

# From Humble Surroundings COME GREAT RESULTS



UCD Boathouse Circa 1980



UCD Boathouse 2016



Eric Vanderbilt (front) and Phil Kearney (rear)  
3rd Place in Pair at 1981 US Nationals



Seth Weil (far left) World Cup Champion  
and 2016 Olympian



## Dear Alumni,

This summer the team made the decision to work with the Alumni to find a full-time coach and we have been busy ever since. Hopefully, all of you have seen the previous announcements of our new head coach, Des Stahl, and novice coach, Mike Sullivan. When we kicked off the full-time coach effort three years ago we did not expect to get coaches with such impressive resumes. This worked out much better than we hoped and we are very excited for the future of the program.

The alumni responded to the changes and we were able to finish off last year's fundraising effort with approximately \$50,000 in donations giving us a total amount raised over the last three years in excess of \$150,000. We have not invested the funds yet as the stock market has been very volatile. After the next year or two, we will have a better feeling for what funds can be invested on a longer term basis so that we are not forced to sell any investments during a bear market.

The coaches have been busy looking at our equipment and getting their arms around our program. They have met with the UCD Sports Club officials, the River City Rowing Club, the Women's program, the Port of Sacramento officials and others. Hans Strandgaard (Class of 1987) & Duncan Moyer (Class of 1988) have spearheaded many improvements already at the boathouse, and Des and Mike are making lots of repairs to our boats. Des has generously purchased a 15 passenger van to help get team members to practice, which has been a constant struggle once the school stopped allowing freshman to bring cars to campus.

One notable development at the Port is that River City Rowing Club (RCRC) wants to build a new boathouse next to ours and has approached the men's and women's team with idea of sharing our dock. There has been quite a bit of passionate debate about the merits of such an arrangement: basically help from RCRC to purchase a new dock vs the loss of our private space. In true Club Sport fashion, the men's and women's team leaders have been leading this discussion while seeking input from the alumni, coaches and the school. This process is a great learning experience for the team and we'll keep you apprised of its progress.



The team made some adjustments to their race schedule this year by adding a fall race at the Head of the Charles and the UC Cup Challenge in the spring. The team hit the recruiting trail hard and over 100 students showed up to informational sessions on campus. Many of you might remember rowing at Putah Creek on campus in the past. The team was able to do some rowing on parts of Putah Creek again this year. The easy to access introductory rowing sessions were one reason for the recruiting success this year. We are past the free look period and have 45 to 50 novices who have elected to pay Fall dues. The large novice group combined with three boats worth of returning oarsmen and coxswain give us the largest team we have had at this point in years.

## **Our fundraising goal this year is to raise \$60,000.**

We plan to give the team \$50,000 each year going forward towards coaches' salaries. If we can fundraise at least that amount every year then our current nest egg of \$150,000 will stay with us as a cushion for low fundraising years, emergency capital expenditures, etc. However, our goal is to help with more than just coaches' salaries. Every dollar raised in excess of \$50,000 allows us to help in other areas and the team has many needs. For example, if the team does not share our dock with the River City Rowing Club, we will need to replace our dock in the near future, costing around \$20,000 for the construction materials. The team's fleet of boats consists of 7 eights and 5 fours ranging in age from 10 to 21 years old. We will need to replace some of these boats soon or they will start to hamper the crew's ability to win races. And of course, the crew's aging equipment is in constant need of repair and many things (i.e. oars, oar locks, cox boxes) need, or will soon need, replacement.

## **We would like to hear from the alumni.**

If you have ideas, questions, or would like to help in any way, please contact your class rep or any of the Friends of Davis Rowing board members. If you would like to fund something specific, include a note with your donation and we will make sure your money is used for that purpose.



## Coach's Corner - Des Stahl, Head Coach

Hi all, and thank you for the warm welcome back to the Curt Rocca boathouse. It's great to be back at the Port and to get to know the newest generation of Aggie oarsmen. It's been a busy start to the season, with the usual rush of recruiting, practicing and head racing combined with the unusual - changes in both men's and women's coaching staffs, talks with River City about the future of the peninsula, and so much more.

This year's varsity squad is currently three 8's strong, which is a great place to start. However, we do not yet have a deep group of talent: the squad consists of 9 seniors, 2 juniors, and 16 sophomores. We range from 3 seniors who have WIRA and ACRA gold medals to some 2nd-year rowers who still have a ways to go just to hold their own in a good competitive varsity practice. We have a good challenge ahead of us trying to bring them closer to the standard held by the top guys, and it's a challenge we are looking forward to and tackling.

The novice squad is slowly taking shape. Mike Sullivan has been a very fortunate addition to the coaching staff. His enthusiasm and expertise are already benefitting the freshman. Recruiting efforts were strong and in some ways experimental. We have pursued a number of strategies to introduce the novices to our sport and our team in a relatively convenient way. Initial recruiting numbers are up over prior years, but in some ways this has resulted in a slower growth curve than normal. We are pleased by the total numbers on the squad which should spur some healthy competition for spots in the top boats. However, we are far too early in the process to speculate on how this team will progress come the Spring racing season.

The spring racing schedule is pretty much set and it includes 5 races at the Port (is that a record?) We will be at the Crew Classic, Stanford Invite, WIRA, and we hope to bring a larger squad to ACRA's in Georgia this year. And of course, the most important race of all - the Alumni Day race...

The Alumni have built a great thing with the Friends of Davis Rowing and I hope you continue to support it and the team this year.



## Preliminary 2017 Racing Schedule

**Sat March 4** UC Challenge Cup, Newport Beach

**Sat March 11** Santa Clara @ Port

**Sat March 18** Sonoma St, Cal Maritime @ Port

**Sat-Sun April 1-2** San Diego Crew Classic

**Sat April 8** Cal Lights @ Port

**Sat-Sun April 15-16** Stanford Invite, Redwood Shores

**Sat-Sun April 29-30** WIRAs, Lake Natoma

**Sat May 6** Sac State @ Port

**Sat May 13** Davis Invite

Colorado, Oregon, Washington St  
(the women will race the same schools on Sunday)

**Sat-Sun May 27-28** ACRA National Championships  
Gainesville GA



## Class Representatives

Class Representatives represent all alumni in the year they started rowing. Their goal is to stay connected with their Class, keep alumni contact information current, and provide any feedback or suggestions the alumni have to the Friends of Davis Rowing Board of Directors. Expect to receive a call from one of the Class Reps asking for your support in the near future. If you would like to be a Class Rep for one of the "open" years or take a year away from someone who is handling more than one year contact Roger von Ting at [rvonting@watsonlandcompany.com](mailto:rvonting@watsonlandcompany.com)

Year	Class Rep	Year	Class Rep
1978-79	Phil Kearney	2001	Erik Loboschefskey
1980-81	Pete Brostrom	2002	Ian Kolb/James Partridge
1982-84	Pat McLaughlin	2003	Dane Behrens
1985	Roger von Ting	2004	Aaron McKenzie
1986	Kent Perkocha	2005	Vince Rogers
1987	John Somers	2006	Marcus Godfrey
1988-89	John Heron	2007	Ryan Mangan
1990-92	Jonas White	2008	William Wiersig
1993	Alexandre Baudouin	2009	Open
1994	Open	2010	Thomson Gilles
1995-96	Sean Ballard	2011	Open
1997-99	Charley Johnston	2012	Open
2000	Adam Donovan	2013	Open

With your help, the Friends of Davis Rowing can help bring stability to the UC Davis rowing program, while putting the pieces in place to position the program for future success. We are grateful for your past support. Please join us again in this year's effort!  
Sincerely,

Chris Gemulla  
*President*



## 2016/17 Year Donation

As previously mentioned, our main priority is to provide funding for a full-time head coach who will have the time it takes to move our program forward and reduce the severity of peaks and valleys many club teams face. If just 120 alumni each donated \$500 per year, we would achieve our goal. The current alumni numbers are more than 800 strong, so we believe this goal is fully within reach.

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### Annual Sponsorship Levels

Hall of Fame:	\$5,000
ACRA Champion:	\$1,000
WIRA Champion:	\$500
Engine Room:	\$250
Bow Pair:	Any amount

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Please make your checks payable to "Friends of Davis Rowing, Inc." and mail to:

*Friends of Davis Rowing, Inc.  
Attn: Roger von Ting  
10241 Camden Circle  
Villa Park, CA 92861*

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Alternatively, you may use PayPal or your credit card on the Friends of Davis Rowing, Inc. website at [www.davisrowing.org](http://www.davisrowing.org). You can set up a regular monthly donation on the website to making donating even more painless. (p.s. Paypal charges a 3% transaction fee, so we prefer checks for one-time donations but paypal is great for smaller monthly donations).

Amazon Smile Program: If you use Amazon, you can also support us by making your purchases through [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and selecting Friends of Davis Rowing as the charitable organization. The site appears and works just like Amazon, and Amazon will donate .5% of all purchases to FODR. If you use the Amazon app, you can fill your cart on the App then login to the [smile.amazon](http://smile.amazon) website to make your purchase, as your cart will carry over.

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