

An aerial photograph of two rowing teams on a body of water. The team in the foreground is a white eight-person crew boat with red-tipped oars, moving towards the viewer. The team in the background is a darker crew boat, also with red-tipped oars, moving away from the viewer. The water is dark and textured with ripples.

# The Pull Hard

*A Washington State University Men's Crew Publication*

*Volume XVII, Issue III*

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# The Shirt Off Your Back

By Nichole Martin

As most of you are aware, rowing is a truly unique sport. Along with the thrill of crossing the line in first place, you get the satisfaction of taking your opponents shirts of their backs....literally. Shirt betting or commonly known as “betting tanks” is an American rowing tradition that started in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, and one that Cougar Crew is proud to be part of.

Boats used to pull together after a race, shake hands, and literally hand their opponents the shirt they were wearing off their back. They would shove off and the losers would row back to the dock shirtless. Of course, now the tradition has changed a little and the tanks or shirts are passed off to the winning crew on land. Every member of the winning crew, including the coxswain receives a tank from each crew they beat in a final race at a big regatta, such as the WIRA (Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association) Championship Regatta that the Cougs attend every year.

In a 2008 Yale Daily News article, Yale lightweight coach, Andy Card, says that the actual date in which shirt betting started is unknown. There have been stories of the tradition in the late 1920s and early 1930s, yet the only visual proof is of pictures taken in the 1960s. He also states that “one can be sure of the shirts racing dating after the 1900s since racing before that time was all done without shirts.”

Betting shirts or tanks is a tradition that is only predominately known to men’s rowing. Women’s varsity rowing programs do not bet shirts, as they are part of the



*The 1980 “Husky Killers” proudly showing off their Husky tanks.*



*Williams showing off his tanks after winning the Varsity 4+ at WIRA 2008.*

NCAA which prohibits gambling of any sort. Because men's rowing and women's club programs are not officially recognized by the NCAA, shirt betting has become a tradition over the years.

Four year oarsman and Commodore, Mitch Williams, gives us some insight on what it feels like to win a tank after a race, "Winning tanks is an amazing experience. You feel a great sense of power and accomplishment by winning races and earning the tanks of the schools you beat. Wanting to win more tanks becomes an obsession." But for Mitch and many others there is much more to it than just winning a tank. "It's not entirely all about power and glory. The time when tanks are handed over is also a time when you can meet rowers from other schools and learn about them. Some great conversations take place. My winning 4+ at the WIRA Championships in 2008 became good friends with the Humboldt State 4+.

It made the next year's rematch much more fun and competitive." Mitch has won 30 tanks, some of which include Gonzaga, UC San Diego, Cal lights and many more.

For some the glory of winning these tanks doesn't just end at the end of their rowing career, in fact most alumni take great pride in their tanks. Four year oarsmen and 08' WSU graduate Sean Martin explains "what is the first thing I am going to grab in a fire? Besides my dogs and boat house jacket, my tanks." Sean explains that his tanks are so much more than just a garment of clothing to him. "The tanks I have earned have a much different emotional tie to them, mainly for the reason of what it took to get them. You simply can't just purchase another team's tank."

When asked what tank meant the most to Sean he reminisced on this story, "I can still to this day look back and remember the calls my coxswain made in the last 5 strokes leading to the final 500. Down by a little over a length, barely bow to stern. Making 9 individuals come together as one and overtake a competitor in the last 400 meters of an all but impossible race. I can remember the uncontrollable

scream, laughter and then silence as we glided to stop after edging out that other 8. The feeling of utter exhaustion extinguished by the rush of adrenaline and joy after reaching a goal we all fight so hard for. The feeling of a weightless eight on your shoulder as you walk it to slings, meeting the rest of your team and coaches. All these memories come from looking at a single white tank, with a large yellow and blue outlined “C” and a small “155” with a noticeable blood stain on the right side. A medal may be flashy and easily discernable by those not so familiar with the sport. But any rower will take the sight of tanks hanging on their wall as a personal reminder of each and every team and person they were able to beat on that particular day.” Sean tells us that he still has his Cal lightweight tank hanging on his wall today...blood stain and all.

Sean has earned a total of 8 tanks in his career.

“While I may not have won as many tanks as others and the races may not have been the grand scale, but we were in that moment. The best on the water and that is a feeling like none other. My other favorite part about earning tanks is the fact that not only do you earn others tanks, but you earn your own as well. That tank that you have sweat and bled on, which represents so many painfully difficult practices, grade runs, and endless seat races.”

“To win a race means a lot to many different people. Some people really like the glory; others are into “shiny things” as a fellow teammate once put it. For me though tanks are something totally unique. Winning another rower’s tank gives you not only the token of being first, but a chance to look into the face of each individual you raced with and ultimately, outperformed.”



# Steven Weed

## Transplant Fund



My husband, Steve Weed received a kidney transplant on January 6. His kidneys were damaged from a case of the measles when he was three years old. Until recently, he has had an active life but his kidneys have simply worn out. He was on dialysis for about a year and so far his new kidney is doing very well. He is getting stronger every day and looks 10 years younger.

Steve and I live in Redondo Beach with our two sons Gabriel and Jeremy. We own a web development and creative services company. Steve ran marathons and enjoyed hiking and camping before his health worsened. He coached Gabriel's t-ball last year before he started dialysis. He is looking forward to living a full life again with his new kidney very shortly.

While we have basic insurance to cover the hospital and doctor transplant expenses, there are medications that are not covered by either Blue Shield or Medicare for various reasons. When Steve left the hospital, he received his initial supply of 12 different prescriptions and an \$1,100 bill. There may be other expenses related to his continuing medical care as well. In addition, since we run our own business, Steve does not have disability insurance. It will be several months before he can help in our business much.

To help with these expenses, a fundraising campaign has been established with the National Transplant Assistance Fund (NTAF). NTAF is a nonprofit organization that has been assisting the transplant community for over twenty-five years. All contributions are administered by NTAF exclusively for uninsured transplant-related expenses. Donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law. NTAF has a very low administrative fee (typically 4%) so almost all of your donation goes to help Steve. If you want to contribute to Steve's expenses through NTAF:

- Make your check payable to *NTAF Southwest Kidney Transplant Fund*  
In the memo section, write *"In Honor of Steve Weed"*  
Mail it to:  
NTAF  
150 N. Radnor Chester Road, Suite F-120  
Radnor, PA 19087  
OR
- Call NTAF at 800-642-8399 or visit [www.NTAFund.org](http://www.NTAFund.org) to make a credit card donation.

The encouragement Steve receives when anyone assists him in this very personal way is a very real support to him. Thank you very much for your assistance and your well wishes.

Thank you,

Bonnie Landau  
[bonnie@landaudeesign.com](mailto:bonnie@landaudeesign.com)  
310-374-0670

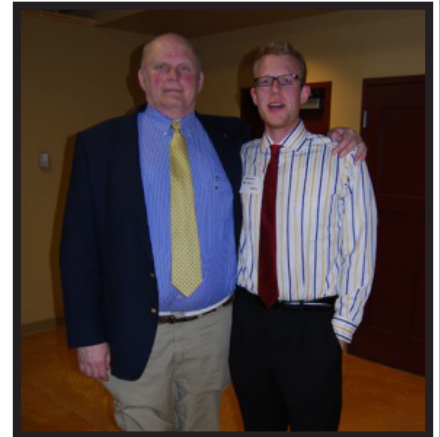
# Cougar Crew Days Is Coming Up!!

*March 19-21 2010*

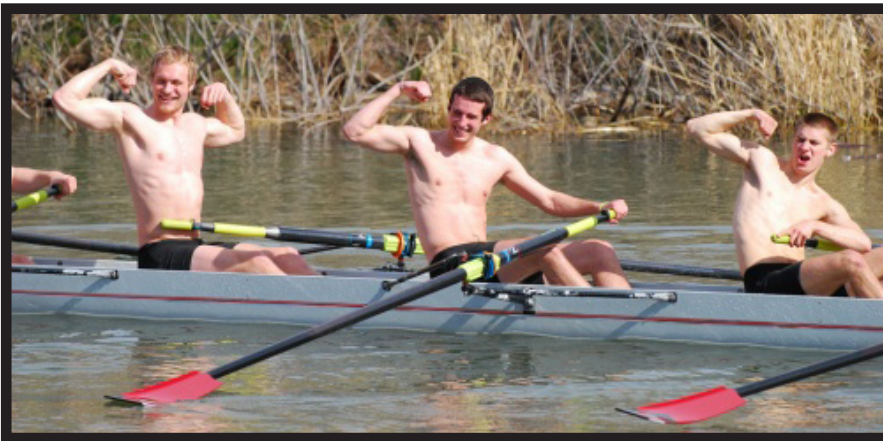
There is an Alumni BBQ on Friday, CCAA board meeting Saturday morning, Alumni rows and races Saturday afternoon, and the Crew will host a banquet on Saturday night.

The auction will take place at the banquet too!

The weekend will include the official naming of the Ken Abbey Shellhouse at Wawawai Landing. We hope you all can attend!



We have arranged a discounted rate at the Pullman Quality Inn (509-332-0500) for those that will require lodging. Just let them know you coming for Cougar Crew Days and you can have a room next to your old teammates!



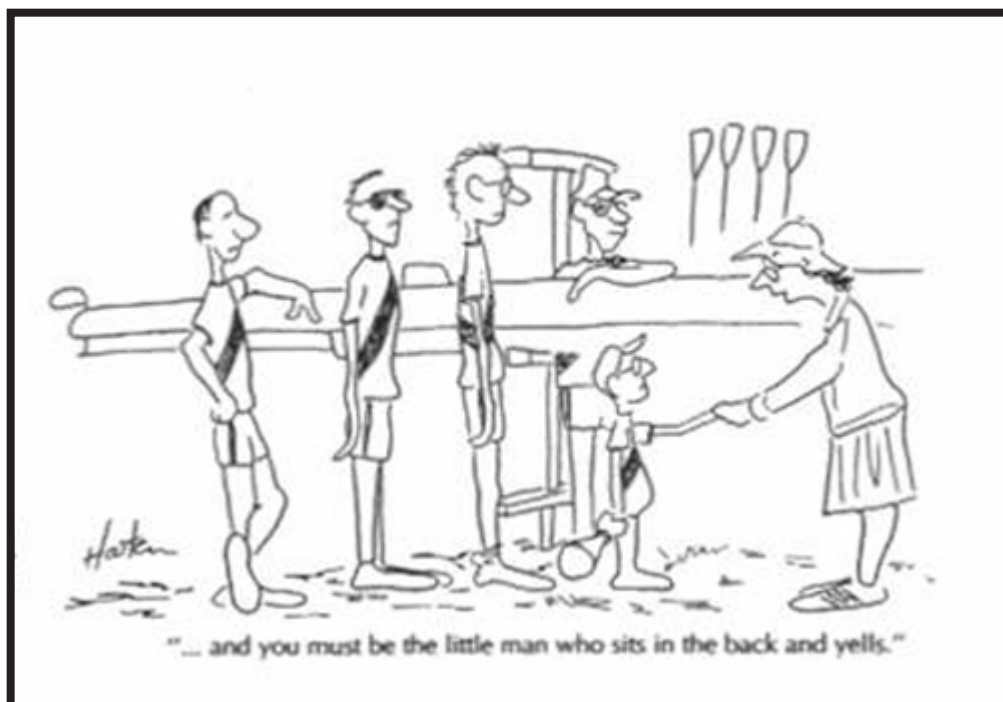
**See You There!!!**

Please RSVP the event and continue to check the website ([www.cougarcrew.com](http://www.cougarcrew.com)) for the event schedule and any questions regarding the auction, banquet, lodging and or Cougar Crew Days in general, can be sent to [mensrowing@wsu.edu](mailto:mensrowing@wsu.edu).

# The Ninth Seat

By Nichole Martin

“Up and over heads, ready, up.” “In two, power ten!” “Two seat, take a stroke.” These are just a few commands that you may hear at a practice or regatta. It isn’t just anyone who gives these orders. As my grandma asked me when she first watched a race, “who are those little people who sit in the back of the boat and yell?” Those “little people” are also known as coxswains.



[www.coxie.com](http://www.coxie.com)

Coxswains are in charge of steering, navigating the water, and motivating their crew. Historically, a coxswain was a ship's helmsman who would be put in charge in an officer's absence. This role was later taken on by the sport of rowing. Much like a helmsman in the absence of an officer, a coxswain is in charge of providing coaching when a coach isn't present. But even when a coach is present, coxswains still have jobs or responsibilities like any other member of the team.

While this may sound like a simple job, it is actually the opposite. Coxswains are in charge of making sure their rowers and equipment are both safe and working properly. Keeping order in the boathouse, as well as leading boats to and from the water, are all done under the instruction of a cox. The work doesn't end once in the coxswain seat either. It is vital that the coxswain understands the bodies of water that they are practicing and racing on. Keeping the crew safe at all times is their primary responsibility. Knowing the body of water you are on, including the current or obstacles that may be hiding under the surface, can determine the safety of not only your crew, but your boat as well.

During races, it is a coxswain's job to know the rules and regulations of the





***The Alumni 8+ throwing their coxswain, Julia Anderson, in after their Class Day victory in 2009. Traditionally, the cox of the winning crew is thrown in after the race.***

regatta. Coxswain meetings are held just before the start of a regatta. This is where you find out the traffic pattern on the water, the event number, the start time of each race, and your lane number. All of which are very important pieces of information needed to have a successful race.

For some, it is hard to understand why anyone would ever want to take on so much responsibility. Ask any

coxswain and they will tell you it is worth it just to experience the adrenaline of a race. Having a front row seat to all of the action doesn't hurt either...no pun intended. You are right in the race with the rowers, in fact you are part of the race.

As the rower's legs scream with pain and mentally begin to check out, the coxswain must be there to maintain focus throughout the boat and keep everyone's thoughts on the finish line. The cox goes into every contest with a precise race plan dictated from the coach. In many instances, the time that a crew decides to make their move will make or break the race. If another boat starts to push forward, the coxswain will call the crew together and respond to try and maintain connection. Although it may seem very cut and dry, a 2K race is very dynamic and requires split-second decisions. The cox must be aware of the competition and anticipate their next move, while still scanning their own crew for technical fixes. Meanwhile, they must accurately steer a 60-foot shell down a buoyed course while compensating for any sudden power changes or currents.

Ask any experienced rower and they will tell you that a coxswain's word is truth. Whether it's in the boathouse, loading the trailer, or in the final 500 meters of a race, if a coxswain says "jump", you say "how high?" The trusting relationship between rowers and their coxswain is crucial. A coxswain must understand the subtleties of each individual's stroke, their tendencies, and how to best push them when

they want to give up. Likewise, a rower must believe in their coxswain's abilities to put them in a position to win at the end of a race. Any second-guessing will only hurt morale and prevent a crew from reaching their full potential.

Coxing is a unique role in sport. It is not often that a 125 pound individual has eight strapping young men heeding their every word. It is a skill that takes time to develop just as a rower's stroke. Good coxswains elevate their crew to new levels and know just how to push their buttons in order to sap every ounce of energy out of them during a race.

# Varsity Spotlight: Lauren

## Curtis

By Paul Ehlers

Crew is not a sport for the glory hound: hours upon hours are spent training and fundraising with a season that culminates in one or two six-minute races. What limited glory is available, however, is often bestowed on, for example, the metronomic stroke seat or brutal machine in 6 seat.

Many tend to look at an 8+ and forget one crucial member, the coxswain! While not directly pulling on an oar during a 2k, the coxswain is responsible for executing the

race plan, steering a good course, and properly motivating the rowers to bury themselves in every increasing test of pain tolerance. Lauren Curtis coxed the Varsity 8+ and the WIRA gold-medal-winning varsity 4+ last year. She is currently the coxswain who has spent the most time at the helm of WSU boats.



Lauren is a junior Spanish/Marketing double major, and although you'd never guess by looking at her, she is fluent in Spanish thanks to a year spent in Costa Rica during high school. She was familiar with the sport of rowing due to her mom, Lisa Curtis, who coxed Cougar Crew lightweights during the '79, '80, and '81 seasons.

Upon arriving as a wide-eyed freshman to WSU's campus she decided to contact Coach Arthur and see about her prospects. Lauren was put on the fast track to

Varsity coxswain playing second fiddle to a very capable Mary Andreotti, the senior coxswain at the time.

As a freshman, Lauren primarily handled coxing the lightweights. After some growing pains in the fall, she came into her own in the spring and led the varsity Lwt 8+ to a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish at the San Diego Crew Classic. Sophomore year she assumed the role as top varsity coxswain, and was a part of the gold-medal-winning Varsity 4+. Now a junior, Lauren headed the JV 8+ and is eagerly awaiting the spring season. Asked which has been her favorite crew to cox, she quickly replied, “the lightweights! Definitely. The heavyweights on a good day, on the other hand, are tough to beat.”



Not content with only being part of the team, Lauren ran for and won the Historian office prior to her sophomore year and has now been in that role for two years running. Prior to assuming the position, the Historian was little more than a “jack of all trades” handyman, responsible for odd jobs and the occasional race recap. Under her oversight, however, Lauren began the History of Cougar Crew, a compendium that aims to consolidate the many odds and ends that our crew has accumulated into an expansive history of Cougar Crew. This included extensive interviews with alumni from all eras of our crew, in addition to the cataloging and sorting of boxes and boxes of trophies, pictures, and various other mementos. The project is coming along very smoothly, and definitely fills in a vacuum that existed in our crew’s structure: we really did not have a definitive, encyclopedic history, prior to Lauren’s undertaking.

Asked about her best memories with the crew, Lauren identifies winning the Varsity 4+ at the 2009 WIRA championships. “Every time before that, I’d been the one giving away tanks, it was nice to finally receive some.” An understandable sentiment! In terms of advice for up and coming coxswains, Lauren strongly encourages everyone to, “pay attention to your boat! Listen for what calls work and do not work, and always work to perfect your system.”

Coming into the final two semesters of her rowing career, Lauren hopes to again lead crews to gold medals, tanks, and glory! While she plans to step down as historian next year, as she is studying abroad in Spain for Fall 2010, Lauren believes that the History of the Crew project has been set off with solid foundations, and that its groundwork allows for easy addition and expansion. Ultimately, crew is a sport of dedication and perseverance, a pair of attributes that Lauren has in spades.

# Novice Spotlight:

## Ryan Gagnon

By Coach Julia Gamache

When joining the Novice rowing team here at WSU, 95% of the rowers come in with no experience whatsoever. Novice Coxswains are no exception to this low rate of experience. I have never had a Novice coxswain with any previous experience. This year I was worried with the low number of coxswains compared to the incredibly high number of rowers. Someone came to the rescue though, a Novice rower who wanted to try his hand at coxing; Ryan Gagnon. His transition to coxing was smooth and a great relief. As I got to know Ryan more, I started to understand why coxing was such a personal triumph for him. When Ryan was younger he had a speech impediment so severe that his family choose to put him in speech therapy. Since coxing is mostly speaking over a mic for all the boat to hear with confidence to boot, it was surprising for me to learn this about Ryan. With the confidence he exudes in the boat, as well as his ability to communicate with his team, I assumed Ryan was born to be a coxswain. I asked him a few questions about his past and his experience so far coxing, here are his responses.

**When did you start Speech therapy? Why did your family feel this was necessary?**

“I started to go to speech therapy at the age of three until the end of my ninth grade year. My parents put me in preschool for therapy because when I was at that age they had a very hard time understanding what I said. I had a hard time with my pronunciation of words.”

**Have you had any problems coxing so far because of your speech?**

“I have had some trouble with coxing because some words I still have problems with, but I have learned to just push through it and try to get out whatever I’m trying to say.”

**Has Coxing helped or hindered you in speech?**

“Coxing has been a big help. Because of crew I have become a lot more open with my speech. I talk a lot more than I did before and I talk louder. I have always

been a quiet guy but after becoming a coxswain I think my speech has gotten better.“

### **What do you like best about coxing?**

“I really love everything about coxing. It’s really hard to pick what I love best; but, I feel the most rewarding thing is just working with the guys and being on the water.”

### **Is coxing what you thought it would be?**

“I really had no idea what to expect as a coxswain. Because I started off as a rower I did already know a little bit about what the coxswains did. I still wasn’t ready for it. The thing I remember the most about becoming a coxswain is that I was worried about how the guys would see me when I stopped rowing and started coxing. But everything worked out great and I still have great friendships with everyone on the team. Being a coxswain goes beyond anything I could have expected. It’s the most fun I have had in a long time. Becoming a coxswain was falling in love with crew all over again.”



**We thank you for all you have done Gagnon; keep it up!**



*Middle Right: Ryan waits for his crew to get hands on after their race at the Head of The Snake.*

*Bottom: Ryan is all smiles after a very wet race at the WWU Dual.*

# Lightweight Spotlight: Lightweight Coxswains

By Coach Emily Kohl

Have you ever heard of a cox'n? Neither had most of the girls when they joined WSU's newly formed Lightweight Women's Crew team during fall semester. A club sport, WSU Lightweight Women's Crew is a new outpost of the long-standing Men's Crew team. But knowing that still doesn't answer the question of who or what a cox'n is. Simply put: a cox'n (or more formally, a coxswain) is the person in charge of steering and commanding a boat in the sport of rowing. But it goes beyond that bare-bones definition. Cox'ns are a rower's moral support during practice and races. They are personal cheering sections and motivators. They are noise, personified. And WSU's Lightweight Women's Crew is lucky enough to count four of these madmen among their ranks.

Only one of the coxswains can claim prior experience with coxing; that is Brittany Darnell. Hailing from Snohomish, she spent her novice year coxing for the Men's Crew which renders her ineligible to compete with the Lightweight Women's crew this year. That does not make her any less a part of the team. With both her physiological background, provided by a major in Movement Studies, and her prior experience, she is an invaluable resource to the three novice cox'ns. "Crew is a sport that is purely based upon teamwork. It teaches you a lot about commitment, strength, and helping others which are qualities to include in everyday life," Brittany contends.

The newest coxswain from Richland, Washington, Nicole Rickard is not new to the team. Previously a rower for the team since its conception this year, Nicole is



*Brittany gets ready to cox her women's lightweight 8+ at the Head of the Snake Regatta*

making the transition to the ranks as a coxswain. With her major in Elementary Education, it seems a natural progression. Jokingly referring to the other cox'ns as "coxmen," she said that her favorite thing about Crew is "the team. We have all become really good friends."

The remaining two cox'ns, Kelli Simpkins and Jessica Kankovsky, have been novice cox'ns since joining the team. Two very different people, they have been brought to the same team by a mutual love of the sport and the camaraderie. Kelli, a recent graduate from Westminster, Maryland, has not decided her major yet. She does know that "Crew is a great way for [her] to make friends. [She loves] getting to know the team."



Jessica comes from the opposite side of the country after living in Silverdale, Washington for most of her life. Majoring in zoology, Crew is a nice change from the science-based curriculum. "What I like best about crew is that everyone has something to bring to the table. No one is useless; everyone has a place and contributes something valuable. It gives all of us a sense of belonging. That can really make a difference," she proclaimed.



These are four very differ-

ent girls brought together in an effort to keep the new Lightweight Women's Crew moving forward. Despite their varied backgrounds, they can unite with one common goal: keeping the rowers motivated and on the course to victory.



***Top: Nicole Rickard  
Middle: Kelli Simpkins  
Bottom: Jessica Kankovsky coxing at  
the Head of the Snake Regatta.***

# Lightweight Women Compete at Erg-O-Mania

By Sophia Foss

The WSU LWT Women were buzzing with excitement as they walked into the Seattle University Gym on January 30th for Ergomania 2010, an annual Northwest indoor rowing competition. Five of our girls competed against rowers from across the state and watched others – young high-schoolers to 80-year-olds – compete in a variety of events.

Rachel Argo competed in the 2k Collegiate open-weight competition where she placed 12th. She held out strong after leading for the first 750 meters. Her fierce dedication and strength was impressive throughout the race.

Later in the day Michelle Hedeon, Rachel King, Ellie Lokken, and Chelsea Smith faced-off as Lightweights in a 1k race. Michelle and Ellie were neck and neck for most of the race, but at the final stroke it was Michelle who pulled out ahead with a final time of 3:54.8. Ellie finished with a time of 3:55.0 followed by Chelsea a 4:03.9 and Rachel King with a 4:10.9. Michelle took home a medal for her accomplishment yet all of the women were very pleased that they took part in the competition. “It was a really fun experience,” said Chelsea Smith. “I especially enjoyed seeing the range of rowers that were there. Such a diverse group!”

Aside from racing, the women were excited to witness the variety of rowers and supporters wrapped up in the spirit of competition. We ran into WSU Men’s



*The light weight women posing in front of the Erg-o-mania sign.*



alumni Robb Obom who competed in the Lightweight Masters Men's 2k race (50-59) where he placed second. It was great to meet an alumni and witness the legacy of Cougar Crew.

Coach Kohl was excited to get the girls into a competition before spring races begins just to get our girls' heads in the game. Boy was it worth it! After spending winter indoors erging and competing only against each other, the girls got a nice dose of reality. "It was really fantastic to be out there representing WSU!" said competitor Rachel King. It truly was a great event to take part in and to get our name out there as Lightweights.

Many other Cougar Lightweights went along to cheer our girls on including Rebecca Gibson, Jessica Kankovsky, Makenzie Parsons, Sophia Peterson, Nicole Rickard, Jennifer Weldy, and myself. "It was really great for networking and watching our team compete in such a setting!" said teammate Rebecca Gibson. We are now ready to show our strength and competitive edge on the water. Ergomania definitely inspired the start of our racing season!



*Above: Nicole Rickard coxes Rachel Argo while she pulls her 2k in the collegiate open weight competition.*



*Left: Ellie Lokken, and Michelle Hedeem finish up their 1K race in the women's light weight competition.*

*Photos by Sophia Foss*

# Spring 2010 Racing and Event Schedule

**March 15-19th, 2010-** Spring Break Training

Location: Pullman, WA

**March 19-20th, 2010-** Cougar Crew Days

Location: Pullman, WA

**March 27th, 2010-** Daffodil Cup Regatta (3V, Novice and Lightweight women)

Location: American Lake, Tacoma, WA

**March 27-28th, 2010-** San Diego Crew Classic (V8 & JV8)

Location: Mission Bay, San Diego, CA

**April 10th, 2010-** UW Dual

Location: Seattle, WA

**April 17th, 2010-** Fawley Cup Regatta vs. Gonzaga

Location: Pullman, WA

**May 1st-2nd, 2010-** WIRA Conference Championships

Location: Lake Natoma, Sacramento CA

**May 15-16th, 2010-** PCRC and Pacific-10 Conference Championships

Location: Lake Natoma, Sacramento, CA

**May 22nd-23rd, 2010-** ACRA National Championships

Location: Oklahoma City, OK

# Alumni Spotlight:

## Lisa Curtis

By Nichole Martin

It's no doubt that a coxswain plays a very important role in the sport of rowing. One coxswain that played a very big role in her years on the team is Lisa Curtis. When asked about how she first learned about the team, Lisa explains, "My freshman year, '78/'79, I lived in Orton Hall, and became friends with the girl across the hall, Mo (Maureen Holland, now Maureen Guido). She had joined the team and was rowing and loving it." After being shot



*Lisa Curtis posing with her crew in Wisconsin.*

down by the women's club team Curtis went and talked to Ken Struckmeyer. "Within about 2 minutes of talking to him, I was in the coxswain's seat, and had no clue what to do. He was great, though, as were the guys in the boat, and I soon learned the ropes. Best move ever,"

Some of Lisa's accomplishments and most memorable races as a coxswain include, "Going up against UW on the Snake River at the old Boyer Park racecourse and winning a UW tank!" She adds, "Never mind if one of their guys passed out cold; a win is a win!" I don't think any one would argue with that! She also won a silver medal at Pac-10's. One of Lisa's favorite moments was when she traveled to Wisconsin. Where she had her first race in a light weight composition boat instead of a cedar boat. "Pulling it out of the water at the dock the guys were so surprised at the light weight it almost flew out of their hands onto the dock."

But not all of Lisa's memories involve racing. Just like today, some of the best memories are made off the water! When asked about these memories, the first thing

Lisa said was, “Knowing in my heart that the lightweights were the best.” Some of the best moments are spent in the vehicles that take you to and from practice and the regattas. This includes, “Driving to the river in Kash Van Cleef’s car, (aka taking our lives into our own hands).” I think a few of us can relate with you there, Lisa. Another memory



that Lisa tells us about is one that most of the Northwest remembers. She explains, “It was a road trip in a bus back from Pac-10’s at Redwood Shores. We stopped at the Sunset Magazine headquarters for a celebration barbeque, thanks to Bob Lane and his family. It happened to be May 18, 1980, and someone said ‘oh, hey, Mt. St. Helens just erupted’. It looked like the moon; everything was so covered in volcanic ash. They cancelled finals, closed the school and sent everyone home early.”

As some of you may or may not know, Lisa is the mother of varsity coxswain, Lauren Curtis. We asked Lisa what she thought about Lauren following in her footsteps as a coxswain, and she responded, “It’s been amazing to see Lauren on the team coxing. It’s changed a lot in the 30+ years, and I am always amazed at her dedication, loyalty, Cougar pride and style. When she was in early high school we went to the Windermere Cup to watch the races, her first. I never pushed it, but every time I came home from class day I would talk about how much fun I’d had, and take a trip down memory lane a little. I think that’s all it took. First day of orientation she was there. The rest is history. And she has the jacket. Now all we need is for her to have a daughter, convince her to do the same and we can have a triple legacy. Great idea?”

Lisa now lives in Suquamish, Washington on the Kitsap Peninsula with her husband, Craig. She has two other children besides Lauren. Her son, Andrew, is a freshman at UW. Lisa tells us, “Yes, its really true. And yes, I’m really happy that he’s there.” Her youngest son, Austin, is a freshman in high school. Curtis runs her own business designing homes and home renovations, as well as practicing as an architect. Her husband is also an architect.

Lisa’s dedication to Cougar Crew didn’t end when she left Pullman. She has been actively involved as an alumnus for the last 5 to 6 years. “Haole (Tim Richards) called me up out of the blue and told me that a bunch of the alums were planning to

get class day revved up again. We gathered together the alumni that were there and formed the CCAA.” Curtis has been serving the CCAA as the auction chair for the past couple of years. “Each year it’s gotten a lot better, more fun, we keep raising more money, and class day has swelled to be a huge, fun weekend. I’ve also been actively working on heading our loosely organized parent booster group. I feel really good about my involvement, and will continue to stay very connected even after Lauren has graduated.”

I know I speak for all of us when in saying thank you for doing so much for the team and keeping our parents informed of crew events. We look forward to seeing you at Class Day!



# See You This Spring!

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