

# Squaring the Blade

Volume 21  
Number 1  
SPRING  
2003

T

## REPORT FROM THE INTERIM BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### FOMITC Moves Forward With Its Vision And Goals

By Mike Scott '73  
President, Interim Board of Directors  
FOMITC

This is my first column as president of the FOMITC interim board of directors (BOD). Dustin Ordway remains involved and productive on the board, although relieved! There is quite a bit of activity going on now with MIT crew and FOMITC. FOMITC is busy executing the vision and goals that were outlined in the fall 2002 *STB* issue. The coaches, in the enclosed articles, will fill you in on how their year is shaping up.

FOMITC can help in four key ways:

- supply the necessary financial support to ensure rowing's long-term success at MIT;
- promote alumni giving for the financial success of other DAPER programs;
- be role models and mentors to rowing students; and
- serve as a conduit for communicating the benefits of MIT and rowing to potential and current students.

The full vision/goals article is at:  
[http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc/images/STB\\_Sept\\_02\\_final.pdf](http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc/images/STB_Sept_02_final.pdf).

FOMITC is preparing for an annual meeting and the BOD election to be held during the Tech Reunion weekend coming up June 6-8. All of the five-year anniversary classes ('98, '93, '88, etc.) will challenge each other to 500 meters of racing (can we call it racing?) past the Pierce Boathouse. Should be lots of fun to participate in and watch! I'm calling

as many '73 grads who rowed as I can locate, and we should have a couple of shells ready to row! The reunion row is the morning of Sunday, June 8. Stop by, regardless of when you graduated, for fun and lively discussions!

FOMITC has an "interim" board of directors, and we will be pulling together a qualified slate of alumni for election. We are looking for crew alumni who can spend some time on a very worthy cause. We want to "level the playing field" for MIT crew by raising the money required to upgrade and maintain the program so the crew teams have the best opportunity to compete to the limit of their abilities. Please read the article by Dustin Ordway for more information on this (page three).

FOMITC has entered a phase in which raising funds is a major focus for us. It is much more important now than it was just a few years ago. MIT crew expenses are increasing, although we are still far under-spending our Ivy League peers. One critically important area FOMITC has agreed to fund is expanding the women's crew program. The plan is to build a lightweight women's program with the appropriate coaching, equipment, and associated operating costs. Women now constitute close to half of the undergraduate population at MIT, so it only makes sense that the men and women's crew programs should be comparably funded and staffed. Unfortunately, but not surprising if you think about the U.S. economic situation, MIT has placed a freeze on spending increases. This is related to the

decline of MIT's endowments, which is obviously tied to the fact that the stock market is now in its fourth year of decline.

The FOMITC contribution to MIT crew's fiscal year (FY) 2003 budget is close to \$200,000, and that will grow to around \$300,000 in FY04, which starts July 1, 2003. Contrast this to the fact that average annual contributions to the FOMITC fund have been about \$100,000/year over the last few years. You don't have to be a course XVIII (math) major to figure out that we will be spending more than we have been taking in. We do have about \$800,000 right now in the FOMITC fund, but that will decline rapidly if we greatly outspend what we are taking in. So PLEASE consider contributing to FOMITC (Fund 3855200) when contributing to MIT. It will also be credited to your class fund totals. If your company has matching funds, PLEASE take advantage of that.

If we can reach you by phone, you may be called by an alumnus, a current rower, or someone else to ask for your generous support. You can contribute online at: <http://web.mit.edu/giving/givenow/index.html>.

As I've explained in earlier articles, we intend to build endowments to cover crew expenditures, but we expect that effort to take many years, and so we are critically dependent upon the FOMITC contributions to make up the shortfall. Hope to see you all at the Tech Reunion events in June. Have a great 2003!

**Designate all of your MIT contributions to Friends of MIT Crew, fund 3855200. Contributions to that fund will be used exclusively for the benefit of MIT crew. Contributions to FOMITC will also be credited to the class fund of the donor.**

# MIT CREW: VOICES FROM THE PAST

## Alumni/ae Update Us About Their Lives

**Stephen B. Parkoff '59** writes, "Your story about shells overturning reminded me of an experience we had in the '50s. I am not sure, but I believe that this happened in my freshmen year, spring of '56. (Len Fleischer, Gerald Schroeder, or Val Skov can confirm this.) The lightweight crews were out practicing on a cool but nice, early spring day. We were off the Boston band shell, and someone in my shell (not me!) caught a crab and put his foot through the bottom. We went under pretty fast, but the shell stayed afloat just under the water with all of us still in it. We were able to make it to a dock by the band shell on the Boston side and climbed out. Needless to say, Val Skov, our coach, was a little miffed. We were brought back to our boathouse in the coach's launch. The shell was brought back and was repaired and put back into service." Reach Stephen via e-mail at [stephen.parkoff@verizon.net](mailto:stephen.parkoff@verizon.net).

**Dennis E. Cook '62** sends news that he is the very senior partner at his law firm. "But I am slowing down my personal practice somewhat. For 32 years, I have been interviewing all local candidates for admission to MIT—we have some very bright kids up here. My family is growing exponentially—we have seven kids, and grandchild #18 is due in a few weeks. As I write this, I am recovering from a surgery after a surgery, but aside from that, I am in good health. My primary form of exercise in summer is biking." He adds, "These days I seem to think more on the springtime travel to exotic places like Columbia, Yale, Dartmouth,

Army, etc. than on the sweat and toil. This was a wonderful time of year and made the cold, wet nights on the Charles worth the effort. I was no great oarsman, but I surely like to watch the flowering trees go by." You can reach Dennis at 431 Birch Hill Rd., Fairbanks, AK 99712 ([skip@alaskalaw.com](mailto:skip@alaskalaw.com)).

**Gloria R. Kolb '94** is still working at Fossa Medical, which recently got FDA approval for the kidney stone sweeper last summer. She saw **Heather Lee** at her wedding and **Lynn Yang**. She also sees **Shelly Sakiyama** every once in a while. "My favorite crew memories," she writes, "are shaving the back of our heads during spring break, Gooper Grape during the Florida trip, oar necklaces our cox made for us before the Nationals, winning our heat at Nationals, lightweights beating the heavyweight women during practice, and those smooth calm mornings watching the sun rise over Boston." Send greetings to Gloria at 308 Quarry St., #501, Quincy MA 02169 ([gloro@alum.mit.edu](mailto:gloro@alum.mit.edu)).

**Heather N. Hardy '95** resides at 3470 NW Thurman St., Portland, OR 97210 ([heather.w.hardy@intel.com](mailto:heather.w.hardy@intel.com)). She writes that she recently moved back to Portland, Oregon, where she works for Intel. Heather has two children—Benjamin (4) and Grace (2).

## DECEASED

We regret to report the death of **Lloyd H. "Rusty" Saunders '76**.

## Thank You!

Thanks to 46 alums, we were able to sponsor almost 70 current students as our guests at our annual Head of the Charles banquet. A total of 150 people, including the students, attended this function at the Museum of Science on the Saturday night of the regatta weekend. In addition to the coaches—Susan Lindholm, Ian Hutton, and Gordon Hamilton—we heard from outgoing FOMITC president Dustin Ordway, incoming president Mike Scott, and athletic director Candace Royer.

## SQUARING THE BLADE

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF MIT CREW  
VOLUME 21 • NUMBER 1

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF FOMITC

([mitcrew@external.cisco.com](mailto:mitcrew@external.cisco.com))

CINDY COLE  
202/337-7399  
[CYNTHIA.COLE@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:CYNTHIA.COLE@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
JOHN EVERETT  
734/764-8496  
[JOHN.EVERETT@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:JOHN.EVERETT@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
JACK FRAILEY  
508/752-2290  
[JHFRAILEY@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:JHFRAILEY@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
MALCOLM GEFTER  
617/452-4936  
[MALCOLM.GEFTER@PRAECIS.COM](mailto:MALCOLM.GEFTER@PRAECIS.COM)  
MIKE GREATA  
978/356-8656  
[MGREATA@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:MGREATA@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
BILL MCTIGUE  
603/659-3423  
[WHMCTIGUE@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:WHMCTIGUE@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
JOAN MILLER  
617/573-3915  
[JWMILLER@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:JWMILLER@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
LINDA MURI  
617/460-1264  
[LINDAMURI@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:LINDAMURI@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
DUSTIN ORDWAY  
616/831-1706  
[DORDWAY@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:DORDWAY@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
PETE PETERSON  
978/263-3544  
[PPETERSON@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:PPETERSON@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
KARL RICHTER  
415/403-6508  
[KRICHTER@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:KRICHTER@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
MIKE SCOTT  
919/392-2389  
[MSCOTT@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:MSCOTT@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
WILLIE VICENS  
978/685-6016  
[WVICENS@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:WVICENS@ALUM.MIT.EDU)  
JOHN MILLER, EMERITUS  
781/729-5532  
[JBMILLER@ALUM.MIT.EDU](mailto:JBMILLER@ALUM.MIT.EDU)

### WOMEN'S ROWING

Varsity Hvy. & Lt. Coach	Susan Lindholm
Novice Coach	Andrea Greeley
Assistant Coach	Megan Galbraith

### MEN'S ROWING

Varsity Hvy. Coach	Gordon Hamilton*
Freshman Hvy. Coach	Mike Lane
Varsity Lt. Coach	Ian Hutton*
Freshman Lt. Coach	Bill Patterson
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Adam Reynolds
Volunteer Assistant Coach	Tony Cronin

\*NOTE: Co-Directors

Visit us on the web at:

[HTTP://ALUMWEB.MIT.EDU/GROUPS/FOMITC](http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc)

# FOMITC ANNOUNCES UPCOMING ELECTION

## Board Of Directors Seeking Nominations

By Dustin Ordway '74, John Miller '74, and Jim Bidigare '78

This is a request to all members of Friends of MIT Crew for volunteers and suggestions for the Friends of MIT Crew Nomination Committee to consider for positions on the board of directors. The present board is an interim board serving until the annual meeting during alumni weekend in June 2003. At that time, the first regular board will be elected in its entirety. Thereafter, each year, one-third of the board will be elected. As a result, one-third each of those twelve board members whose service begins this June will have a one-year term; another third will have a two-year term; and the final third will have a three-year term. The nominating committee will consider all present interim board members and other volunteers and welcomes all suggestions and input.

The bylaws stipulate that the nominating committee shall consist of the three immediate past presidents. The committee this year consists of Jim Bidigare, John Miller, and Dustin Ordway (Roseanna Means has declined due to the press of other demands). The nominating committee will work closely with the interim board in this transition phase. Your comments, suggestions, and guidance of any type whatsoever is welcome, whether or not you wish to volunteer or offer up someone else to serve.

The nominations committee is chaired by Dustin P. Ordway '74, who served as chair of the managing committee and the new interim board until October 2002. The other two members of the committee are James Bidigare '78

(men's lightweight captain), who conceived of the idea of FOMITC and served as the first chair of its managing committee, and John B. Miller '74, who was a founding member of the managing committee and the second chair of FOMITC.

The committee is interested in casting the broadest possible net among FOMITC members to identify qualified men and women to serve on the 12-member board of FOMITC. These positions are working positions rather than honorary ones. The committee is interested in receiving nominations from the general membership of FOMITC. To be helpful, nominations should include the following information: name, class year, telephone and e-mail contact information, along with a brief summary of the person's continued background in rowing, plus availability and interest in participating as a working member of the board or committee.

There are numerous other ways for members to help FOMITC. In fact, the FOMITC needs to enlist members' help in completing a variety of tasks contained in the strategic plan for FOMITC. These tasks don't involve the time commitment of serving on the board of directors, but they will acquaint members with how FOMITC works, while building a strong list of future qualified candidates to serve on the board and manage Friends. In other words, it is not necessary to be a board member in order to participate actively and contribute in a significant way. Hence, the board membership should not be considered a defining category with regard to participation or contributions.

To the contrary, as the support of MIT alumni grows for the intercollegiate rowing programs, the functions of the board should increasingly focus on coordination and communication with the administration, with the majority of the work being performed by other volunteers in numerous capacities. Obviously, your input and offers to assist in any way you can, including ways other than serving on the board, are welcome at all times.

Please provide suggestions for board nominations and other volunteer participation as soon as possible, but not later than April 18, to the committee members: Jim Bidigare at 740/587-2000; John Miller at 617/253-4192; and Dustin P. Ordway at 616/831-1706; or via e-mail to [fomitcnc@external.cisco.com](mailto:fomitcnc@external.cisco.com).

### A word on the election process:

As an organization, Friends is made up of all MIT rowing alumni. It is neither expected nor required that a quorum of the total membership appear for the annual meeting to vote. The board has discussed voting by mail, e-mail, and the website, among other options. The board will make every effort to simplify the voting process and to use the experience of the alumni association to streamline procedures. Please look for information on voting in a special mailing or the next issue of *Squaring the Blade*, and in late April/early May, look for a ballot that we will need returned by June 1. Because the website is developing and the e-mail lists are far smaller than the total mailing lists for Friends, we anticipate allowing for voting using more than one medium. More later on voting electronically.

## JOIN US FOR SOME BOAT DEDICATIONS!

The lightweight men will dedicate two eights on Saturday, April 5, in honor of Pete Holland and Mike Welsh. The shells will be raced in that morning against Army at 8:24 a.m. and 9:00 a.m., then dedicated at 10:00 a.m.

The women's crew will dedicate an eight to Mayrene Earle on Saturday, April 12, which is also Campus Preview Weekend, time TBA.

The heavyweight men will dedicate two eights over Alumni Weekend, day and time TBA.

### The Annual Phonathon

The phonathon is an annual event organized jointly by the Alumni Association and the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER). It has traditionally involved having current students who are active in the rowing program call alumni and ask for donations to MIT crew. It has usually been held in January. This year, the event included both current students and alumni making calls and was held on February 16.

# MEN'S HEAVYWEIGHT CREW WRAP-UP

## Crew Trains Hard To Beat Stiff Competition

By Gordon Hamilton  
Heavyweight Men's Coach

This year began with 11 sophomores returning from last year's freshman crew. This is a great tribute to the character of the class and to the inspiration and coaching of frosh coach Mike Lane. These sophomores joined Steve Bathurst, back from his year studying at Cambridge University, and Filip Antic, returning from an injury that kept him out last spring, to form the nucleus of a young and excited squad. Added to this mix were JoJo Schiff and Chris Laux from Cambridge University. Their addition brings the score to five MIT oarsmen we have lost to Cambridge and two we have gained through the new Cambridge-MIT Institute. We hope we will begin to attract some more of these blokes.

Our first race of the fall was the Head of the Ohio in Pittsburgh. This is a regatta we have participated in since 1989 through the generosity of Chris Ryan '69 and several of the alumni of western Pennsylvania. We have watched this regatta grow into the second largest fall head regatta in the country.

This year our club eight came in second to Marietta College out of 20 entries. In the open four with coxswain, we were third and eighth. This was a promising beginning to such an important building year with such a young squad.

The next weekend we traveled to Hookset, New Hampshire, for the New Hampshire Championships, another head race we have watched grow from infancy into a well-attended regatta. We view this regatta as something of a dress rehearsal for the Head of the Charles the following week.

In this regatta, we were fourth of 20 in the open eight and third of 11 in the open four. Our freshmen were fourth and 24th out of 30 entrants in the novice/frosh/junior eight. However, they finished first of the novice/frosh eights,

losing to only three very fast high school crews, including a very quick one from South Africa, which won. The frosh also came in third and eighth of 22 in the novice/frosh/junior fours.

The following week was the Head of the Charles. Our collegiate eight had a somewhat disappointing result, coming in 23rd of 41. As usual for a race this competitive, a few seconds faster and they would have finished seven or eight places higher. Such is racing in the Head of the Charles. Our club four had

one of those great November days you may well remember: blustery, overcast, freezing, and snowing.

The first frosh eight came in fifth, the best finish in many, many years, behind Brown A, Harvard A, Northeastern A, and Harvard B, and eight seconds ahead of the Columbia frosh lights and Harvard lights, 25 seconds ahead of the Dartmouth frosh heavies, and 29 seconds ahead of Boston University. The MIT B frosh were 27th, and the C frosh were 29th. Boston University had beaten the first frosh by 63 seconds in the Head of the Charles.

The race for the varsity crews in the Foot is in fours. There were 45 entries. The heavyweight boats were 28th, 34th, and 43rd.

The Beavers did not get on the water again until our IAP Florida training trip from January 5-18. This was an excellent trip with the emphasis on technique and aerobic base during our two-a-day water sessions. This is a vitally important time for us, as we get approximately

one-third of our spring water time under our hulls.

Since returning to campus, the varsity and frosh heavies have been training hard and eagerly looking forward to getting on the water as soon as the Charles thaws. Practices for the varsity heavies the last 10 days of IAP were run by assistant coach Niko Loening, as I had been invited to coach the Cambridge University women's boat club in Cambridge, England, for their preparation for the Oxford-Cambridge boat race at the end of March. It was a great pleasure for me to have the opportunity to be involved in such a wonderful rowing tradition!

### Heavyweight Men's Spring 2003 Schedule

#### March

Saturday 29 vs. Boston College  
Sunday 30 Alumni/Class Challenge race

#### April

Saturday 5 Alumni Cup vs. Columbia  
Saturday 12 vs. Williams, WPI, Conn. College @ Worcester, MA  
Saturday 19 Compton Cup vs. Princeton, Harvard @ Princeton, NJ

#### May

Saturday 3 Cochrane Cup vs. Dartmouth, Wisconsin @ Madison, WI  
Thursday 29- IRAs in Cherry Hill, NJ  
Saturday 31

a very disappointing race, as they were forced into the Anderson bridge after making contact with another four in the stretch leading up to the bridge. This and the resulting one-minute penalty gave them a very poor finish. Such is racing in the Head of the Charles!

The freshman eight, racing in the youth division, kept up with our unhappy results, coming in 43rd. However, it is a credit to their character and the leadership of coach Mike Lane that they rebounded with a vengeance for the last race of the fall, the Foot of the Charles, which is always held on the weekend before Thanksgiving. The Foot, which normally runs from the MIT boathouse to Harvard's Newell Boathouse just upriver from Anderson Bridge, was run from Riverside Boat Club to the finish of the Head of the Charles this year because of the overly "exciting" chop in the Basin. This course was almost exactly as long as the usual course. It was

Visit MIT crew on the web at  
[web.mit.edu/mitcrew/www](http://web.mit.edu/mitcrew/www)  
or FOMITC at  
[alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc](http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc).  
See page ten.

# MEN'S LIGHTWEIGHT CREW WRAP-UP

## Training Pays Off For Lightweights

By Ian C. Hutton  
*Lightweight Men's Coach*

After our finest showing at the IRAs in recent years, the lightweights hoped to capitalize on the momentum generated at the end of the spring season. Having graduated eight seniors from the team in June, however, this meant that the seven sophomores returning from last year's freshman squad would be shouldering the majority of the burden in attempting to pick up where we left off. Not quite satisfied with nearly winning the Petite Finals at IRAs, the returning seniors took the sophomores under their wing and set out to make their mark.

The team's first outing of the fall season proved quite fruitful. For the third consecutive year, the first varsity won their event, beating the entire field of heavyweight crews in the men's club eights. Finishing in just 17:59, the first varsity also posted the fastest time of the day across all events.

After struggling to find their rhythm in the first mile, the second varsity eight eventually pulled it together and finished a respectable 13th out of 24 crews in the same event, posting a time of 19:09. Also in the men's club eights, a crew of recent graduates of the lightweight program (classes of '01 and '02) turned in a

strong performance and finished 9th with a time of 18:51.

For the first time in recent years, the freshman lightweights accompanied the varsity to the Textile River Regatta. With a performance characterized by solid poise and determination, the first freshman eight took eighth place (out of 15) in the men's novice eights event, finishing the race in 22:58. The second fresh-

this year. Extremely windy conditions, combined with a noticeable absence of officials on the river (and particularly in the Basin), led to many collisions in the warm-up area and other mishaps on the course. The first varsity, competing in the lightweight eight event, transformed a mediocre first mile into a rather solid performance in the second mile, only to be stood up by a vicious headwind in the last half mile. With a time of 16:19, the first varsity was seven percent off of the winning time, precisely where they finished the previous year. But while returning to the boathouse, the crew was assessed a very arbitrary and entirely nebulous one-minute penalty, dropping them from 18th to 24th place.

In the club eight event, the second varsity turned in an all-around solid performance despite the conditions and finished 29th out of 50 crews, with a time of 16:55. Also rowing in the club eights, the same crew of recent grads that competed in the Textile River Regatta turned in another heroic performance, finishing 17th with a time of 16:27.5.

Again for the first time in recent years, the freshmen rowed alongside their varsity counterparts, so to speak, in this year's Head of the Charles. Competing in the youth eights, the first freshman eight encountered more than their fair share of trouble on the river, clashing oars with several crews and colliding with a bridge abutment en route to a 50th-place finish. In general, the team was quite relieved to see the weekend draw to a close.

The following weekend, the freshman lightweights traveled to Hanover, New Hampshire, to compete once more in the Dartmouth Invitational. Under miserable conditions of pouring rain mixed with driving snow and 30-degree temperatures, the freshmen held fast to their resolve and rowed rather well, finishing sixth and 10th in a combined field of 15 heavyweight and lightweight crews.

*(continued on page eleven)*

### Lightweight Men's Spring 2003 Schedule

#### April

Saturday	5	vs. Army
Sunday	6	vs. Boston College, Holy Cross @ Worcester, MA
Saturday	12	Biglin Bowl vs. Harvard, Dartmouth
Saturday	19	Geiger Cup vs. Cornell, Columbia @ NY, NY
Saturday	26	vs. Rutgers

#### May

Saturday	3	Joy Cup vs. Yale, Dartmouth @ New Haven, CT-
Sunday	11	Eastern Sprints @ Worcester, MA
Wed.	21-	IRAs @ Cherry Hill, NJ
Saturday	24	

man eight was boated in fours and competed in the men's novice four, where they finished a very gratifying second and eighth in a field of 10 heavyweight crews.

The Head of the Charles, traditionally appearing like organized chaos, was perhaps a bit more chaotic than usual



*1969 varsity lightweight: varsity gets off the dock for the Masters 8 event at the October 2002 Head of the Charles Regatta. Question: Is the athletic department still looking for the MITAA sweatshirt—vintage '69—that Bruce Parker is wearing at #7?*

# A CHAT WITH STEVE TUCKER '91

## Dedication Earns World Bronze For Lightweight Sculler

By Linda Muri '85, a three-time World Champion. Linda's competitive sports career began in a youth bowling league.

Steve Tucker '91 is on an amazing roll. After six years on the U.S. National Rowing Team, including the 2000 Olympic Games and Male Athlete of the Year in 2001, he won the bronze medal in the lightweight 1x at last summer's World Championships in Seville, Spain. It was his first World Championship medal and is the result of many years of dedicated training and hard work. His international experience began as a spare with the MIT team that traveled to the Royal Henley Regatta in 1991. Steve was matched up with Mike Plusch '91 in the spare pairs event. After advancing from the first round, Steve and Mike had a collision with the booms, the end to many a dream at Henley. Thus began an inauspicious start to a successful international career.

Internationally, Steve Tucker competes as a lightweight oarsman, where the weight standard is set at 154.3 lb. (70 kg) average in a team boat, 159.8 lb. (72.5 kg) maximum with the maximum limit in a single scull. Even among lightweights, based on stature alone, Steve isn't a big guy. He is, however, the ideal weight-maker, and he more than pulls his weight.

Steve started rowing his junior year, allegedly as a result of an erg challenge by one of his fraternity brothers, Brad Layton '92, U.S. Team '95, '97. Prior to rowing, Steve had been a member of the MIT varsity swim team. Steve pulled a better score than anyone on the lightweight squad and, as they say, the rest is history. His first race for Tech was as a freshman lightweight, but his coach, Pete Holland, soon placed him in the JV for the rest of his novice season. In his senior year, Steve also raced with the JV, but through a twist of fate—a post-graduate job conflict for one of the varsity oarsmen—he was promoted to the varsity lightweight 8+ training for the IRA. They placed sixth in a field of seven. However, this was not enough to satisfy Steve. After graduation, he kept on rowing.

*After six years on the U.S. National Rowing Team, Steve Tucker won the bronze medal in the lightweight 1x at last summer's World Championships in Seville, Spain.*

As an undergraduate, Steve never made the travel squad to Florida. He went on his first Florida training trip the winter after graduating. Having filled out some boats in the fall of '91, Steve pursued his own rowing career. He joined Riverside Boat Club and began putting in his time with their lightweight men's development program. In 1995, Steve made the decision to move to Augusta, Georgia, under the tutelage of National Team coach Igor Grinko. He trained there until 1997 and then returned to his rowing roots in Cambridge. Steve began working with Charley Butt III (son of Charley Butt Jr. '41), the varsity lightweight coach at Harvard and many times successful international coach. In 1999, Stu Schmill '86,

varsity lightweight coach and director of rowing, welcomed Steve back to Pierce Boathouse. Recently, Steve has hung his oars at the Union Boat Club while remaining under Coach Butt's watchful eye.

In an effort to become a better rower and to assist his technically minded coach, Steve is working on a data logging device (DLD). He has configured an accelerometer in his shell for data collection that works with his PDA. At present, he is analyzing the acceleration of his single during training. So far he has determined that the maximum deceleration occurs just before the catch with an acceleration occurring within the first five degrees of the drive indicating a pick up in speed. Additionally, he is investigating and trying to evaluate a "not quite seismic event" that occurs at the finish of his own stroke.

So, what would Steve like to do next? He hopes to row a fast double this year in preparation to switch back into an Olympic event (lightweight double). His preparation includes many successes. At the Head of the Charles Regatta, just one month after the 2002 World Championships, Steve finished second in the championship 1x. This result allowed him to advance to a second round of racing known as the Schwab Sprints. Referred to by some as a "dash for cash," the Schwab

Sprints use a side-by-side 500m sprint format. The total purse for the top (and only) three finishers was \$15,000. Steve faced perennial favorite and defending champion Duncan Free—a nine-time Australian National Team veteran with three World Championship medals and one Olympic bronze medal. Free also happens to be just shy of 6'7" and a full 218 lb. Steve's other opponent was a familiar face—Mike Perry '99. Mike is an elite sculler with the 1998 Under-23 U.S. Team to his credit. He is also 6'3" and 210 lb. Steve stands at 5'8" and 153 lb. This makes Steve's second-place finish in the Head of the Charles and his third-place finish in the Sprint that much more remarkable.

Always up for a challenge, Steve does everything he can to prepare himself for competition. At last year's U.S. Team initial selection regatta, Steve was the fastest single sculler, period. Faster even than any of the open scullers. His performance earned him a berth to attend part of the World Cup series where he placed fourth in the lightweight single at both the Munich and Lucerne events. Despite the excellent results, Steve had to return state-side for his chance to qualify as the lightweight single sculler to represent the U.S. in Spain later that summer. The racing involved a straight final, one shot at winning. For those watching Steve, it seemed little more than a formality.

Certainly, it appeared to be an easier go-around than he had had at the 2001 trials. In 2001, the trials required a best two-out-of-three format. Prior to those finals, heats and repechages gave way to semi-finals. It could mean four or five days of racing. For Steve, it meant five days of racing once or twice each day. He had entered both the lightweight and openweight single trials events, which ran concurrently. Steve said it was merely a way to prepare himself for the terrific competition he would face if successful in his quest in the lightweight single berth. Steve won the lightweight single without having to go to a third final. However, he was the one who pushed the open single trial to the best of three. He won only one of the three final races, but finished ahead of all the other openweight competition.

*(continued on page ten)*

*At last year's U.S. Team initial selection regatta, Steve was the fastest single sculler.*

# JACK FRAILEY '44 RECEIVES THE PRESTIGIOUS U.S. ROWING MEDAL OF HONOR

## Fourth Major Honor For MIT Oarsman and Coach

By Willie Vicens '70

On December 7, 2002, MIT's Jack Frailey was presented with the Medal of Honor by the United States Rowing Association (U.S. Rowing). U.S. Rowing is the national confederation comprised of over 770 clubs and colleges, including MIT, and over 15,000 individuals devoted to the growth and management of the sport nationwide. It is also the governing body recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as responsible for the selection of the Olympic Team and the National Team that competes at the annual World Championship Regatta.

The Medal of Honor is its most prestigious award and was last given in 1994. It honors one who has "rendered conspicuous service or accomplished extraordinary feats in rowing." Excerpted from Clayton Chapman's (former Commissioner of the Eastern College Athletic Conference) letter of nomination:

All told, it's absolutely phenomenal...all that he was able to accomplish during his years of service, and the resultant impact of his contributions and his efforts to do much of what is now so important to the sport of rowing in the United States, at all levels—youth,

collegiate, elite—for men and for women. What's even more remarkable to me is that he has devoted his talents and his leadership to rowing during his entire adulthood without ever seeking any recognition for it whatsoever. Moreover, he has done it with genuine sincerity for the betterment of both the organizations that govern the sport, and the individuals who are its lifeblood.

Jack's earlier honors include induction into the National Rowing Hall of Fame (1998) in recognition of "a lifetime of outstanding achievement," the Jack Kelly Award (1991) for "superior achievements in rowing, service to amateur athletics, and success in his chosen profession," and the John Carlin Award (1971) to an "individual whose personal commitment in support of rowing is significant and outstanding."

He is widely credited with (a) the conception and first implementation in this country of the National Camp Plan, which since 1972 has been the method used to select the U.S. National and Olympic eights, and (b) a spearhead position in the worldwide campaign that won inclusion of lightweight rowing in the Olympic Games in 1996. For thirty-eight years until September 2002, Jack was a member of U.S. Rowing's board of directors, serving as president and later as chairman—the only person ever to be so chosen.

Jack captained the lightweight crew, winning the Molinar Inspirational Trophy—the "Most Valuable Player" at the time. He began his coaching career here in 1954, serving as head coach from 1959 through 1973. His crews won several national titles as well as

twice bringing home the Thames Challenge Cup from the British Henley Royal Regatta in 1954 and 1955—a feat never accomplished before or since. Jack co-coached the Olympic Team in 1968, served as chairman of the Olympic Rowing Committee from 1972-1976, and was manager of the Olympic Rowing Team in 1976.

Professionally, Jack earned his A.E. degree in aeronautical engineering in 1954 and became the project engineer of the Air Force's X-7A Ramjet Test Vehicle. Later, he became the first project manager of the Navy's Polaris Ballistic Missile System. As a consultant to



Jack Frailey '44 smiles after receiving the U.S. Rowing Medal of Honor.



A close-up of Jack's Medal of Honor.

higher education in long-range planning and organizational development, his clients have included the Student Loan Marketing Association (SLMA), as well as Brown, Duke, and Rice Universities. During his 41 years of service, he has held several faculty-rank management positions in the MIT administration. When he retired in 1996, he was the director of Registration and Student Financial Services.

# WOMEN'S CREW WRAP-UP

## Squads Focus On Practice And Competition

By Susan Lindholm  
Women's Crew Coach

The time has come for MIT women's crew to move on from the Division I/Division III debate and get back to the business of practicing and competing well. Last year, even though we had a very restricted schedule, the novice open four came home from sprints with a bronze medal, and the lightweight eight moved up to fourth place. The bad news is that we lost eight athletes to graduation or completion of their four years of eligibility.

To jump-start the team, we stayed in mixed boats through the Head of the Charles to allow the younger athletes the benefit of rowing with their more experienced teammates. We also switched the varsity rowers' sides to refocus them on technique. Technique took the hardest hit last year when we could practice and compete for only 21 weeks. This patient process allowed the novices to learn how to row faster and apply power better than if they were on their own.

The Textile line-ups were determined by a variety of tests completed in September. The testing included Friday night races on the water, ergs, running, push-ups, sit-ups, and jumpies. The races at the Textile were a little frustrat-

ing in that the rowers could feel more power and enthusiasm than in the past, but the mix of novices and varsity combined did not allow us to maintain our speed consistently. The opens finished 16th and 25th out of 35. Our mixed line-up beat all the other schools' JVs. The lightweights graduated five athletes from last year's eight, so we raced one mixed eight and one novice lightweight eight in the same event. We held the lead for half of the race, but then the turn and wind did the crew in. The mixed line-up finished third with the

entered in a new event, the collegiate eight. As it turned out, the collegiate eight was probably the hardest event to do well in. All 34 entries were within 12 percent of the winning time! In most events, the slower crews are within 25 percent of the winning time. Our mixed line-up raced better than at the Textile, but could only come within 10.6 percent of the winning time. Our lightweights finished 19th with 50 percent of the boat racing in the second race ever. This year I am pleased to announce that we had two boats of alumnae who came and raced out of MIT. One in the club eight and five lightweights returned from last year, eight to compete in the lightweight four. We hope to see these numbers grow, as well as more women returning for class rows during graduation.

The novices traveled to the Dartmouth Invitational the weekend after the Head. The experience gained practicing and racing with the upperclassmen paid off. The opens won the regatta by one second over Dartmouth. The snow and the rain had a big toll on the lightweights. In practice, the opens and lights traded places, but at

Dartmouth the lightweights fell behind but did manage to beat UNH B.

We capped off the fall season rowing through wind, rain, and sleet during the Foot of the Charles Regatta. Due to the weather, the course was moved upstream, running from Riverside to the Head of the Charles finish line. The upperclassmen were in even line-ups and had great races between the fours, with the lightweights finishing 25th and the two open boats finishing 27th and 28th.

After being restricted to no winter training, we came inside enthusiastically, ready to focus on our fitness. The women have committed to being in better shape and getting the ergs scores we need before we go to Florida during spring break. Our goal is to be fitter when we get to Florida and return injury-free and ready to race. See you at the races!

### The Women's Spring 2003 Schedule

#### March

Saturday 22 Wisconsin lwts. @ Cocoa Beach  
Saturday 29 vs. Dartmouth, Smith, UNH

#### April

Saturday 5 vs. Georgetown, George Washington  
Saturday 19 vs. Princeton with Radcliffe (lwts. only)  
Saturday 26 vs. Navy @ Annapolis

#### May

Saturday 3 vs. Boston University, Radcliffe  
Saturday 3 vs. Princeton, Harvard (lwts.) @ Princeton, NJ  
Sunday 18 Eastern Sprints @ Cherry Hill, NJ  
Sunday 31 IRAs (lwts. only) @ Cherry Hill, NJ

frish line-up 50 seconds behind.

We came back and made a few line-up changes but remained in mixed boats for the Charles. The opens were



Women's collegiate open eight under B.U. Bridge at the October 2002 Head of the Charles Regatta.

# WOMEN'S CREW RECLASSIFICATION UPDATE

## Process To Change Women's Crew To Division I Moves Forward

By Willie Vicens '70

During the spring of 2000, FOMITC wrote a special letter to all of its rowing alums about the issue of whether the women's rowing program at MIT should remain an NCAA Division I sport or be henceforth categorized as Division III. Later that year, the MIT administration decided in favor of Division I. The agreement that follows describes this decision in detail.

During a recent phonathon, we found that many of you had heard about this issue, but a significant number did not know how it was resolved. So even though it is somewhat "old news," we wanted to bring you up-to-date on this very positive MIT decision. Below you will find an update by MIT's Director of Athletics Candace L. Royer. Most importantly, on behalf of the current and future women rowers at MIT, and on behalf of those who worked to influence this decision, we want to thank the over 700 alums who took the time to voice their opinion and/or write letters to MIT on it.

## NCAA Process Update

By Candace L. Royer

During the 2003 NCAA convention, we received the good news that the process we have entered for reclassifying the women's crew to Division I is proceeding nicely. As you might recall, this is a two-year process, which means that in the spring of 2004, our women will officially be eligible for the National Division I Championships.

It also means that the women will be subject to all of the rules and regulations of Division I. This includes such things as the national clearing house, a process whereby every potential freshman rower must take it upon herself to send a transcript of her high school academic performance to the NCAA before she can be cleared to compete as a freshman. This process will become part of the information that we send to all freshman students.

In addition, we should all be cognizant that Division I recruitment rules differ significantly from Division III rules. These rules will apply equally to our men and women's rowing programs, as they are consistent with EARC and EAWRC rowing regulations.

We hope you will join with us in supporting our men and women as they row on behalf of MIT this season. If you have questions regarding this or any process in the department, please feel free to be in touch.

Thank you all for your continued support.

### MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Office of the Dean of Student Life  
Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Cambridge, MA 02139



Director's Office  
Building W32-109  
(617) 253-4497

#### Memorandum of Understanding between: The Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation, MIT and Women's Crew Program September 18, 2001

The Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation and MIT is committed to support women's rowing as outlined in this memorandum.

- MIT will petition the NCAA to reclassify the Women's Rowing Program to the Division I level. The intention of reclassification is to:
  - 1) Allow MIT's female rowers to retain their strong traditions and associations of rowing at the Division I level including the EAWRA and IRA championships.
  - 2) Continue to support women's and men's rowing in the same manner and to the same extent so that our strong commitment to Title IX and equity across all programs might be reinforced.
  - 3) Continue to afford female rowers the length of season and access to coaching that has proven successful in the development of past oarswomen.
  
- The extent to which the women's rowing program will be supported by MIT and the Department will be consistent with the management and operation of all other varsity sports programs at MIT. As such, MIT female rowers will not:
  1. Receive preferential treatment with regard to the admissions or the recruitment process.
  2. Receive scholarships that are based on athletic ability
  3. Receive financial support that is inconsistent with allocations to current rowing programs at MIT.
  4. Receive coaching support that is inconsistent with allocations to current rowing programs at MIT.
  5. Receive preferential support services from within the Department or MIT.
  6. Be held to a higher standard of performance excellence than other varsity programs.
  7. Be required to attend practices that are beyond the scope of existing rowing programs at MIT.

\*\*\* The extent to which the men's rowing program will be supported has not changed. The men's and women's programs will be conducted along parallel lines with regard to support, services, and performance expectations.

\*\*\* The decision regarding women's crew will receive formal review 5 years from the effective date of NCAA reclassification.

## UPDATE ON MIT CREW AND FOMITC WEBSITES

By Karl Richter '99

### Friends of MIT Crew website:

<http://alumweb.mit.edu/groups/fomitc/>

The Friends of MIT Crew site is a brand new effort, which contains information about the alumni organization that supports competitive intercollegiate rowing at MIT. On this site, we have posted past issues of *Squaring the Blade* as well as historical documents, agreements between Friends and MIT, and bylaws governing the Friends organization. We hope that alumni looking for information on recent activities of Friends will find this composite helpful.

### MIT crew website:

<http://web.mit.edu/mitcrew/www/>

The MIT crew site contains information about the intercollegiate crew program, including racing schedules, rosters for each squad, and a section where results will be posted. In the fall, Friends of MIT Crew sponsored a professional developer to re-vamp this website, which has existed since the early '90s. The coaches are reporting that the refreshed web look has been helpful for recruiting students on campus to crew and that the website is a critical tool for attracting more high school rowers to apply to MIT.

### Historical photographs are now on the web! Seeking alumni help to identify some photographs.

You will find the historical photograph collection by going to [web.mit.edu/](http://web.mit.edu/mitcrew/www)

[mitcrew/www](http://web.mit.edu/mitcrew/www) and clicking on the "Alumni" link. Tremendous thanks to Don Burrer, Jack Frailey, and Mike Greata for their efforts in scouring dusty storage closets and the MIT Museum archives to find crew photographs going back to the 1920s and scanning them to digital format. We've assembled a collection of photographs, but we are still trying to identify the people and crews in some of the unlabeled photographs. Given the large number of images, there are also likely to be some mislabeled photographs. If you're able to identify corrections to names in web galleries, or if you would like to contribute additional photographs from your own collections, please contact Karl Richter at 415/206-9356.

## JOIN US AT OUR HOME SPRING RACES!

As spring racing season approaches once again, it's time to get out of the house, clear your throats, and get ready for some loud beaver cheering! The regatta committee is looking forward to some excellent racing this year and is excited to support the teams throughout their season. Look for (and be a part of!) the regatta committee presence at three home races on the Charles this spring:

**March 29:** Heavyweight Men vs. Boston College and Open Women vs. Dartmouth, Smith, and UNH

**April 5:** Heavyweight Men vs. Columbia, Lightweight Men vs. Army, and Women vs. Georgetown and George Washington

**April 26:** Lightweight Men vs. Rutgers and Lightweight Women vs. URI (tentative)

Post-season racing:      Lightweight Men's Eastern Sprints @ Worcester, MA, May 11  
                                   Open Women's Sprints @ Cherry Hill, NJ, May 17  
                                   Heavyweight Men's IRAs @ Cherry Hill, NJ, May 29-31  
                                   Lightweight Women's IRAs @ Cherry Hill, NJ, May 31

Mark your calendars and join us on the river! If you are interested in being part of the Friends of MIT Crew Regatta Committee or looking for more information on what we do and how you can help, please contact Stephanie Chen ([stephchen@alum.mit.edu](mailto:stephchen@alum.mit.edu)) or Katy Croff ([croff@alum.mit.edu](mailto:croff@alum.mit.edu)).

## A Chat With Steve Tucker '91

(continued from page six)

With so many memories to draw from in his rowing career, two stand out above the others. One is his semi-final race at the 2002 World Championships. Lined up at the start were the top five finishers from the 2001 World Championship final, including the last three World Champions. The toughest thing about the semi-finals? Only the top three advance to the Grand or A Final. Steve

recalls the real and present pressure to perform well enough to advance, knowing someone would be left behind. Someone very fast would not make it. He does admit that coming home with a bronze medal falls into the particularly memorable category.

The other memory that comes to mind involved the camaraderie and fun of training together at MIT, particularly the training time spent in Hanover,

New Hampshire, preparing for the IRA. Steve said it was a time to find out a lot of things. For example, how few cylinders could the rental van still run on? Two, but only if you started it with all six and then removed the spark plug connections.

What else has Steve been doing, as if all these accomplishments weren't enough? The next time you see him, just ask him about his house.

# FIVE-YEAR CLASS GIVING PROJECT BEGINS

## MIT's Crew Program Needs Your Financial Help

By Jack Frailey '44

In its quest to raise the funds necessary to restore excellence to MIT's intercollegiate crew program, the Friends are pursuing three approaches simultaneously. One of these, keyed to the future, is aimed at fully endowing the program. In parallel, two other projects are under way that have as their goal an increase in donations from all 4,000+ crew alums. Both are collaborative efforts joining the Alumni Association (AA) and the Friends.

One of these, the Five-Year Reunion Gift Partnership, was announced by the Alumni Association's Steve McAlister in a letter to reunion gift chairs last November. He wrote: "It is my great pleasure to inform you that after discussions with the dedicated and enthusiastic volunteer officers of the Friends of MIT Crew (FOMITC), we in the Class Giving office have encouraged them to be in touch with you regarding their efforts to

build support for Crew..."

Sandy Blanchard '65 has agreed to spearhead this project for the FOMITC and, in a subsequent letter introducing him to the Gift chairs, Steve wrote: "We in the Class Giving office encourage you to partner with these enthusiastic volunteers, who plan to conduct supplemental outreach to support your reunion campaign. In fact, this initial effort may become a model of how we continue to build reunion giving campaigns in the future so that one day MIT will outrank ALL peer institutions in the category of alumni involvement—with 100 percent participation."

There are fifteen active reunion gift chairs and, with their help and cooperation, we must get our message through to about 800 alumni. The core of that message is that MIT's crew program is in need of immediate financial help and that all gifts made to FOMITC Account No. 3855200 also count toward their reunion class gift. (How can you beat that!)

We have put together a six-person FOMITC project team to take advantage of this idea. In addition to Sandy and me, they are Bruce Anderson '69, Jesse Lipcon '65, Karl Richter '99, and Sherm Uchill '55. All reunion gift chairs have been contacted, they have been extremely cooperative, and all enthusiastically support this effort. Our first step has been to identify a number of individual "Crew Champions" (CCs) in each class, from two to six depending on class size, who will personally write and call their classmates to urge their participation.

By the time you read this, all will be in place, and the CCs will have received the instructions and materials we hope will help to maximize the results of this effort. Please give generously. We hope MIT crew alums, when personally approached in this manner and apprised of the value of this project, will agree to at least double what they might otherwise have given.

## Training Pays Off For Lightweights

(continued from page five)

Befitting of a race held so late in the fall, the Foot of the Charles offered a glimpse of the coming winter months. The driving wind and blinding snow that persisted through the morning, however, could not diminish the *esprit de corps*, and the lightweights raced on. The first varsity four finished 17th among all of the crews, but their time of 14:20 was the third fastest lightweight finish of the

day. In similar fashion, the second varsity four was the fifth fastest lightweight crew of the day and finished 29th overall with a time of 15:04. The third and fourth fours finished 40th and 51st overall, although they were seventh and ninth among the lightweight crews that raced.

The freshman lightweights also fared well at the Foot of the Charles, finishing 5th and 9th (of 10) among the lightweight crews and 14th and 23rd (out of

30) overall, wrapping up a lengthy and productive racing season.

So the two varsity eights and two freshman eights head into winter training, with the promise of a long winter ahead, and take to the ergs with renewed dedication and humble enthusiasm, hoping to improve upon their performances of last spring and have their best performance in recent memory at the IRAs.

### INTERIM BOARD HAS SCHEDULED ANNUAL MEETING FOR JUNE 8, 2003

To allow time for input from all interested alums and planning for a smooth transition, the interim board has scheduled an annual meeting for Sunday, June 8, immediately after the Alumni Reunion Row at the Pierce Boathouse. At that time, the regular board will be elected, with initial board members to serve either one, two, or three years so that one-third of the board will be up for election each year thereafter. If you are interested in volunteering either to serve on the board or to assist in any other way, please contact any board member.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Friends of MIT Crew  
77 Massachusetts Avenue  
Building W59-200  
Cambridge, MA 02139

**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Cambridge, MA  
Permit No. 54016



## **WHAT'S INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

---

### **Highlights Of Contents**

- Report From The Interim Board Of Directors page 1
- Board Of Directors Election page 3
- Men's Heavyweight Crew Wrap-up page 4
- Men's Lightweight Crew Wrap-up page 5
- Women's Crew Wrap-up page 8
- Women's Crew Reclassification Update page 9
- Five-Year Giving Project Begins page11