



FONR
FOCUS

NEWSLETTER

Friends of
Nebraska
Rowing

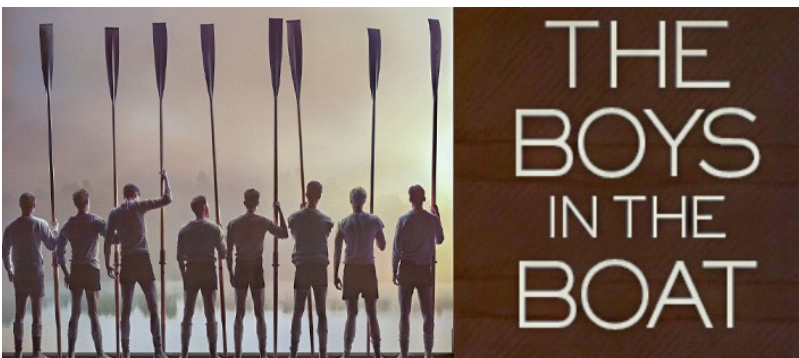


Winter 2024 Alumni Event - Movie & Social Review

“An evening of nostalgia, camaraderie, and entertainment”

On January 20th Starting at 3 pm in Omaha, Join us for a private screening of an inspiring true story on the 1936 University of Washington rowing team that won gold at the Olympics in Berlin. We will meet in ACX Cinema 12+ Omaha just north of 204th & Harrison. This film is directed by George Clooney and will bring back memories of rowing at Nebraska.

Following the movie, at 5 pm, All Alumni are invited to mingle and share their thoughts on the film while indulging in food and drinks at Backlot Bar and Pizza. Tickets to the private movie are \$10 and must be prepaid. To reserve your spot, please contact Jerry Huber at 402.670.2417 huberjerry19@gmail.com; seating is limited. This event is an excellent opportunity to reconnect with your fellow alums and support the current Nebraska crew team.



The story of "The Boys in the Boat" imparts profound lessons on resilience, teamwork, and the indomitable human spirit. Like the young oarsmen in the aforementioned story, our university's rowing program embodies the values of dedication and unity.

Today, we aim to propel our rowing program to fast water and provide Nebraska athletes with a journey that underscores the importance of tenacity in the face of adversity. We teach that collective efforts lead to greatness, and shared aspiration create strong bonds. "Boys In The Boat" is a compelling reminder that success often emerges from individual dedication and collaborative unity. Your support and fundraising are the oars that propel this team forward. Together, let's create a legacy that resonates with the indomitable spirit of our alma mater.

GLOW BIG RED 2024 - Support the team!

Remember the thrill of gliding on the water, the camaraderie of your crew, and the pride of yelling "Row Big Red"? FONR hopes everyone will take part on February 14th and 15th! Every donation counts (large & small); please show us your support! Glow Big Red is a 24-hour fundraising campaign that celebrates the spirit and generosity of the UNL community. It's a chance for us to directly fund our Rowing athletes and help them achieve their goals.



The UNL Crew needs our help with essential items to improve training, performance, and safety. We hope to purchase new sculling equipment, wifi connected ergs and upgraded motors for the coaching launches. Every donation counts, no matter how big or small. We aim to get as many donors as possible and prove to Husker Nation how much we care about our rowers. For the past three years, Crew alumni have been the top supporters of student groups; let's keep the streak going!

So, what are you waiting for? Text your old teammates, share this post on social media, and get ready to Glow Big Red!

Starting February 14th through February 15th, click this link to donate! :

<https://glowbigred.unl.edu/campaigns/sports-club-rowing-club>

Celebrating 50 Years of Women's Rowing: A Legacy of Excellence

In September, our FONR community gathered to commemorate a monumental milestone – 50 years of Nebraska Women's Rowing. This special Alumni event was a heartfelt tribute to five decades of dedication, passion, and triumphs.

Over 70 supporters graced the occasion, creating an atmosphere rich with nostalgia and camaraderie. Among them were eight esteemed members of the original women's crew, alongside numerous present-day athletes from our women's program. The weekend buzzed with warmth, exchanging hugs freely and fostering connections that spanned generations.



The evening unfolded with abundant laughter as attendees shared the joy of great stories that have shaped our collective journey. Amidst the merriment, a few tears were shed, a testament to the profound impact of this shared experience. Most importantly, gratitude filled the room for the enduring friendships forged and the invaluable "lessons learned" during formative years as student-athletes at Nebraska.

Amy Lanham, Director of Campus Recreation, shared insights into how the rowing program aligns with the core values and missions of the department. "Nebraska Rowing teaches life-long recreational skills and physical fitness. It enriches the student experience and builds tomorrow's leaders," expressed Lanham, emphasizing the program's broader impact beyond the waters.

Ellen Jirovsky was awarded the esteemed "Keeper of the Cob" for her outstanding contributions to the alumni board. Ellen's dedication has played a pivotal role in preserving and promoting the legacy of Nebraska Women's Rowing.



The event also saw the deserving recognition of the original female athletes involved in founding the Women's Crew and current athletes who represented Nebraska at the ACRA championships last spring. Letters of distinction, presented by Alan Maybee, acknowledged their pivotal roles in shaping the program's history.

(Continued: Celebrating 50 Years of Women's Rowing: A Legacy of Excellence)

This Alumni event was a celebration and a call to action. Both silent and live auctions captivated attendees, resulting in a significant fundraising effort. The proceeds will directly contribute to funding coaching, ensuring the continued growth and success of Nebraska Women's Rowing.



As we reflect on this milestone event, we are filled with pride for the rich history of Women's Rowing at Nebraska and look forward to the promising future ahead. Together, we continue to row towards excellence, united by the shared passion and legacy that define us.

Friends of Nebraska Rowing thanks the members of the FONR Committee for organizing the event. The chair of the event was Justin Miller. Volunteers included Carol Bryan Easley, Sarah Wooten Ryder, Mary Portz Beardsley, Ellen Havlovic Jirovsky, Lisa Rohde, Dianne Hasting Lewis, Dustin Lewis, Al and Cher Maybee, Drew Van Heuveln, Joel Merriman, Lisa and Larry Mickey, Chuck Clifford, Brad Kuhn and Jeanne and Jerry Huber.



Rooted in Legacy: In celebration of Women’s Rowing, a Tree was Planted at the Pawnee Rowing Center to honor the first Nebraska Women’s Crew coach, Pete Zandbergen. Pete coached the NU Women while continuing to compete for the Nebraska Men’s Crew, later becoming involved in staffing the U.S. Olympic team and a leader in NAAO US Rowing. Pete also was a dedicated and internationally recognized rowing referee/official.

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Save the Date! — 2024 Fall Alumni Event! —
Join us for an unforgettable Alumni Reunion Weekend on
Friday, September 6th, and Saturday, September 7th, 2024.

****BOATHOUSE BASH Friday, September 6th, 2024****
5:00 pm - 9:00 pm - UNL Campus Training Center

****FUN ROW - Saturday, September 7th 2024****
8:00 am - 11:00 am - Pawnee Lake Rowing Facility
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Signs of Progress: Pawnee Lake Rowing Center

Thanks to Nebraska Game & Parks and Campus Recreation, we are easier to find:



Friends of Nebraska Rowing Organization Directors * denotes Officers

*President – Mark Stormberg	At large Member – Ellen Jirovsky
*Vice President – Jerry Huber	At large Member – Chuck Clifford
*Treasurer – Tim Jensen	At Large - Lisa Rohde
*Secretary – Frank Dolezal	Of Counsel/Honorary Member - Pete Zandbergen
*Communications– Joel Merriman	Coaching Representative – Eric Jensen
Campus Rec- Amy Lanham	At large– Allen Maybee
NU Foundation - Joye Fehringer	

Please consider joining one or more committee; email jhuber@investorsomaha.com for info:

LIAISON	MASTERPLAN	RECRUITING
EQUIPMENT	COMMUNICATION	FACILITIES
GIFTING	FINANCE	EVENTS

Coaching and Team Updates:



Nebraska Crew had a triumphant fall rowing season, navigating key regattas including Head of the Des Moines, Kansas Challenge, Colorado Governness Cup, and the Wichita Frostbite. New equipment, including our fleet of bow-coxed 4+'s, significantly enhanced our

competitiveness, contributing to our success on the water.

The team proudly traveled down the interstate in a freshly repainted red trailer, showcasing our unity and spirit. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the alums whose unwavering support played a pivotal role in making the fall 2023 season a resounding success. Your commitment to our team has been instrumental, and we look forward to continuing this journey together.



(Members of the Women's 4+ that competed at ACRA last Spring)

COACHES HISTORY - ALMOST DONE!

We are almost complete with our history of Nebraska Rowing Coaches. We still need some help with 1992-1998—E-mail information to Gary Dostal at dostal4@gmail.com.