

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

- Greater Involvement—Backing Women’s and Men’s Teams
- Greater Membership—Plans to Increase SARA Numbers
- Greater Depth—Walk-ons add to Women’s Team
- Greater Grit—Men’s Team Overcomes Adversity

Editor: John Nicholson, '68  
 Distribution Chief: Colin Goodale, '90  
 Webmaster—Jon Flynn '07  
 Contributors: Tom Darling, '81, Tracy Smith '90,  
 Lynne Della Pelle Pascale '81, Coach Kris Sanford

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## NEW SARA PRESIDENT—NOW IS THE TIME



SARA Officers- Pascale, Smith, Paduda, Purdy

**Tracy Smith '90** concedes that earlier efforts to get women alums fully involved in the Syracuse Alumni Rowing Association were not very successful, but now that she is president she says she expects it to happen.

“I think we can do it this time and the timing is right,” Smith told SARA members who had just elected her the first woman president in the organization’s 57- year history at the annual meeting in Syracuse Feb. 23.

She moves up from two years as first vice-president, a role in Smith was actively involved in a...well...boatload of SARA events and initiatives. “During the past two years, Tracy has been as much a President of this organization as I have,” outgoing President **Jason Premo '98** said. “Not only has she been the driver behind many ideas, but she has been the key motivator in turning those ideas into reality.”

After Smith graduated from SU she was chosen to the U.S. national women’s rowing team. That ( See *SARA Annual Meeting—Page 10*)

### Sanford Sees Momentum

Kris Sanford is not one to overstate how she seems her team’s potential so when she told SARA directors at the annual meeting that things look good, she was saying something. “I think that we have lots of momentum in the program right now,” Sanford said.

There’s returning depth and senior leadership – for the second year, the entire senior class is serving as co-captains – and the novice group looks deep and strong.

See “Orange Women” - (Page 12)

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## Orange Oar Editor

John Nicholson – '68



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear SARA Members-

It is with great humility and excitement that I greet you as your new SARA President.

I feel fortunate to have stepped in at a time when SARA is strong, united, and has great momentum. My predecessor Jason Premo did a fantastic job of mobilizing the SARA Board with his usual wit and convening manner and I am grateful to him for laying the groundwork for much of our continuing agenda. (Thank you Jason!)

We've added some new blood to the SARA Board – Aliza Seeber, Josh Stratton, and Erica (Mahon) Page will carry the torch for the younger generations of alums and have already infused the group with their energy and new ideas. Complementing the younger generation are the SARA veterans who know our history and can provide experience and guidance. We are also blessed with incredibly gifted and dedicated coaches who have embraced the SARA mission and leadership. It's a synergy of people and personalities that bodes well for SARA in the coming years.

As many of you are aware, we are in the midst of challenging times for university athletic departments everywhere and Syracuse University has not been untouched. Programs across the country are being evaluated and our coaches are routinely asked to do more with less. It is during these times that it is important for alums from the men's and the women's teams to stand together as a united voice of support for BOTH teams and the importance of program as a whole.

A big way that we look to do this is through increased communication between the coaches and the alums by way of email, the ever-popular Orange Oar as well as newer social networking tools such as Facebook, LinkedIn and the SARA blog. Our hope is that these forums enable alums to more easily keep track of each other, stay informed about team news, enjoy and share photographs, and reconnect with their rowing history at SU.

This year, the Board will be spearheading several internal task forces in an effort to increase alumni involvement, work as a resource for graduating seniors, provide hospitality and alumni gathering spaces at races, and support our teams and coaching staff. We welcome input and feedback from alums and invite you to join us in our efforts.

Lastly, I would like to thank SARA Founder Dr. Bruce Chamberlain. His gracious nature and love of SU rowing are unmatched and his support of a woman leading his organization means the world to me.

Go Orange!  
Tracy

## ***SU MEN WILL BE A TRAVELING SQUAD***

It is the Orange Men's Crew's turn to be road warriors in 2010 and Coach Dave Reischman, now in his eighth season at Syracuse, says he has a young but experienced squad to handle a very tough schedule that includes no home races. "Last year we were young and pretty sophomore-driven," Reischman told SARA directors at the annual meeting. "It's generally junior-driven now,"

SU's varsity eight opens the season again at the San Diego Crew Classic, continues with the traditional Goes Trophy and Conlan Cup races back East and then travels to Seattle for the "Opening Day Regatta." All that comes before the Eastern Sprints. "This year we don't race a crew that's not in the Top 12," Reischman said.



There is senior leadership on the squad. Tyson Bry (L) and Ryan Patton gave SARA directors their take on the team. Both were in the V8 last spring. "I'm real excited about the team this year," Bry said, citing a greater level of depth.

"I think coach has done a good job of keeping us on a training schedule," Patton said. "The first part of winter training has gone well I think."

The men's squad has been through some trials during the fall and winter, including illness that cost some practice time and a Winter Break training trip to Louisiana that had a strong upside but also led Reischman to compare to "The Seven Plagues of

Egypt."

It started with the crew trailer sliding off an icy Thruway and wrecking a good chunk of SU's shell stock. It continued with mud, ice and a downpour in Louisiana plus the theft of boat motors and oarsmen's shoes and climaxed with leaking and thus unusable tanks back in Archbold Gym.

"It's kind of fun to tell that story and play the 'woe is me card' but nobody in our program is playing that card," Reischman said. "We've got a pretty resilient group of guys."

About \$200,000 worth of shells were destroyed or damaged and while insurance will cover most of the loss, the team had to make some adjustments, with more training in eights than Reischman had planned, rather than in smaller boats. "The rowing (*See Men's Outlook—Page 4*)

## **SU MEN'S CREW SCHEDULE —2010**

Sat-Sun 3/27-28	San Diego Crew Classic	San Diego, CA
Sat 4/17	Goes Trophy (Navy, Cornell)	Annapolis, MD
Sat 4/24	Conlan Cup (Columbia, BU)	Pelham, NY
Sat 5/1	Opening Day Regatta	Seattle, WA
Sun 5/16	Eastern Sprints	Worcester, MA
Sun 5/23	Packard Cup (Dartmouth)	Hanover, NH
Th-F-Sat 6/3-6/5	IRA Regatta	Camden, NJ

### ***Men's Outlook (From Page 3)***

aspect of it was really good," he said. "It was a great camp. We definitely plan on going back. It was a positive experience."

"We've had a few bumps here and there but we're getting through them nicely," Bry said. I think we're where we need to be right now."

"We should start pulling it together and getting a few extra rows, Patton added. "Effort at practice has been good."



Depth is a big part of that equation. Reischman said he sees plenty of potential in the JV boat. "It's an environment where you have to work hard and you have to make change to make our first boat so it's sort of driving the whole level up."

"The varsity boat will be a majority of juniors and sophomores – that's the strength of our program," Reischman told the SARA directors. "It's a group that is understated about it but pretty keen to go fast." There's a lot of erging and rowing left to prove who deserves the seats.

For a look at the Men's Crew Roster on suathletics. Com Click here: <http://www.suathletics.com/roster.aspx?path=crew>

### ***REAL Orange Men Erg***

#### ***Men's Notes***

- Reischman said the freshman squad is "a little thin," but credited Coach Dave Weiss with "the best job he's ever done coaching this group of freshmen."
- The men's squad elected Mark Vyzas captain. Vyzas, from Plainfield, N.J., was a third-boater in 2009 and is described as a quiet leader who sets a strong example for his teammates.
- Reischman told SARA directors "I'm still amazed all of you are as committed to the program as you are."
- The men's squad stayed in a state park bunkhouse during Winter Training without TV or internet access.
- The squad got some time on Bourbon Street and also got to try some Cajun cuisine. "Fire Chicken" and alligator sausage were hits, Reischman said.

#### ***Changes ahead***

The IRA has cut down to 18 invited crews for this year with the regatta back on the East Coast in Camden again. There's a general expectation that it is a matter of when and not if men's crew will have to become an NCAA sport.

With Rutgers no longer rowing as a varsity crew, SU is looking at ways to replace the Scarlet Knights on the schedule. One intriguing possibility is an event involving SU, Cornell, Harvard and Northeastern in which (for instance) SU would race Harvard in the morning and Northeastern in the afternoon, and Cornell would face Northeastern in the morning and Harvard in the afternoon. The event would alternate between Boston and Central New York (Ithaca and Syracuse taking turns).

### ***The Seven Plagues of Egypt...er...Orange***

1. Trailer goes off the Thruway near Buffalo destroying shells
2. Mud instead of water at launch site on first day
3. Water iced over at 18 degrees the next day
4. A rainstorm heavy enough to think of building an ark
5. Motors stolen from coaches' launches in Louisiana
6. Oarsmen's shoes stolen from dock
7. Archbold Gymnasium tanks leak leaving both teams high and dry



## The Founder Speaks—The Orange Oar Interview

*On January 7, a couple of months short of his 90th birthday, SARA Co-founder Dr. Bruce E. Chamberlain sat down to talk with Orange Oar Editor John Nicholson. Here is what “The Doc” had to say.*



**Orange Oar** – How big a part of your life has Syracuse crew been?

It's been a great part to put it in simple terms. I didn't get involved with rowing after graduation in my early days of my residency and my real early days of practice but it didn't take long before I met Tom Kerr. He used to come up for the (IRA) Regatta when it first came here and we spent many night sleepless ones talking about previous coaches. A number of which I knew and remember very well including “The Old Man” (James A. Ten Eyck) - he died in '38 after I got here and I knew him enough to realize who he was and I was involved with Ned his son in my rowing days. But then after Ned was here Loren (Schoel) came along and I knew him very well. That got me interested from probably 1954, '55 SARA was organized in '53 so it's ever since interest in SARA and crew in Syracuse. That is an elongated answer to your questions but... a major part.

I did a little bit of sculling on a small lake out in Tully, Tully Lake I began to bring single sculls back from Philadelphia and through the efforts of Tom Kerr. I had a former crew member who lived out there Uri Dolittle who had graduated before my time in med school. Used to row out in the morning until the kids got out in the outboard and rode around us in the scull which made it impossible to continue but beyond that I was not in competition, so long answer to short question.

**OA:** *How did you get involved in rowing as an undergrad in the first place?*

I don't know. My father went out for crew – sprained his ankle on the old inside track in the gymnasium and couldn't row after that. Although he had a respect for the sport he never went any further than that one year. He wanted to make sure that I met the coach which he came over when I enrolled in the university – “The Old Man” Jim, and I don't think that I met Ned at that time. But that sort of got it started. I went out my freshman year and there we were. Never had rowed before. There were relatively few boat clubs that had crew in those days except the major centers – Philadelphia – major schools still had a program – Syracuse has a program well before I came.



**OA:** *So you rowed three years and went on to med school?*

Three years before I went to med school, I was enrolled in what was called at that time a combination course in order to cut down my one final year as an undergraduate.

**OA:** *And you were a starboard oar?*

I was always a starboard oar, yeah.

**OA:** *Were you good?*

I don't know. I knew what was going on. Now and then I would shoot my tail and Coach Ned would bawl me out for it... didn't take long to get over because Ned was in the launch alongside so if I ever looked out of the boat he was right on my back so I didn't do much looking out of the boat. There were certain people who were always looking out of the boat and fortunately they occupied his time. It never varied. I never even tried the port side. I'm not sure I would have known what to do. Funny thing!

**OA:** *What do you remember about winter rowing, cold weather rowing?*

I can remember about cold weather rowing was to sit in the tank in the gym and you sat there and you rowed and rowed for it seemed like hours on end, it was always a slow pace that's as fast as the water would flow. Even with the holes in the oars we couldn't speed it up any more. We never went anywhere until spring, 'til the ice went out of the lake, out of the outlet. Fortunately we were able to in '37 move into the new boathouse which was a WPA project at the time and leave the old boathouse

upon the banks of the outlet, a little toward the lake, as a matter of fact where the Thruway passes over the remains of it. We didn't have to put up with the barrels for the water to wash up. But we had no trip south that was a regular occurrence. There were races that occurred for instance on the west coast, invitational races in nature. Some of the men from Syracuse (went) but other than that we never went south.

**OA: You rowed as a freshman, spent a year in the varsity, a year in the JV and then went to med school. Is there a race you remember especially that you were in?**

I think there's one race in particular on the Hudson my junior varsity year (1940) when the weather was poor at the starting time and we rowed up to the starting line –the four mile mark – something happened at the time which delayed the race. It got dark. So we started racing actually after dark and the water was rough and we swamped as did everybody else in the race. We were hauled out of the polluted river and taken in the launch back to the boathouse determined to row that race again, which we did after dark. We had lights that came on a destroyer at the finish line that Navy had brought upstream. It would shine a light across the finish line but it didn't do us any good. We could barely see the outline of the railroad bridge and the Mid-Hudson vehicle bridge but we made it to the finish line. Nobody ever knew who won the race. This was a happening that I talked about with Vic Michaelson from Washington many times. We would kid back and forth. He would say that they won and I said "no, we won." (This was) when he was commandeered as an assistant coach under Loren Schoel.

**OA: This was the IRA?**

This was the IRA on the Hudson.

We had a race in Ithaca out of a different location for launching. I don't know quite how we got there but a railroad car was across the lake in a spot I'd never seen before. We met Cornell over there on that side and we launched our boat and we started to race. Never saw such a downpour of rain at any other time. We gave up the race and both the competing crew and ours rowed four bails and four rows until we finally got back to the Cornell boathouse intact however.



Not many others were as eventful but we seemed to be a swamping crew. We swamped again out on Onondaga. I think we had company with a lot of other crews that were sent to get out of the boat on the Liverpool side and waded ashore.

**OA: You went on to medical school and became a doctor. Then here it was the early 1950s and you and Tom Kerr have connected. Were you close as teammates?**

As teammates we were. That was our beginning. I didn't know Tom in med school because he dropped back a year, having had the year in advance of me in undergraduate school. Something had come up not in his favor but when he got to med school he dropped back a year and graduated a year later. But that made our connection and we got interested right almost immediately with rowing here.

The coach we knew then at that time was Gus Erickson. Gus was a fine gentleman. He taught sailing as well as rowing. He interested two high schools in the county to participate which was the beginning for them at the time but he did not seem to be able to coach a winning crew. Had a great turnout - probably five or six boats to begin the fall season - but there had to come an end to that regime. So we interviewed Loren Schoel from Cornell and he was hired by the athletic department and came in after the disaster at the Ohio River which helped our Regatta take place because the weather down there was horrible.

**OA: It had left Poughkeepsie in '51, went to Marietta for a couple of years, it flooded and they said let's try Onondaga Lake.**

It was disastrous and that's what brought the Regatta here with a new coach and so on.

**OA: So you and Tom, just the two of you decided to start this organization?**

Well we talked about it and then we had a lot of interested local alumni that we contacted such as Gordon Hoople, all the

Hoople brothers, and (Jim) Gilday and the people who were involved with the early beginnings of the Regatta Association, Eric Will and Crandall Melvin and other important individuals.

**OA: Trustees, people buildings are named after, those sort of things these days.**

Yeah. I should say so.

**OA: So SARA had an influence, the people involved in SARA had an influence in making the change from Coach Erickson to Coach Schoel?**

Yes – probably with some hesitation to say it that way because we really only met with the director of athletics (Lew Andreas) at that time and had an input from previous rowing alumni which of course did help but we always hesitated to say that we hired and fired coaches.

**OA: But you did have the athletic director's ear.**

Oh we had the ear alright.

**OA: So in came Coach Schoel and he had some pretty good crews early on. What did you and Tom and the other people involved trying to accomplish with SARA? What did you want SARA to be?**

Tom had some background information from Friends of Pennsylvania Rowing club down there. He was familiar with, on Boathouse Row and the crew on the Schuylkill. Then we hooked to people from Harvard and Yale. With those ideas we even drafted a constitution so to speak, at the beginning, got together these alumni locally – we had a bunch of them – and talked about it and then we formed what we named SARA – Syracuse Alumni Rowing Association. It became our personal wish to create something that would bolster the local university crew to get out of the losing streak and into more victorious times.

**OA: Early on Coach Schoel had some success...and then it waxed and waned. Bill Sanford took over. He had some success certainly in the '70s...**

Bill was a student of Loren's – there's no denying that.

**OA: How do you see those years with Coach Schoel and Coach Sanford – what SARA's involvement was?**



It's hard to maybe put it in words but it has always been very personal as far as I've been concerned naturally. I've been involved in all aspects of SARA and support the crew program. Tom was always right there as a partner in crime so to speak. He would bring kids up from Philadelphia who may have rowed there for high school. He was always aware of the competition of Pennsylvania crews and the influence that would have in our conversations, in our trying to do the things that were significant for SARA to do for our crews. I guess the best way to put it is very personal attitude. As Fran, my wife now deceased always said "I have taken third place now. First is medicine and then crew and then I'm in line," which she would say many times. Of course Lela Kerr had the same story, from surgery to crew and then it was her spot. Oh the girls got along very well. They'd go to bed and leave us talking half the night. All in all it's been a wonderful experience. Always so great to see

the old and the new faces involved in the program of rowing, I've met a lot of people associated with crew at Syracuse and fortunately people not only interested in Syracuse Crew but also in other parts of the world and the country. I regretted places that I couldn't get to where crew went, such as England, the Thames – and the Pan Am Games when they were victorious in '59, but always nice to have them come back which they did this year after 50 years. Long time, I said to the guys the other night I know that you're 70 years old or 71 – hard to believe – but hang around a little longer you'll be as old as I am. I'm still hanging in there.

***OA: Were you on the shoreline when the varsity won the IRA in 1978?***

Probably was. I don't know why I wouldn't be. I can't remember the exact year. There were three years in a row that we had victorious times. Those were days of hilarity.

***OA: Days of wine and roses?***

Those were the years when I used to say to the coach "I've got two cases of champagne in my trunk in my car all ready for the victory." I did this for two three four years in a row. That was my interest to furnish the drinks for everybody. I'd forgotten that. We'd take them out of the car and put them in the big freezer upstairs. I don't know what happened to them after that.

***OA: Eventually the program fell on kind of hard times and then in 2002 Bill (Sanford) retired and again SARA had a role, we actually had a member (Tom Darling) on the search committee and they found Dave Reischmann. I know you have a relationship with Dave. What's your thought on what's been going on in the program since Dave took over?***

I've had nothing but good reports about Dave and his background. I've been out in the coaching launch with him and I can see his ability overflowing with treating the men in the boat as men and not in a lesser capacity. I think he does well in relating to the boys in the crew. I think he's well respected. He's up to date in his approach to equipment. Of course these days you'd better be up to date. Probably that's summary enough of his character. He's a fine gentleman and I think he's a good coach and I think his program shows that it has produced some victorious crews.

***OA: Are you optimistic?***

I can't help but be optimistic. I'm not in close enough touch to know details like I used to know. I used to know too much probably. I probably spent a lot more time than I should have because of my profession taking a back seat. Maybe that was the way it was supposed to be.

***OA: So now SARA has welcomed women who have rowed for Syracuse and now we are a couple of weeks away from the first female president of SARA, the organization you and Dr. Kerr founded more than 50 years ago. How does that strike you?***

I have to admit I was not in full favor of having women participate in rowing, although they've been rowing for a long, long time, probably not as long as men have over the years. I don't remember any women's crews rowing on the Thames for England or Germany over there but that's beside the point. I've become use to the fact that they can row. They can do the techniques and perform in the same way as men, to a somewhat lesser degree of course. As far as our organization is concerned now I feel is welcoming them to the ranks. They have a part to play in the program. I'm still a little on the selfish side for men's crew and hopefully they'll participate as much for the men's program as for the women. This is a matter that depends on the attitude of the athletic department to uphold the men and women's sports.

***OA: So you're OK with a woman as president?***

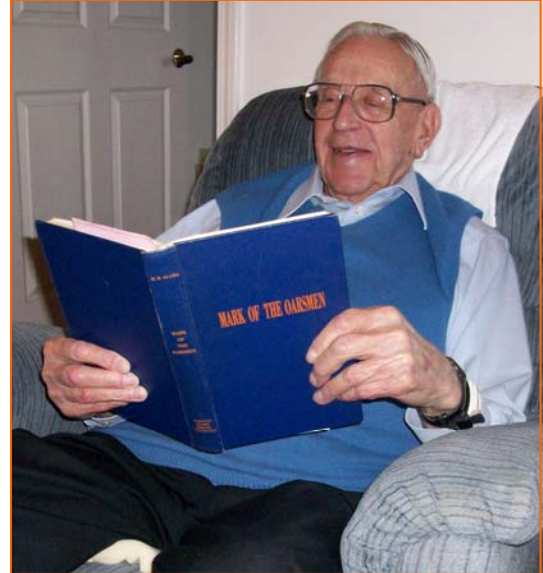
To get right down to it, to answer the question, sure. Let's give it a whirl and welcome them aboard. Let's see how they'll perform. I don't know in general what the attitude is on the part of SARA members. Maybe they're all gung ho – they'll throw their arms open and hug them all the way to the boat sitting alongside the loading platform. It depends on the attitude of the guys. I have a little bit of a reservation but I'm willing to forgive that in favor of the sport.

***OA: Looking back, what do you think at this organization that you fellas started as you look at it in 2010?***

I think there are some areas that need a little poking. I still favor the matter of collecting nominal dues, a fee as a source of some income that can be useful in promoting rowing and I hesitate to say rowing in Onondaga County or the City of Syracuse because of the impending restrictions from NCAA rowing and other participation of other sports involved. But I think that money can be useful in a number of ways and it is a source of an interest, a source of consciousness of the organization to be able to at least pay dues. I don't know of any organization that's alive today that doesn't have some kind of dues attached - something that monetarily can be useful for the crew program, for the sport. I don't know about other clubs at Syra-



cuse University within the athletic department whether they pay dues or whether they support the various programs in that way or not except the varsity club –that’s within but yet without, so to speak. But I think that’s one thing that needs to be considered. If it’s a matter of equipment I think that will come along in time to the number of shells that can be fitted into the present boathouse plus Quonsets plus other things available and I don’t know what efforts there are on board, what efforts for coaching facilities such as a launch or various other pieces of equipment but I think SARA dues, money could very well take a part in that sort of thing. I think that anything in the way of activity for the advisory group (so-called) that’s just been a recent event in the last 20 years. the advisory group is stagnant unless it has some purpose, something to do. What they can do may be talked about. If previous members of the board, other members who were never on the board and still interested in crew and maybe a matter of more for board members to participate in the committees of various projects of SARA. Some of this depends on the location of the board members – the proximity they have to the central area of the organization. It’s been in past years it’s been pretty much SARA people involved from the Syracuse area such as the Regatta Association, the regatta committee. Whatever came along those folks from Syracuse, they were there. They had to be, I thought. I welcome the thought that they come from a number of places a number of cities and participate in that way equally as well as the old guard from Syracuse. Those thoughts - maybe there’s some room for discussion at the annual meetings without taking a lot of extra time. It needs to be introduced and followed up.



**OA: Now you’re minutes away from being 90. What would you like to see from Syracuse crew before you leave us?**

I think it’s inevitable that the Syracuse crew programs meet the requirements of the NCAA with all the other sports at the university. It would be nice to reinstate two or three them but forget that.

I don’t know facility-wise for the programs. Naturally with the expansion of the programs maybe there’s a place for a 150 pound class. It was started once through an alum from Philadelphia. Bart Green started the program.

We probably need a new boathouse. Otherwise the equipment will come. I’d like to be able to add to that maybe in the next... I’d like to see the economy turn around a little bit. That would help the whole program a great deal as far as I’m concerned.

**OA: Would you like to see another IRA championship?**

My, God, yes, I’d like to see an IRA championship all the way. They can have small boats, they can have big boats, they can have eights and all that class. But I’d like to see an eight oared shell cross the line with Syracuse colors on the oars. Yes, that would be nice.

## STAY IN TOUCH WITH THE ORANGE

**For regular updates on SARA activities and events and the Women’s and Men’s teams check the SARA blog: <http://syracusealumnirowing.blogspot.com/>**

**To send a message to the email lists contact the coaches:**

**Women: Kris Sanford - [kmsanfor@syr.edu](mailto:kmsanfor@syr.edu)**

**Men: Dave Reischman - [dreischm@syr.edu](mailto:dreischm@syr.edu)**

### ***SARA Annual Meeting (from Page One)***

year, she was a member of the second-place eight and sixth-place four without coxswain at the World Championships. A year later, she was a member of the national champion eight at the World Championships and in 1992 Smith represented the Orange in the Olympics. In Barcelona, she was a member of the American squad that finished sixth in the finals of the eight with coxswain race. She was inducted into the Orange Plus Hall of Fame in 1999.

Not much was made of Smith becoming the first alumna to lead SARA, except the gag gift her close friend, fellow Olympian and former SARA-President **Tom Darling '81** gave her as a token of her new office – a custom-made engraved pink gavel. That brought an ooh and ahh or two and a lot of laughter, but Smith did not threaten to use the gavel on Darling as he also presented her with a standard maple gavel – something recent SARA presidents had been working without.



***Unwrapping the Pink Gavel***

After the laughter died down, Smith got serious for a moment. “I’m deeply honored and fully appreciate the gravity of this appointment,” Smith said, drawing a sustained round of applause.

Another SU Olympian, **Bill Purdy '79** was elected First Vice President, next in the line of succession and **Lynne Della Pelle Pascale '81** became Second Vice President. **Joe Paduda '80** stays on as secretary while Treasurer **Joe Kieffer '88** and Assistant Treasurer **Martha Mogish Rowe '81** continue in those positions.

Other directors continuing in office include **Charlie Roberts '61**, **Paul Dudzick '67**, **Don Plath '68**, **Joe Peter '69**, **Ken Hutton '69**, **Gerry Henwood '80**, **Art Sibley '80**, **Tom Darling '81**, **Bob Donabella '81**, **Sheila Roock '85**, **Kristin Bidwell '90**, **Don Smith '90**, **Jason Premo '98**, and **Joe Bufano '99**. **Ted Kakas '64**, **Brian Mahon '82** and **Skye Michiels '99** moved to the advisory board.

### ***Young Blood that Runs Orange***

The first alums from the new century - **Josh Stratton '01**, **Aliza Seeber '04** and **Erica Mahon Page '08** - joined the board. Seeber called her four years as coxswain on the women’s team (and occasionally filling in on the men’s team) “awesome- the best four years of my life.” “I just wanted the chance to give back,” she said of joining the SARA board.



***Directors Paul Dudzick, Erica Page, Ken Hutton***

“I know a lot of girls that I’ve spoken to – women on the women’s team - are interested in what’s happening with alumni and I’m hoping I can bridge that gap,” said Page, who married former men’s team captain **Tyler Page '06** this past fall. She succeeds her father **Brian Mahon '82** on the board.

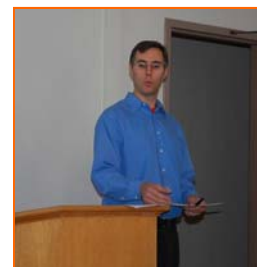
With the addition of Seeber and Page and the continuing service of Smith, Pascale, Rowe, Roock, and Bidwell alumnae comprise nearly 30-percent of the SARA board and 50-percent of the officers.

### ***The Premo Presidency***

The new president praised her predecessor for his accomplishments, noting Premo’s institution of monthly executive board conference calls to advance planning and action rather than issues sitting from year-to-year. “It’s been an absolute pleasure to work with Jason the past couple of years,” Smith said. “I really feel like we’ve got some momentum going and he’s been a great president.”

Premo was one of SARA’s youngest presidents. He has been instrumental in bringing in younger alums as well as connecting recent grads with job search contacts with more established grads and has been a constant presence at women’s and men’s team events since he came onto the SARA board in his mid-20s.

Premo said he’s not going anywhere. “This is my team,” he said. “I graduated in 1998. I couldn’t row anymore but I still needed to be a part of it and this is the way that I could do it.” With two young children and a new home in Baldwinsville (closer to the boathouse, he says) he’ll stay involved.



***President Premo***

## *A Visit with the Founder*

Smith had made a point to visit with the surviving co-founder of SARA, Dr. Bruce Chamberlain at his home in Jamesville the day before her election. She and Tom Darling spent a couple of hours with “The Doc” and each was impressed with the other.



“He was very gracious,” Smith told SARA directors. “But I think we have some things to prove.”

“I think she’s imbued with the spirit to go ahead and do some things,” Chamberlain later told *The Orange Oar*. “I think she’s out to prove it and she will.”

One of the highlights of the visit was Dr. Chamberlain autographing Smith’s copy of “The Mark of the Oarsmen.”

*The Founder & The Prez*

## *Other business –*

**SARA’s tax status** – Treasurer Joe Kieffer has been looking into whether SARA can be changed back to tax exempt status. The short version – it doesn’t look feasible.

**Hall of Fame** - Although **Anna Goodale ‘05** and the **’59 Pan Am Games Gold Medal Crew** members already have been inducted into the Syracuse Rowing Hall of Fame, and there was no argument about that, debate continued as to who should be eligible for induction. One apparently firm criterion is that he or she must have competed internationally, and former Coach Bill Sanford ’63 and Bob Donabella ’81 are to work on putting a list together. We say “apparently firm” because discussion continued about making exceptions for alumni and others who’ve distinguished themselves in other ways involving the program. The “hall” more likely will be a wall of fame with plaques mounted in the crew room, at the boathouse or both.

**Membership – Tom Darling ’81 and Lynne Pascale ‘81** are working on boosting membership, especially getting alumnae involved and bringing in more funding through dues. (See separate article)

**Navy Ball - Chip Gibson ‘04** is heading the effort to bring back the traditional event . The plan is to hold the event at the Sheraton on the SU campus on Nov. 6, the same day as the Syracuse Invitational, which is an opportunity to root on both the women’s and men’s teams in a local head race format.

**Reunions** - bringing back the men’s group from 1960 (50 years) and the women from 1985 (25 years) is in the works in conjunction with the Navy Ball and Syracuse Invitational.

## *Membership and Dues—by Tom Darling ‘81 and Lynne Della Pelle Pascale ‘81*

The Membership Committee's mission is to increase the participation of SU men and women alums in SU rowing related events. This means communicating with our alums via the Orange Oar, [www.saracrew.org](http://www.saracrew.org) web site, SARA blog, <http://syracusealumnirowing.blogspot.com/>, or when these functions will be taking place and communicating about any other rowing related information such as class reunions, coaches report or races in your area. On the men's side, we have implemented a stewards program with a selection of alums from different years to help us update our contact information as well as helping us find "lost alums". We'd like to do that as well with women alums. If you are interested in re-connecting with people you rowed with back in the day, please consider becoming a steward. Female alums can contact Lynne Della Pelle Pascale at [lynnepascale@hotmail.com](mailto:lynnepascale@hotmail.com).

The membership committee has also taken the duties of sending out our dues notice and we will be doing that for the first time this spring. Our goal is more to "friends raise" than to "fund raise". We are also using a networking site called [www.Linkedin.com](http://www.Linkedin.com) which is up to 182 members from SU rowing to help connect our newly graduated alums with our more experienced alums for possible job prospects. Alums can post their resumes on the site and help a fellow alum find employment. We are hoping to include more 2000 decade alums in the SARA board . If any 2000 grads are interested in helping out with the Membership Committee please contact me at [tomdarling@aol.com](mailto:tomdarling@aol.com)

### Orange Women (from Page One)

"We had a good recruiting class and then we had probably the best walk-on that we've ever had come into the program," Sanford said. What accounts for all the walk-ons? "Luck," she answered. But Sanford, now in her 14<sup>th</sup> season as head coach said those walk-ons have a good chance to get into the Varsity boat in a couple of years.



In the meantime, the squad is said to be in excellent shape, having gone through a training regimen like none before. Team members were expected to report in shape and then averaged about eleven workouts a week, Sanford said.

"Everybody handled it great," she said. "I was kind of expecting little bit of resistance from some people and there was not any resistance from, anybody."

Winter break training in Florida included some very cold weather and one sinking thanks to a big wake, but overall Sanford said it went well. "We had probably for the first time in a training trip we had no injuries and I think that attests a little bit to people's physical condition."

#### Natalie Mastracci '11 Shows off New Gear



Four of the seniors, Sydney Axson, Susan Groff, Anne van Houten and Heidi Bulk (l-r) answered questions for visiting SARA board members at the end of their Saturday morning workout, often finishing each other's sentences. Sharing the load as co-captains helps, they said. "In the past year we've had good leadership. When you spread the load no one gets stressed out."

With Assistant Coach Alicea Kochis out on maternity leave for six weeks, the women's team got help from recent grad (and new SARA director) Erica Mahon '08 and Coach Sanford's dad, longtime men's coach Bill Sanford along with grad assistant Pete McGee.

"Our technique is getting better with Bill Sanford helping us out," one co-captain said drawing applause from her teammates.

"There's something about being 'the old guy'...sorry, Dad," Kris Sanford said indicating Coach Bill definitely had her team's respect.

Improved facilities also added to the feel of change. Thanks to contributions from alums and parents, the women's locker room was considerably spiffed up. There are also five new fours and two new eights in the Orange women's fleet. A couple of the new fours are courtesy of a dispute between the boat trailer and a Quonset hut outside the boathouse. The eights will be paid for through fundraising, Sanford said. "Having these eights and fours, I'm thrilled. Now I feel like we're right up to date."

The schedule (see Page 16) is challenging this spring. After Spring Break training in Miami, they'll start with a home race against Boston U. Then it only gets tougher.

"We're racing five programs that will be in the top ten or fifteen. So it's a very, very rigorous schedule. We're going every weekend and we're racing the best in the country."

(For a look at the Women's Rowing Roster Click Here: <http://www.suathletics.com/roster.aspx?path=crew> )







*Christine DePompeo '10, Joe Paduda '80*



*Coach Kris addresses the Troops*

Eventually they'll battle for the Big East Championship, which starting in 2011 will become crucial to making the NCAA field (see below) as well as competing in the Eastern Sprints.

Sanford says she's confident in her team. "They know we want to move on to the next level and they've embraced what we are doing."

## **AQ (Automatic Qualification) Explained -**

***How women's rowing teams can qualify for the NCAA championship will change in 2011 and The Orange Oar asked SU Head Coach Kris Sanford to give us a rundown.***

Women's Rowing has changed dramatically in the last 13 years since its inception as an NCAA sport. As an emerging sport, the rowing committee had its job cut out for it as it had to go against everything that rowing stands for - particularly inclusion. The NCAA has guidelines for all of its sports based upon number of schools sponsoring it, and so at the beginning rowing was given a field of 12 teams (which included 1<sup>st</sup> 8, 2<sup>nd</sup> 8 and V4) plus 4 at large eights (1<sup>st</sup> 8 only). Selection was done by regional rankings and the NCAA rowing committee. Teams who finished first in their region got an automatic bid and all others went to the selection committee who used cross over race results, strength of schedule, and head to head results to select the remaining field.

Since this time, due to more schools sponsoring the sport, the championship field now includes a total of 16 full teams. This is for DI only which carries 87 sponsored teams. DII (16 teams) and DIII (40 teams) have their own championship at the same site but with different formats to better suit their needs. When DI decided to get rid of all at large entries, there was an outcry from the smaller schools who felt that was the only chance that they had to get to the championships and that the current selection system definitely favored bigger, better funded schools.

The NCAA is a creature of habit and does not like one thing to not look like the others. We are considered a team sport, and all other team sports use an automatic qualification system to fill out their fields. There has been a push from some of the smaller schools in the last 4 years to go to an AQ system and it finally was approved last summer. What this means is that some of the big end of season championship may go away, (including Eastern Sprints), and that the end of season conference championship will be the actual school conference. For us, this means we would qualify for the NCAA by winning the Big East Championship. We will be judged against Notre Dame, Louisville, Rutgers, Georgetown, West Virginia, Uconn and Villanova. In order for a conference to be eligible for an automatic qualifier, they must have 6 universities sponsoring the sport for at least 2 years. Only 50 percent of the total NCAA field can be AQ's - the other half must be at-large. The Big East is one of 6 conferences right now that fulfill these requirements. If we are not the Big East conference champion, then we will have the opportunity to go into the at-large pool to be selected by the selection committee.

Critics of the system believe that this system will water down the championship as there are some weaker conferences out there. This will be true at first, but it will not effect the top 10 or 12 schools and most likely it will only change who would go in the 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> spot.

People who believe in the system hope that with an actual chance to get to the NCAA, administrators will give more resources to the lesser funded programs. The AQ system is set up by the NCAA to give everyone a chance - if you look at any other championship, you will see that the bottom schools are not the best schools. We have already started to see administrators take more interest in some of the smaller programs. Although the Big East is a very strong conference (there has been someone from our conference at the championships every year), it is my hope that our administration will look at this opportunity and will boost our resources over the coming years, including adding a 3<sup>rd</sup> full time position and perhaps increasing our operating budget.

We are entering a very exciting time for Syracuse Rowing. This spring will mark the last championship under the current system and we are doing everything we can to get there. The team is working hard and we have put together the most exciting race schedule we have ever had. We hope to see you on the shores!

## BACKSPLASH—NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI

### 1960s

**Bill Sanford '63** – was honored by the Hiawatha Seaway Council of the Boy Scouts of America at a function in November. Several rowing alums including **John Hession '72** and **George Chapman '72** (see below) came out to congratulate Coach Bill, who also was Chairman of the Onondaga County Legislature for 15 years. (Sanford is pictured here with Josiah Dunning, Boy Scout Troop 203 Liverpool and Jordan Dunning, Boy Scout Troop 157 North Syracuse)



**Ted Kakas '64** – who has moved to the SARA Advisory Board but remains active in rowing in a multitude of ways, sends word of the US Rowing elections. “Jim Dietz was elected as Men's Vice President by a margin of 244 votes 463 to 219 over Chris Grudt. John Jablonic and Loretta Mc Carthy were re-elected as regional reps to the Masters Committee - congratulations to all.”



**Joe Peter '69** – and his wife Jan (left) hosted their annual “Joey’s Birthday Party gathering at their palatial suburban estate, following the SARA annual meeting. Dozens of rowing-related people turned out to swap stories, enjoy the hospitality (including sumptuous buffet) and ogle Joey’s hundreds of medals earned in Master’s competition.

### 1970s

**Jim Breuer '72, John Hession '72, Tom Sawyer '72 and George Chapman '73** -recently dined together and reminisced about days of yore. The unanswered question upon departure was who originated the then coveted Rubber Ducky award. After several emails, they finally determined it was **Jeff Harriman '70**.



*Sanford, Chapman, Hession*

### 1980s

**Martha Mogish Rowe '82**—is on track to another first. She’ll become the first woman president of the SU Varsity Club this fall. Martha was the first Letter Winner of distinction at SU (changing the name from Letterman) and was a standout on the rowing and basketball teams. Her brother **Andy Mogish, Jr '78** is a Letter Winner of Distinction as a member of the '78 IRA Champion V8 and her dad, Andy. Sr. also is a Letter Winner of Distinction who played basketball for SU and coached and taught at his alma mater for decades.

Martha, of course is a SARA board member and assistant treasurer.

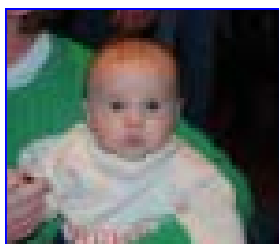
## BACKSPLASH—NEWS OF OUR ALUMNI

### 2000s

**Josh Stratton '01** – who has just joined the SARA board as the first men's alum from the 2000s provided us with a photo his wife, Charlene and son, Julius.



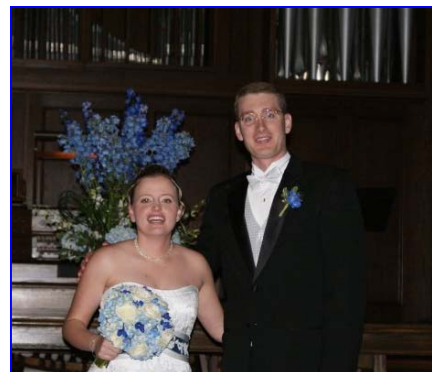
**Christine Getzler Vaughan '02** - and her husband Scott have just finished their two year tour with the State Department at Embassy Tel Aviv. They are looking forward to speaking English every day at the US Consulate in Sydney, Australia as of April 2010 where Christine will be working as the Immigrant Visa Chief.



**Alicea Kochis '02** – as noted elsewhere, the women's assistant coach has been busy! In her words “Martin Matthew Strodel (left) was born on October 4, 2009 which is also my birthday! He weighed 7 lb. 6 oz. and was 21 inches long. He is a very active, happy baby. Coming back to work has been easy as Marty loves his babysitters (current coxswain Catherine Wilcox and rowers Syd Axson and Rachael Ogundiran).”

“Also I have put together a women's alumni boat for the race at Eastern Sprints. **Jillian (Kott) Carlson '02, Rachael (Kirchhoff) Posey '02, Katie (Modolo) Beattie '01, Libby Abbott-Graves '02, Jordan Brophy-Hilton '02, Nicole Garofalo '03 and Tracy (Rude) Smith '90.** Five of the women were members of the 2001 boat that made the finals at NCAAs. And Tracy is our token Olympian!”

**Odette Mitchell-Servilio '02** - got engaged to Todd Edbrooke from Fremont, Michigan. They both live in Boulder, Colorado where Odette is a high school Geography teacher and Todd is in school for Radiology. An April 2011 wedding is planned.



**Adlai Hurt '04** - got married on 3/28/09 in Nashville, TN, to former SU softball player Rachel Park '04, G'05.

### In Memoriam—



**Cameron Benninghoven '93** -- died last November in Chicago where he was a commercial real estate broker. He rowed for SU in the early '90s and friends are planning a memorial mass for him at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City March 25. He was 36.

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## ***SU WOMEN'S ROWING SCHEDULE—2010***

Saturday 3/27	Kittell Cup ( Boston University)	Syracuse, NY
Sat-Sun 4/2-4/3	Cayuga Cup (Yale, Cornell, Michigan State, Gonzaga, Buffalo)	Ithaca, NY
Saturday 4/10	Orange Challenge Cup (Penn, Northeastern)	Philadelphia, PA
Sat-Sun 4/17-18	Charles River Challenge/O'Leary Cup (Dartmouth, Radcliffe)	Boston, MA
Saturday 4/25	Big East Championship	Worcester, MA
Saturday 5/1	Windermere Cup	Seattle, WA
Sunday 5/16	Eastern Sprints	Camden, NJ
Fri 5/28	NCAA Championships	Sacramento, CA