington Rowing Schedule

SQUAD	EVENT/OPPONENT	DATE	LOCATION
Men & Women's Rowing	Class Day Regatta	Saturday, March 18th 2023	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	Husky Open	Saturday, March 25th 2023	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	San Diego Crew Classic	Sat-Sun, April 1st – 2nd 2023	San Diego, CA
Men's Rowing	Brown/Yale Dual	Fri-Sat, March 31st – April 1st 2023	Sarasota, FL
Men's Rowing	Collegiate Covered Bridge Regatta	Saturday, April 8th 2023	Dexter Lake, OR
Men & Women's Rowing	California Dual	Saturday, April 22nd 2023	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Twilight Sprints	Friday, May 5th, 2023	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Opening Day/ Windermere Cup Regatta	Saturday, May 6th 2023	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Pac-12 Championship	Sunday, May 14th 2023	Dexter Lake, OR
Women's Rowing	NCAA Championship	Fri-Sun May 26th – 28th 2023	Camden, NJ
Men's Rowing	IRA Championship	Fri-Sun, June 2nd – 4th 2023	West Windsor, NJ

Check www.gohuskies.com for schedule updates