



NEWSLETTER

August 2025

The Voice of the University of Nebraska Rowing Alumni Community

JOB OPENING: HEAD COACH – UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA ROWING

Big news out of Lincoln, Nebraska — for the first time in program history, the University of Nebraska has officially posted a full-time Head Coach – Director of Rowing position! This is a landmark moment for Nebraska Rowing. The new Head Coach will be a full-time, salaried employee of the University, complete with benefits, not just loosely affiliated with the program. Additionally, a part-time Assistant Coach will be hired to support the team.

Over the past year, the University Campus Recreation Department, Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR), and the University of Nebraska Foundation have worked tirelessly to make this dream a reality. Thanks to the generosity of alumni and supporters, \$96,000 has already been raised toward the first-year goal of \$115,000, and \$297,000 toward the five-year goal of \$632,500. View the official job posting here: <https://employment.unl.edu/postings/97711>

This is a historic step forward — but we're not quite there yet. We need the Husker Rowing community to help close the gap. The 2025–26 school year is just around the corner, and the time to act is now. If you're able, please consider making a gift today. Think of the teammate who once sat in front of you, take a deep breath, and pull — pull for NEBRASKA. Make your contribution here: <https://nufoundation.org/fund/01156770/>

Thanks for your support! ROW BIG RED!

Coaching Fundraising Committee: Jerry Huber, Mark Stormberg, Lisa Rohde, Tim Jensen, Pete Zanbergen

September 26 & 27 Reconnect. Celebrate. Row.

The Row Big Red Alumni Weekend is almost here! Register Today for an unforgettable celebration of Nebraska Crew's legacy.

Friday, September 26th – Boathouse Bash 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM

NU Campus Training Center / Boathouse

Free Parking in Lot A next to the Boathouse

Meet & Greet with alumni, student-athletes, and friends

Chili Cookoff with cinnamon rolls and non-alcoholic beverages

Raffles on the Hour and Keeper of the Cob Presentation

Sign up for Saturday's Alumni Fun Row, purchase merchandise, and join the excitement!

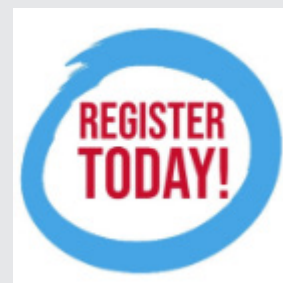
Register & Bid Here: <https://auctria.events/rowbigred>

Saturday, September 27th – Alumni Fun Row 8:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Pawnee Lake Rowing Facility (3805 NW 105th St, Lincoln, NE 68524)

Get back on the water for the Alumni Fun Row

Enjoy coffee, donuts, and a BBQ lunch hosted by Chuck Clifford



- Hotel Accommodations
- Wingate by Wyndham
- 1301 Bond Circle, Lincoln, NE
- 402-474-2080
- Reservations under F.O.N.R. Block
- Single King: \$81 , Double Queen: \$98



Nebraska Rowing Wins Silver at ACRA Nationals

Oak Ridge, TN – The University of Nebraska Rowing made a powerful statement at the 2025 ACRA (American Collegiate Rowing Association) National Championship Regatta, with standout performances that brought home national recognition and a silver medal finish. In a fiercely competitive women's pair final, junior Alanna Snyder and senior Sophie Kruse delivered an outstanding performance over the 2000-meter course, earning silver medals with a time of 8:17. The duo crossed the finish line just 15 seconds behind powerhouse Virginia (8:02), and held off Grand Valley State (8:21) to secure second place in a tightly contested race. Their performance marks one of Nebraska Rowing's highest finishes at the national level in recent years. Snyder, from Thornton, Colorado, and Kruse, from Longmont, Colorado, showcased incredible synergy and grit throughout the weekend. Their podium finish not only highlights their personal dedication but also reflects the continued growth and competitiveness of Nebraska's club rowing program. Nebraska also fielded a women's double sculls entry, with rowers Lara Arnold and Emily Klingler racing to an 11th-place finish against a strong national field. Their result added to the team's overall success and presence at the regatta. In total, eight Nebraska athletes represented the university at ACRA this year. Their journey to Oak Ridge was made possible thanks to Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR), a nonprofit booster organization that supports the club. FONR's contributions helped fund travel and lodging costs, and the team competed in fast racing shells also made possible by FONR efforts. The ACRA Regatta, held annually in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is the largest collegiate club rowing competition in the United States, featuring entries from 77 colleges and universities across the country. The 2025 edition saw hundreds of rowers compete across multiple events, with Nebraska proudly holding its own on the national stage.

All-American & Academic Honors

In addition to success on the water, several Huskers earned individual accolades for their performance and academic excellence: Sophie Kruse was named to the ACRA Second Team All-American, recognizing her as one of the top rowers in the nation among collegiate club athletes. Four student-athletes were honored for their achievements in the classroom with ACRA All-Academic Team selections: First Team All-Academic: Andrew Mass, Chloe Ong, Sophie Kruse, and Lara Arnold. Second Team All-Academic: Mac O'Brien

These academic honors highlight the team's commitment to excellence both in athletics and academics, reinforcing Nebraska Rowing's reputation as a well-rounded and hardworking program. As the team reflects on a successful nationals campaign, preparations are already underway for the 2025–26 season. With rising talent, strong leadership, and continued community support, Nebraska Rowing is poised to build on this year's achievements and aim even higher next spring.





Four Rowers Honored with \$300 Scholarships



On December 13, 2024, the spirit of the season and the strength of the Nebraska Rowing community came together at the annual Crew Party. Hosted by the Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR), the event brought together alumni and current rowers for an evening of pizza, shared memories, and celebration. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of the First Annual Winter Scholarship to recognize not only athletic commitment but also leadership, service, and the enduring spirit of Nebraska Rowing. Tim Jensen, Treasurer of FONR, proudly awarded student-athletes with a formal letter of recognition, honoring their dedication to the team and their embodiment of the values that define Nebraska Crew. The scholarships to help cover their Spring semester Rowing Club dues were made possible by Friends of Nebraska Rowing Donors from the Fall Alumni Event. “Your demonstrated leadership, service to the team, and spirit of competition in this sport exemplify the personal traits necessary to create a lasting impact on yourself and others through Nebraska Rowing.” (Jerry Huber). This initiative marks the beginning of a new tradition. FONR plans to continue awarding these scholarships at the end of each Fall semester, supporting student-athletes as they prepare for the Spring rowing season. To the recipients: thank you for representing your boat, your teammates, and the legacy of Nebraska Crew with pride and excellence—on and off the water.



AUCTION ITEMS NEEDED! The FONR Events Committee hopes to raise a good amount of funds with this year's on-line Auction. We are urgently looking for additional items to reach this goal. If you have something you would like to contribute please let Justin Miller or Jerry Huber. Big ticket items like condominium or time share stays are especially attractive. Event tickets, books, Husker memorabilia, date night items, service “gift cards” are always nice too. Think of items that would be “perks” in your life. “I wouldn't buy that for myself but since this is for charity”. Smaller items or “creative” items are always welcome. The website goes live on September 1 st so please reach out soon. If you are unable to donate something for 2025, please contact us about a donation for the 2026 Auction. Again, email Jerry Huber at huberjerry19@gmail.com. Thanks everyone!!



Alumni Weekend Summary – September 2024

Friday night at the Campus Boathouse, pizza, desserts including root beer floats were shared with nearly 50 alumni, family and current rowers. Online and onsite fundraising resulted in nearly \$10,000.00 for the crew. Thanks everyone for the great work, donations, and sponsorship.

On Saturday morning, members of the rowing team put four alumni boats on the water to include men's and womens' eights allowing nearly 30 alumni the opportunity to get back on the water. The weather was beautiful, and the water was smooth. Following a boat naming ceremony (outlined below), Chuck Clifford served a brisket lunch to all attendees.

UNL Rowing, Friends of Nebraska Rowing, and the UNL Foundation honored the late Colonel Mark R. Forman, U.S. Army at a boat naming ceremony held Saturday, September 7, 2024, at the UNL Rowing Center at Pawnee Lake just west of Lincoln. Forman was a former crew member from 1981-83 and an oarsman on the championship Men's Varsity Eight team. Family, friends, former teammates, current rowing club members and coaches attended the event.

Mark Forman was a 1979 graduate of Bellevue West High School. Played college football with the Kearney State Lopers prior to transferring to UNL and joining the rowing team. He was a crucial to the powerful "engine room" of the Husker Men's Varsity crew which won numerous races and championships. Mark graduated from UNL in 1983 and married his high school sweetheart, Tish Wrentmore, prior to completing Army Ranger School. As an Army infantry officer, he had many assignments outside the continental U.S. including command assignments. He was part of the 10 th Mountain Division and served in Afghanistan. Forman retired as Colonel and was killed in a bicycle accident in Kansas in 2017. His former teammates have raised over \$3800 for the coaches' fund, securing the privilege to denote a varsity men's eight rowing shell in his honor.



Mark's wife Tish shares a moment with Mark's teammates Tim "Bravo" Jensen, Joel "Mama" Merriman, and John "Johnny" Dundon. A book of memories from Mark's Coach, Matt Kush, his teammates, Geoff Freed, TJ, Roger Lehman, Brad Kuhn, Mike Wenzl (and Brenda) Johnny, Mama, and Kevin Steele, Tim Hedberg, along with military history and a protégé will available at the Boathouse.

Answer the Coxswain's Call: Join the FONR Board!

Remember the bite of the cold morning air, the rhythmic splash of oars, and the singular focus of pulling together for the finish line? Your time as a Husker Rower shaped you, and now you have the opportunity to shape the future of the program that gave you so much. The Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR) is officially seeking passionate, dedicated alumni to join our Board of Directors. This is your chance to get back in the boat—in a new and vital seat. What is the Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR)? FONR is the official alumni support group for the University of Nebraska Men's and Women's Rowing team. Our core mission is simple: to provide the financial and community support necessary for our student-athletes to succeed both on the water and in the classroom. Through fundraising and alumni engagement, we've helped fund critical needs like: State-of-the-art shells and oars, Ergometers and training equipment, Team travel for National Level regattas, Head Coaching Support, Mentoring and Salary

We are the team behind the team, ensuring they have every advantage to compete at the highest level. Just like a top-tier boat, our board needs power, rhythm, and fresh energy to move forward. We are seeking alumni from all eras and professions to bring new perspectives and skills to our leadership team. Whether your expertise is in finance, marketing, event planning, or simply a deep passion for Husker rowing, your voice is essential. Serving on the FONR board is a rewarding and manageable commitment. Responsibilities include: Attending Monthly virtual board meetings. Participating in one of our key committees (e.g., Equipment, Fundraising, Events, or Alumni Relations). Championing our fundraising and membership campaigns. Serving as an ambassador for Nebraska Rowing in your community and network. It's a chance to apply your professional skills to a cause you believe in, reconnect with teammates, and build a powerful network of Husker alumni. If you're ready to answer the call, we want to hear from you. Help us continue the legacy of strength, dedication, and excellence that defines Nebraska Rowing. To express your interest or to nominate a fellow alum, please email Mark Stormberg. Let's ensure the future of Nebraska Rowing is stronger than ever. Go Big Red!