

UCD Men's Crew Newsletter - 2022/23



New Jersey Logo



Old Jersey Logo

From the Alumni - Roger von Ting

Last year the University went through a program of re-branding itself. All logos across the University were scrubbed and the impact to Men's Crew was that we lost our beloved Cal Aggie CA crossed oar logo that we have used on our jerseys for decades. A tough loss to be sure as many of us have fond memories racing and practicing with that logo on our chest. Change can be difficult but crew teaches us to persevere. The team pushed forth several new logos by the University, many were denied, and eventually settled on a new simple crossed oar design with UCD. While we lost the reference to "Cal Aggie" we replaced it with a simple statement of who and what we are: "Men's Crew". The foundation of our program remains the same and the student athletes going through our program today benefit the same as all others who came before. The physically challenging practices and demanding schedule helps instill confidence, strength and a hard work ethic in a team environment that will benefit them greatly after graduation.

What has not changed? On the next page is a recruiting advertisement for this year's team looking for those "tough enough" to make it in crew. Sound familiar? The basic principles and culture of our program have remained consistent over the decades. Strong recruiting efforts this year and last have helped pull the team from the nadir of the pandemic. With many seniors graduating last year, we have a young team. However, with the determination showed by Tommy Cumbelich to return from his injury coupled with his goal of racing in the Grand Final at ACRA, this year's team shows great potential.



MEN'S CREW at UC Davis

INTERESTED?

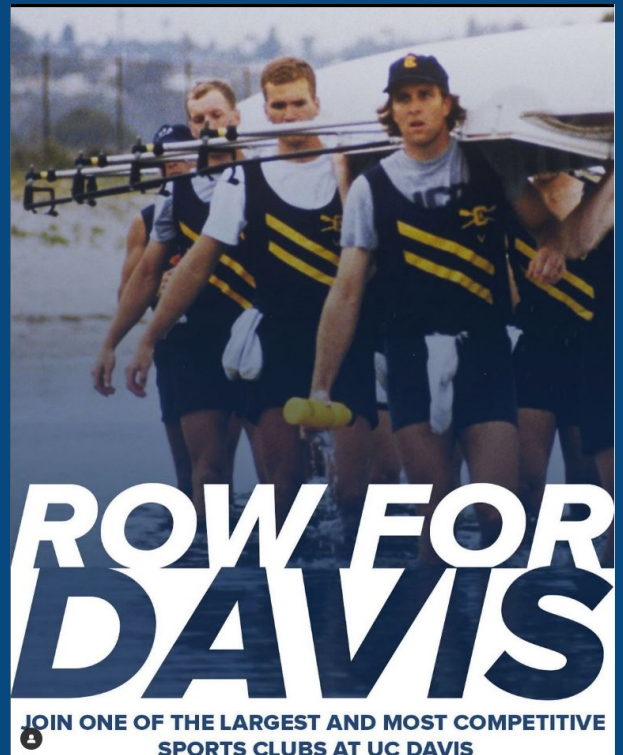
NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY.

**FOR THOSE TALL,
STRONG, OR
TOUGH ENOUGH
TO MAKE UP THE
DIFFERENCE**

SIGN UP TODAY
LINK IN BIO



UCD MV4- at WIRAs 2022



ROW FOR DAVIS

JOIN ONE OF THE LARGEST AND MOST COMPETITIVE
SPORTS CLUBS AT UC DAVIS

Save the Date - ALUMNI DAY - March 11, 2023

The Friends of Davis Rowing is busy making plans for this year's Alumni Day and activities at the races. We hope to see you at the boathouse and on the racecourse. We have already received \$57,000 in donations this school year and could be on track for a record setting year. Our program has some good energy, positive momentum and we hope to make all of you proud to be part of Davis Men's Crew.

From the Boathouse - Reid Luhn (Team President)

Last year was a unique and important year for the program as we emerged from the depths of COVID to a rowing landscape filled with uncertainty and unknowns. We knew it was a crucial year for the team and getting the program back on its feet. With the help of our coaches, parents, alumni, and the guidance and experience of now departed varsity rowers and coxswains, we managed to bounce back well and begin the rebuilding process. However, it has always been my belief that while last year was indeed a critical season for the program, this year would be equally important, if not more so. The question must be asked: "We took good steps last year, but can we repeat that and make the next leap forward for the program?" After seeing the grit and determination from my fellow varsity rowers this fall, along with the energy of this year's novice class, I believe that we are definitely on the right track.

This year's class of varsity rowers and coxswains is an interesting mix that certainly leans towards the younger side of other varsity crews. However, over the course of this fall I have seen a crew that despite its greenness still strives to achieve success with the same responsibility, tenacity, and focus that a seasoned varsity crew would. With the guidance of coach Des, my fellow varsity teammates and I spent this fall shouldering the growing responsibility of bringing in a new novice class and pushing ourselves to achieve the standards that UCD crews had before the pandemic. Though our pool of experience may be smaller than others our crew has no lack of grit or determination to steer the program where we want it to go.

Fall quarter is always a busy time for the crew, and that is mostly due to the influx of brand new rowers into the boathouse. We brought in a strong group of rowers this fall that have been picking up the stroke as fast as they can with the guidance of coach Des and mixed rows with varsity. Couple that with an incredibly energetic cadre of novice coxswains, and we have a promising young group that is looking forward to the racing season. Teaching folks how to row and about the traditions of our team has always been one of my favorite parts of rowing for this team. Both older and newer varsity have enjoyed bringing this new class under our wing, and it is great to see the tight bonds forming that will only grow stronger as the year progresses.

Our fall racing season was a great way to kick off the year and introduce our novices to the world of regattas. Our varsity crew started things off at Head of the Port on our home water, competing against local competition as well as other teams from around the state. To my joy, our crew made its return to Lake Natoma for Head of the American this fall. It was incredibly gratifying to finally get to compete at this regatta in my fourth year on the team. We fielded a mix of pairs, fours, and an eight, and many of our younger varsity got a good taste of some high-level head racing. We rounded off our fall racing season with Head of the Lagoon ("HOTL") in Foster City. This was our novice crew's first foray into the world of regattas and head racing, and we fielded some mixed varsity and novice crews to give them their first experience down a course. Our novices did a fantastic job, and our novice

coxswains survived their trial by fire of the challenging HOTL racecourse. Though the fall racing season is over, our crew is now kicking things into high gear to get ready for the 2K season in the spring.

Now that fall quarter has come to a close, our crew looks to the winter and spring to seek out the fruits of our labor. Every meter our rowers put down on the erg and on the water is one step closer to that start line at ACRA's in Tennessee. Our crew is finding its groove again, and I am so thankful to be a part of the process. However, there are plenty of folks that are owed thanks for helping the crew to be what it is today. The overwhelming support our alumni provide for this crew is at times hard to fully comprehend, and it is with their help that we are able to keep rowing for years to come. At the helm of this crew we have coach Des to thank for his dogged and professional pursuit of success for our team. We are incredibly lucky to have Des and the tremendous support we get from assistant coaches Tanee Chum, Adrienne Blythe, Matt Doucette, and Harnawaz Boparai. And of course, this crew wouldn't be possible without the love and support from our friends and family. I look forward to our combined alumni and parent day where our crew can give back to those who made our crew experiences possible.

From the Coach's Launch – Des Stahl

Fall quarter practices came to a close recently. Rain temporarily postponed our visit to Cardiac Hill in Vacaville, so instead the team revived Head of the Toomey - team car pushes from the bottom to the top of the Toomey parking structure. It was good hard work with lots of shouting and encouragement. The coxswains even got in on the action in the final round. While there, we were able to take our first look at the Toomey Field container which was delivered the previous day. The container will now house our on-campus erg fleet. The Pavilion has been our home on and off for many years. In recent years, the building has been closed more and more by ICA, disrupting our regular training schedule on a weekly basis. Training at Toomey will give us a more reliable venue, and a more visible one, as we move forward this year.

The work of rebuilding the program post-shutdown continued this fall. The varsity graduated 5 out of last year's varsity 8. The 3 returners have been joined by last year's novice to bring the varsity squad to 12 rowers and 2 coxswains. It should be 13 rowers, but Tommy Cumbelich's accident at the very beginning of fall took him from us before we'd even really gotten started. We're grateful he survived, and excited to see his gradual recovery. But for a still-small and still-young squad, we have tangibly missed his presence and his talent.

Novice turnout grew from last year, with 30+ making it onto the squad in October. Varsity has continued to be a strong presence in the development of the new group. Mixed varsity/novice rows have been a regular part of the learning curve for them - including their first race at Head of the Lagoon in November. There's much work still to be done, but they'll be ready in spring to make their mark on the race course.

We made some good strides last year towards regaining competitive speed. We're still at least 2 years away from the program being in a "normal" place after all of the time and opportunity lost during the shutdown. But we're going to hit winter training hard in January, and do everything in our power to build more speed in preparation for WIRA and ACRA.

As always, thank you for your support, and we hope to give you more and more reasons to be proud of us on the racecourse.

Tommy Cumbelich – Road to Recovery

Thomas Cumbelich is a 2nd year rower who found the crew during his first quarter on campus. Tommy quickly cemented himself as a strong oarsman throughout his novice year, and rowed in the 7 seat of the novice 8 at ACRA last year. The crew was happy to add a rower of such strength and character to its varsity squad this fall. However, shortly into his first quarter on varsity, Tommy was rear-ended while driving in Sacramento and received 3rd degree burns to his arms, hands, and face as his car caught on fire. The crew was devastated at the news of our beloved teammate and his accident. Nevertheless, to nobody's surprise, Tommy has surged onto his road to recovery with determination. He looks to be back taking strokes as soon as he can, and is itching for his chance to prove himself on the racecourse once more. The crew has watched in admiration as Tommy works towards returning to the boat, but has also witnessed the tremendous support of Tommy's loving family and friends. The crew has made considerable progress already towards its yearly fundraising goal, and the selflessness of Tommy and the generosity of his family and friends are in large part responsible for that. The crew is very lucky to have Tommy, and we can't wait for him to be back in the boat with us again.



Team Member Profiles

AJ Burke

AJ Burke is a 1st year International Relations major out of Long Beach, CA. AJ found UC Davis and its men's crew program seemingly by chance, but has quickly fallen in love with the university and the sport. The crew has been an eye opening experience for her, and she appreciates the community and connections with her fellow teammates above all else. She looks forward to getting out on the race course this spring!



Carson Cable



Carson Cable, a 4th year Neurobiology, Physiology and Behavior major and psyche minor from Fair Oaks, was completely hooked from the moment he attended the first interest meeting for crew in his first quarter at Davis. Carson relishes the camaraderie of the team and enjoys competing against both his fellow teammates and other rowers out on the racecourse. In his final year on the crew, Carson looks forward to finding every ounce of speed possible come spring racing. Carson plans to take a gap year to work before entering medical school.

Sebastian Najbjerg

Sebastian Najbjerg is a 1st year electrical engineering major from Redwood City, CA. Sebastian found himself at UC Davis due to its beautiful campus, atmosphere, and prime location for trips home and to Tahoe for skiing. Looking to try something new in college, he stumbled upon the rowing team and has not looked back since. Enjoying the routine the sport brings to his schedule and the tight knit community, crew is becoming the best decision he's made so far at UC Davis. He looks forward to getting out on the racecourse for his first 2k!



Isabella Pham

Isabella Pham, a 2nd year chemistry major from San Francisco, found her way to Davis to seek out some change to the fog and bustle of the city. Her journey with the team began at Rec Fest where a varsity rower told her about the position of the coxswain and how a smart and diligent person is needed to fill such a leadership role. She loves the team for the inclusive culture, the dedication to each other, and the voice it gives her. No other thing brings out the demon in her like getting her rowers to mow down other boats. After college she looks forward to applying her chemistry knowledge to create something and start a family of her own.



Rob Englehorn



Rob Englehorn is a 1st year sustainable environmental design major from Pacific Grove, CA. UC Davis offered the unique major that Rob was looking for, and he was drawn to the crew by varsity rowers at Rec Fest. Rob enjoys having the community of the rowing team as he transitions into the world of college. He was happy to discover rowing as something that he can commit himself to for the coming years of school. Traveling in the spring and competing out on the race course are what Rob looks forward to the most for the rest of his novice year.

Having a consistent land training option on campus has been a struggle for the program over the past few years, but we can happily announce that we have taken a step forward in that regard. Through diligent and persistent work between the men's and women's crews, the university, and our alumni, we have secured a shipping container on campus at Toomey Field that will store our ergs! We owe a tremendous thank you to Roger von Ting for his hard work and the generosity of his company to obtain the container for us. Now both the men's and women's teams have their own spot on campus to store equipment and work out!



Toomey Field Container

2022/23 FUNDRAISING GOAL = \$70,000

Our goal this year is to give the team our annual \$50,000 commitment towards coaching salaries with any excess fundraising saved towards the purchase of a new 8 person boat while smaller equipment needs are taken into consideration annually. 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
9361 Walker Ranch 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. You can set up a regular monthly donation on the website to make 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. We can also accept stock donations.

Amazon Smile Program: If you use Amazon, you can also support us by making your purchases through 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.

