

SWEEP

SAFETY

THE WASHINGTON ROWING MAGAZINE

**ANNUAL
REVIEW
2024**

W
ROWING



SWEET SWEEP

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

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On the Cover: University of Washington men's rowing team sweeps the IRA Championship for the 11th time in program history.

Dear Washington Rowing Community,

We're honored to serve as co-chairs of the Board of Stewards. Washington Rowing has deeply impacted both of us. Our experiences as Huskies—Noelle as a walk-on and Ante as an accomplished rower—taught us the values of teamwork, perseverance, and discipline. These lessons have shaped our lives and our commitment to this program.

As we navigate a rapidly changing landscape in college athletics, the challenges facing Washington Rowing have never been more pressing. Collegiate athletics is evolving with a lack of clarity at the current moment. In this time of great uncertainty, it is more important than ever to focus on the foundational values of Washington Rowing as we pinpoint the exact needs of the men's and women's teams and strive to continue the legacy of excellence that defines this program.

We plan to communicate frequently with all of you and will look to you for guidance as we develop plans. It is important that the entire Washington rowing community take part in ensuring our program stays at the championship level. We believe it is time to press forward as one.

"We're taking it up two in two"—right now. Transitional times create opportunity, and we need all of you alongside us. You are Washington Rowing, and we will do our best to build on the excellence you have created.

This past season, our teams achieved impressive results, culminating in the men's 11th eights sweep of the IRA, an unprecedented accomplishment in collegiate rowing, and the women's fifth-place finish at the NCAA championships. A month later, Washington was featured at Henley in the Regatta's premiere events. Our Washington men's eight reached the final in the Grand Challenge Cup, and Coach Yaz Farooq's USA Development boat reached the Remenham Cup final. In August, at the 2024 Paris Olympics, current and former Washington rowers set a record for our program with 11 total medals—with the USA men's eight, including four UW Alumni and coached by our own Michael Callahan, earning a bronze medal.

Truly a historic year!

We are so grateful to Dr. Paul Ramsey and Jane Powers for their exceptional leadership over the past four years and eight years respectively. Their dedication has been instrumental in guiding the program through challenging times.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that Washington Rowing remains a beacon of excellence in collegiate athletics.

Go Huskies!



Noelle Broom

Ante Kusurin

CO-CHAIRS, WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS



A New Era Begins

By Jeff Bechthold

For everyone involved in UW Athletics, one of the most important changes in the history of the department occurred on August 2, 2024, the date that the University of Washington officially became a member of the Big Ten Conference.

Washington, one of four charter members of the Pacific Coast Conference, spent 109 years in the various incarnations what was most recently known as the Pac-12. Only UW and Cal were a part of the league for all of those 109 years.

The UW's move was one of many around the country, as USC, UCLA and Oregon also moved to the Big Ten, while Cal and Stanford both joined the Atlantic Coast Conference; and Arizona, Arizona State, Colorado and Utah each moved to the Big 12.

While most of the headlines focused on the effects these moves meant for college football, the change might be even more consequential for most other sports. That's definitely the case when it comes to rowing.

The women's team's situation is a bit simpler than the men's, as the Big Ten has a strong history of success in the sport. UW, USC and UCLA will join a conference that already includes perennially strong programs like Michigan, Indiana and Rutgers—as well as Iowa, Michigan State, Minnesota, Ohio State and Wisconsin. Now with 11 teams competing in



varsity women's rowing, it's a formidable league.

Michigan won the conference title last year, with Indiana and Rutgers taking second and third.

This coming season, the Big Ten Rowing Championships will be held in Indianapolis on May 18, 2025.

For the men, the move was more complex. Among the other 17 member schools of the Big Ten, only Wisconsin sponsors varsity men's rowing. The Badgers have most recently competed at Eastern Sprints during the time that conference

championship regattas are held, with no Big Ten event for men.

Meanwhile, both Stanford and California's men's teams were left without a conference, as the ACC also does not sponsor the sport.

Those three men's programs will now compete in the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation (MPSF), which will also host a conference championship regatta on May 18, at Lake Natoma near Sacramento, the most common site of past Pac-12 Championships.

The MPSF traces its roots way back to 1992, when it was founded to provide a league for a number of sports for western universities. In UW's case, the men's soccer team was a member of the MPSF at its founding, joining programs that were otherwise members of the

Big West, Mountain West and Western Athletic Conferences.

To this day, UW still competes in the MPSF in indoor track and field, while a long list of other schools compete in sports like water polo, fencing, men's volleyball and men's gymnastics, among others.

While the changes are significant for Washington Rowing, the good news is that there are a lot of important things that WON'T change – like the annual Class Day, Cal Dual and Windermere Cup/Opening Day regattas, as well as the NCAA and IRA Championships.

True Walk-On, True Champion

LYLE DONOVAN: A TEAM ORIENTED MINDSET IS THE ULTIMATE GOAL

There is no shortage of opportunity at Conibear Shellhouse, but unlocking it has always required a dedicated work ethic and personal discipline. According to junior walk-on **Lyle Donovan**, that is exactly how he wants it. "Washington rowing has taught me a whole other level of discipline," Lyle said recently. "The way you approach it, how you ask questions, how you work with others, push others to work as hard as you are. Relying on others to pull you up and feeding off that energy, because if you want something to be worthwhile it's going to take a lot of work. Don't back down from it."

That sentiment and approach has taken Lyle from "standing awkwardly on my first day of freshmen orientation" as a true walk-on in the fall of 2022, to a Pac-12 and IRA Championship in the 2V as a sophomore, and being named the Intercollegiate Rowing Coaches Association "Newcomer of the Year" award recipient in 2024. In honoring Lyle, the organization specifically recognized his rapid ascension in the sport stating that, "after only 18 months of rowing, (he) is already one of the strongest athletes on the team."

A standout cross-country and track athlete growing up in Milton, Georgia, Lyle came to the UW for the academics. Although his father rowed at Wisconsin (including an IRA Championship in the Varsity 8 in 1990), Lyle did not have rowing experience, nor did he intend to row at Washington. It was only after

receiving an email from Frosh Coach Sergio Espinoza inviting him to a tryout that Lyle considered the sport. "I had no more than five sessions on an erg prior to that tryout, and it was a warm up and straight into a 10k" he said. "I felt pretty comfortable and leaned on my running experience to get through it... I didn't know what the numbers were saying on the screen but I felt confident."

That tryout and an immediate embrace of the work ethic at Conibear led to Lyle being selected as one of four walk-ons to make the team for the 2023 season. "Watching how hard the Class of '23 worked, the seniors were so committed, made me want to step up to that level and match that commitment," he said. "I was given generous opportunities to grow and develop my skills as a rower since I had zero coming in. Having the coaches giving me the experience and giving me their time... I felt that if the coaches see something in me, then I can see something in myself."

A Geography: Data Science major with an Architecture minor, Lyle has already received multiple student-athlete academic accolades. Entering his junior year, his focus remains on his academics and in improving every day on

the water. "I always think I find the swing, and then I find myself finding something better. It's incremental. I don't think of myself as a person that's unsatisfied, but I always find that there is something better," he said, adding, "Having a team-oriented mindset really is the ultimate goal, not personal success. You live it so much at Washington, it's every day you are focused on the team."

Heading into a 2025 season that will see a change of conferences and multiple unknowns, Lyle remains focused on the opportunities and the challenge. "The Big 10 move doesn't change much for us, I think we come back with a lot of returners along with some new talent... but it is important to keep our head down and know our competition will be hungrier, so we need to stay within ourselves and go to work every day."

It is exactly that approach to the sport that has propelled Lyle from a walk-on to a highly valued member of the team in two years. "I am fortunate to be in a really strong class (Class of '26, motto: Zero 2 60) and to have such supportive upperclassmen and coaches on this team," he said. "I am really looking forward to the year ahead."



Destined to be a Dawg

AVA MEULEMAN: THE A IN TEAM



rowing up within walking distance of the Montlake Cut, **Ava Meuleman** remembers from a young age watching the Huskies row. "All of the blades would click. Everything looked

so perfect. And I would think to myself, 'Wow, that looks so cool,'" she recounted.

Inspired at a young age to take up rowing, Ava took her first strokes at the age of eleven rowing out of the Pocock Rowing Center, eventually racing as an eighth grader, and then rowing in the varsity program while attending Roosevelt High School. But even with that extensive experience, she questioned whether she could meet the expectations at Washington. "I always wanted to go here, I love Seattle and I love the sport... but I questioned whether I was fast enough to make it," she said.

"My first day as a walk-on freshman I was in the Shellhouse and I was overwhelmed... so much history, the pictures on the walls, everything. We had a 6k test a few days later--I remember that--and I went out so hard that I completely crashed. That was my first initiation (laughing). But I also remember later that fall and into the winter doing pieces on the water with my team and thinking 'this is why I do this.' The team was so amazing, so supportive... and I began to find my confidence."

Team is a word that Ava uses frequently, but with a sense of reverence and gratitude. "Washington is different because of the team," she states. "It is a group of women that have a willingness to work when it is really hard. They do it with a lot of heart and grit, everyone cares so much and you can see it in the work. It is about finding the joy in all of it, and lifting people up around you, and it is constant, always present. Our coaches have a big influence, but a big emphasis in that is on us creating our own culture and our own team."

Since her freshman year Ava has consistently found herself in the stroke seat, moving into the Varsity 8 as stroke for the NCAA's last year. "It's natural if it's done right," she said, "to feel the boat, laying down a rhythm that everyone can push down hard, a happy medium, staying consistent and positive and keeping a cool head."

"I think back to the 2V my sophomore year," she continued (stroking the 2V8 to Pac-12 gold and NCAA silver). "Spring season was so amazing. The 2V was so positive and gritty.

(Coach) Gordon described it as everyone just puts their head down and works super hard. We had a couple of seniors in there and we wanted to pull so hard for them... we were tightly bonded and rowed for each other, and that's why it ended up being so special."

Ava places a high value on the women that came before her at Washington. "For a lot of us, it's knowing that when you're on the erg, or about to race and you're nervous, we have all these posters and photos that bring a reminder that so many other women have sat in this position and they lived to tell the tale. It brings a sense of calm and also purpose. It's a legacy of hard work and teamwork and a culture that feeds that and teaches determination and self-motivation... and confidence."

Majoring in Cellular Molecular Developmental Biology, Ava is considering a career in research or continuing a graduate education. But she still has her senior season ahead of her, one filled with change as the team embarks on their first season in the Big Ten. "We've got a lot of fast frosh coming in and I am really excited to see what opportunities the move to the Big Ten brings," she said. "But as a senior, my role becomes different... I watched as a freshman how the upperclassmen interacted with the younger people. The mutual respect, the care and love that was given freely, and I remember thinking 'I want to be that for someone else.' I want to contribute to that. It doesn't matter what boat you are in, everyone cares for each other, not just in rowing, but in life. I am so looking forward to seeing what all of us together can accomplish this year."



PHOTO: Alika Jenner

Award Winners Spring 2024

PAC 12 ACADEMIC HONOR ROLL:
CUM GPA 3.3 OR HIGHER, SERVED
AT LEAST 1 YEAR IN RESIDENCE AT UW



MEN'S ROWING

Oliver Black
Political Science

Luke Collins
History; Political Science

Lyle Donovan
Geography; Data Science

Archie Drummond
Global & Regional Studies

Harry Fitzpatrick
Communication

Alex Gonin
Biology

Quinn Hall
Communication

Luke Henry
Real Estate

Kieran Joyce
Economics
Pre-Communication

Alex Gonin
Biology

Max Heid
Business Administration; Finance

Luke Henry
Real Estate

Sam Husarik
Biochemistry

Kieran Joyce
Pre-Business

Tess Kadian
Journalism

Darcy McCluskey
Environmental Studies

Ewan Morrow
Economics

Casey Neumann
Political Science

Henry Ramstad
Applied Mathematics; Data Science

Ben Shortt
Pre-Economics

Connor Shoup
Political Science: International Security

Addison Smee
Business Administration; Finance

Ryan Smith
International Studies; Political Science

Cameron Tasker
Political Science: Political Economy

Blake Vogel
Real Estate

Jonathan Wang-Norderud
Economics



WOMEN'S ROWING

Zoe Bischoff
Pre-Major

Mira Calder
Chemistry

Mia Carter
Pre-Major

Jordan Freer
Environmental Engineering

Caitlin Hane
Environmental Public Health

Brianna Hoffman
Law, Society & Justice; Political Science

Briana Hopper
Psychology

Elizabeth Howard
Engineering

Allison Jakeway
Education Studies; Sports and Education

Ellen Kosekka
History

Cora Madison
Chemistry

Leah Nash
Food Systems, Nutrition & Health

Hannah Nowers
Aquatic & Fishery Science

Madison Ohm
Environmental Public Health

Nandini Pathak
Biology: Molecular, Cellular & Development

Isabella Peters
Economics

Camille Randall
Pre-Major

Sofia Sand
Biology

Claire Surbeck
Human Centered Design & Engineering

Isabelle Tinsley
Computer Science

Isabel Van Opzeeland
Art

Grace Vander Griend
Mechanical Engineering

Scout Wilson
Food Systems, Nutrition & Health

Molly Wiser
Bioengineering

2024 CRCA SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Christiana Congdon
Jordan Freer
Caitlin Hane
Olivia Hay
Cillian Mullen
Sofie Sand

2024 CRCA ALL-AMERICANS FIRST TEAM

Nikki Martincic

2024 CRCA ALL-AMERICANS SECOND TEAM

Shakira Mirfin

Cillian Mullen

Grace Murdock

IRCA STAFF OF THE YEAR - MEN'S ROWING

IRCA NOVICE OF THE YEAR

Lyle Donovan

IRCA ALL-AMERICAN FIRST TEAM

Max Heid
Giuseppe Bellomo
Archie Drummond

IRCA ALL-AMERICAN SECOND TEAM

Harry Fitzpatrick
Cameron Tasker

IRCA DIVISION 1 COACH OF THE YEAR

Michael Callahan

EXCELLENCE AWARD

Connor Shoup, Cumulative GPA 3.80
GERTRUDE PEOPLE'S SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT
Archie Drummond

101 SCHOLAR AWARD RECIPIENTS

Gus Altucher
Grace Vander Griend

PIGOTT AWARD

(MOST INSPIRATIONAL)
Grace Vander Griend
Harry Fitzpatrick

SCHALLER AWARD

(HIGHEST GPA)
Cameron Tasker
Izzy Peters

CAPTAINS

Nikki Martincic
Ethan Blight

KATY WALLACE MEMORIAL AWARD

Sofie Sand



PHOTO: Red Box Pictures



Pat Hughes and Mary Ellen Pigott began their 65 years of marriage just months after they graduated in 1957 from the University of Washington. Today, their love for each other and for their alma mater lives on in their dedication to generations of UW students and athletes.

"She was a wonderful, thoughtful wife, mother and grandmother who put others first," Pat says proudly of his wife, who passed away at the age of 89 in October, 2023.

The couple rarely missed a Husky home football game as season-ticket holders for six decades. They developed a passion for rowing after their daughter, Kimberly, rowed for Lakeside School and Stanford.

"When Kim rowed at Lakeside her freshman year and got home from a race, I asked her what she does when she sees a boat gaining on her," Pat recalls. "She said, 'I just lean into it a little harder.' That's the drive that rowing creates. It builds an incredible will to succeed. We saw firsthand the value of sportsmanship and dedication that rowing creates."

They turned their passion into action by endowing a scholarship for Washington Women's Rowing, which will continue to benefit young student-athletes for generations to come. Never seeking the spotlight, they

DONOR PROFILE

A Life Well Lived Leaves Behind a Legacy of Giving

MARY ELLEN HUGHES' PASSING CAPS DECADES OF GENEROSITY

By Teresa Moore

also anonymously supported many other initiatives and programs for Husky Athletics, the UW Foster School and other educational causes through the years.

"The University of Washington is just a terrific school in so many ways," states Pat. "I like the saying that you get something out of the UW whether you went to school there or not. Many people are alive today because of the brilliant minds at Washington."

Washington Women's Head Coach Yasmin Farooq remembers Mary Ellen as one of the program's most ardent and big-hearted supporters, calling her "a shining example of women helping women. We're grateful that her legacy lives on through the scholarship and through Pat's continuing generous support."

In addition to her husband, Mary Ellen is survived by her children, Lauri Hughes, Kimberly Hughes Moazed (Steve Moazed), Jim Hughes (Heather) and Kevin Hughes (Krista); as well as 10 grandchildren and four great grandchildren.



Class Endowments: Our Past and Future Together

By Eric Cohen

At Washington Rowing, we build future leaders. It is a founding principle of who we are, and it makes us fundamentally different from other sports. We build character, teach hard work and resiliency, uniquely teach team before self, and ultimately reach together for exceptional goals, building unbreakable bonds along the way.

Rusty Callow's 1923 Varsity went on to win the first National Championship at Washington, followed by the 1924 and 1926 teams (featuring Al Ulbrickson at stroke). Many of those men returned for decades as Stewards of

the program, bonded by their gratefulness and the class brotherhood built since freshmen. And since that time, we have had either individual classes, or groups bonded by shared experience (the '36 team is a good example),

work together post-graduation to support the program that they so highly valued.

Through the years those efforts have become even more formalized, with classes and groups joining together to form specific endowments that celebrate that bond. In 2006, Fred Fox became the first to lead his class in establishing the Class of '76 Endowed Men's Crew Scholarship, an effort to perpetually honor the values learned as freshmen together. "Those times we had together at the shellhouse are unforgettable and today are even more meaningful," said Fred recently. "It was important to all of us to give back to this place

and program that had such a major influence on the trajectory of our lives."

Al Forney, who with multiple classmates established the Class of '82 Scholarship Endowment for Men's Rowing in 2012, had similar motivations. "I have been – and this is going on forty years now - continuously been amazed at the quality of the young people graduating out of this program. It's exceptional. You don't see this at this level in other sports, and it is directly related to the sport itself. All of us know it, all of us experienced it and for our class,

program, undefeated heavyweight and '84 National Champions, just the whole thing. That year was special across the board and a lot of us wanted to do something to remember it and celebrate it... and we could think of no better way to do that than to permanently, positively influence the program through this endowment."

"This is the wave of the future," Michael Callahan, men's head coach said. "It is a reflection of the legacy this sport leaves to all of us and we are starting to see it pick up momentum. None of us can see

into the future as intercollegiate sports continue to rapidly evolve, but there is no better way to permanently influence our program than a collective gift like this. I encourage all of our alumni to talk it over with teammates and classmates and see where this can go."

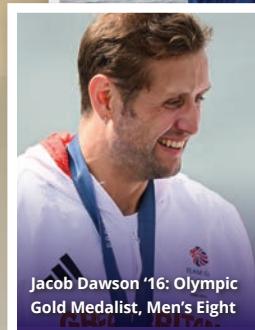
"On my first squad as a coach at the University of Washington in the Fall of 1922 and the Spring of 1923, were men who became true leaders in many fields of endeavor," Rusty Callow recalled. "The president of Pratt-Whitney Corporation; one of the executive heads of the Rockefeller Medical Foundation; the president of the first chartered National Bank in the country; and others who have made outstanding contributions in this country's life and times. That first squad shows merely the type of person the sport of rowing first attracts, then helps to develop."

together, we wanted to express our gratitude for it. There is not one of us who would trade in those years together for anything else."

Since that time, the Class of '67 has made a major gift (Class of '67 Men's Crew Endowed Fund), and just this summer a group of oarsmen (lightweight and heavyweight combined from the Classes of 1983 to 1987) formed the 1984 National Champions Endowed Fund. "1984 was an incredible year for all of us," said Lincoln Thompson, '84 lightweight captain and stroke who with Matt Cockburn '84 and Chris Pugel, '83 heavyweight, spearheaded the effort. "Undefeated lightweight

"To me, the finest spectacle in sport is to watch a crew when all of its members are seemingly closest to exhaustion, rise to challenge, or to the challenge of their opponents, and go out and beyond themselves," continued Coach Callow. "If you have never been part of such an effort, you can never really fully appreciate what it accomplishes in the mind and hearts of its participants. The individual oarsmen never forgets such an experience, and in that great common effort lies the real secret of the feeling oarsman have for their sport, and the affinity they feel for one another. Such effort cannot attract or hold the man who thinks of quitting when the going gets rough"

Les Huskies à Paris 2024!



Washington has a long history of rowing success at the Olympic Games, dating back to the 1936 Berlin Games, when the famed "Boys in the Boat," nine Huskies representing the United States in the men's eight, won gold.

The Huskies' performance at the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris may have set a new standard. In all, 11 current and former Washington men and women earned medals, a new record for the program. In fact, thanks to medals earned by UW alums in women's basketball, 13 Huskies won medals in Paris, the most ever in school history (the previous record was 12, in both 1936 and 1984).

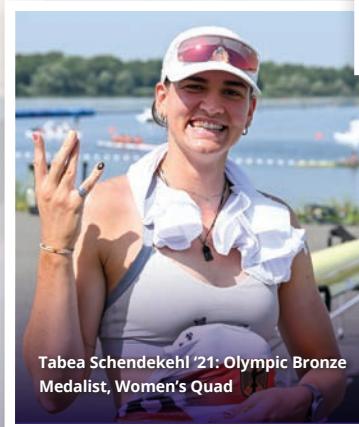
The medals came throughout the regatta. First, on day 12, two-time NCAA champion Tabea Schendekohl earned the bronze medal in the German women's quad. The following day, two UW rowers from New Zealand each added to the count as Logan Ullrich '24 won silver and Phoebe Spoores '17 earned bronze, each rowing in the two-seat in the men's and women's fours.

With those three medalists' Games over, the Husky windfall really picked up on the final day of the regatta, where a remarkable eight more alumni earned medals – including six in the men's eight final alone.

In the women's eight, Holly Dunford rowed four-seat in the Great Britain crew that won the bronze medal.

In the men's final, Washington had athletes in each of the top-three finishing shells. Jacob Dawson, who won bronze in Tokyo, moved up to gold in Paris, helping

row Great Britain to the top spot in the world. A Netherlands eight including UW alum Gert-Jan van Doorn won the silver medal, while four Huskies – coxswain Rielly Milne and rowers Chris Carlson, Evan Olson and Pieter



Quinton – won the bronze medal for the United States men's eight coached by UW head coach Michael Callahan.

In the final race of the 2024 Olympic regatta, UW alum Simon van Dorp won the bronze medal in the men's single, capping the impressive haul for the Huskies.

Washington Rowing Alumni in the 2024 Olympics



17 Washington alums—and current student-athletes—represented the UW in the Olympics and Paralympics in both sculling and sweep events! We are incredibly proud that Washington rowing is preparing young men and women to achieve their athletics dreams at the Olympics. There is no other University in the nation close to us in the development of Olympians, and you make that happen. Your commitment to the long-term development and growth of our UW rowers and coxswains ensures that Washington is a destination for those who aspire to achieve at the highest level.

"Huskies were represented in all three spots on the podium in the men's eight event in Paris, with four of the nine athletes in the USA Men's Olympic bronze medal eight representing Washington. Many rowed on our USA Under-23 team, including in the 2018 U-23 World Champion squad that trained with me

and rowed in the Chuck Holtz III (6 of the 9 in that boat were from UW). Michael Grady - one of those young men on that 2018 U-23 team - won the gold in Paris in the USA 4-, and coming full circle, has joined our Washington coaching staff this year."

- Michael Callahan

"As an athlete, there is no greater excitement than sitting in the starting blocks at the Olympics. As a coach, it's a dream to witness our UW athletes, who once rowed together to National Championship success, line up side by side, at the Olympics. Especially knowing that each of them is going to push one another to bring their very best, just as they did while wearing the Purple and Gold together! Washington women from the classes of 2017-2026 represented Team USA, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and New Zealand. Once a Husky, always a Husky! Long live the Sisterhood!"

-Yaz Farooq

MEN'S SINGLE – M1X
Simon van Dorp '20
 Netherlands – Bronze medal

WOMEN'S PAIR – W2-
Jessica Thoenes '18
 USA – 4th place

MEN'S DOUBLE – M2X
Ben Davison '18
 USA – 4th place

WOMEN'S FOUR – W4
Phoebe Spoors '17
 New Zealand – Bronze medal

MEN'S FOUR – M4
Logan Ullrich '23
 New Zealand – Silver medal

WOMEN'S QUAD – W4X
Teal Cohen '21
 USA – 9th place
Tabea Schendekohl '20
 Germany – Bronze medal

WOMEN'S EIGHT – W8+
Nina Castagna '22
 USA – 5th place
Holly Dunford '22
 Great Britain – Bronze medal
Aisha Rocek '25
 Italy – 6th place

MEN'S EIGHT – M8+
Chris Carlson '18
 USA – Bronze medal
Rielly Milne '18
 USA – Bronze medal
Evan Olson '19
 USA – Bronze medal
Pieter Quinton '21
 USA – Bronze medal
Jacob Dawson '16
 Great Britain – Gold medal
Gert-Jan van Doorn '21
 Netherlands – Silver medal

SPARE, PR3 MIXED COXED FOUR – PR3MIX4+
Danielle Hansen '17
 USA

COACHES
Michael Callahan '96
 USA men's eight coach
Lori Dauphiny '85
 USA women's pairs coach
Adrienne Martelli '10
 USA women's sweep coach

Inspired by Your Legacy

COMMUNITY AND TEAM
COME TOGETHER FOR A
HISTORIC YEAR

By Michael Callahan
Head Men's Rowing Coach

At Washington, we have no shortage of successful seasons, but 2023-24 will always be one we remember. The Boys in the Boat reached millions on the big screen, we received the transformational Blake W. Nordstrom Head Coaches Endowment for Men's Rowing, our crew had an incredible spring season culminating in a clean sweep of the IRA National Championship, and finally, the Olympics showcased Husky talent on the world stage. What an incredible testament to the ecosystem of Washington Rowing; where our collective history builds the foundation for current and future success. The Boys and Blake epitomize how Washington rowing can make us great, and how those gifts can live on.

It started last Fall with the release of *The Boys in the Boat*. The highlight for me was the entire Washington Rowing program singing Bow Down to Washington from the balcony at the Seattle premiere. The energy and enthusiasm in Seattle, around OUR team, was once in a lifetime. Governors, business leaders, alumni, and more, all coalesced to enjoy one of the most incredible stories in Washington Rowing's impressive history. Seeing our team and its values resonate so widely set the tone for what would be a tremendous season-long campaign.

This team was focused, determined, and relentless. The work they did all year earned them their results in the spring. We had a fantastic new early season regatta in Florida winning the Tom Bolles Trophy against Harvard—the first time we raced for this trophy since 1974. We had a Cal Dual for ages, where our Varsity eight set a course record on Cal's course. Our last Pac-12 Championship was perhaps more



emotional than any of us expected. The wins were fantastic, and bittersweet, marking the end of an era.

That same sense of awe and responsibility came with the announcement of the Blake W. Nordstrom Head Coach's Endowment for Men's Rowing in early May. The first coaching endowment at the University of Washington would be for rowing, and it would bear the name of one of Washington's dearest friends. It is still hard to believe, but I can imagine Blake looking down with a giant grin knowing the impact this gift will have. I am honored to be the Blake W. Nordstrom Head Coach for Men's Rowing.

We went into the IRA with a quiet confidence inspired by the '36 crew and Blake: we were humble and determined, but also light, joyful and grateful. The season culminated in an incredible IRA Sweep by a team that was the epitome of what you would expect at Washington. Dedicated to each other, dedicated to our values, embracing of our history and the hard work that everyone associated with this program understands. It was one of those times I had to step back and marvel at what this sport can do for young people.

Layered onto this incredible Washington season was my second job coaching the USA Olympic Men's eight. I am still trying to figure out how to neatly summarize the many hours, boat meetings,

training sessions, and lessons, that went into the final bronze medal winning race.

It was an absolute once in a lifetime experience to watch so many incredible athletes pursue and achieve their lifelong dream. Very few people walk away from the Olympics with uncomplicated feelings, but I know this: for them to come home with the bronze medal was incredible.

The Olympics also made me acutely aware of what makes collegiate rowing so special. The Olympics are the pinnacle of athletic achievement, we walk away with a result. Winning – or the color of your medal – is the sole measure of success. That is not the case at Washington. Here, it is the bonds and lessons we form with our collegiate teammates over four years that shape who we are. It is our chance to grow, take risks, fail, try again, and hopefully – if we're lucky enough – do something special together. The Washington Crew of 2024 did that "something special."

Which takes me back to the Boys in the Boat and Blake Nordstrom's family. The momentum and energy from the alumni, University, and entire community embracing Washington rowing fueled this season's success.

Washington Rowing has always been about using rowing to build a foundation for greatness. All of that came together to make 2024 the perfect example of Washington's symbiotic relationship with its community of supporters. The community – alumni, fans, parents – propels Washington Rowing to success, and in turn Washington Rowing teaches young men and women how to become something great. Giving back is an inherent part of Washington Rowing and we are grateful for what the Boys in the Boat and Blake have given us.

Keep investing in this program. Don't let up. We build character here, and experience, and winners. We will remember this one for years to come for a multitude of reasons; but what is even better, with your support, we can look forward to a future filled with many, many more.

Cultivating Olympic Dreams

YOUR INVESTMENT
IS OUR GREATEST
RESOURCE

By Yasmin Farooq
Head Women's Rowing Coach

The Olympics hold a special place in my heart. From my first two trips as an athlete in 1992 and 1996, to the next five as an on-air analyst and interviewer for NBC, as a Team USA coach in Tokyo, and finally as a spectator and guest of Washington Rowing steward Howard Lee for the Paris Olympics in 2024. As I reflect on these experiences, the ones I've come to cherish the most are those celebrating our athletes who have made the sacrifices to earn this once in a lifetime chance. The Olympics remind us of the value of the journey, and that it is the day-to-day work, side-by-side, that determines who we become: as student-athletes at the University of Washington, as representatives of our nations on the elite world stage, and later, after we hang up the oars: as community members, as colleagues in the workplace, as parents.

Washington Rowing mentor and coach George Pocock lovingly referred to rowers as "tall timber." He had a special appreciation for the value of every part of the giant western red cedars he shaped into extraordinary racing shells. As Daniel James Brown chronicled in *The Boys in the Boat*, Pocock shared these values with a young, impressionable Joe Rantz:

"These giants of the forest are something to behold. Some have been growing for a thousand years, and each tree contains its own story of the centuries' long struggle for survival. Looking at the annular rings of the wood, you can tell what seasons they have been through. In some drought years they almost perished, as growth is barely perceptible. In others, the growth was far greater."



In a sport as competitive as ours, there are both lean years and years of abundance. The years of abundance and success allow us to reap the rewards of the lean years of shared sacrifice. That said, those lean years are where the strongest bonds among teammates are formed, where we learn to truly support one another, our roots intertwined as we stand side-by-side. Where we learn versatility as we bend and bow with the wind together. Where we grow an inseparable bond that allows us to stand tall and persevere when the odds are against us, and also, to spread our branches when our moment comes.

We are in a lean time as a university with our necessary, but expensive transition to the Big Ten. Last year, our team laid the foundation for this transition. We spread our resources as we welcomed more new teammates. Most had never been to the NCAA championship. And in true Husky fashion, many had never picked up an oar before. We began preparation to compete in seven events this coming year in our new conference. We weathered the regular season, keeping our "eyes on the prize" of peaking for the NCAA's while creating the required depth for the season to come.

We entered the NCAA's ranked ninth, beat the odds--and worthy opponents--to earn a spot in the grand final for all three events, and proudly left with a fifth-place

overall team finish. Heads held high, we congratulated those on the podium, with an unspoken commitment to return Washington to the top, using the 2025 Big Ten Championships as a catapult to get there.

Two months later, at the Paris rowing venue, the words of appreciation from our Olympians and their parents—about this program and the university—were overflowing. Their humility, thoughtfulness and genuine love for the UW radiated outward in pure gratitude. Emotions were high as they shared how their time at Washington on our men's and women's teams prepared them for their moment on the grandest stage in our sport.

In October, I learned that our 2024 team had nominated me for the LG Electronics NCAA Coaches Award, an award that celebrates one men's and women's coach nationwide for creating a supportive environment for athletes with an emphasis on their mental health. I marveled at the idea that their nomination came at the end of such a challenging season.

And I smiled. Because I realized that despite our hardship, they recognized the value of the work they had invested in one another and our team's future: in growing our roots, persevering through adversity and knowing that what we have here, even in a lean year, is precious.

This spring we enter the Big Ten on the 50th Anniversary of Washington Women's Rowing! It's now time to spread our branches. Our moment is upon us, last year's work is already paying off, and we need you more than ever to stand by us. Years of abundance--and our success, on and off the water THIS year-- hinge on our creativity and versatility as a program to optimize and grow our resources. Thank you for your investment in the Washington Legacy over the years as athletes, alums, donors, mentors and parents. Your continued support in this time of immense change is critical to the program's future.

Donors Go B1G for UW Rowing

Thank you for supporting student athletes and Washington Rowing!

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504

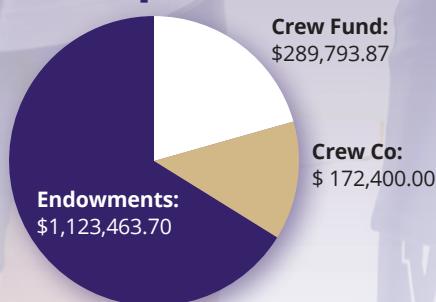
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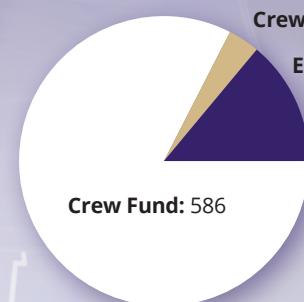
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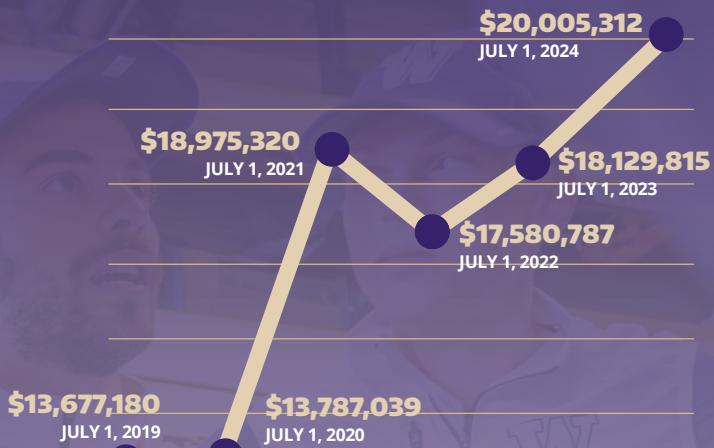
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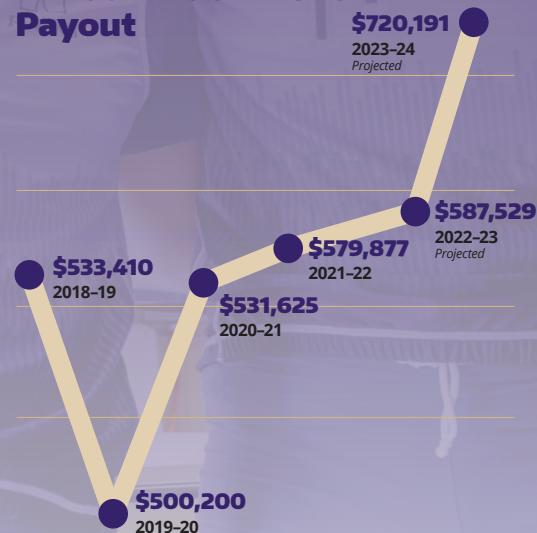


TOTAL: 789

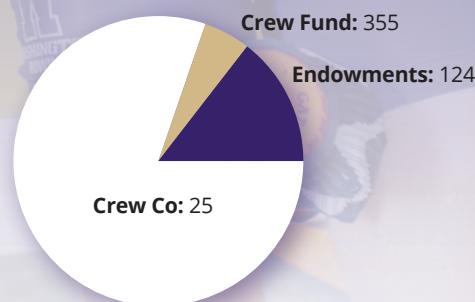
Market Value of Washington Rowing Endowments



Annual Endowment Payout



Total # Individual Donors



TOTAL: 504

Washington Rowing Endowments

Our endowments create long term sustainability and permanence for our Championship level programs in a rapidly changing college athletics landscape. The principal of your endowment gift remains intact, while the interest gives us perpetual annual funding that we can rely on. You may choose to set up an endowment to honor the legacy of a loved one or to highlight someone's passion for UW Rowing. To learn more, contact Lee Grever at 206.399.0283 or lgrever@uw.edu.

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Market value of Washington Rowing endowments:

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Annual endowment payout:

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JULY 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

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PHOTO: Steve McArthur

Ben Davison '19: 2024 Paris Olympian, Team USA Men's Double

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Our move to the Big Ten Conference brings fierce competition, national attention, and the opportunity to shine on the biggest stage. It's time to show the world what we all know to be true – Washington builds champions, and that winning culture is made possible because of you!

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Huskies on the MegaWorlds Stage

DAWGS SHINE IN CANADA—AND ON THE COAST—TO WIN NINE MEDALS!

In addition to the Huskies record performance in Paris, 12 rising Husky stars competed at the Under 23 World and Junior World Championships this past August in St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada at the MegaWorlds: a combined world championships for junior, under-23 and senior world events that is held in Olympic years. In September, at the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprints in Genoa, Italy, freshman Annelise Hahl '28 and alum Dani Hansen '17 made American rowing history, bringing home three medals for Team USA.

Hahl '28 and alum Dani Hansen '17 made American rowing history, bringing home three medals for Team USA.

In August, four Husky oarsmen and two oarswomen earned medals in Canada at the MegaWorlds, with Washington staff also in action. UW men's assistant coach Sergio Espinoza coached the USA men's under-23 eight, while Washington athletic trainer Kristen Eaton and massage therapist Ellen Parmley served on the Team USA medical staff.

For the men's team, Blake Vogel won silver in the U.S. men's eight (coached by Espinoza), while Italian rowers Giuseppe Bellomo and Matteo Belgeri earned silver medals in the men's coxed four. Ben Shortt of New Zealand won bronze in the men's coxless four.

On the Women's side, Washington's Jordan Freer, won a silver medal in the American coxed four. Freshman Violet Holbrow-Brooksbank '28 of Great Britain, earned a silver medal in the Under-19 women's double sculls. Cillian Mullen '26, competed in the Under-23 single sculls in St. Catharines, finishing third in the B final, ninth in the world. Cait Whittard '26, raced in the bow seat of the Canadian eight, and finished seventh overall.



Dani Hansen '17 (left) with Annelise Hahl '28 (right) at the 2024 World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprints in Genoa, Italy.



Quinn Hall (bow) competing for team USA in the U23 Men's Quad

PHOTO: AWorthyphoto

Two additional Husky oarsmen, Marius Bjørn-Hansen Ahlsand and Jonathan Wang-Norderud of Norway, competed in the men's coxless four. That crew was coached by current UW coxswain Kieran Joyce. The Norwegian men finished second in the B final, eighth place overall. Povilas Juskevicius of Lithuania finished 6th in the world after racing in the A final of the men's double sculls. Quinn Hall and his USA quad finished third in the B final to earn ninth place overall.

Coastal Rowing capped off the 2024 season with the final World Rowing events held in Genoa, Italy in September. It was here, at the World Rowing Coastal Championships and Beach Sprints that history was made.

Annelise Hahl won silver in the Coastal Women's Double Sculls, a senior level event, and capped off the season with a gold medal in the U19 women's solo at the 2024 World Beach Sprints Finals, beating Spain's Lucia Navarro Blasco by 22.34 seconds. Dani Hansen earned a silver medal in Para Rowing action, making her the most decorated U.S. Paralympic rower of all time. Hansen's medal in the PR3 mixed double sculls marked her 11th international medal as a pararower, an American record.

Hahl's win in the women's solo was a first for Team USA. In October, Hahl was named the 2024 USRowing Beach Sprint Athlete of the Year.



Jordan Freer '26 (center), Silver Medalist in the Women's Coxed Four

In Memoriam

Diane "Di" Schueler, 78, 1978

National Champion in the Women's Flyweight 4 (115 lbs) and all-around Washington athlete (three sports), passed away in June this year.

Introduced to athletics at a young age, Di excelled in multiple sports at Mercer Island High School, enrolling at Washington in the Fall of 1974 where she played Volleyball in the fall and ran Track (specialist in the Mile) in the spring. She met Hope Barnes (future 1980 Olympian) working in the Haggett Hall kitchen, became fast friends, and the two joined the rowing team together in the fall of 1976.

"Di was competitive and tough and didn't know the word stop," said sister Gail recently. "She was maybe 5'4" or 5'5" but was always in the top boats. An absolute powerhouse."



It was in 1978 that Stan Pocock completed the Lucy Pocock Stillwell four-oared cedar shell, specifically designed for the lightweight women, which Di and her teammates rowed to the National Championship.

"She loved the camaraderie and the teamwork of rowing," continued Gail. "The sport was made for her, and she so valued the friendships she made on the team, and the lasting sisterhood here at Washington, throughout her life."

Dave "Doc" Slepian, a longtime friend and Steward of Washington Rowing, passed away in October 2024.

A 1968 graduate of the Cornell Medical School (where as an undergraduate he was a coxswain on the Cornell crew team), Dave moved to Seattle and the UW for his residency and never looked back. By the late 70's he had taken up sculling on Lake Washington, and was introduced to UW head coach Dick Erickson. "He and my dad became good friends," said Al Erickson '82 recently. "Doc loved rowing and he was a consistent presence in the coaching launch, even on the worst of days."

That presence continued for decades, joining the Washington Rowing Stewards and becoming one of the strongest supporters of the program for decades. "He was an absolute gentleman, a wonderful person," said Dwight Phillips '71, seen here with Dave and Fred Schoch '73 at the Brown Dual Race in 2015. "He was very humble and giving, you just don't find them like that very often."



"Dave was on the Rowing Stewards for decades, a dedicated friend of the program for over forty years," said Michael Callahan recently. "He was positive and optimistic and brought the good out in people and was always willing to lend a hand. I will miss his smile and his spirit, but his influence on this program will live on because of that dedication, and the high value he had for this sport and for our rowing team here at Washington."

Forever WASHINGTON

other estate plans — your Husky spirit can live on as an enduring personal legacy. You may direct your gift to a specific purpose such as scholarships, endowments or an individual sport, or to meet the current greatest needs of student athletes and teams. Contact the UW Tyee Club today to start a conversation.

Email tyeeclub@uw.edu or call 206.543.2234 for more information

Forever Washington is a giving program for those who remember UW Athletics in their wills or



PHOTO: Alika Jenner

Rowing Roundup



Women's Alumnae Eight at the Head of the Charles Regatta



Title IX Legacy boat dedication ceremony featuring the Women of the 70's who spearheaded this endowment



A pictorial review of recent team, alumni and donor news



Men's Alumni Eight that won the 2024 Head of the Charles Alumni Eight Race



Adrienne Hunter and Carrie Stasiak hiking Mount Rainier



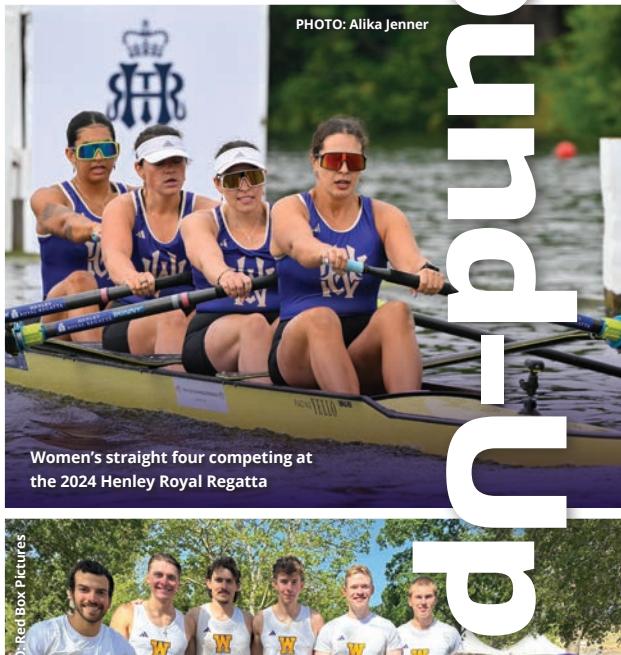
Actors from Boys in the Boat movie posing with the Husky Clipper



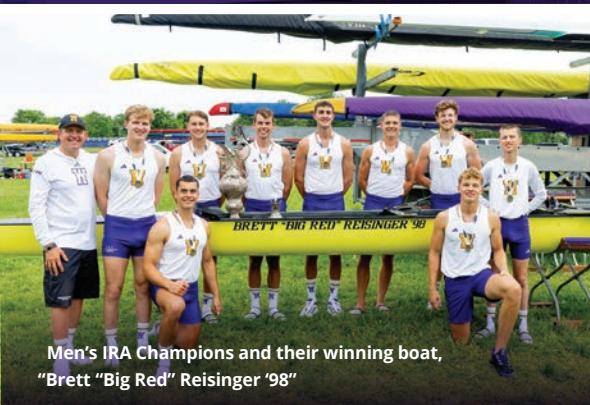
LG is donating 10k to UW sports med and mental health services in honor of Head Women's Rowing Coach, Yasmin Farooq, a recipient of their LG Life's Good Award.



Shyrl O'Steen and women's rowing athletes row the 1984 Olympic Gold medal shell, the Jane's Friendship, to MOHAI



Women's straight four competing at the 2024 Henley Royal Regatta



Men's IRA Champions and their winning boat, Brett "Big Red" Reisinger '98"



Mens Rowing National Championship Celebration. On Field recognition



2024 Pac 12 Champions in the Men's Third Varsity Eight with their winning boat the Carl Lovsted which was dedicated earlier this spring

WASHINGTON ROWING STEWARDS

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

ROWINGU

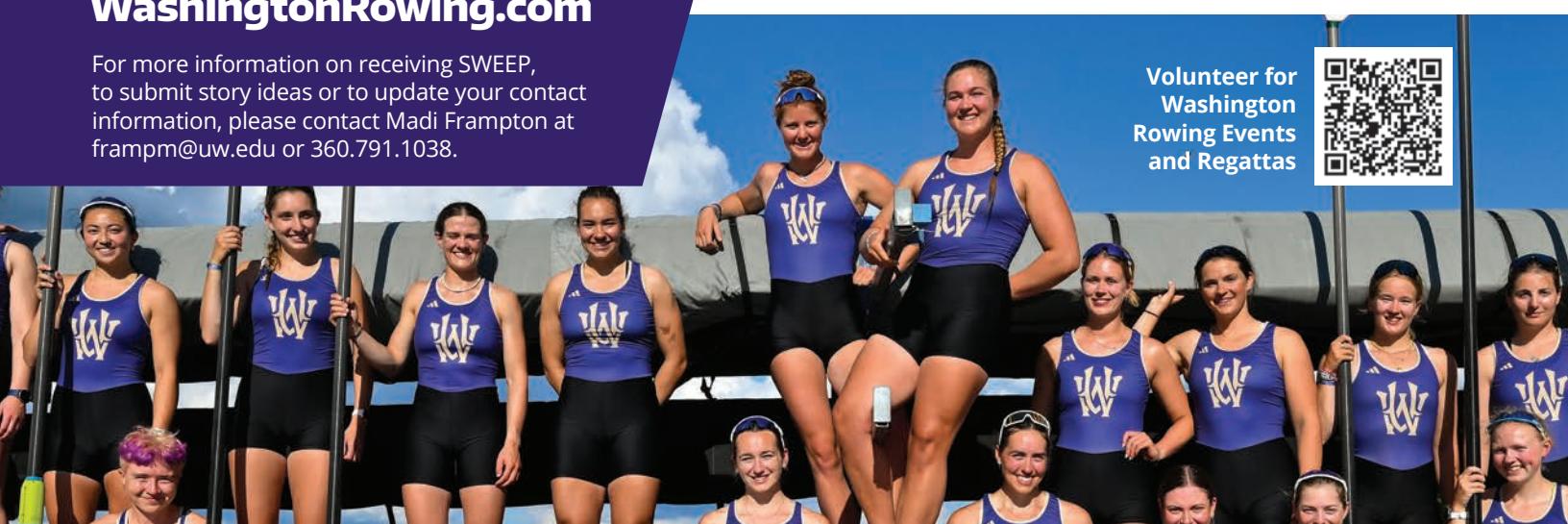
SAVE THESE 2025 DATES:

Saturday, February 8th: Women's Alumnae Brunch
Friday, March 21st: Washington Rowing Banquet (Athletes + Parents and Families)
Saturday, March 22nd: Class Day Cruise with Croissants
Friday, May 2nd: Washington Rowing Alumni Celebration

WashingtonRowing.com

For more information on receiving SWEEP, to submit story ideas or to update your contact information, please contact Madi Frampton at frampm@uw.edu or 360.791.1038.

Volunteer for
Washington
Rowing Events
and Regattas



2025 Washington Rowing Schedule

SQUAD	EVENT/OPPONENT	DATE	LOCATION
Men & Women's Rowing	Husky Open	Saturday, March 8th 2025	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Class Day Regatta	Saturday, March 22nd 2025	Seattle, WA
Men's Rowing	Harvard Dual	Friday, March 28th 2025	Sarasota, FL
Men's Rowing	Sarasota Invitational	Saturday, March 29th 2025	Sarasota, FL
Women's Rowing	San Diego Crew Classic	Sat & Sun, March 29th-30th 2025	San Diego, CA
Men's Rowing	Stanford Dual	Saturday, April 5th 2025	Redwood Shores, CA
Men's Rowing	Oregon State Dual	Saturday, April 12th 2025	Vancouver, WA
Women's Rowing	Big Ten Invitational	Fri-Sat, April 18th - 19th 2025	Sarasota, FL
Men & Women's Rowing	The Dual (UW vs. Cal)	Saturday, April 26th 2025	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Twilight Sprints	Friday, May 2nd 2025	Seattle, WA
Men & Women's Rowing	Windermere Cup	Saturday, May 3rd 2025	Seattle, WA
Women's Rowing	Big Ten Championships	Sat & Sun, May 17th - 18th 2025	Indianapolis, IN
Men's Rowing	MPSF Conference Championships	Sat & Sun, May 17th - 18th 2025	Rancho Cordova, CA
Men's Rowing	IRA Championships	Fri-Sun, May 30st - June 1st 2025	Pennsauken Township, NJ
Women's Rowing	NCAA Championships	Fri-Sun, May 30th - June 1st 2025	West Windsor, NJ

Check www.gohuskies.com for schedule updates