
ITHACA CREW

Newsletter - Winter 2003

There's six inches of snow on the ground and the inlet is iced over. That, of course, means winter in Ithaca, New York. The crews, however, are busily preparing for spring racing, Ithaca College's 35th season of competition. This newsletter will preview the races, review the past fall's competitions and events, and catch you up with news about crew members, past and present.

First and foremost, hearty congratulations to **Robert Tallman** for becoming only the second crew member elected into the Ithaca College Hall of Fame. A September ceremony honored Coach Tallman as well as 10 inductees from other sports.



Bob Tallman

Tallman, the program's head coach from 1973 until 1979, deserves most of the credit for the rise of the Ithaca program to a small college rowing power. During his tenure, the Haskell Davidson Boathouse was opened, lightweight and women's crews were formed, and he compiled a stellar 64-23 record with the varsity men.

On the subject of past "greats," we'll mention now that a crew reunion is being organized for Alumni Weekend, May 30 - June 1. **Maryann Sprague Erickson '78** and **Linde Finsrud Howell** are busily organizing and promoting the reunion, specifically for the founding members of the women's crew and alumni from the classes of 1975-1981. Of course, everyone interested in rowing (or anthropology) is invited, and the reunion is sure to be a memorable event.

Fall Crew Recap

The prospects for another winning spring racing season were established this past fall. Both men and women, varsity and novice, are showing healthy participation, which is critical to the success of the program.

The women floated almost three 8's of upperclassmen along with over 30 novices. The commodores are seniors **Alison Bliznik (Endwell, NY)** and **Carrie Johnson (Colorado Springs, CO)**. The varsity swept the top three positions in the women's four at the Cayuga Challenge. One week later the varsity 8 captured the Head of the Erie over opponents from Hamilton and Colgate, among others. Against stiffer competition in Rochester for the Stonehurst Regatta, the women's 8 narrowly missed a medal by less than one second.

The Head of the Charles remains a fall tradition for those crews fortunate enough to get chosen to race. The women's varsity 8 was Ithaca's lone representative, and they competed in the Collegiate 8 Division, a new category at the regatta. Their time, while recording a 15th place finish (out of 34), was close enough to the leaders to earn a guaranteed entry for next year.

The varsity women closed out their racing at the Head of the Fish. This regatta, held on Saratoga Lake, has grown to be one of the region's largest races. Six crews competed from Ithaca College, three each in the women's open 8 and novice 8. Out of 42 entries, the three varsity crews finished 7th, 17th, and 29th. The novices captured a silver medal as well as a 14th and 29th place finish in their event. For good measure, the novices went to Rochester a day later for the Wil-E Chase and captured the top two spots while defeating opponents from the hosts, University of Rochester, and RIT among others.

It's business as usual for a deep and talented squad of women. However, whatever awaits them this spring will happen without primary



"Stewie the Duck" is christened by Stew Leonard Jr. (middle) with women's varsity crew members (from left to right) Joy Langley, Anna Dunham, Irene Woodward, Lizzie Thomas, Ali Bliznik, Michelle Becht, Carrie Johnson, Nora Lahr, and Sara Repicky.

novice coach **Dan Engler '96**. Coach Engler leaves to get married and seek greener pastures after 2½ prosperous seasons. Volunteer **Laura Whiting '01**, and grad students **Donna Fisher '02** and **Suzanne Connelly** will assist **Becky Robinson '88 M.S. '94** in coaching this large group.

The men's squad, on the rise for the past two years, should continue to win their share of races. A young varsity group of just under three 8's, along with close to 20 novices, shows plenty of promise. Senior commodore **Jason Frank (Irondequoit, NY)** is one of just 6 seniors and juniors who rowed last fall. Several reinforcements will return from internships or foreign studies to bolster the team, but results from the fall indicate that a lot of help is not really needed!

Three men's 4's finished first, second, and third, among six entries in the Cayuga Challenge. At the Head of the Erie, the varsity 8 was defeated by Colgate and Hamilton. However, at the Stonehurst, the varsity defeated Colgate, finishing fourth out of 13 in the College division of the Open 8 event. The lightweight 8, with seven sophomores filling seats, finished seventh out of eight.

The best result came from the Head of the Fish. The varsity 8 was Ithaca's lone entry and they captured the silver medal ahead of 26 opponents, behind only Dartmouth in the Open 8. Fall racing concluded at the Frostbite and Braxton and it was a crew of Coach **Ward Romer's** novices that came home with medals. The Philadelphia races featured some very tight finishes for the varsity, an improving lightweight crew, adventures in the fours, and an overall race experience that should provide long-term gains. Along with **Romer, Wai Kwong Hui '95** and **Dan Robinson '79 M.S. '92** staff the men's crew.

The fall racing is not accomplished without a cooperative effort by many to host and fund the crews. We send a huge thanks to alumni **Tony Corley '92** and **Rebecca Wurm '02** and their families, as well as the families of freshmen **Stacy Bowen (Broomall, PA)** and **Rob Snyder (Broomall too!)**, and senior **Zack Derrick (Doylestown, PA)** for putting rowers up (or putting up with rowers). Waterside refreshments were provided by countless parents, with help at the home events by **Kathy**



The Freeman Cup champs are (clockwise from top left) Mike Mitchell, Jason Frank, Rob Snyder, Jill Nobles, Tom Tria, Abby Cooper, Krystal Eichas, Ally Benvenuti, and Stacy Bowen.

Eldred. The parent support group was tremendously influential in providing a positive experience at the races.

Finally, the 30th annual Freeman Cup held on Family Weekend in early October, remains a fall highlight. Fourteen crews competed, including a full alumni entry. The recent grads recorded the day's best time over the 2-mile inlet chase, but the trophy, reserved for the fastest undergraduate crew, went to nine members rowing in the "Robert Boothroyd." Captained and stroked by **Jason Frank**, the line-up included freshman coxswain **Rob Snyder**, sophomores **Allyson Benvenuti (Newmarket, NH)** and **Mike Mitchell (Quincy, MA)**, and freshmen **Stacy Bowen, Abby Cooper (Carmel, IN), Krystal Eichas (Hilton, NY), Jill Nobles (Willseyville, NY), and Tom Tria (Walworth, NY)**.

Alumni Watch

The alumni crew that gathered to compete in the Freeman Cup should be congratulated for their effort, especially since they arrived early to rig and row the oldest shell in the boathouse, the 28 year-old "Marvin Freedman." The crew was made up of **Jocelyn Fitchett '02, Jeff Morris '01, Amelia O'Hanlon '02, Mike O'Hara '01, Ben Reidell '02, Nate Tarter '02, Justin Voldman '02, Kris Walker '01, and Rebecca Wurm '02**.

The Head of the Charles, as always, provided an opportunity for many ex-Bomber oarsmen and women to compete. Among those spotted in the race were **Heather Brown '98, Ned Carmen '95, Todd Connor '90, Linde Finsrud Howel, Beth Greene '00, Kelly Lochridge '89, Mary Obidinski '97, Gail Pekrul '97, Jenna Ross '01, and Kris Walker '01**. Mary Obidinski rowed at the World Championships last summer and finished seventh for the U.S. in the lightweight double. Others rowing included **Cris Brown '99 and Matt Taback '99**, racing in a four in Philadelphia, and **Mike Sheehan '84** at several events in his single.

A handful of alumni returned to Ithaca College to help celebrate **Bob Tallman's** Hall-of-Fame induction. **Jerry Dietz '75, Pete Feitner '81, Steve Lahr '75, and Stew Leonard '77** were on hand for the ceremonies. You can congratulate Coach Tallman by writing to him at 190 Benjamin Hill Road, Newfield, New York, 14867. Also on the induction weekend, Stew Leonard dedicated the newest racing shell "Stewie the Duck." The name comes from the Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation, a memorial to Stew's son.

On the subject of alumni, the following seniors will join their ranks after one more semester of competition. The crew wishes a successful spring to hopeful 2003 graduates **Michelle Becht (Patchogue, NY), Alison Bliznik, Nic Brunetti (Bayside, NY), Robyn DeMarco (Malden, MA), Zach Derrick, Anna Dunham (Salisbury, NH), Jason Frank, Carrie Johnson, Brian Koltzau (Deer Park, NY), Sarah Repicky (Rexford, NY), Lizzie Thomas (Clinton, NY), and Irene Woodward (Allentown, PA)**.

The Crew Fund

Continued generosity from family, friends, and alumni has helped support the crew. We are still promoting two funds; the endowment and the men's and women's crew fund. The endowment is for long-term security. The crew fund is the ongoing account that allows the crew to purchase equipment. Alumnus **Pete Feitner '77** is our agent for recruiting donors for the endowment. We want to thank him as well as those who made pledges during our 2002 Phon-a-thon last month. We thank you all for your support. Listed below are those who have given since June, 1 2002.

Men's and Women's Crew

Mrs. Joan Adorno
Mr. Vincent Adorno
Roger Y. Allen '79
Susan Decurtis Allen '78
Donna De Boltis Ambrose '77, MM '83
Thomas J. Ambrose '74
Brian P. Anderson '94
Krissa Soboleski Anderson '94
Dr. Bruce Baldwin
Mrs. Sheila Baldwin
John R. Batt '93
David A. Bauer '91
Mrs. Marleen Bliznik
Ellen Shapiro Buzawa '78
Mr. Michael J. Caine
Meredith Rosenbaum Canter '81
Richard S. Canter '80
Dana Gonzalez Carman '96
Edward H. Carman '95
Cascadilla Boat Club, Ltd.
Pieter A. Catlow '80
John H. Cishek Jr. '69
Michael J. Conover '81
James C. Cox '77
Susan Baker Cox '77
Robert F. Crissy '77
Mr. and Mrs. James A. Cunningham
Eric C. Day '96
Ms. Marie D. Engle
Maryann Sprague Erickson '78
Amy E. Faucon '00
Mrs. Donna L. Fosmire
Mr. John B. Fosmire
Ms. Jeanne Frye
Dr. John Frye
Mr. and Mrs. Milton R. Gleit
Andrew G. Golden '97
Charles T. Greenblott '73
Mr. & Mrs. Christopher Greene P'00
Christine Seward Greenspan '89
Ms. Bernadette Guzzardo
Robert D. Gwyn '80
Tara Mayger Gwyn '79
David A. Hargrave '78
Nancy Evans Hargrave '77
Jessa Shaw Haynes '88
Patrick Hinfey '91
Eric P. Hyman '83
K. Elizabeth Gallup Hyman '83
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Johnson P'03
David E. Johnson '84
Gary W. Kilpatrick M.S. '69
Nicholas H. Knobil '83
Mr. and Mrs. Lennart Krook
David J. Kunath '90
Mrs. Darlene Langley

Mr. George Langley, Sr.
Stewart J. Leonard Jr. '77
Gregory R. Maybeck '91
Victoria Sterflinger McCrink '87
Brigitte A. McInnis-Day '96
Mr. Chris McVicker
Jane Strehan Messano '86
Becky Sue Metz Robinson '88, M.S. '94
Samuel G. Milgrim '76
Mrs. Corinne Mitchell
Heidi Girstl Mitchell '88
Mr. William Mitchell
Stephanie Overcash Morrison '91
Nancy A. Murray '76
John J. Neeson II '84
David R. Neumann '82
Mrs. Donna M. Nichols
Mr. Timothy C. Nichols
Northeast Medical Legal Consulting
Amelia M. O'Hanlon '02
Mr. John O'Loughlin
Mrs. Lillian O'Loughlin
James H. Osborne '79
Mrs. Kimberley Owings
Mr. Steven T. Owings
Marybeth Ball Parlato '85
Thomas F. Price '69
Deborah Ramsey
Robert Ramsey
Eric Friedlieb Reid '79
Cary G. Repka '89
Mr. and Mrs. Jack W. Reppert
Mr. Daniel Ringsred
Dr. Pamela Ringsred
Daniel H. Robinson '79, M.S. '92
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas H. Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Richard A. Satnick
Patricia A. Schoen-Rene '81
Robert E. Schwartz '84
Karen Seeley
Mark Seeley
Coleman Sellers VI '85
Mr. James Selock
Mrs. Judith H. Selock
Barry A. Silberman '72
Sherrie Sorkin Steinhardt '68, P'92
Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation
Julie Volk Thorpe '78
Mrs. Geraldine Tosti
Peter A. Tripodi '87
Mr. & Mrs. Eric Tupper P'01
Julia Rife VanHassent '78
Eileen Donlan Vidrine '85
Justin S. Voldman '02
Ms. Ann Wassell
Robert D. Weeks III '87
John B. West '82

Mr. and Mrs. Frank P. Willemssen, Jr.
Jacob J. Wood '95
Dr. & Mrs. W. Heinrich Wurm P'02
Mr. John Yonkin
Heidi Helz Zomnir '85

The Crew Endowment

Accountsource Inc.
James D. Aguiar
Mrs. Martha B. Aguiar
Donna De Boltis Ambrose '77, MM '83
Thomas J. Ambrose '74
Jonathan P. Bush '80
James C. Cox '77
Susan Baker Cox '77
Kelly L. Craft '90
Mark D. Cramer '77, P'05
John M. Drescher '79
Charles B. Estley III '81
Albert P. Everts II '84
Suzanne Ruxin Fishkin '77
Patrick S. Frame '97
Green Apple Photography
Charles T. Greenblott '73
Susan C. Greene '86
Wayne A. Hamer '70
Meghan Shea Heyen '95
Sue Ann Howell '88
Edward J. Keagle '73
Robin Levy Kenny '91
John B. Kibelstis '91
Kristina Lange Lewis '84
Lisa Donabella Mastorakos '87
Andrew C. Meyn '77
Greg W. Naviloff '97
Sarah T. Richmond '88
Donna L. Ruvalo '81
Stewart A. Schnapp '78
Daniel J. Schutt '94
Michael J. Sheehan '84
T. H. Butler Smythe II '77
Robert B. Tallman
Holly Ranger Tavelli '73, P'02
Phillip C. Tavelli '70, P'02
James S. Tripp '73
Mr. David A. Tyler
Nigel A. Veater '72
Jacob J. Wood '95



Visit our website at
www.ithaca.edu/crew

Directory

e-mail iccrew@ithaca.edu
 snail-mail Ithaca College Crew
 Hill Center
 Ithaca, NY 14850
 Boathouse (607) 273-3104
 Men's Crew (607) 274-1266
 Women's Crew (607) 274-3145
 Dan and Becky (607) 273-4026
 Ward Romer (607) 273-0255
wromer@netzero.net
 Parent Group
 James Marsh (607) 844-8303
 Kathy Eldred (607) 274-3751
 Sports Hotline (607) 274-1161
 Endowment Pete Feitner (413) 634-5770
 Annual Giving Emily Russell (607) 274-3942
Erussell@ithaca.edu

Spring Schedule

SEE YOU AT THE RACES!

3/8-15	Spring Training	Gainesville, GA.
3/22	Scrimmage with Cornell	Home
3/29	Buffalo, Marist, U.Mass (men).	Home
4/5	Hamilton, Hobart/William Smith, Pacific Lutheran (women).	Home
4/12	Colgate, Rochester.	Home
4/13	RIT, Skidmore.	Home
4/19	Conn., Holy Cross, Tufts.	Worcester, MA
4/26	Atlantic League Sprints.	Gifford Pinchot State Park, PA
5/3-4	NYS Championships	Whitney Point, NY
5/10-11		ECAC Championship
	Mercer County Park, NJ	
5/29-31	NCAA DIII Championship	Indianapolis, IN (women)

Captain's Corner



Ali Bliznik '03

"I've always believed that anybody with a little ability, a little guts and the desire to apply themselves could make it." - Willie Shoemaker... When I started rowing as a freshman at IC almost 4 years ago, I knew little about what was required of a rower. Since then, I've learned a great deal about dedication, sacrifice, commitment, and camaraderie. After numerous early morning practices, countless erg pieces, and intense winter training, I began to realize early on, what it was that rowing entailed! But after only a short time, I started seeing a different side to these workouts. I've experienced things before 7am that most college students never will. Even amid frost covered docks and cold, dark skies, having the opportunity to watch the sunrise over the rooftops of Cornell University is breath-taking... and some of the flattest water conditions occur during these early morning hours. Erg pieces became a challenge for myself... to try and improve my times, and know I was getting stronger. Hearing water rush over the falls, in the dead of winter, inspired me for the spring, and looking around to see that I was surrounded by some of my best friends, made the outdoor runs that much more enjoyable.

Traveling to fall races, seeing our parents so excited to support us, making the trip to Georgia every spring (be it ever so long!) and racing down the IC inlet, have all proven to be invaluable experiences for me. Winning races, winning medals, being state and AVAYA team champions, and having the opportunity to row at NCAAs are all memories I will cherish for a lifetime. I also value the experience of coming so close to winning a medal...and not. This has taught me about perseverance and attitude and the inner-strength that the women I've rowed with possess. I look forward to the coming season with anticipation, and I am proud to be spending my last season as a Bomber with by far, the greatest group of women on the water!