Rowing in the Head of the Charles Men’s Alumni Boat
by Jarlath O’Neil-Dunne ’96

“Tthis feels surprisingly good,” is what I thought to myself as we headed down the Charles River towards the starting line. Our cox, Pat Parisi ’96, had just taken us to all eight. It was one of those perfect days for head racing: little wind, sunny, and surprisingly warm. I entertained the idea that despite the fact that our eight had never rowed together prior to 15 minutes ago, we might do reasonably well. After all, about half of us had been part of the same UNH squad back in the mid-‘90s. My confidence started to fade once we got to the starting point and I realized that the young and fit crews around us were not in the collegiate 8+, but in our race: the men’s alumni 8+. They had all of their hair, none of it was gray and they had enough self-confidence to be sporting unisuits!

As we paddled though the chute toward the starting line, it felt like it was 1995, the last time I had rowed in an 8+ on the Charles. The nerves, the desire to win – it was all there. We took it up to full pressure, the set of the boat improved and we were off.

Rich Read ’96 had us at a smooth 28 and Pat’s commands were as strong and confident as when we won New England’s in 1993. I don’t know where it all changed, perhaps somewhere under the Weeks Footbridge. I felt like all the skin on my inboard hand had come off. This definitely wasn’t 1995!

Shortly after, we had a massive four-boat pile-up at the Eliot Bridge between what looked to be boats from at least three generations, all taking the race as seriously as we had back in our collegiate days. It would take my hands two weeks to fully recover, but I would do it again in a heartbeat. In fact, rowing in the Head of the Charles alumni race has motivated me to erg a bit more this year.
**Men’s Fall Season Recap**

**BY COACH PETE CATHEY**

Hello and happy 2013! The men’s team spent the fall drilling and learning in smaller boats, with the goal of making it pay off with big skills in the spring. UNH took silver and bronze medals in the pair at the Head of the Textile and we used that as a springboard for further small boat training in the fall. Because the river continues to get more silt deposited (thus becoming less row-able), the crews are spending more time with boats out at Mendums Pond. Although located far from campus, it is a good venue for small boats.

After Thanksgiving, we pulled the docks and hit the ergs, weights and hockey stadium stairs. Now that we have regular access to the stadium, the stairs have become as well-loved as the ergs! Overall, winter training remains about the same as you all remember. (Whether it’s a hill, the back stairwell in the Field House or the Whittemore Center rink, it’s all a good sweat-fest on the pain train.) The teams did well, especially with nearly six weeks off between semesters (due to the new “J-Term”), which is a long time to train on your own. I was very impressed with the returning level of fitness. The good news about the J-Term is that indoor training is shorter, and it’s over now. The crews put the docks in -- and we hit the Oyster.

The Oyster, as mentioned earlier, has BIG silting problems. I have only a brief update on efforts to row on the Cocheco River out of a site in downtown Dover. The dock area prep is slated to begin this July. This remains a great, long-term solution. It will allow all-tide rowing, and the area is large enough to accommodate the boathouse of our dreams (as well as parking). The challenges are economic. The developer who is doing the site prep and putting in the dock is delaying until he has a better sense of the real estate market. After he makes his move, UNH Rowing will have to raise boathouse money. Initially, we plan to row out of tents and portable racks. The sticking point is that we can’t really start a boathouse campaign until we know for sure that the riverfront is indeed going to be developed. So we are in a holding pattern until July. My hope is that later this summer, we will be able to celebrate our independence from the tide.

As always, thank you for your support.

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**Women’s Fall Season Recap**

**BY EMILY QUINN ’14**

Hello Friends and Family of UNH Women’s Rowing!

The fall 2012 racing season consisted of four head races. The season started strong with a fifth-place finish from the women’s varsity eight at the Textile River Regatta in Lowell, beating out other top competitors such as Colby, Simmons, WPI and Merrimack. The novice continued the varsity’s pace by finishing third at the Quinsigamond Novice Challenge in Worcester. The novice also joined the varsity team for the first time to race at the Quinsigamond Snake Regatta. The varsity finished up the season with a sunny row in Boston during the Head of the Charles. A new Hudson eight was also added to the fleet of hulls this fall, which added to the team’s excitement to continue to go fast!

A captain and senior on the team, Jenna Burns, reflects on the fall, and the spring season to come:

“I have watched myself and my teammates get faster and faster over the past four years and I can’t wait to see what we can all do together this season! We have our fingers crossed for a warm spring as we put ourselves and our new boat to the test.”

Thank you for your continued support. The UNH women appreciate your long-lasting pride and dedication to the sport.
UNH ROWING TURNS 40 THIS YEAR!
HELP US KEEP THE TRADITION ALIVE THROUGH THE 40 FOR 40 CAMPAIGN

Since 1973, UNH rowing has meant so much to so many. On the team’s 40th anniversary, consider giving back so the proud tradition can continue.

Thank you to those who have donated thus far!
If you haven’t given yet, please consider donating $40 to honor 40 years of UNH rowing.

Go to www.unhrowing.org and click on “Donations”

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TURKEY TROTTING

By EMMA HEWSON ’05

Last December, the team invited alumni to participate in the annual Turkey Trot, a hardcore 10K row and 10K run that’s a UNH rowing tradition. Below, one brave alum tells her story. Stay tuned for details on how to participate this year!

Before signing up for the Alumni Turkey Trot, I wanted to revisit the erg. Off to the gym I went. Twenty minutes into a steady-state piece, I stopped. “Totally got this,” I thought. Confident in my level of fitness, I signed up. The next morning I woke up, unable to touch my toes. Good thing I signed up the night before!

December 8th came quick and after a few more erg sessions, I started to regret signing up. Days before the event, I got the saving text message from a friend: "Want to split the erg?!" Phew, another procrastinating alum! As with many crew memories, I woke up to freezing rain. "What am I doing?!!" I asked repeatedly.

Current rowers filled the erg room while Coach Mackenzie Dowdy ’08 organized who’d row first and who’d run first. Alumni got to decide! After careful consideration, I decided to run first. It was cold. It was wet. It was hilly. It was every wonderful moment of running with a team again.

Quickly transitioning to the erg, falling into rhythm with rowers next to me, music blasting from the speakers, I couldn't help but smile. I was so quickly brought back to my time as a rower, our early practices, and our strength. It felt so good. I didn’t stay smiling for long but to return to the team, and all the memories, for even just one morning was a fantastic feeling. Next year, I’m going to do the whole thing. Join me?
Rowing in the Head of the Charles
Women’s Alumni Boat
by Mackenzie Dowdy ’08

What a great day for racing! The sun was shining, the water was calm and the nostalgic feelings were running high. We gathered around the trailer, introduced ourselves and began rigging. We discussed race strategies, stroke ratings, the bridges and the history of our program.

We had a smooth sendoff from the dock with minor rigging tweaks to the Bobby B as we headed to the basin. Large counter-clockwise circles were made around our competitors in the basin. Called to the line and we were on our way! What a blast! Beaumont nailed the course line as we cruised under the bridges and around Weeks. I highly recommend this experience to our alums, both men and women. I’ll see you there.

Bidding to row in the 2013 Head of the Charles starts in August!

Visit www.unhrowing.org for more details

Stern to Bow: Katherine Beaumont ’12, Mackenzie Dowdy ’08, Susan Friedrichs ’84, Amelia Kuhn ’85, Anna Petrella ’83, Louise Cummings ’81, Elizabeth Cominole ’04, Eileen Dunn ’04, Michelle Nolan ’09