

# Squaring the Blade

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## Summary of MIT Rowing Analysis Committee Report

The Dean for Student Life (DSL) and the Head of the Department of Athletics, Physical Education and Recreation (DAPER) have received the report from an ad hoc Rowing Analysis Committee, created in February, 2005, to help analyze the current status of the rowing programs at MIT, and to make recommendations for improvements to restore MIT rowing to the level of its peer institutions in the EARC and EAWRC leagues.

The Committee, chaired by independent consultant Clayton Chapman, consisted of eight people of diverse backgrounds, including former rowers and coaches from MIT, as well as athletic administrators from other comparable institutions.

Their charge was to identify the scope and needs of the rowing programs through the examination of operations and management structures in Pierce Boathouse, current program leadership, and elements required to be competitive with peer institutions that sponsor Division I rowing programs.

The Committee cited disappointing marks for the programs' performance record which they attribute to coaching and absence of commitment to the recruitment of student athletes. In addition, the Committee was critical of institutional and departmental administrative leadership of the rowing programs.

The Committee also noted that MIT rowing operates with facilities and equipment that are barely adequate, but concluded that this piece of the program was not the central issue in their review.

BY CANDACE ROYER  
AND JAMES KRAMER

It is the view of the Committee that rowing has failed to meet the Institute's standards of excellence while allowing its historic rowing rivals to create a competitive separation that adversely affects student and alumni pride.

The Committee also feels that the absence of a single unifying force in the boathouse has significantly contributed to

difficulties in the rowing programs over the past 25 years.

In the opinion of The Committee, the absence of outstanding and consistent leadership has directly impacted team performance as well as the recruitment and retention of coaching staff and academically qualified rowers.

The Committee fully recognizes that the MIT and DAPER's mission, is rooted in excellence. Their report cited many recommendations that would make it possible for

*continued on page 12*



MIT Varsity Lightweight Women closing in on Radcliffe at the finish of the Foot of the Charles 2005

**Editor's note:** We have sent the fall edition of "Squaring the Blade" later than normal this year to include the Head of the Charles results and an article about the annual banquet.

## SQUARING THE BLADE

A NEWSLETTER FOR  
THE FRIENDS OF MIT CREW  
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### WOMEN'S ROWING

VARSITY OPEN COACH	ALISON DERRICK
VARSITY LT. COACH	IRENE JENKINS
NOVICE OPEN COACH	LIZ BOND
NOVICE LT. COACH	AARON BENSON

### MEN'S ROWING

VARSITY HVY. COACH	GORDON HAMILTON
VARSITY LT. COACH	TED BENFORD
FRESHMAN HVY. COACH	DAN PERKINS
FRESHMAN LT. COACH	MATT BERAN

## Season Preview - Heavyweight Men

Traditionally the Foot of the Charles marks the end of the fall racing season and this year is no exception. It is more or less the "main event" of the season. The Varsity crews break into Fours, while the Frosh stay in Eights.



Heavyweight men's coach Gordon Hamilton

The First Four of the MIT Varsity Heavyweights with two sophomores, Sam McVeety and Tom Larsen, one Junior, co-captain Martin Harrysson, and one senior co-captain Mike Whitaker, came in 16th in the Foot of the Charles. This was the best finish since their 14th place in 2000. Other Varsity Heavyweight Fours finished 37th, 42nd and 43rd and 45th.

The First Frosh Heavy Eight came in 10th out of 25 in the Freshman Eights competition. Looking toward the spring, the most encouraging thing is the performance of the First Four which beat Dartmouth's A and B fours by 32 seconds and 37 seconds respectively. Our challenge will be to bring up the standard for our second, third and fourth fours to give them a run for their money when

we meet them in the Cochrane Cup on April 29th in Madison, Wisconsin.

Here are the results from the other fall races which the Heavyweights competed in:

### Head of the Ohio:

- 2nd of 14 in the Club Eight
- 3rd and 11th of 19 in the Open Fours

### Head of the Charles:

- 31st of 51 in the Club Eight
- 9th of 43 in the Youth (Frosh) Fours
- 27th of 41 in the Collegiate Eight

### ACTIONS ALUMNI MAY TAKE TO ASSIST COACHES IN RECRUITING:

1. Sign up as an Educational Counselor (EC) to help the admissions office by interviewing applicants to MIT. Contact Stu Schmill to become an EC.
2. Tell the MIT coaches about any student you meet who is or may be applying to MIT who may also be a candidate for the crews.
3. Introduce the MIT coaches to rowing coaches of your local youth and high school rowing programs. If you know a youth or high school coach, call the MIT coaches and let them know about your connection.
4. Offer to host the coaches if they are in your area on a recruiting visit. To contact MIT coaches, see contact information on page 12.



## A Bright Future for the Women's Openweight Squad

The MIT Women's Openweight Squad is working to lay a foundation of strength and determination to build the program's future. Head Coach, Alison Derrick is working with a small but very dedicated group of varsity rowers while Novice Coach, Liz Bond is busy teaching a strong nucleus of MIT student-athletes how to row.

The varsity women's squad consists of two freshmen, two sophomores, two juniors and three seniors. All rowers. Fortunately one senior, Cynthia Wilson, has stepped up and taken on the pivotal role as coxswain of the varsity boat. By doing so she has brought both the rowing experience and maturity necessary to lead her teammates into a successful spring season.

One of the bright new additions to the varsity squad is rower Katja Lange who has come to MIT Crew from England via the University of Cambridge-MIT Undergraduate Exchange (CME) - an MIT Junior Year Abroad Program. Stroking the varsity boat, Kat is an accomplished sculler whose commitment to consistent, hard work is providing inspirational athleticism. This fall her training resulted in a first place finish in the single at this year's inaugural small boats race, the Toe of the Charles, finishing ahead of rowers from Harvard, Northeastern and Boston University.

If this fall's novice race results reflect accurately the direction of the MIT Openweight's program growth then the future certainly looks bright. Coming in fourth at Dartmouth's Green Monster Invitational the Openweight Novice crew is chock full of raw power and determination. Three rowers, Jane Wolcott, Kate Broadbent, and Alison Greenlee epitomize the diversity of strength and background within the MIT Openweight Novice Squad.

Jane Wolcott comes to the MIT Rowing program from Charleston, IL. She was home-schooled and is the team's youngest freshmen. At 16 years, Jane currently holds the fastest erg time on the squad. An avid runner, Jane's strength and youthful determination are a significant part of her boat's success.



*Women's Openweight coach Alison Derrick*

Kate Broadbent, from Salt Lake City, UT, was champion of the 2005 CPHA California Professional Horseman's Association Medal Finals held in San Juan Capistrano, California this fall. She also received a bronze medal for 5 first places in USET (United States Equestrian Team) Talent Search Finals qualification classes. In addition to competing in the IHSA (Intercollegiate Horse Show Association) for MIT, Kate has joined the novice rowing squad where her competitive spirit and commitment to excellence complements the current goals and aspirations of the MIT rowing program.

Alison Greenlee comes to us from Seabrook, TX. A former basketball player, Alison's love for competition shines through in every stroke she takes. Alison has brought pure enthusiasm to the squad and is a pivotal part of the strength and speed of this inspired novice squad.



*Far left: MIT Novice Lightweights beating Radcliffe;  
Middle left: Lightweights getting ready to launch;  
Left: Coxswain goes for a swim.*



*Lightweight Men's coach Ted Benford*

## Varsity Lightweight Men

The MIT Varsity Lightweights have begun their 2005-2006 campaign with solid and steady commitment. This year's team is comprised mainly of sophomores led by captain Bill Garthwaite. Bill is joined by nine returnees who are committed to building the team's depth and establishing our tradition of success. This year's team is a tightly knit bunch with a wholesale commitment toward long term spring success demonstrated by consistent improvement in our erg times and long miles rowed on the Charles.

The Varsity Lights raced with panache and spirit in the fall. Results at the Head of the Charles, while seemingly in the back of the pack don't reflect stoppage and collision with Harvard while we were overtaking them. In practices and in smaller races, the Lights have consistently shown a tenacity that is the foundation for spirited racing and a confidence that wins big races. Spring racing will showcase the hard work already started by the team. We are well on our way toward setting a strong work standard and competitive spirit that will carry us to success. The Freshman Lights are also showing strong promise, especially with the recruiting efforts of Freshman Coach Matt Berean. The team has seen an infusion of energy and optimism in 2005 and we are eager to continue developing our program with the class of 2010 and beyond.

## Women's Varsity Lightweight

The Lightweight Women are off to a strong start this year. The varsity squad is larger due to the excellent turnout of sophomores. Filling five of the nine seats in the varsity eight, the sophomore class is eager to lead the team to improve upon last year's success at the novice level. Only in its official third year, the Lightweight women are focusing mainly on bringing their race times and erg scores to a more competitive level.

They have taken on the challenge of being competitive at the IRAs. To this end, they are devoting themselves to this goal over the course of the year. Making time for additional workouts each week, the women are ready to finish the job that the 2001 MIT Lights began. Missing IRA bronze by a second, the 2001 team has laid the gauntlet for future lightweight women. Things are looking hopeful for the group because the varsity squad has doubled in size and there is another tremendous group of freshmen this year.

Starting the fall season off with a gold medal at the Textile River Regatta, the Engineers are confident that they can carry this hunger for victory forward through the spring season. With the help of alumni support, the women have been graced with a new Resolute 8 to help them with this goal. Rowing in the first 'size appropriate' shell, the

varsity women are eager to hit the sprint season. They finished the fall season with a strong finish in the Foot of the Charles. Just nine seconds behind the Radcliffe Varsity 8, the Beavers are confident that hard work over the winter will pay dividends this spring.

Meanwhile, the Engineers are toiling daily in the erg room, weight room, and tanks. They have a good sense of their competition and are ready to put in the time to reach the goal.

Alongside the strong sophomore class are seniors Kat Hung (captain), Cathy Yao, and Sarah Newman who have risen to the occasion to lead the team. With a sense of institutional memory, these three women are eager to pull for the many rowers who came before them and sought after the same goals.

Head Coach Irene Jenkins is eager to see the MIT Women move up the ranks in years to come. Working with the new Novice Coach, Aaron Benson, they have made recruiting a top priority on the way to this goal. Following the lead of the successful men's recruiting initiative, the women hope to get



*Lightweight Women's coach Irene Jenkins*

at least eight experienced rowers/coxswains in the coming fall. In addition, Jenkins has recruited two new volunteer assistant coaches to help Tech become more competitive.

At the Varsity level, Boston University alum Freddie Garnier has proven to be integral in bringing a competitive edge to the program. Assisting at the freshmen level, Union alum Shanna Theriault has helped to complement the coaching of Aaron Benson. Working as a cohesive team, the Lightweight coaches and athletes have a clear vision and path towards a more competitive racing future.

# This Season's Featured Athletes



## **Katherine Hung – Lightweight Women**

**Hometown:** Livingston, New Jersey

**Major:** Brain and Cognitive Science

**Crew Highlights:** Four year athlete at MIT and women's varsity lightweight captain

**What do you like about MIT Crew?:**

I think one thing that's great about MIT crew is that people of all different athletic abilities can come in and have equal chances of success as rowers. You don't need to be a recruited athlete, or even have any athletic experience, but as long as you put in the hard work and dedication, you can have the opportunity to become an excellent rower. I think this is something that is pretty unique to our crew program, and it's given me some wonderful opportunities that I don't think I would have the chance to experience at other schools.

## **Leslie Sprague – Openweight Women**

**Hometown:** Augusta, GA

**Major:** Most likely will be Civil Engineering

**Crew Highlights:** Four year athlete during high school in Augusta Rowing Club Junior program. Freshman recruit this year at MIT for women's team.

**What do you like about MIT Crew?:** Really enjoy MIT. I really like how all the rowers are

able to handle their coursework and still commit so much time and effort to crew. The teams are very supportive and fun to be a part of.



## **Luke Urban – Heavyweight Men**

**Hometown:** Alexandria VA

**Major:** Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

**Crew Highlights:**

Rowed for four years at West Potomac High School. Freshman recruit for men's heavyweight team

**What do you like about MIT Crew?:**

Crew serves as a good balance to the course load at MIT. It helps clear my mind, which makes problem sets a little more manageable.



## **Bill Garthwaite – Lightweight Men**

**Hometown:** Newtown Square, PA

**Major:** Environmental Science with possible minor in Chemistry

**Crew Highlights:**

Current MIT lightweight men's captain. Rowed for Malvern Prep in Philadelphia. Medalist at Stotesbury, Scholastic Nationals, Navy Day, and Head of the Schuylkill.

**What do you like about MIT Crew?:**

MIT Crew offers the opportunity to turn a program around with the help of great teammates and a great coaching staff. The varsity lightweights this year are a young team looking to build on an attitude and momentum change started last year. Watch out in 2008!



### Heavyweight Men – Spring Race Schedule

April 1	Alumni Cup: MIT v. Columbia	Columbia, NY
April 2	Alumni Race	Cambridge, MA
April 9	WPI, University of Rhode Island, and Bates	Worcester, MA
April 15	Compton Cup: MIT v. Harvard & Princeton	Cambridge, MA
April 22	Boston College and Cincinnati	Cambridge, MA
April 29	MIT Frosh v. Dartmouth	Hanover, NH
April 29	Cochrane Cup MIT v. Dartmouth, Wisconsin	Madison, WI
April 30	Jablonic Cup MIT v. Boston University, Wisconsin	Madison, WI
May 21	Eastern Sprints	Worcester, MA
June 1-3	IRA Regatta	Cherry Hill, NJ

### Openweight Women – Spring Race Schedule

February 9	Row for Humanity	Cambridge, MA
April 8-9	Knecht Cup	Camden, NJ
April 15	Northeastern University and Columbia	Cambridge, MA
April 29	Boston University and Radcliffe	Cambridge, MA
May 13	Eastern Sprints	Camden, NJ

### Lightweight Women – Spring Race Schedule

April 8 -9	Knecht Cup	Camden, NJ
April 15	URI, Radcliffe, and UMASS	Cambridge MA
May 6	Radcliffe	Cambridge MA
May 13-14	Eastern Sprints	Camden NJ
June 3	IRA Regatta	Camden NJ

### Lightweight Men – Tentative Spring Race Schedule

April 8	Joy Cup – MIT v. Yale, Boston College	Cambridge, MA
April 15	Biglin Bowl – MIT v. Harvard, Dartmouth	Hanover, NH – not confirmed
April 22	Geiger Cup – MIT v. Cornell, Columbia	New York, NY
April 30	Holy Cross – Tentative	Worcester, MA
May 13	Dad Vail Regatta - Tentative	Philadelphia, PA
May 21	Eastern Sprints	Worcester, MA
June 1-3	IRA Regatta	Cherry Hill, NJ

# Fall Race Results

## Openweight Women

**Textile Regatta:** Varsity openweight women raced in the Club 8+ (22:44). This placed them in a tie for **11th of 29 crews**. Colby College won the event (21:22). In the Open 8+, MIT finished **10th out of 18**. Riverside Boat Club won the event (20:58) with University of Vermont placing 2nd (21:38), posting the fastest collegiate time. The Open 8+ split into two Open 4+s, finishing **5th and 14th out of 28 (25:19 and 26:23)**. Riverside BC also won this event (23:11) and in 3rd place, UMass (25:05) was the fastest collegiate crew.

**Head of the Charles:** Varsity women raced in the Collegiate 8+ event where they placed **28th out of 46 crews (19:47.1)**. The race was won by Trinity College (17:50.7).

**Dartmouth Freshman Invitational (the Green Monster)** Coaches send two even boats to this event rather than a first and second boat with combined times of the two crews used to rank the school for the event. Tech finished **4th out of 12 (17:06.3)** with their only complete openweight 8+. A combination boat of open and lightweights finished **12th (19:01.4)**. Dartmouth A and B took the first two places (15:56.8 and 16:12.5) for the fastest combined time to win the event.

**Foot of the Charles:** The varsity 4+ competition started the morning with the openweight women finishing **22nd out of 28 (16:48.7)**. Brown won the event (13:12.3). In the Novice 8+ event, Tech finished **10th (15:19.5) out of 29**. Brown (13:59.6) also won this event. MIT did not enter the Varsity 8+ competition.

## Heavyweight Men

**Head of the Ohio:** The heavyweight men finished **2nd out of 14** in the Club Eight and **3rd and 11th of 19** in the Open Fours.

**Head of the Charles:** The varsity heavyweight men raced in the Collegiate 8+ event where they placed **27th out of 41 crews (16:53.9)**. The race was won by Trinity College (15:58.7). The second varsity men raced in the Club 8+ event where they placed **30th out of 50 (16:54.3)**. Minnesota in 3rd (15:38.2) was the fastest collegiate boat behind the winner from ASR Nereus (15:20.7). Freshman heavyweight men raced in the Youth 4+ event where they placed **9th out of 43 crews (19:16.5)**. The race was won by Boston University (18:43.5).

**Dartmouth Freshman Invitational (the Green Monster):** Coaches send two even boats to this event rather than a first and second boat with combined times of the two crews used to rank the school for the event. Tech finished **7th overall** with their only boat (**14:51.6**) out of 17 heavyweight entries. Rutgers A and B finished 1st and 3rd (14:21.1 and 14:36.9) for the fastest combined time to win the event.

**Foot of the Charles:** Varsity 4+ competition started the morning with the varsity men's A 4+ finishing **16th out of 45 (14:11.7)**. Harvard won the event (13:12.3). MIT B was **37th (15:19.6)**, MIT D was **42nd (15:38.3)**, MIT C was **43rd (15:49.1)**, and MIT E was **45th (16:58.6)**. In the Freshman 8+ event, Tech finished **10th (13:55.1) out of 25**. Harvard (12:21.9) also won this event. MIT B finished **24th (16:39.9)**.

## Lightweight Women

**Textile Regatta** Varsity lightweight women **won the Lightweight 8+ event (22:59.)** beating two other crews in the regatta CRI and UMass.

**Head of the Charles:** Varsity lightweight women raced on Sunday in the Lightweight 8+ event where they placed **11th out of 14 crews (19:28.3)**. The race was won by the Canadian National Team Training Center (17:41.6). Wisconsin was the fastest collegiate boat in the event (18:09.4), having placed 3rd

**Dartmouth Freshman Invitational (the Green Monster)** Coaches send two even boats to this event rather than a first and second boat with combined times of the two crews used to rank the school for the event. There is not a separate category for lightweight women in this event. Tech lightweight women finished **10th overall (18:27.5)** with the first 8+. A Combi 8+ of lights and heavies finished **12th out of 12 (19:01.4)**. Dartmouth A and B took the first two places (15:56.8 and 16:12.5) for the fastest combined time to win the event.

**Foot of the Charles:** The varsity 4+ competition started the morning with the lightweight women finishing **18th out of 28 (16:39.2)**. Brown won the event (13:12.3) with Radcliffe A (15:43.4) in 9th place posting the fastest lightweight time. In the Novice 8+ event, Tech finished **14th (16:15.8) and 29th (18:18.2) out of 29**. Brown (13:59.6) also won this event, with Radcliffe A (15:38.9) in 12th posting the fastest lightweight time. Closing out the regatta, a few schools entered varsity 8+s. The lightweight women were **3rd (14:52.6) out of the 6 crews** racing with UNH taking first (14:26.4) in this open event.

## Lightweight Men

**Textile Regatta:** Tech's 2V heavy men finished **10th out of 22 (21:09)** in the Club 8+ which was won by Chaminade High School (19:31), while the 1V finished **8th out of 15 (20:40)** in the Open 8+ which was won by Holy Cross (19:14).

**Head of the Charles:** Varsity lightweight men raced on Sunday in the Lightweight 4+ event where they placed **14th out of 16 crews (19:37.8)**. The race was won by the Canadian National Team Training Center (17:15.2). Yale was the fastest collegiate boat in the event (17:49.2), having placed 2nd.

**Dartmouth Freshman Invitational (the Green Monster)** Coaches send two even boats to this event rather than a first and second boat with combined times of the two crews used to rank the school for the event. Tech finished **5th and 6th overall (16:35.0 and 17:42.6) out of 6** entries in the Lightweight Division. Harvard Lights B and A finished 1st and 4th (14:59.4 and 15:28.3) for the fastest combined time to win the event.

**Foot of the Charles:** Varsity 4+ competition started the morning with the lightweight men A finishing **36th out of 45 (13:37.8)**. Harvard won the event (13:12.3) with Harvard Lights B (13:37.8) in 6th place posting the fastest lightweight time. MIT Light B was **39th (15:36.6)**. In the Freshman 8+ event, Tech finished **13th (14:19.5) out of 25**. Harvard (12:21.9) also won this event, with Dartmouth Light A (13:19.1) in 6th posting the fastest lightweight time.

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# MIT CREW NEEDS YOUR FINANCIAL HELP!

**By Mike Scott '73, Mark Findeis '81, Amy Gieffers '97**

We had another successful year in raising funds for MIT Crew! For fiscal year 2005 (FY05 = July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005), we received \$222k in donations to the FOMITC Fund (\$216k) and the Women's Crew Fund (\$6k). This is in contrast to \$134k you contributed in FY03 and \$232k in FY04.

**We thank you very much for your contributions and support! MIT and, most importantly, the crew members greatly appreciate this!!**

In addition to the FOMITC and Women's Crew funds, we also have 8 MIT Crew endowment funds that generate expendable income that help pay for MIT Crew expenditures. The original contributions to the 8 MIT Crew endowment funds total almost \$1.2 million, but the market value of the funds have grown to almost \$5 million with MIT's endowment investments over the years. The contributions to the endowment funds in fiscal year 2005 totaled \$18k.

MIT has paid 47-58% of the cost of the crew program with alumni support (endowment earnings & annual giving) paying 38-47%. The remaining costs are paid by students (winter training trip expenses), equipment sales and summer rowing charges (4-6%).

FOMITC has committed to fund \$324k in fiscal year 2006, which is almost 50% more than we raised in fiscal year 2005. \$80k of the \$324k is to pay for 3 new racing shells for the Women's

Crews. Board member Amy Gieffers '97 will focus on fund raising among Women's Crew alumnae. For those of you in a reunion class (2001, 1996, 1991, 19x6, 19x1), we ask that you be as generous as you possibly can – be assured that your gift will also be fully credited to your class total. Board member Mark Findeis '81 is helping to raise contributions to crew from the reunion classes.

DAPER has recently launched a new Leadership Circle initiative that aims to solicit alumni with the capacity for a multiyear commitment to DAPER of \$5000 or more. Donors can designate their gifts to any area of activity with DAPER or make undesignated gifts. These donors receive special recognition including an annual gathering with a notable speaker and complementary use of MIT's athletic facilities.

Several members of the FOMITC are active participants in the Friends of DAPER organization and we would like to be the leaders in this endeavor by the early identification of crew alums that can make this commitment.

Please contact Mike Scott '73 about your interest in making this commitment to MIT Crew! Bruce Anderson '69, who went to Henley in '69 with the Lightweight Varsity eight, is the first crew alum to make this commitment! Several others have already followed Bruce and have joined the Leadership Circle!

**Please be generous in your contributions to MIT Crew this year!** Crew alums over the years have contributed

over \$150 million to MIT. Of this \$150 million, only \$3 million or 2% has been in support of MIT Crew. We hope to increase the total giving to MIT by crew alums AND to increase the percentage of giving to MIT Crew!! We need your help in raising these funds. Please take advantage of any matching funds your company may provide. Donate online at <http://www.fomitc.org/designate.html>

The most important financial issue facing us now is finding the funds to implement the Rowing Analysis Committee recommendations, which includes attracting and retaining the best coaches possible.

Note the article in the upcoming STB about this by Candace Royer. It is very clear that substantial additional funds will be required. The level of increased funding we are talking about is on the order of \$150-250k/year or \$4-6 million in additional endowments.

FOMITC and MIT/DAPER are working together to pin this down as soon as possible. As you may know, spending is very tight at MIT with a myriad of financial demands, coupled with a significant reduction in federal funding of basic research. MIT/DAPER would like to fund long-term spending increases via increases in endowments to the various MIT Crew endowments, but that is clearly not something that can occur overnight although the needs are very clear and very immediate.

We will report to you as soon as we have a solid plan that has been agreed upon with MIT/DAPER.

## Friends of MIT Crew Donation Information

More than \$3,000,000 has been raised since 1971 through thousands of individual donations by alumni/ae and friends. Most contributions are made to the Friends of MIT Crew Account No. 3855200. Checks can be mailed to MIT Alumni Fund, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 77 Massachusetts Avenue, W92-280, Cambridge, MA 02139-4307. For donating online, go to <http://www.fomitc.org/designate.html>. When you donate online, you can browse for gift designations by typing in "crew" and you will see the two MIT Crew expendable funds (FOMITC, Women's Crew), 8 endowment funds, and the Sloan Crew Fund. Make sure you take advantage of any matching funds that you have available.



*Rowers from the Openweight Varsity Squad talking with alumni, Jake Everett, and USRowing's Head Men's Sweep Coach, Mike Teti, at the 2005 FOMITC dinner. From left: Mike Teti, Kat Lange '07 CME, Samantha Bennett '06, John (Jake) Everett '76, Katya Jarrell '08*

## It's not about me; it's about the athletes

*Mike Teti's talk at the FOMITC dinner, October 22, 2005*

### by John G. Everett '76

**Coaching highlights:** Mike Teti was named US Rowing's Head Men's Sweep Coach following the 1996 Olympic Games. Teti coached the only men's eight in US history to win three consecutive world championship titles, from 1997 to 1999. In 2004, Teti coached the US men's eight to a world record in the heat and a gold medal in the final at the 2004 Olympic Games in Athens. It was the first medal of any color in the event since 1988 and the first gold medal in the event since 1964. Most recently, the US men's eight won another gold medal in the 2005 world championships. Teti also coached several fours, pairs, and lightweight eights and fours to medals at the Olympics and world championships. Teti's coaching career began in 1982 at Temple University where his crews won six Dad Vail titles in his seven years as coach. In 1989, Teti became the men's freshmen coach at Princeton University, winning the freshmen men's eight at the IRA five times.

**Competitive highlights:** Teti is a 12-time national team member and 3-time Olympian. He rowed at Monsignor Bonner High School and St. Joseph's University, graduating with a degree in sociology in 1978. From 1977 to 1993, Teti won 24 national championships, a silver medal at the 1979 Pan Am Games in the four, a bronze and a gold in the world championships in the eight (1985

and 1987), and a bronze at the 1988 Olympic Games in the eight.

Mike Teti started by showing a video from the gold medal performance of the US men's eight at the 2004 Olympics in Athens. It had been forty years since the US had won the event, but the road to victory had been a bumpy one. Success came quickly to Teti in coaching at the international level. He was named head men's sweep coach after the 1996 Olympics and coached the US men's eight to three consecutive gold medals at the world championships in 1997, 1998, and 1999. The US men's eight was heavily favored to win the gold medal at the 2000 Olympics in Sydney. Teti thought he had it all figured out, and could also win medals in the four and pair. The results: all three heavy sweep boats made the finals and the pair won a silver medal, but the four was sixth and the eight was fifth. A huge disappointment.

After so much success, what had gone wrong? Teti had to rethink his coaching philosophy and attitude. He finally concluded, "It's not about me; it's about the athletes." He decided to give the athletes more control and more responsibility. Control over training, control over when and where to race, and control over the selection process. They could take control and responsibility through their actions and especially through their performances.

*continued next page*

From page 11

Success under the new philosophy did not come immediately, but it did come steadily. With many new faces in the lineup, the eight was fourth in 2001, third in 2002, and second in 2003.

After following up some trash talk with a convincing win in the four in the World Cup regatta at Lucerne in the early summer of 2004, Teti had a potential Olympic gold medal four. When the four returned to the US (Teti had stayed home with rest of the team), Teti asked the athletes if they wanted to stay together as a four or take a chance and go for the eight. They chose the eight.

Before the opening heat in Athens, Teti knew he had a fast eight, but the rest of the world had not seen them in any races. He asked his team if they wanted to give up the element of surprise and go flat out for the win, or hold back and save something for the repechage. The choice was not as easy as it might appear. For a team with little racing experience, an additional race could help. With a full week between the opening heat and the final, there would be almost too much layoff between races if they won the heat. The athletes responded emphatically with a world record time in the heat. On the day of the finals, after several centuries of tailwind, there was a headwind. Teti knew his team could not be beaten.

During the morning warm up row, Teti waved his eight over to the dock. They did not know what was going on, after all, he never talked to them during training at the race venue. He was standing on the awards dock, and just wanted to remind them that the winning crew should come to the middle of the dock, while second and third went to the left and right.

In the second 500, after letting everyone else take their move, the US put the race away.

## MIT Recruiting Contact Information

*Below is contact information for alumni/ae interested in assisting with recruiting scholar-athletes for MIT.*

MIT Admissions Office, Education Counselor (EC) Program  
Stu Schmill, [stucrew@mit.edu](mailto:stucrew@mit.edu),  
617-258-5529

### Men's Heavyweight Squad

Dan Perkins, [dperkins@mit.edu](mailto:dperkins@mit.edu), 617-253-1826

### Men's Lightweight Squad

Ted Bedford, [tbenford@mit.edu](mailto:tbenford@mit.edu),  
617-253-9676

### Women's Openweight Squad

Liz Bond, [bond@mit.edu](mailto:bond@mit.edu), 617-258-3299

### Women's Lightweight Squad

Aaron Benson, [benson@mit.edu](mailto:benson@mit.edu),  
617-324-0375

## Summary of MIT Rowing Analysis Committee Report – from page one

the MIT rowing programs to, once again, fulfill that mission.

Their major recommendations include:

- assigning a proven leader/coach to the helm of the program;
- acquiring and compensating appropriately, top quality varsity and freshmen coaches for each rowing program whose job descriptions are similar to those of our peer institutions
- providing the time required to each coach to effectively recruit academically qualified students who are capable of competing at the Division I level
- a comprehensive pre-admission and post-admissions recruitment program
- upgrades of Pierce Boathouse space
- continued attention to renewal of capital equipment
- re-affirmation by MIT/DAPER of its commitment to rowing as a Division I sport

The Committee clearly underscores the need for leadership as the singular focal recommendation and one that demands

immediate attention. Without this leadership, it is believed that the other two primary recommendations, (freshman coach compensation and increased marketing/promotions/recruitment) would be compromised.

The Department plans to conduct a search for the Director of Rowing/Principal Coach during the 2005-06 academic year.

### DAPER Position

It must be mentioned that while the Department has taken the Committee recommendations very seriously, addressing the full complement of recommendations made by the Rowing Analysis Committee is a complicated and costly undertaking.

Thus, the FOMITC will be asked to work closely with DAPER and MIT to increase giving and create endowment support needed for program enhancements as well as long-term sustainability of the pro-

gram. In addition, the coaches of the 8 rowing programs will be substantially involved in all aspects of continuing program analysis and strategic planning for future success.

### Department Note

This synopsis of the 2005 Rowing Committee Report is intended to provide the readers of Squaring the Blade with the content and tenor of the report submitted to the Department and Dean Larry Benedict.

The findings of this report represent the independent opinion of the Rowing Analysis Committee, a group of eight people of diverse backgrounds and broad experience in college athletic programs who were asked in February 2005 to help analyze the current status of the rowing programs at MIT and to make recommendations for improvements to the programs.



*The MIT Women's Openweight 8 from the Head of the Charles. They competed in the Collegiate Women's Eight Event and placed 28th out of 46 competitors.*

## Head of the Charles 2005



The Friends of MIT Crew would like to express our sincere gratitude to Joan Kravit, mother of varsity heavyweight oarsman Ben Kravit, 2008. Joan organized and set up the MIT Crew tent in Reunion Village at the Head of the Charles this year. She also donated an "MIT Crew" banner to identify our tent and the food and beverages that were available to alumni there during Saturday and Sunday of the Head of the Charles weekend. We really appreciate and are grateful for all that Joan did to create a place for alumni to gather and we plan to do more events like this for parents and alumni at races this Spring. If you would like to volunteer to help with this effort, please contact [doakes@alum.mit.edu](mailto:doakes@alum.mit.edu).

# Tribute to Bob Moch and Jim McMillin

by Jack Frailey, '44

Two of MIT's most able and memorable Head Rowing Coaches passed away in 2005: Bob Moch on January 18 and Jim McMillin on August 31. Both were members of the University of Washington Huskies eight-oared crew that represented the United States and won the Gold Medal in the 1936 Olympic games held in Berlin, Germany. Moch was the coxswain and McMillin the captain in the five seat. Here's an excerpt from an article in the Seattle Post-Intelligencer written by Dan Raley about it:

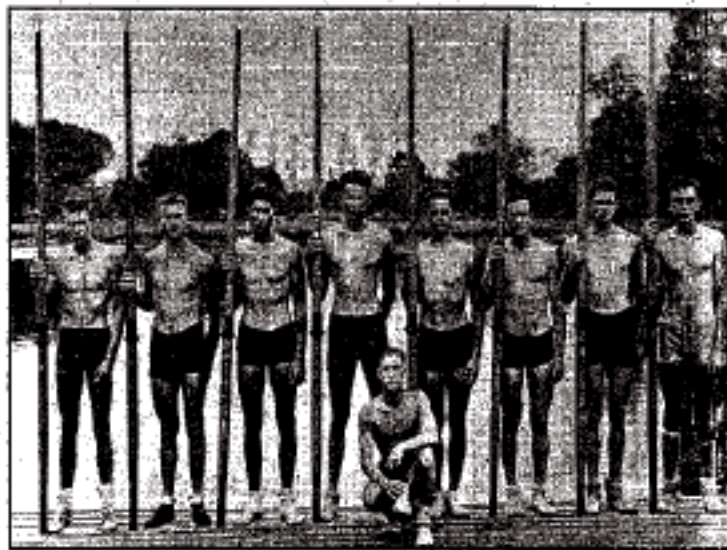
"On Germany's Lake Grunau, in front of Adolph Hitler and with international relations starting to fail everywhere in advance of World War II, the Huskies scored an inspiring victory, rushing from last place halfway through the race to beat the favored Italians and hosting Germans.

"The Huskies had been placed in Lane 6, where they were exposed to the most weather. The Germans were in Lane 1. They didn't hear the start and were in last place with less than 1,000 meters left in the 2,000-meter race.

"In front of an estimated 75,000 spectators, most of whom were Germans chanting 'Deutschland' in thunderous fashion with each stroke lifted in and out of the water by the home crew, the Huskies slipped across the finish line eight feet in front."

Bob and Jim came together to MIT in 1939 – Moch as Head Coach and coach of the Varsity Heavyweights and McMillin as coach of the Freshmen. Bob immediately entered Harvard Law School, got his degree two years later, and returned to Seattle after the 1944 season to practice law.

It was Jim that coached MIT to victory – MIT's only Heavyweight Varsity victory – at the EARC Sprint Regatta in 1950. MIT's neighbor upstream had lost only nine varsity races in the preceding thirteen years, and had already beaten MIT twice that year. Jim was determined to turn the tables on Harvard at the Sprints.



Coxswain Bob Moch, front, poses with victorious Washington crewmates after the 1936 Olympics: from left, Don Hume, Joe Rantz, George Hunt, Jim McMillan, John White, Gordon Adam, Charles Day and Roger Morris.

For the first mile MIT and Harvard matched strokes in third and fourth place behind Pennsylvania and Princeton. Harvard was rowing smoothly at a steady 32 strokes per minute; the MIT crew was rowing a little higher. As the twelve varsity crews hit the final stretch, MIT and Harvard spurted into the lead, upping the beat to 40 strokes per minute as they skimmed across the finish line. The crews were so close that it took the officials an agonizing ten minutes to reach a decision.

Harvard had lost. MIT's winning margin: four feet.

## Mentor Update

The Women's Coaching staff at MIT is hoping to revive the Alumnae Mentor program this Spring. It would mean so much to the young women to have contact with alums who devoted themselves to MIT Crew.

We currently have fifteen alums signed up as mentors, but we need many more to accommodate the 55 athletes between the Open and Lightweight squads. The aims of the Women's Mentor program are as follows:

- To create a link between current and past rowers
- To cultivate an understanding of the benefits of rowing at MIT (felt during and after one's rowing days)

- To widen the support system for rowers who are struggling to find the balance between academics and crew

*What does the mentor-mentee relationship entail?*

Interested alums will be asked to fill out a brief questionnaire which will help us to make the most beneficial pairings.

The mentor will receive information about her mentee and will then initiate the link, through e-mail and then a follow-up phone call.

Once the link has been made, the mentor is encouraged to share stories from rowing at MIT and to help the coaches with the mission of athlete retention and continued support.

The mentor can expect monthly e-mail updates from the coach (including photos, results etc.) and will be asked to contact her mentee once per month while school is in session.

The mentor is also invited to join in the celebration of MIT Women's Rowing at the 2006 Head of the Charles gathering.

If you are interested in participating in the Alumnae Mentor program, please contact Women's Varsity Lightweight Coach Irene Jenkins at [ijenkins@mit.edu](mailto:ijenkins@mit.edu) or 617-324-0375.

We appreciate the support of the alums on a daily basis. We thank you for making our sport stay afloat!

## Charlie Butt Memorial Dedication

On the warm and sunny afternoon of Saturday, April 16, a racing eight for the men's varsity lightweight crew was dedicated in honor of Charles S. Butt, Jr '41 – "Charlie" – in ceremonies at the Pierce Boathouse. The Charlie Butt Crew Shell Endowment Fund, established in 1992 by over fifty of his friends and crew mates, has enabled us to ensure that there will always be a boat with Charlie's name on it in the boathouse.

It was our good fortune to have with us some members of Charlie's family – his

wife, Millie, and their daughter Nancy and her children, and his son Charley. Now the Lightweight Varsity Coach at Harvard, Charley has followed in his father's footsteps with great success just like his dad, and had this to say:

*"No question my father loved his rowing. Sculling, and coaching.*

*From his first strokes in the fall of 1937 to his last year of coaching in 1991 he remained a passionate rower, coach and patron. He was proud to win his first and last Scholastic Boys Varsity Eight title in 1949 and 1989, a 40-year testament to his passion and commitment to producing competitive crews.*

*My father discovered rowing at MIT in the fall of 1937, and while slated as a coxswain for the first few weeks, he found himself drafted as a rower for class day racing. With no basic skills he caught numerous overhead crabs in the warm up. For his lack of skill the coaches handicapped his crew a significant lead, at which point a clever teammate suggested that he keep his blade square. Rowing crab free his crew easily won the class day and were awarded miniature class day trophy oars, which to this day remain part of our home in Virginia.*

*All aeronautical engineers at MIT were required to be ROTC in those days, which meant moving to Dayton, Ohio to spend the war years testing all sorts of airplanes for combat. He always warned me and others to take the time necessary to get things right, a message drummed into the*

*young engineers from MIT to the airspace above Wright Field. The entire class of '41 was assigned to Wright Field and together the former rowers among them bought a single scull.*

*Following the war my father moved to Washington DC to work for the Navy. By 1949 he found himself coaching crew for Washington and Lee High School in Arlington. The first and last varsity scholastic titles came in '49 and '89, but the real salad days were the 1960s when Washington Lee High School won the Henley*

*Royal Regatta's Princess Elizabeth Cup in 1964 and 1969.*

*My father happily spent more than 40 years coaching rowing on the Potomac river. If you've ever flown into Washington DC's Reagan Airport you know that the flight approach follows the river, as it has since the 1930s and 40s. The Potomac River is the perfect spot for anyone who enjoys airplanes and rowing. I remember riding in*

*my father's coaching launch and the conversation forever revolved around the airplane passing overhead and the crews practicing on the river.*

*In the last decade of his coaching my father won several awards, and in accepting he would credit my mother for her patience and support for his rowing, coaching, and airplanes. He had a good life and he made the most of it. On a*

*more personal note, I must say that I am delighted to see the Charles S. Butt, Jr.'41 gliding up the Charles River. I like to think that the rowers in that boat are as much enamored of their time on the river, as my father was during this time in the late '30s and early '40s."*

The many, many accomplishments of his dad to which Charley referred include:

- Washington & Lee High School: Team Founder, Head Coach 1949–1991
- U.S. Jr. National Team Men's Coach 1967, '71-'72, '77-'80
- Coach Potomac Boat Club '49-'92
- 1981 U.S. Rowing Association's John Carlin Service Award
- 1987 U.S. Rowing Association's Jack Kelly Award
- 1979 & 1980 Washingtonian Magazine "Washingtonian of the Year"
- Washington Post "All-Met Men's Rowing Coach" 1987, 1989
- Virginia Athletic Directors, Administrators, and Coaches Association Award
- Point man and Finance Chairman for the building of the Occoquan Rowing Facility
- Helped start Yorktown High School, Wakefield High School, George Washington University, Georgetown University, and University of Virginia crews, among many others.

After the presentation to his wife of a plaque commemorating the dedication, the traditional christening ensued as Millie poured champagne over the bow of the shell. The reception that followed in the McCurdy lounge was a fitting conclusion to a most inspiring and memorable occasion.

**"From his first strokes in the fall of 1937 to his last year of coaching in 1991 he remained a passionate rower, coach and patron."**



Women's openweight novices in the fall



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