



## Sit ready...Ready all...

- New boathouse? Patience is the key word
- Men's crew as NCAA sport—inevitable?
- Clayton Chapman on Changes to the IRA
- Honoring Anna— a Big Day Planned at Longbranch

Editor: John Nicholson, '68  
 Distribution Chief: Colin Goodale, '90  
 Webmaster—Jon Flynn '07  
 Contributors: Jason Premo, '98,  
 Photos: Tom Darling '81, Coach Dave Reischman,  
 John Nicholson '68

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## SPRING IS HERE—HARD WORK=OPTIMISM



**SU WOMEN ON THE WATER EARLY IN FLORIDA SPRING PRACTICE**

### SARA Board: Big Issues

New boathouse, Men's Crew as NCAA Sport Get Plenty of Play at Annual Meeting

Neither one is right around the corner but SARA board members spent much of their annual meeting this January talking about a couple of things in the future. The one everybody wants is a new boathouse for Syracuse University. The one that brings mixed emotions is men's crew becoming an NCAA sport.

The board also heard reports from the coaches, including Kris Sanford's take on a project to build up tradition in the women's program and connect today's team members with alumnae.

#### *New Boathouse*

"Patience is the word," when it comes to a new boathouse, Men's Head Coach Dave  
*(See Annual Meeting—Page 4)*

### BU edges Women's Varsity 8 for Kittell Cup; 2V, Novice Eight Win

It was close but not quite close enough for the SU Women's Varsity eight as they opened the season with a loss to Boston University's 19<sup>th</sup> ranked Terriers on the Charles River. The Orange won four of six races on the morning.

In calm conditions, BU got past Syracuse by open water, covering the  
*(See Kittell Cup—Page 6)*

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## Orange Oar Editor

John Nicholson – '68



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Happy Spring, Fellow Alumni/Alumnae!

Its 2009 (I checked). This year we celebrate the 50th anniversary of our Syracuse men bringing victory to the United States at the Pan Am games (check back in later this year for a more formal and appropriate acknowledgement). And this past year three of our recent graduates were on National Teams at the Olympics in Beijing – collecting a gold and a silver medal! These are two examples that should help remind us that we have all been a part of a rich and storied history through our experiences with Syracuse Rowing. I hope they serve as inspiration to our present oarsmen and oarswomen as they begin a very promising Spring racing season.

Over the winter months, SARA has been as busy as ever. We held our annual meeting and had many spirited discussions on hot topics around our programs, and how we alums can serve and support. We are in the planning stages of several gatherings of varying size and purpose through the coming year (please pay attention to any emails, evites and O.O. articles for details). I'd like to put special emphasis on our next big event: On April 18<sup>th</sup>, with alumni, friends, family and both the Men and Women participating, we will honor Anna Goodale for her amazing rowing career, which includes a gold medal from the Beijing Olympics! If you need more details on this event, please email me at the address below. I strongly encourage everyone who is able to come on out. Catch some exciting men's and women's races, eat some Dinosaur, and celebrate our proud history and one of its latest and greatest contributors!

Well, if you've read this far I will assume you are a loyal fan of Syracuse Rowing, so I'll climb a little higher on my soapbox. The recent success and promise of our programs has raised the interest of our alumni groups, and that's been great. I want to make sure we keep the momentum going. If you have been an interested observer but would like to get more involved, let me know. I've got ideas for you. And I'm sure all of us have former teammates that have lost touch with the program. Pause a moment and see if you can think of a few... Let's make an effort to reach out to them – get them put on the listserv, invite them to a race, and get them back in the loop! These are exciting times for Syracuse Rowing. The programs deserve our support, and the alumni that have contributed to our story deserve to be included in the party.

Cheers!  
Jason  
jmpremo@hotmail.com

## ***Women's Team—the Coach's View***

*The Orange Oar asked Head Coach Kristen Sanford for her take on spring camp in Florida and the 2009 season. Here's her response.*

### Spring Break Trip

After this winter in Syracuse, it was with great pleasure that we traveled down south to Stuart, Florida to get our rowing legs underneath us in some warmth. This is our second year in Stuart and we love it. The community rowing program is very welcoming, there is a lot of flat water, the hotel accommodations are reasonable and it is 80 degrees!

The team arrived by bus on Friday night and our first practice was on Saturday morning. After Saturday afternoon's practice, we loaded the trailer back up and traveled to Miami for a Sunday morning scrimmage against the University of Miami. This is not an ideal situation – racing against a team who never gets off the water a day after you get on the water is tough, but necessary due to NCAA rules. Over 4 minutes, the 1V and 2V traded pieces back and forth with Miami. The Miami crews were, expectedly, much cleaner and handled the ratings better than we did. I was pleased at the effort of our crews – we made line-ups based upon erg scores so the first boat had very big kids in it and 3 freshmen. This was a good reward for kids who had trained hard over the winter while also being a good lesson to all that although ergs matter, they are not the end all. The 2V was pretty even with the 1V for the pieces. The freshmen 8, minus 4 of their top kids who were in the varsity boats, beat Miami consistently during 3 ½ minute pieces.



***Orange Women in Florida***

Upon return to Stuart, we spent the week seat racing and ended with some line-ups resembling what we will be racing at the end of March. Overall, the week was productive. Seat racing is good for the athletes as it gives them hard numbers to look at. And by the end of the week, we were starting to find rhythm in all the boats.

### Season Outlook

It seems that we spend months preparing to race, and then when season is upon us, it is hard to believe time went so fast. Our team this year has been an absolute pleasure to coach. We are 55 strong, which is one of the largest spring teams we have ever had, and we will actually be leaving people home when racing. This bodes well for our conference championships where points are kept as we will be able to fill all of the events.



***A Deep Squad—you Could Count Them***

Our senior class has done a phenomenal job of leading the team this year, both by mouth and through actions. The atmosphere and environment has been extremely positive with a true feeling that no one individual is more important than the team. People have been working toward a common goal of making every boat as fast as it can be so that we can re-emerge on the national scene, have a shot at the Big East Championship as well as the NCAA Championship.

We begin our season the last weekend in March against Boston University for the Kittell Cup. In the pre-season poll, BU was ranked 17<sup>th</sup> out of 87 DI programs. Every chance we have to race a top 20 program allows us the opportunity to break into the elite. The following weekend we are home against #1 ranked Yale. Every weekend we are racing a top 20 school – if we want to be the best we have to race the best! Although a relatively young team, I

believe that we will be faster in all boats than last year, will have a legitimate shot at winning the Big East Championship, and an outside chance of making the NCAA Championships. We hope to see you on the shores!

## *Annual Meeting (from page one)*

Reischman told the board, and has repeated to *The Orange Oar*. "It's going to be a long slow process. There are a lot of steps we need to go through first."

"This is officially a project of the University," SU's Lisa Moore said. But, "it needs private funding." There will no SU or government and this is true of all athletic department projects. Some drawings have been done and an architect needs to give an idea of what it would cost. "Once we have the price tag we can go out and test the donor base," Moore told the SARA board.

Reischman said he and Women's Head Coach Kris Sanford have insisted on a feasibility study. "We don't want to embark on an eight to nine million dollar campaign if the feasibility study shows we're capable of only three or four. Sanford said the feasibility study would take a year or so. "We want to be sure before we roll this thing out that what we're asking is reasonable of our donor base."

There's also the issue of building a new boathouse on land owned by Onondaga County in a county park. And there will be state issues.

There's not much argument that SU needs a new boathouse. The current building went up in 1937 and was renovated in 1988. Team members and coaches have pitched in with financial help from parents, to repaint the boathouse and clean up the locker rooms during the past year, but saying the current facilities are less than ideal is generally seen as an understatement.

"You'd be hard pressed to find somebody in our league that hasn't built a boathouse in the last ten years or who doesn't have a plan in place to build a boathouse," Reischman said.



## *Men's Crew as NCAA Sport*

"There's a storm coming in college athletics," Reischman told SARA directors, and that storm is likely to lead to men's crew becoming an NCAA sport, no matter who doesn't like the idea.

Athletics Directors at colleges and universities across the country are looking at bottom lines. "Athletic departments are finding it hard money-wise," Reischman said. "It's about winning- at all levels, with all teams." The NCAA only requires that you have 16 sports. It's not about participation. When this storm continues to hit and money keeps getting tighter and tighter...athletics directors will ask which one of these things doesn't belong?" the coach said, referencing a familiar song from *Sesame Street*. An athletics director is likely to say, "(Men's Crew is) a non-NCAA sport. You don't have a paid championship. You don't have a league championship. You're the odd man out."

Reischman favors going the NCAA route, but says the legislative process will take at least another five years to happen. Wisconsin among others is leading the push for it and many coaches are on board, although not all. Division III programs also are not on board and Reischman said all three division will have to approve for the NCAA to go for it. Some alums have objected to changes in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta that will force teams to qualify starting this year and eliminate some smaller boat competition. They have the same issues with going NCAA.

"There's no other sport where you don't have to qualify for the national championship," Reischman said. "There's no other sport where you take everybody on your team to the national championship. I don't think the IRA is a right. I think it's earned. I think you better be fast enough to go to the IRA and prove yourself in the national championship."

"I don't think the 3Vguys in my program are going to have any less of an experience because of that and I don't think there's anything wrong with saying, 'if you want to make the IRA you'd better get better.'"

Kris Sanford, whose teams have made it to the NCAA championships several times, backed him up. “You have a league championship,” she said. “Not everybody is qualified.”

“You’re changing to a model where the league championship becomes the season-ending championship like every other sport,” Reischman said. In that case, the Eastern Sprints would be the league championship.

“My thought is that if it doesn’t become NCAA we’re going to become club sports across the board,” he said.

### ***SARA Board Reelected: Premo, Smith head Executive Board***



***Smith—Not just Waiting in the Wings***

All officers and board members of SARA were reelected at the annual meeting, meaning Jason Premo '98 will serve the traditional second year as president. Tracy Rude Smith '90 was reelected first vice-president putting her in line to become SARA's first woman president in 2010. She's been increasingly active in getting alumnae involved in SARA membership and events and connecting alums of both men's and women's teams.

Premo said he was very happy with the fall's events surrounding the '78 men's IRA champions and Emme being inducted as Letterwinners of Distinction. More than 100 alums were in Syracuse to take part. He's looking for more – for example the honoring of Olympian Anna Goodale April 18, when both the women's and men's teams have home races. SARA is looking to increase the number of younger alums and women involved as board members.

Premo wants to focus on what we can do to help in the melding of men's and women's alums. “We’re still male heavy,” he said. “It’s a work in progress.”

The executive board set up monthly conference calls to handle SARA activities – something Smith came up with and pushed for.

Winding up his President's Report, Premo placed tongue more or less firmly in cheek and said, “I look forward to another year of being Tracy's puppet and very much looking forward to watching her clean up after my administration.”

### ***Reischman Report: Pigs and Chickens***

In his coach's report, Dave Reischman used a comparison from the farm to describe his team: pigs and chickens. The chicken provides eggs for breakfast. The pig provides ham. “The pig is completely invested, the chickens partially invested” Reischman said. “Right now we have about a dozen pigs and the rest chickens.”

“Is a guy a pig or a chicken – one foot in or two?” I've got 12 guys that have both feet in. By saying we've got some guys on our squad that don't quite have both feet in – they're pretty good solid kids that are working hard. It's a pretty high standard to get a pig rating on our squad.” (Keep in mind – that was in January. There's been more time for more guys to become pigs. Coach Dave says a few more have.)

“Martin Etem is driving the bus,” Reischman said. The senior captain was the last man cut from the United States Under 23 team last summer, and knows how to keep up with the “big boys.”

Etem told *The Orange Oar* there's a change in how the Orange men see themselves. “We want to be there for those big races, Etem said.” We want to sit there next to Harvard, Brown, Washington, Wisco, any of those guys and their huge heavily recruited guys and we want to sit there and be we're about to take it to this team because we know that we're fast. That's what I know now and that's what I'm going to continue to instill in these guys.”

Reischman said winning the fours and beating some top crews at the Foot of the Charles last fall has some meaning, evening though it was “fall racing.”

***Kittell Cup (from page one)***

2,000 meters four-and-a-half seconds faster. The Syracuse 2V out-rowed BU by a length or more of open water, and the Novice eight clobbered the Terriers, finishing 17-and-a-half seconds in front. Syracuse also won the Novice Four and Second Varsity Four but lost the Varsity Four race.



“We understroked them by 3 1/2 to four strokes all the way down the course, Coach Kris Sanford told *The Orange Oar*. “The good news is we have a place to go. What was disappointing was that we had the lead at the 1,000 meter mark and they made a push and there was no rally.” “The fact that we won four of six races is awesome,” Sanford said. “Now we need to get that speed into the Varsity Eight.”

***Winning Novice Eight on the Charles***

It would get tougher quickly with top-ranked Yale due into Syracuse along with Cornell the following Saturday in the first of three consecutive weekends at home for the Orange Women.

Varsity 8	BU 6:51.7	SU 6:56.2
2nd Varsity 8	SU 7:07.2	BU 7:14.7
Novice 8	SU 7:14.5	BU 7:31.9
Varsity 4	BU 7:57.2	SU 8:06.6
2nd Varsity 4	SU 8:25.8	BU 8:32.1
Novice 4	SU 8:15.0	BU 9:17.0



***V 8 Stroke Liz and dad Gerry Henwood***

**SU WOMEN’S ROWING CALENDAR 2009**

Saturday, March 28	Boston University (Kittell Cup)	<b>Boston</b>
Saturday, April 4	Cornell/Yale (Cayuga Cup)	<b>Syracuse</b>
Saturday, April 11	Penn/Northeastern (Orange Cup)	<b>Syracuse</b>
Saturday, April 18	Harvard/Dartmouth (O’Leary Cup)	<b>Syracuse</b>
Sunday, April 26	Big East Championships	Camden, NJ
Sunday, May 17	Eastern Sprints	Camden, NJ
Friday, May 29	NCAA Championship	TBD

## BACKSPLASH—NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI

### 1970s

**Jeff Harriman '70** – reports “We had a mini-reunion of the class of '70 when Paul Buff, his son Craig Westney, and Duane Hickling came to Beaver Creek Colorado for a visit. We skied in a variety of snow conditions at Vail and Beaver Creek and remembered how fast we were as a crew. We wished we had a few more teammates with us ...maybe next year.



*Duane, Paul, Jeff*

**John Watson, '77-** is in Houston and has been with ExxonMobil for 30 years or so. He sent these photos of the '76 Varsity boat. “We were commanded by Murray Lukoff, Cox, led by Mark Lyvers, Stroke, and pulled by Dave Townsley, Tom Evancie, Tom Brown, Gary Jordan, John Watson, Bob Girak, Bill Reid. Our Coach was Bill Sanford who gave me these pictures many moons ago.”



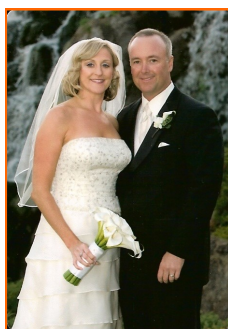
'76 Varsity leads Dartmouth by enough to be alone in photo



The lineup - Lukoff to Reid with Coach Sanford

### 1990s

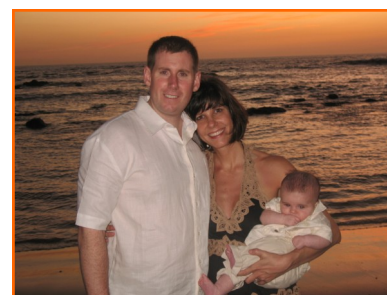
**Brian Fitzgerald '90** and Brenda (Pascucci) Fitzgerald '90 are proud to announce the birth of their son, Nolan James, on December 2, 2008. Nolan and parents just returned from a vacation in Costa Rica.



Ashley & Scott

**Ashley Ewing '94** - married Scott Rodda on October 11th, 2008 in San Jose, California.

They live in Clovis, California. She is working for Medtronic Neuromodulation division in medical device sales.



The Fitzgerald Family

## BACKSPLASH—NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI

**Jason '98** and Kseniya Premo - On January 28, ushered their second child into this world. Sage Estelle Premo weighed in at a solid 9 pounds, 11 ounces. “When we look at her, we see the 6 seat in Kris's 2029 National Champion boat. But when we close our eyes, usually we hear the voice (and disposition) of the coxswain! **PIC**



The Premos: Sage Makes Four

**Scott Christian '99** – “on 11/7 my wife Cortney gave birth to healthy boy. Merrett Christian, born 9lbs 8oz and 21 inches a third of his poor cox mom's height. At 4 months he's still a huge 27 inch 18 pounder. I'm currently enjoying 4 months of part time paternity leave.”



Kemezis Pair—Tyler and Brayden.

**Chris Kemezis '99**—got word of his son Tyler William Kemezis' birth to us in time for the last edition, but there was no room for a photo. This seems a good opportunity to correct that. Chris reported that son Brayden “is also very excited to be a big brother now too!”



Joan, Troy, Chuck E.

**Joan Rubinger McFadden '99** - is splitting time between Stockton, California and the San Francisco Bay Area. She is coaching the Norcal Crew varsity women, and recently redirected her career to include a nursing license. Her son Troy, 3 1/2, loves the water, and spends his free time racing on the erg. He intends to suit up for the Orange in 2025.

**Helen Tanger '01** - “Greetings from Holland! As Syracuse alum I am happy to report that I have just started my first real grown-up job! I've retired from competitive rowing, with my final race winning the Women's Head in London, England last weekend (composite crew from the Netherlands, England, and New Zealand). I've finished my MD, and as of today I am working at the Department of Pediatrics in a large Amsterdam hospital.”

**Odette Mitchell-Servilio '02** - “I started my first season this year at the University of Louisville. As the assistant coach I am excited to take on Kris Sanford and fellow 2002 graduate Alicea Kochis at this year's Big East Championship!”

**Emily Spitale '02** - was promoted to Director of Public Relations for A&E, BIO & CI Networks in New York, she previously served as Manager. A resident of Brooklyn Heights, New York. Emily's upcoming projects include the second season of the scripted drama "The Cleaner" starring Benjamin Bratt and the first season of the real life series "Hammertime," starring the iconic 90s rapper and dancer MC Hammer.



“In the past couple of years we’ve done a good job of racing hard but there’s always that little voice in the back of your mind – are we capable or are we good enough and I think that’s the bridge we are starting to cross a little bit. I think the Foot of the Charles is a sign to these guys that they’re capable of competing with the crews that are the top crews in the country.”

### ***Women’s Team – Connecting/Building Tradition***

The SU men’s team has well over 100 years of tradition and Women’s Head Coach Kris Sanford knows it well, having grown up in the boathouse. What she wants now, she told the SARA Annual Meeting is a strong sense of tradition and connection for the women’s team.

“We’ve been around for about 30 years and for half those years you have a lot of unhappy people whose experiences weren’t great because of not having the resources and stuff here,” she said. “Alicea and I felt like it was important to our team to understand that and to understand what came before them, because they have it pretty good right now. We row in nice boats and we wear nice uniforms. It’s a heck of a lot different than 30 years ago. I felt like we’d come to the point where athletes didn’t understand what we’ve gone through to get here.”

So Sanford and Assistant Coach Alicea Kochis set out to connect the members of the current team with alumnae by sending out emails to the alums last summer asking if they’d talk with today’s athletes. “I had like 60 hits in 15 minutes. That’s the most hits I’ve had for anything. People were really, really excited about it. People I’d never heard of who had just been on my list, kind of are out there and I never knew anything about. They responded.”

The more than 50 current team members, some at first reluctantly, called the alums and talked. And talked. And talked. They talked about rowing and academic majors and careers and about life in general. “Some people didn’t talk about rowing at all,” Sanford said. “They talked about what they’re doing and they kept them on the phone for two hours.

“The hope is now we’re going to try to compile it all and give it back to the alums so that people can see what everybody’s doing. The hope is to kind of foster these relationships and so use them as kind of mentor programs so whether it’s going for internships or whether they have questions about what they might do – they have somebody who they feel like they can call up and talk to.”

“That’s been really neat,” Sanford said. “It’s been neat for tradition and for helping to reach those people.” And to get that sense of Orange Rowing tradition.



**Shannon Mercurio '04 with Coach Kris Sanford**

### ***Odds and Ends***

What happened to the giant poster of the '78 men’s crew that served as backdrop for the Letterwinner of Distinction ceremonies? Coach Dave Resichman says it belongs to the crew. The question is – what to do with it? “It’s folded up in Pete Sala’s office in the Dome.”

After much discussion it was decided to have SU help print and send out *The Orange Oar* in hard copy because many alums still have not been getting it on line. The sticking point had been SARA wanting to keep complete editorial control. After receiving assurances to that effect, the November issue went out in hard copy and plans are to send future issues out that way as well as posting them on saracrew.org.

Alums got together with members of the women’s team as they completed a workout before the SARA annual meeting. The crew room was filled with chatter as rowing veterans greeted each other and members of the current team.

***(See Annual Meeting—Page 11)***

## SU Men – A “Season of Belief”

Head Coach Dave Reischman says you build a program by getting recruits in two stages. The major part of the first stage was the big and successful Class of '07. But before they moved up to varsity and became successful, “We fought hard recruiting wise but didn’t come out a lot on the right end the first two years,” Reischman said at the SARA annual meeting in January. “You’re not going to get that second wave of recruits going until you win boat races.” Martin Etem came aboard when that class was winning as sophomores. Others followed. Now the Class of '11 appears to be the major part of the next wave.



*SU Men Swinging in South Carolina*

Both Reischman and Etem called this year “A Season of Belief.” Etem has been using his experience with top crewmen at last summer’s Under 23 camp to motivate himself and the rest of the team with the belief that SU can row with anybody. “I learned through seat racing, through being with those guys that you have to believe no matter what size you are, what team you’re on, no matter what you want you’ve got to believe that you can be there, that you deserve to be there,” Etem told *The Orange Oar* in January. “You’ve got to believe in yourself and the guys around you. I believe that will promote a harder work ethic and you’ll be able to go a lot further and be in the dog fight.”

Just back from Columbia, South Carolina after spring break, Reischman called it “a very useful training camp. The first three days were spent trying to remember what the boats feel like. We actually had one row in Syracuse before the trip and that was helpful. The guys seem to pick up the rhythm of the boats very quickly. We focused on doing some hard work in the morning with rows of a more technical nature in the afternoon.

“The last two days were rainy and in the 40s but the days prior were around 80 with flat water. The guys adapted quite well to being back on the water and we had some great seat racing to close out the week. Lots of seat racing left to do and we have San Diego in three weeks! Racing season always seems like it comes too fast. The guys are excited to start racing!”



*Getting After It In Spring Training*

The Varsity eight opens at the San Diego Classic April 4 and 5. Everybody else joins in April 18 at home for the Goes Cup against Cornell and Navy.

And – about that second wave? Back in January Reischman said “This year’s frosh – a different challenge. Last year’s group – they go hard. You worry about holding them back. This group – I’m not sure they know they can run through walls yet.” Frosh Coach Dave Weiss has been working on teaching them that. “Two pretty solid classes of athletes back to back, Reischman said. “You need to sustain the second wave.”

## *Annual Meeting (from Page 9)*

Joey Peter had yet another convenient birthday on the day of the annual meeting and most of those who'd come to town for the meeting ending the day as guests of Joey and Jan at his palatial estate. We're not sure what the exact date of Joey's birthday is but we do know that he is ageless and if he stands on the medals he's won coxing since graduation he's ten feet tall.

### *Compliance*

SARA board members and others who attended also got a briefing from SU Compliance Coordinator Dan Isaf on what's allowed and what's not. Here are some as noted by SARA Secretary Joe Paduda:

#### **Recruits:**

- All alums are considered boosters and representatives
- Can't give anything to current or prospective athletes, no money cash gift certificates, etc.
- Can get a phone call from a prospect but any questions about rowing have to go to the coach; do not talk about the program with a potential athlete.
- Questions about SU academics and personal memories are OK to discuss.
- Can talk to potential recruits' coaches but can't talk to them about evaluation or do anything related to recruitment beyond giving names to coaches.
- Pr-existing relationship defined - if you knew the potential recruit before s/he gained skill as an athlete or before 9<sup>th</sup> grade then some rules aren't applicable, but you can't change relationship materially from what it was before athlete became a prospect.
- Can't give or lend anything material.
- Always check with compliance before doing anything with a recruit, or talking with them. Pass on names of potential recruits to coaches.

#### **Current students:**

- Can't give a car etc.
- Boosters are allowed to have students ONLY to their home for a meal, NOT at a restaurant, and no more than once a month.



Coxes confer; **Joe Peter '69** and **Aliza Seeber Cole '04**. Pointing the way to Orange success?



**The Lowdown from Lisa Moore**

### *Giving*

Lisa Moore of SU's Development Department told the SARA board men's and women's rowing alums are big on giving. She reported on the participation rate (percentage of graduates donating to the university and program) saying the overall total is 19 percent at SU. Men's crew alums have given at a 65 percent rate, and women at 41 percent, putting so both groups are much higher than average.

That helps make the men's and women's programs look good and bodes well for future fundraising as SARA and SU Athletics work together to get more alums involved and raise more support for projects ahead.

## **Regatta Director Clayton Chapman—on Changes to the IRA**

*Changes in the Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta have brought plenty of controversy. Those changes include moving the IRA to Sacramento this year, having crews qualify for the event to participate and a reduction in small boat competition. SARA Board Member Don Plath '68, asked IRA Regatta Director Clayton Chapman for some clarification on what's behind the changes, and sent along a couple of emails from SARA members. Here with Mr. Chapman's permission is his response – food for thought.*

Regarding the changes to the IRA that are to be implemented this year, keep in mind that the Regatta was staged for 100 years under the "guise" of being the Men's National Collegiate Rowing Championship, but in reality it never was, only reaching that pinnacle in 1995 when Harvard & Yale joined all the others for the first time in Camden. In that entire span of time, no real changes were made to the Regatta format until 1964 when we began racing 2000 meters, and added small boats. You may recall that those changes were made in recognition of the need to bolster our US Olympic effort. The most recent changes that you've just heard about, for the 2009 IRA, acknowledge the realities of today's IRA Regatta as THE Men's National Collegiate Rowing Championship, and incorporate the best of what we've always had since 1895 with the best of the changes made in 1964. What makes me very pleased and confident about the future of the IRA is that the Regatta has developed into one of the most exciting rowing events of the year, collegiate or other, it remains under the sponsorship of the IRA Stewards (for better or worse; at least not the NCAA), it has the united and strong support of the entire Division I men's collegiate rowing community, and it IS, without question, a true National Championship Event.

Your take on the changes to the IRA Regatta for '09 and into the future is understandable, at least to a degree. In a positive way, it's good to see that you and other SU rowing alumni are genuinely concerned about the Regatta and interested enough to inquire about the recent changes that have been made. On the negative side, however, judging from the email comments you attached from Joey (Peter) and Dave Beck, I'm concerned that the conclusions you've all reached about the "downsizing" may be overstated. I'm sure that Dave (Reischman) reported to you that all of the 8-oared events remain intact (MHV8, MH2V8, MHF8, MLV8, WLV8). Yes, some of the small boat events have been eliminated (the MV4-, the MF4+, WV4+, and the M2V-), but the other small boat events are retained (the MV4+ and the MO4+). Further, the Men's Masters V8 is retained as an exhibition event.

Also, beginning in '09, you know from Dave's report that the Regatta will be limited to schools that offer men's rowing at the Div I "varsity" level only (same for the Lightweight Events). No club teams will be eligible. Of the 30+ such men's heavyweight varsity rowing programs across the country, 24 will be invited to compete in the 1VH8, with 18 in the 2V8, and 18 in the F8, all heavyweight. There will also be as many as 12 crews in each of the Men's Lightweight V8 and Women's Lightweight V8 National Championships. Conceivably, The V4+ could have an entry from all 30 varsity heavyweight men's programs, and the O4+ could have as many as 18 entries.

24 out of 30+ 1st varsity 8's participating is hardly limiting the Regatta to the "fastest only", or falling into the category of "elitist or discriminatory". Further, as I see it, coxswains like Joey would still have the same opportunities to compete in the IRA as he had when he was an undergrad (V8, 2V8, F8, V4+, O4+). Even as a "spare" cox, he'd now compete as a part of the "official" racing program, in the O4+, not as a "pickle boat" cox. Not sure how he got the idea of there being no "second or third tier" opportunities. Personally, I don't see the possibility of the IRA "going the route of women's rowing", even though I'm not real certain what Joe means by that.. All of us who still have a say in the future of the IRA and college men's rowing recognize the long term contributions that "3rd boaters" have, and will continue, to make. But keep in mind that prior to the mid-60's, there were no IRA opportunities at all for 3rd boat rowers or coxswains. There were none, then, at the Sprints either. Yet, the experience of everyone on the squad, even those in the 3rd and 4th boats who may have never gotten to race at all at the championship level, was just as meaningful to each and every one.

Finally (sorry to be long-winded), as to decision to hold the Regatta on the West Coast, please know that there was plenty of thinking behind it. And it took several years before it was hatched. As you can imagine, the "expense" that must now be shouldered by eastern crews, individually, was of prime concern. In the years when the IRA was at Syracuse, I was personally opposed to moving the Regatta anywhere, even to Camden, until we had no choice but to go somewhere/anywhere, to escape flooded Onondaga. My reasons before then were the same as what (I believe) Dave Beck stated, in part, in his email about this move, namely my worry about losing the local support on the return back east that had taken us so long to develop. The Re-

gatta would "die", I thought. West coast coaches had badgered me every year about taking the Regatta to Sacramento, but I refused to even consider it, even when we were at Camden, wondering whether Syracuse or Camden would have us back, and with the same support.

However, "the times have changed"!! Ever since 1895, schools on the west coast have footed their own expense to travel to an eastern site, every year. Early on, it was just Cal and Wash who came. Then Stanford and eventually Oregon St accepted the invitation to come. And they now do so every year. So have many others from out west - Gonzaga, Orange Coast, UCLA, USC, Irvine, etc. Their cost to make the trip on each and every occasion was the same as what Dave Beck correctly cites that SU will now have to pay to travel to Sacramento in '09. The present thought is to hold the IRA out west once every four years. Right now that seems to be a fair arrangement, and West Coast schools remain willing to make the trip back east during three of the four years. Other alternatives were considered, including subsidizing the costs, annually, for West Coast crews to travel east every year. However, revenue was simply not available to do that.

Exposing the IRA out west also has great merit. If the Regatta is to have recognition as a National Collegiate event, by people other than rowing coaches, referees, and Moms and Dads, it needs exposure. Sacramento is reputed to be a great venue, and the LOC out there has successfully hosted the Pac-10 Rowing Champs many times, as well as the NCAA Women's Champs. There's no reason why the IRA will not be just as successful.

Besides, Camden wants us back in 2010.

## ***Orange Supporters to Gather in Sacramento for IRA***

'78 IRA Champion Crew member Tom Evancie is spearheading a move to get strong a Orange presence at the regatta in Sacramento this June. "While some of the crew establishment may still be debating the wisdom of holding the IRA's on the West Coast this year, Ed, Walter (MacVittie) and I couldn't be happier!" Evancie said in an email inviting SU supporters to show up in numbers. "

"It was great to see everyone in Syracuse back in September, and we are looking forward to seeing more orange in June! I hope many of you will be able to make the trip out for the IRA's to watch some great racing, but also reunite with old teammates and enjoy some of what Northern California has to offer."

Evancie said he and other California alums are planning activities such as:

- Wine tasting trip to the beautiful Napa Valley. This will involve transportation, lunch and/or dinner, sightseeing and tours/tastings at some of Napa's finest wineries
- Whitewater rafting on the American River.
- Golf outing. There are a lot of quality courses in the area, and the weather is guaranteed to be perfect in June. We're thinking of also working this around the race schedules on Thursday or Friday.
- Alumni Dinner, of course. "We can work with SARA if they are planning this, and/or we can organize a smaller affair for our group at a nice venue."
- Trip to Lake Tahoe and/or San Francisco for those who come early Yosemite. Amazing natural wonder! About a 2.5 hour drive from Sacramento..

"Also, Susan Filkins, who works with Lisa Moore at the University, is involved in planning the hospitality tent at the race course, so that is sure to be a comfortable, well organized affair," Evancie said.

The Orange crews are scheduled to arrive Monday, June 1, with racing set Thursday, Friday and Saturday. For more on SU plans connected to the IRA check the next issue of ***The Orange Oar*** and the SARA website: [www.saracrew.org](http://www.saracrew.org)

## HONORING ANNA: SARA CELEBRATES AND YOU'RE INVITED



**Anna Goodale '05** is coming back to Syracuse to talk about what she calls “an amazing experience.” SARA and SU Athletics will honor her April 18 for winning gold in the U.S. Women’s Olympic Eight in Beijing.

SU’s women’s and men’s team are in action at home that Saturday morning, with the women taking on Radcliffe and Dartmouth and the men in the Goes Cup races against Cornell and Navy. With racing set to begin at 8:00, SARA plans a barbecue at the boathouse at 11:00 including a presentation to Goodale for her accomplishments.

Goodale will speak to the women and the men's teams at Schine Student Center Friday night at 7:00 to help fire them up for Saturday morning.

In an e-mail to SARA Membership Chair Tom Darling, himself a three-time Olympian, Goodale said she’s excited about coming back with her medal. “One of the best parts of winning the gold so far has been sharing it along with my story. It is amazing to see the amazement in people’s eyes along with a spark of inspiration. Somehow it is easy to forget what an outrageous thing I have accomplished. It’s a gift to be reminded of it every time someone new sees the medal.

“One of my Favorite things about rowing in the 8 is that there are 8 other people who know exactly what went into every inch of the final race. I look forward to talking to you and sharing experiences.”

**TO VIEW THE EVITE TO THE FESTIVITIES HONORING ANNA CLICK HERE:**

<http://www.evite.com/pages/invite/viewInvite.jsp?inviteId=SMESNQKKGATIAEHWGXXL&li=iq&src=email>



**Olympic Champions**

## Stangel’s Isis Outrows O’Shaughnessy’s Goldie in Reserve Crew Race

Syracuse Alums and former teammates battled again on the Thames, March 29, with Oxford and **Justin**



**Stangel**

**Stangel '07** getting the better of it over **Dan O’Shaughnessy '06** and Cambridge in the reserve crew (2<sup>nd</sup> boat) race. Stangel was at six in Isis while O’Shaughnessy rowed in the two seat for the Goldie boat. Oxford also won “The Boat Race” over Cambridge.

Cambridge had been favored in the reserve race but Oxford got off to a strong start and never trailed, winning by four lengths over the four mile plus course.

“We just panicked,” a frustrated O’Shaughnessy told row2k.com.” As a crew we row very well on our own but for some reason the presence of another crew alongside just unsettles us.”



**O’Shaughnessy**

***PARTING SHOTS—PICTURES FROM OUR TEAMS AND ALUMNI***



**V8 Five Oar Rachael Ogundiran , Ken Hutton '69**



**Stern Look from Coach Dave Weiss in Carolina**



**Coach Kris and Crew Take a Break in Florida**



**Tracy Smith '90 and V8 Six Oar Natalie Mastracci**



**SU Women in Florida—Just Like Onondaga Lake**



**V8 Bundles Up on the Bank of the Charles**

Syracuse Alumni Rowing Association, Inc.  
 Syracuse University  
 P.O. Box 7202  
 Syracuse, NY 13261

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## MEN'S CREW SCHEDULE OF EVENTS 2009

Sat-Sun April 4-5	San Diego Classic	San Diego
Saturday April 18	Navy, Cornell (Goes Cup)	<b>Syracuse</b>
Saturday April 25	BU, Columbia (Conlan Cup)	Boston
Sunday May 10	Eastern Sprints	Worcester, MA
Sunday, May 17	Dartmouth (Packard Cup)	<b>Syracuse</b>
Thursday June 4	IRA Regatta	Sacramento, CA
Friday June 5	IRA Regatta	Sacramento, CA
Saturday June 6	IRA Regatta	Sacramento, CA