



# The Maroon Lagoon

The University of Chicago Crew Club's Parent and Alumni Newsletter – Spring 2006  
<http://rowing.uchicago.edu>

## University Rowing Association

After a long season of winter training, the University of Chicago Crew was finally ready for the first spring regatta.

The University Rowing Association Championships took place on Sunday, April 2, 2006. On Saturday morning, the team had breakfast together in the dining hall. After counting down, ensuring that all twenty-seven were aboard, the bus embarked on the journey from Chicago to Butler, Pennsylvania.

The next morning, the team arrived at the site at six AM. The



park was covered with teams scurrying around in the dark, rigging boats and carrying launches. Our team began rigging the two fours and two eights that we would be racing that day.

### URA Results

**Men's Varsity 8 - 3<sup>rd</sup> of 5**  
**Men's Varsity 4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> of 6**  
**Men's JV 4 - 3<sup>rd</sup> of 7, 6<sup>th</sup> of 7**  
**Men's Novice 4 - 4<sup>th</sup> of 5**  
**Women's Varsity 8 - 5<sup>th</sup> of 6**  
**Women's Varsity 4 - 6<sup>th</sup> of 7**  
**Women's Novice 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> of 7**

As we prepared, the sun came up suddenly, leaving red and purple streaks in the sky over the water, foreshadowing the beautiful day in store.

It was an exciting day, with many rowers racing more than once.

At the awards ceremony the men's team was delighted to find that they had won third place overall, behind WashU and the University of Rochester. Then, the team took one last picture, counted down once more, and boarded the bus.

The ride home was spent in the proper UChicago mix of work and fun—reading Kant and translating Chinese, watching the O.C. and singing along to “Living on a Prayer.” The team seemed pleased with their accomplishments, but ready to do better.

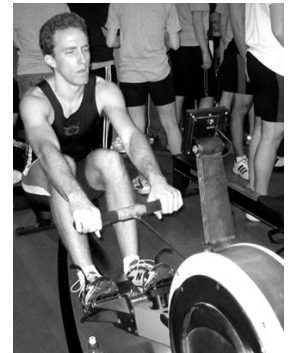


## Indoor Rowing Championship

The first race after snows began to fall came on February 18, both the men's and women's teams traveled to the Chicago Indoor Rowing Championships. With twenty-three competitors, accompanied by various injured and coxswains, the team was ready to take on the world, or at least our Chicago competitors.

In the gym of a community center on the north side of Chicago, there were two sets of ten ergs set up for racing. It was a very fun set-up, with all of the ergs connected to each other and a screen. Each erg displayed the time of the leader in the race, and the screen displayed boats representing each competitor. Who knew that erging could be a spectator sport?

Two of the UChicago rowers took first place in their races, Matthew Bruce in the collegiate lightweight men, and Lucy Michael in collegiate women.



We also had three rowers take second place in their races, Daniel Wasserman, Danny Schwartz, and Kat Tchakalska in collegiate men, novice men and novice lightweight women, respectively.

Three rowers received third place in their races. These were Nora Granville, Miles Betley, and Ngiste Abebe in the lightweight women's, lightweight novice men, and novice women's races respectively.

When it came to the final relay, the women were trailing Marquette University by 10.3 seconds and the men were behind the Lincoln Park Boat Club by 9.6 seconds. While both teams showed strong efforts in the relay, neither was able to gain the lead. Marquette remained ahead of the women, and set a new record for the race. The men's team was eventually edged out by Northwestern.

For many of the novices, this was the first time racing. Though it was not the overall victory hoped for, it was a valuable experience, as well as helpful for our team building. Each experience can only help to make us stronger for the next race. And the rowers who received medals weren't too upset either.

## MACRA

The crew found itself boarding a bus once again on Friday, May 5. It was the beginning of a journey to Athens, Ohio, for the Mid-American Collegiate Rowing Association regatta.

Things were not looking up for the team going into the race. Due to some problems with liability, the team was forced to borrow boats from other schools. It was nerve-racking to be unsure where the boats were coming from, but ultimately a great sign of rowing community, as Cincinnati and Charleston each lent us a four.

Saturday rose bright, clear and warm, the perfect weather for racing.

The men's team had a full program, racing two varsity fours, a lightweight four, and a novice four.

The varsity four was the first race for the men, with the boats in two different heats. In the first heat, the UChicago boat finished fourth of five, with a time of 7:41.71. Later, the other varsity four finished with an 8:18.45, fifth in their heat.

The men's lightweight boat embarked later in the morning, to finish fourth of five in their heat, with a time of 7:48.45. The novice four came in fourth of four in their heat, with a time of 8:19.20.

The women's crew was racing two boats, a varsity four and a novice four, with many of the same members. The morning got off to a shaky start when the varsity four came in last in their heat, with 9:07.17.

When it came to the time of the novice women's four, the girls felt pressure. This was their last race of the year, and the last time they'd race as novices. Their boat, from stroke to bow, was Marjie Bush, Ngiste Abebe, Jessica Wright, and Becky Brehl, and was coxed by Liz Chen.

It seemed hopeless when the race started with catching a crab, pulling the boat to an abrupt stop. After that mishap, however, they picked up the pace again and easily pulled through Northwestern, then North Park, two Chicago-area rivals. The boat finished second in the heat, behind Ohio State.

After a nerve wracking wait, unsure if their time was fast enough to move to the finals, they got the news that they were in. However, they had the slowest time of all the teams, going into the finals with 9:03.3.

After sleeping in the shade for a few hours, the team was ready to race. The team quickly passed Ohio State. Though they worked, they did not pass any other boats, and finished fourth. The girls were happy, having improved their time to a 8:28.34.

As the last event for many of the rowers, the beautiful race on the lake was wonderful.



## Report from the Men's Squad

By Daniel Wasserman

This year, our team took the next step towards a very positive future. We have several new faces both on our squads and on our coaching staff. They are some of the most hard-working and dedicated people this club has ever seen. They come to practice every time -- never missing even one -- and do everything possible to make our team more competitive. Our rowers are completing difficult practices and are stepping up to every challenge.

This year, our team had a number of very notable performances, including an excellent finish by the men's club 4+ at the Head of Charles -- strong enough to win the team automatic re-entry for next year. For the third year, our team went to the URA Regatta to compete against our UAA rivals, and of the eight teams in the conference, our men's squad placed 3rd. We also hope to have started a new tradition by competing in the Mid-America Collegiate Rowing Association Regatta this year, and our novice women put our club off to a great start by qualifying for the finals earlier this spring.

Our team is steadily growing stronger, and it will be very exciting to watch a successful campaign next year.

We would like to thank you for all of the support and encouragement you have given us throughout this year and passed years. Thank you for helping us to make this year possible, and all our best wishes for the summer!

## Report from the Women's Team

By Nora Granville

The women's team has come a long way over the course of our spring season. Our team this year is made up of mostly novices, which has made for a challenging beginning, but also a year of quite exciting changes and improvements.

Many of the novices took their first strokes on the water during our spring break at the Dammrich Rowing Center in Skokie, IL. Over the course of the week we practiced 3-4 times a day, combining water, erg, and running workouts. It was a fundamental learning and team-bonding experience for us all.

All the hard work finally paid off for the team at MACRAs, when the women's novice 4+ beat our arch-rivals Northwestern and North Park.

This has been an important re-building year for the women's team, and next year we hope to gain more novices, as well as work on improving further. With these goals in mind, we are poised for even greater success in the future.

## Dad Vails

By Emily Tancer and Miles Betley

This year, we sent a Men's Varsity 4+ to represent the team at Dad Vails. From Stroke to Bow, the boat consisted of first year Miles Betley, second year Andy Jacobs, first year Luke Matthews, and fourth year Captain Daniel Wasserman, with second year Emily Tancer coxing.

The boat finished a disappointing fifth in their heat, competing against Dowling, Sonoma State, University of Connecticut, American University, and UMass Lowell.

Regarding the race, Andy Jacobs said, "Vails was both maddening and terribly exciting. Part of me was angry watching all the races, knowing that we could have rowed better. But seeing all the competition also made me anxious, because I know that in future years Chicago will see success at Vails."

On Saturday, both former rowers and Chicago Alumni who live in the Philadelphia area (or traveled to watch) hosted us in the alumni area. Providing us with food, a great location to watch races, an amazing new banner, and the pleasure of their company, these alumni were great.



We got to introduce many of them to the sport of rowing, and we got to reminisce with three former men's captains about their experiences on Chicago Crew.

Many thanks to Brett Saunders and her husband Jeff for providing the tent and much of the food, Eric, the president of the Philadelphia area alumni association for advertising and delivering our banner, Valerie for arranging the creation of the banner, Jaime for providing our coach and volunteers with a place to stay, and Jeff, Meg, Steve, and all the other alumni for their presence. It was wonderful to have friendly faces after coming off the water.

Finally, thanks to the former rowers who came to support the crew. Former captain and head of the rowing alumni association Chris Noto traveled from New York to watch the races, Chris Phillips, another former captain, came out to watch, and Patrick, captain three years ago, drove up the night after he returned from deployment in Iraq to support the team and the sport of rowing as a whole.

It was wonderful to meet everyone and we hope that the alumni tent will become a yearly tradition that both rowing and non-rowing alumni support.

We very much appreciated your presence and would love to see you all again, and we would love to see more of you next year! We'll be sending out information about the event next winter and spring.

## Site Update

This season, the team has proved its flexibility through changing sites three times. Due to the toxicity of the soil at the site where we rowed in the fall, it was closed to rowing, displacing three teams. We were able to row at the Dammrich Rowing Center from spring break till April 24. Between that time and the present, we have been rowing out of a Lincoln Park site. We are hoping everything will work out so that we will be able to present the new site at the Sun Times building to all of the alumni at our annual row and barbeque at the end of the summer.



## Alumni Update

We recognize the importance of the alumni in the continuation of our program. We've been wondering what you all are doing now, and bet that you are too. (Whatever happened to the stroke seat? Did he get with that cute coxswain in the end?) We'd love to find out, and be able to share it with the rest of the alums. Please send us updates to include in a summer or fall newsletter.

We're looking forward to the traditional Alumni Barbeque at the end of the summer. Keep your eyes on the mail for updates. As always, we'd be happy to have visits from alumni and parents during the school year. We'd love to have you check out the site and watch a practice.

Please contact Becky Brehl at [rbrehl@uchicago.edu](mailto:rbrehl@uchicago.edu) with updates on your life or to schedule a visit.

## Rowing Board

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