



Franklin Pierce Rowing

Spring 2006 Newsletter

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Fall Reflections

The team arrived in early September, excited to begin their fall racing season. They faced challenges, with six rowers and a coxswain on The Walk in Europe or away for internship. For the men's team in particular, it would be a building season, and for the women's team, it would be a test to see if they could produce results in the collegiate eight events that matched their success in the spring '05 collegiate four events. Perseverance from returning team leaders and strength from freshman recruits helped the team move forward despite their missed teammates. Throughout September, all boats increased speed daily.

October brought another challenge – rain. New England reached flood levels not seen on some rivers since the turn of the century. That's 1900, not 2000. Though Pearly Pond remained stable, the rain and flooding brought canceled events (Head of the Connecticut) and finally a cancelled regatta (New Hampshire Championships). With the Androscoggin River still at reasonable levels, we traveled to Maine to race Bowdoin and Bates on a cold day, still raining.



The skies cleared in time for the Head of the Charles, where the women raced in the collegiate eight event. The crew rowed with tremendous power in the drive and impressive smoothness on the recovery. Despite being struck by Emory College in the first mile, coxswain Vanessa Leon disentangled oars and commanded her crew to great speeds down the remainder of the course. Emory was penalized for their interference, while our crew recovered, passed another team, and finished 27th in a field of 46 with a time of 19:45.

The season ended with the entire team, WV8, MV8, WN4 traveling to Philadelphia for the Head of the Schuylkill. Finally all three crews had good racing conditions, undisturbed by flood, debris, or collision, and their improvements became apparent to all. The men debuted their Resolute eight, unwrapped only days before. Novices joined the varsity four to race the shell, alongside crews that were certainly more experienced than this young crew. The men finished 31st of 36 crews with a time of 15:10.

Both women's crews had their best performance of the season at this final regatta. The WN4 showed their strength, finishing 7th of 18 crews with a time of 18:18. The women's varsity eight, still charged from their Charles performance, also finished 7th. They raced in a field of 46 crews, defeating powerful crews from Bucknell, Holy Cross, and others too numerous to list.



WV4 practicing in evening light – Lexi Ozimek, Liz Ward, Maegan Gross, Lauren Bibby and cox Jon Muller

Spring Outlook

Today, the first day of spring practice, eight inches of snow fell on frozen Pearly Pond. Regardless, it won't be long until our first taste of competition on Lake Lure, NC against teams from Ohio State and University of North Carolina. Eight weeks of erging, running, yoga, and strength training will prepare us for that match up. We look towards the New England Championships in May, a single race to assess our year of training. If it goes well, we move on to ECACs. An interesting update – The NERC no longer races fours. Instead, the New England Four's Regatta has been moved to Worcester on the day previous, creating a weekend of championship racing.

Sensing this change would soon occur, the college invested boldly in our program over the summer, completing construction of the new boathouse (though still with a portion of the old tent, to teach the rowers of the team's

Spring '06 Schedule

- March 17th – 24th – Spring Training
@ Lake Lure, NC
- March 19th – Ohio State, UNC
@ Lake Lure, NC
- April 2nd – Mass Maritime, Middlebury
@ Plymouth, MA
- April 8th – 9th – Knecht Cup
@ Camden, NJ
- April 15th – Clark, Providence, Sacred Heart
@ Worcester, MA
- April 23rd – Southern New Hampshire
@ Hooksett, NH
- April 29th – Dowling, Mercyhurst
@ Oakdale, NY
- May 6th – New England Fours Champs
@ Worcester, MA
- May 7th – New England Rowing Champs
@ Worcester, MA
- May 13-14th ECAC Champs
@ Worcester, MA

*** Please check the website occasionally for updates, and consider contacting me to help with food for raceday – 603.899.1057 ***



roots) and purchasing two new eight-person shells – a Vespoli Ultralite for the women and a Resolute Freedom for the men. Great thanks go to President Hagerty, John Mims, and Bruce Kirsch for supporting this endeavor.

***Four weeks later – Spring Training approaches now, and the team continues to be strong. The ten members of the men’s team seem to be gathering strength from one another, pushing harder with each practice. Erg scores are

dropping like wrenches into the lake. Between the squad of twenty women, there are murmurings of an entry to the NCAA Women’s Rowing National Championships. What will it take to beat Mercyhurst and Dowling? Excitement builds. 2000 meter test on Friday. Some plan on C.R.A.S.H.-B’s the next week.

Coach’s Corner

I visited Franklin Pierce for the first time in June, 2004 to meet Coach Allen and discuss coaching the Ravens. Sunlight reflected off flat water. The nearly completed boathouse smelled of sawdust. I promised to give everything I could to continue what he had built for years.

Nearly two years later, I have settled in, and I know the rowers, our water, and our equipment, very well. The final piece, the one which completes a team, is to begin

knowing the alumni. Because I am new, I do not know many of you, and the current team misses out on this great connection. Archives of past crews are rare in the athletic office, and records of the club years are nonexistent. I want this past to come back to the team so that the current rowers will understand what they are a part of. Please send team or boat photos, writings, memories, rosters, and anything else to my office at the college. I would like to compose these in some way that will enrich the new boathouse and fill the team with its history. And of course, It would be great to see alumni at races this spring.



Alumni Update

Sarah Walsh here! I graduated Cum Laude from Franklin Pierce College with a degree in Political Science. I then took a job as one of the assistants with the 2005 Walk in Europe

From Italy, Sarah wrote:

Hey Coach!! We're in Florence, Italy! It's beautiful here. It was raining when we got in, but it's been sunny since! We found these postcards of rowers on the Arno River and had to send them! I'm not sure who rows here, but I do know that is the Ponte Vecchio Bridge. It's the only bridge saved from the bombings in WWII by a direct disobeying of Hitler's orders by one of his generals. Apparently the general thought it was "the most beautiful bridge in all of Europe" And I walked over it!

And in a later postcard:

Hello from Europe! As I write this, you're headed to Philly . . . I hope you kick ass! We just got walking again after someone in our group busted the van worse than Jon did the year before (ask Jon about that if you have not heard it yet) by driving into a puddle the size of Pearly Pond. From this we learned – vans don't swim. The bright side is – It was not me that poked the van. Bill, Tom, Liz, Lexi, Bibby, Blair, Amanda, Gwenn, Brit, and Jedi Master Connelly – We miss you guys!

-Love, Folgers



Hey Folks,

My name is Jon Muller and I am an '05 alumnus from the Franklin Pierce Crew Team. So what am I doing now? Well, upon graduation in May of last year I took the summer to work on a film set in Boston as a Production Assistant. It was a great opportunity. It gave me a chance to become a part of an industry that I've worked hard to emulate in college and I made some great contacts. I have since moved on but I'm always keeping an eye out for another chance to work on a film.

The following September (last fall) I joined Coach Connelly as the men's and women's novice coach here at Franklin Pierce. Currently the goal is to stay here at Pierce long enough to finish my M.Ed and hopefully see the team grow. After that, well who knows, I may try and go back to film, or I might teach English in Asia or I might possibly join the Peace Corps. Anything is possible.

(Coach's note – just last week, Jon accepted the assistant coaching position at the Derryfield School in Manchester, NH. Good Luck!)



Message to the Alumni and Parents: The rowing alumni have always provided the strength of the program ~ we want to keep you informed on our successes and growth. You can sign up to automatically receive the press releases throughout the season, by sending an email requesting this to alumni@fpc.edu in addition to coming out to a race near you. Please support our booster fund by designating your annual fund gift at <http://www.fpc.edu/development/makeagift.htm>

Please send updates to connellyd@fpc.edu or mail to the address on the first page.