



## Our Team - 2021/22

### From the Alumni - Roger von Ting

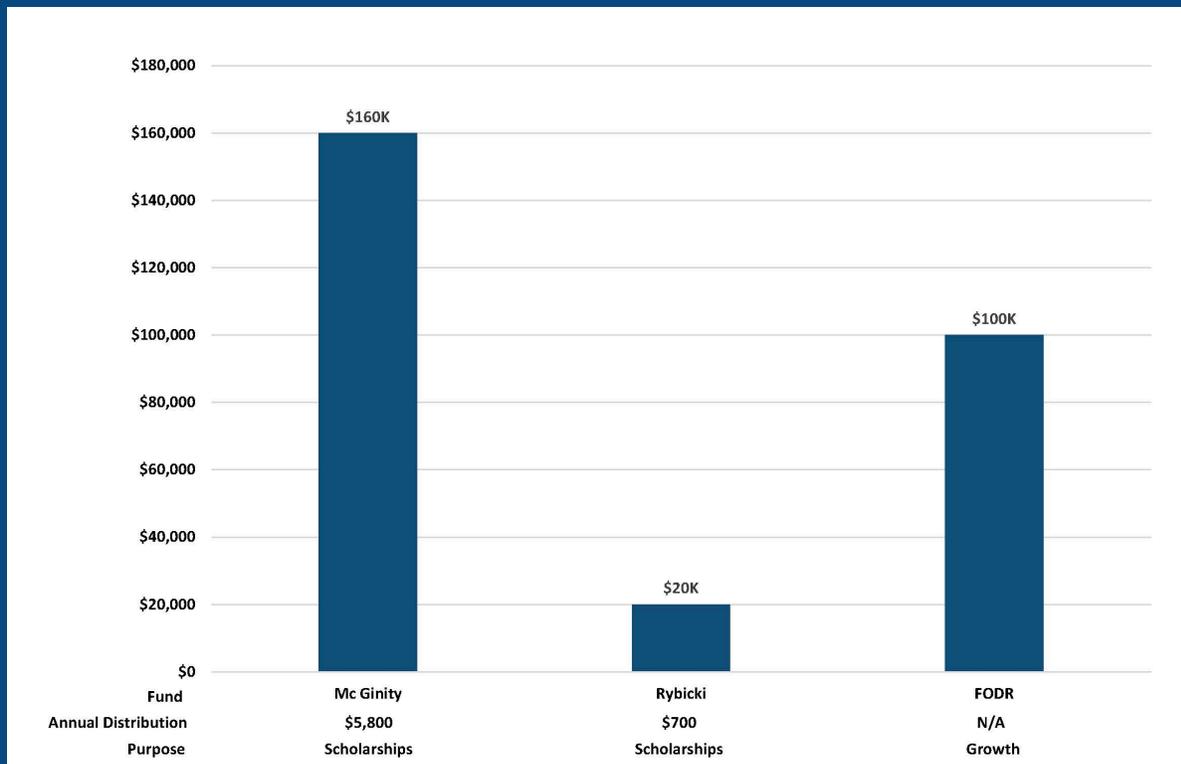
The men's team has had an alumni organization since the early 1980's, but with the formation of the Friends of Davis Rowing ("FODR") in 2013 we focused our priority on hiring a full-time coach for the team. If we used our donations to supplement what the team typically paid a part-time coach, we felt we could make the goal a reality. The alumni responded with more support than we have seen in the history of the program. We were successful in our efforts and hired Coach Des Stahl who helped significantly increase the number of student athletes participating in crew prior to Covid19. Yolo County was more restrictive than most counties in California while California was more restrictive than most states in the country, so our program was likely put in a deeper hole than some other club programs. For two years our team was unable to race, practice or even recruit in person. Amazingly, we have a core group of varsity athletes who returned this year to help rebuild our program. Their determination shows that crew has had a positive impact on their lives as it did for all of us who went through the program. Rebounding from "Covid Zero" may take a little while, but I am looking forward to what this group will do next.

FODR does not have an endowment and most of our fundraising dollars goes straight to the team each year. After assisting the team with coach's salary, any additional fundraising dollars goes towards other needs. Since 2013 FODR has helped with various improvements to the boathouse itself which had quite a bit of deferred maintenance,

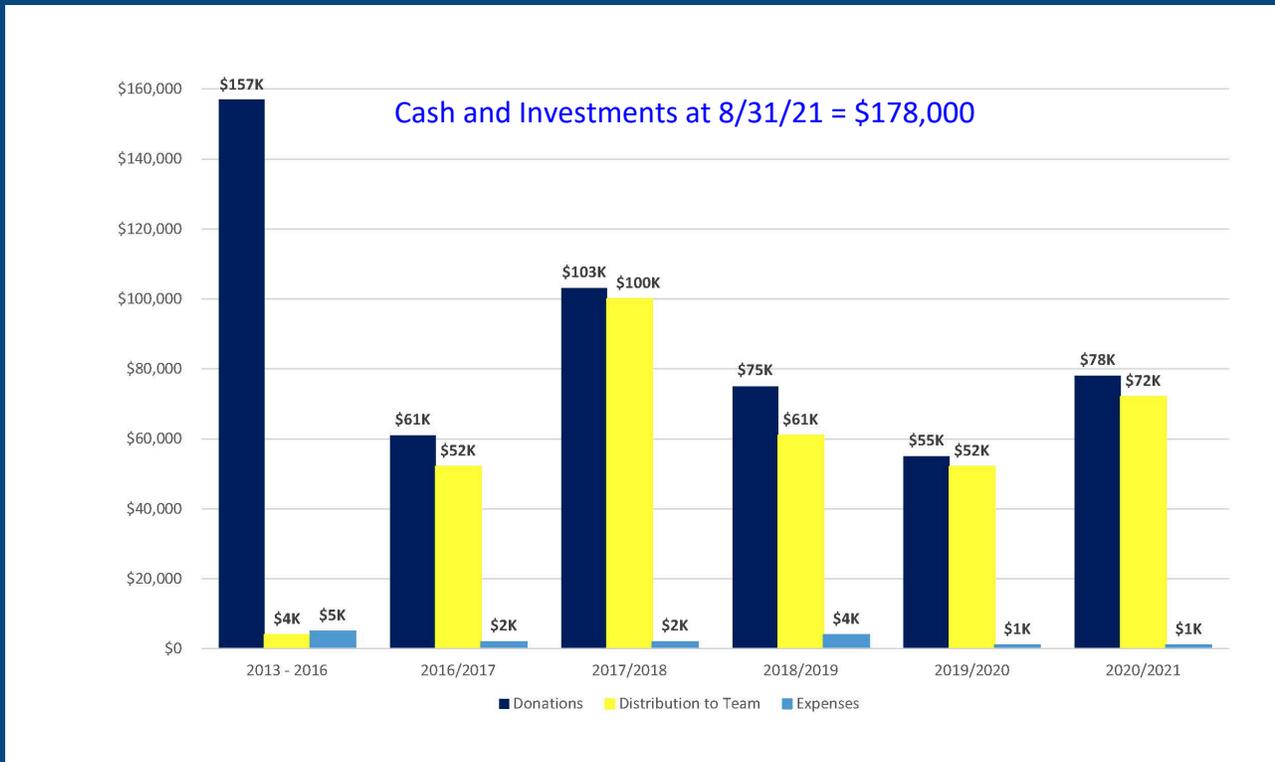
we helped replace both docks, and we purchased a new varsity 8 and our first ever coaching launch. FODR was able to save roughly \$150,000 during the first three years of existence. Taking a conservative approach we did not invest any of those funds as we wanted to wait and see how steady our fundraising efforts would be over time. The FODR Board recently approved investing \$100,000 of our funds into a mix of stock mutual funds. We intend to treat the fund as an endowment where we will reinvest all earnings and let the account grow over time. However, if we have an emergency those funds are voluntarily restricted and we could use them if necessary.

The program has two true endowments that are managed by the University and named after two former rowers: Sean Thomas McGinity (1993) and Matt Rybicki (2007). The families of both these rowers formed the endowments to benefit the crew after their sons' untimely passing. Recognizing the impact crew had on their children they wanted the funds to provide dues scholarships to make sure as many students as possible could participate in crew. Alumni have contributed over the years to these funds to slowly build up the principal. See chart below.

## Endowments



## FODR Cash Flow



Over the last 40 years the competitive landscape for our program has changed and with the formation of ACRA ("American Collegiate Rowing Association) in 2008, competition among club teams is tougher than it has ever been. During the 1990's and 2000's Davis was arguably the top club program on the west coast. Competing on a national level was difficult as only a handful of club teams were ever able to compete at IRA's (the Intercollegiate Rowing Association national championship). Despite being a club program, we were invited to IRA several times and achieved great success reaching 11th place in the lightweight varsity 8 in 1999, 22nd place in the varsity 8 in 2001, 9th place in the Freshman and JV 8's in 2003 (see historical race results on the alumni website at <https://davisrowing.org/race-results-tablepress-table/>). After 2006 the IRA stopped allowing club teams to participate at their regatta resulting in the formation of ACRA. This created the opportunity for non-scholarship programs to win a national championship among peer club teams. This more achievable goal led to an explosion of club programs sending boats to ACRA which has improved competition and been great for the sport.

In the 1980's the west coast championship was the Pacific Coast Rowing Championship ("PCRC") and was dominated by the four varsity funded programs: Berkeley, Washington, UCLA and Stanford. The club programs competed for 5th and 6th place in the grand final every year with 5th place being crowned the WIRA champion. Eventually, the PAC 10 teams created their own west coast final and stopped rowing at the PCRC.

The annual WIRA championship race was created and replaced the PCRC. UCLA lost its school funding and became a club team but some schools went the other way and became scholarship programs. UC San Diego, Santa Clara, University of San Diego and Gonzaga are all varsity programs now. While the PAC 10 (now PAC 12) teams don't compete at WIRA these other scholarship programs do. Some other club programs obtained large endowments over the last 20 years and receive much more financial and other support from their respective schools than does UC Davis: UCI, UCLA, Virginia, Michigan, Grand Valley and others. These teams have funding rivaling varsity programs but without the scholarships. This has served to increase the financial disparity between Davis and the top programs.

With varsity programs competing at WIRA, winning WIRA is now just as hard as winning the ACRA national championship. Winning either event would most likely put us in the top 25 in the country, roughly equal to our historical best result. Rebuilding our program to where we consistently have 50 to 60 team members and are competitive with the top programs in the country again may take some time. Our vision is to build a "championship" program, to steal a phrase from UCD football coach Dan Hawkins. A championship program is one that is consistently in the hunt for a championship year in and year out. I am confident that OUR TEAM will work hard this year and get us ever closer to realizing our vision.

## **ALUMNI DAY – March 19th, 2022**

This year is in remembrance of Pete Brostrom  
Save the date, we hope to see you there!

### **Fall Program Restart – Matt Doucette (Team President)**

As one can imagine, the pandemic took its toll on the program. Having the racing season in 2020 come to an abrupt halt brought many emotions: sadness, anger, confusion, and more. While those of us on the team now are fortunate to have seen the "light at the end of the tunnel" – a return to real rowing – we cannot imagine the emotions of our teammates whose rowing careers were ended because of the pandemic. Their dedication and service to this team does not go without recognition. Had it not been for those teammates and their knowledge and camaraderie, we, as varsity rowers now, would have a much harder time leading the new class of novices.

As mentioned, we have finally reached that light at the end of the tunnel. We have made it back to real rowing: in-person practices, racing, and a new novice class. Our team may not have the size that we did pre-pandemic, but we make up for it with grit. The same grit that every member of our team needed to stick it through the pandemic and make sure this team stayed afloat. We made it through over a year of Zoom erging and masked practices, and because of that, we have been able to welcome a new novice class and go back to normal operations.

Our new novice class arrived at the boathouse eager and full of enthusiasm. Over the past month or so, the new rowers and coxswains have already begun bonding and building friendships, not to mention learning how to row. Our varsity team has been with these new novices every step of the way, and for those of us seniors who were in their shoes four years ago, seeing the excitement and passion for such a new, unique sport brings back fond memories of our novice year. Being able to show the novices the ins and outs of the boathouse, the dos and don'ts of the sport, and helping them navigate their way as a new college student is a real honor for the varsity squad.

This quarter has been a great kick-start for the rest of the year. Getting some good, quality water time, as well as being able to erg together again has been a great way to start the year. Oh, and how can I forget our first race of the new campaign – Head of the Port. Being able to row alongside other crews with our uniform on again has reignited our passion for success. All the work we have put in this quarter will pave the way for the rest of the year, leading into racing season.

Men's Crew is back, ready to take on any challenge thrown our way. We could not have gotten to this point though, without the continued support from our parents and alumni. Knowing we have the support from our families and the rowers who have come before us has been a motivating factor in coming out of this pandemic, and for that we are forever thankful. We also could not have gotten to this point without the help of our coaching staff. Coach Des has spearheaded every aspect of continued team success, both at the boathouse and on Zoom. His leadership has been critical for us as we have returned to rowing. Our volunteer coaches, Tanee Chum, Harnawaz Boparai, and David Parks, have been extremely helpful and supportive throughout this process as well. Having them at the boathouse this year, guiding the new novices through the learning process has been great, and we cannot thank them enough. We look forward to seeing everyone at Alumni Day and Parent Day, where we can once again share stories and honor those who rowed before us.

## From the Coach's Launch – Des Stahl

We just wrapped the fall quarter this morning with our current version of Cardiac Hill at Lagoon Valley Park in Vacaville. Though not quite the equals of the cross country team, they got some good running up and down the hills through the park. Junior Reid Luhn set the pace on the main run of the morning and they all threw down repeats on a shorter but steep hill before calling it a day. They move into finals and winter break training at home until we reconvene in January.

Prior to the shutdown, the team had grown in size to over five 8's and was learning how to be competitive across the entire program. The varsity 8 was mixing it up and trading results with all of the strong west coast ACRA programs, and the 2nd and 3rd 8's had largely established themselves at the top of the west region. Like many things pre-covid, that seems a long time ago now. Nearly all of those rowers have graduated, having lost the chance to finish their careers on the race course. Those who remain were not part of those recent accomplishments and have relatively little racing history of their own to lean on. Just like our run at Lagoon Valley Park, we're looking up the hill, knowing we have much work to do to make our way back up.

We have a new novice group that has grown close quickly, and who are adapting well to the expectations of the sport and of our program. They've been assisted with that by the remaining varsity squad, who have spent more of their fall practice time devoted to training the novices than any prior team I've worked with. It felt good to get back on the head race course this fall, and we're even more so looking forward to 2K racing this coming spring.

I'd like to tell you that reaching our goals will happen quickly. I'd like to believe it will happen quickly. But all things of real substance and lasting impact take more work and time than that. The long term goals will always be to build as strong and deep of a program as possible, measuring itself as much by overall team accomplishments as by any individual boat. The competitive landscape of the sport has changed several times in the past 45 years (Western Sprints, PCRC, Pac-10, WIRA, IRA, ACRA), but UC Davis can and should always be a significant player in the west, and once again become a player nationally. Off the race course, they'll be challenged to make the same commitment and do the same hard work as previous generations of the team and that experience and the relationships developed will stay with them wherever they go after UCD.

Thank you for your continued support, and we hope to see some of you at the races this spring.

## Team Member Profiles

(see full profiles at <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofDavisRowing/>)

### Reid Luhn

Reid Luhn, 3rd year majoring in Aerospace Engineering. He may pursue a master's degree, go right to work or decide to hike the Pacific Trail and think about it for a while. Viewed crew as a challenge and enjoys passing on his knowledge to the novices. After winning his first and only race a couple years ago, he is looking forward to recapturing that feeling of victory.



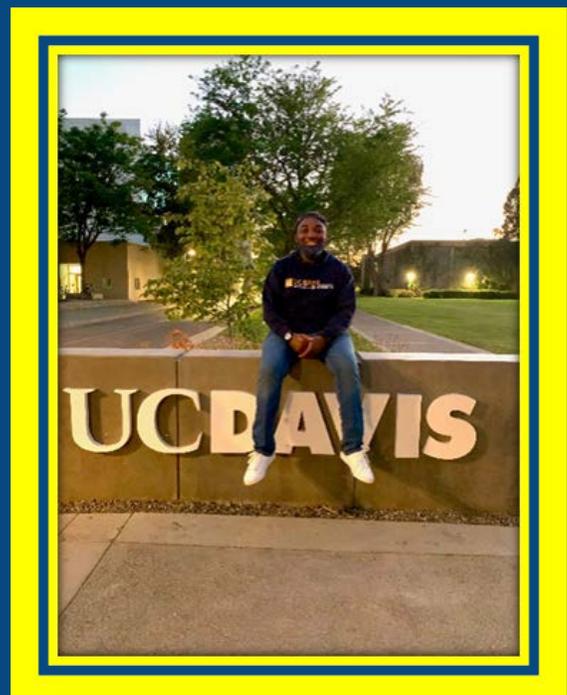
### Camden Kujanek



Camden Kujanek is a freshman majoring in Electrical Engineering. From Pleasant Hill, CA, he chose Davis as it was close to home and had a friendly atmosphere. Joined crew to try something new and felt he had the potential to succeed. He is looking forward to getting in better shape and becoming a more disciplined person.

### Daniel Pipersburgh

Daniel Pipersburgh is a freshman majoring in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering. Had planned on "walking on" to the football team until trying the erg on campus during a recruiting event. A Cherry Hill, New Jersey native he enjoys being pushed by the coach to become his best.



## Adrienne Blythe

Adrienne Blythe, 4th year majoring in Environmental Science and Management, French minor with plans to work for a year then apply to Auckland University to pursue a master's degree. Recruited as a coxswain after learning that women could join a men's team. Enjoys bonding with teammates, the joy of a set boat gliding with blades in the air and getting tossed in the water after a win. Looking forward to finally racing this year.



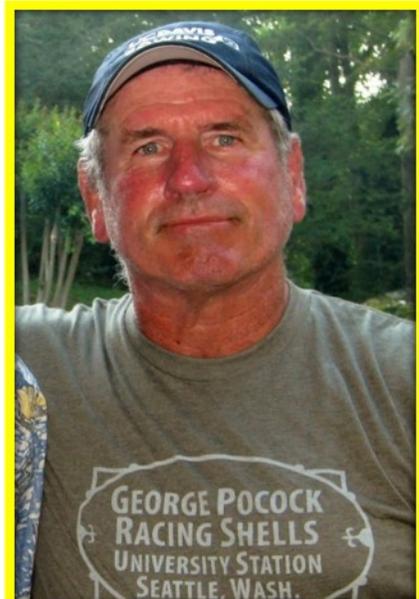
## Miguel Velazco



Miguel Velazco is a senior majoring in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology. Fell in love with crew during a free 2 week trial and enjoys the strong connection he has made with his teammates that is unlike any he has made playing other sports. He is looking forward to racing and seeing the wider rowing community.

Congratulations to Coach Mike Sullivan who has moved back to his alma mater at UC Irvine as head coach of the Women's team. Thanks for sharing your deep knowledge of rowing, your hours in the boathouse repairing our aging fleet, and loaning us your flotilla of singles! You will be missed.

## Coach Mike Sullivan



# 2021/22 FUNDRAISING GOAL = \$60,000

Our goal this year is to give the team our annual \$50,000 commitment towards coaching salaries, \$5,000 for dues scholarships to help jump start the rebuilding process and any excess fundraising will be saved towards the purchase of a new 8 person boat. Donors will be recognized on the alumni website (<http://davisrowing.org/your-support/>) at the following sponsorship levels.

## Annual Sponsorship Levels

Hall of Fame:	\$5,000
All American:	\$2,000
ACRA Champion:	\$1,000
WIRA Champion:	\$500
Engine Room:	\$250
Bow Pair:	Any amount

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

*Roger von Ting  
10241 Camden Circle  
Villa Park, CA 92861*

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 2.2% 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 website to make your purchase, as your cart will carry over.

