



# ROWING

SEASON PREVIEW 2018/2019



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# SEASON IN REVIEW

2017-2018

## Budge Collins II - Filippi 8+

Long time supporter and friend to the crew Budge Collins, stepped forward with the help of the UCI Crew alumni to purchase a carbon winged Filippi 8+ off lease from the Senior World Championships in Sarasota Florida. This new addition to the fleet will give the Irvine Varsity team a top-tier shell for years to come.



## UCI CREW ATTENDS THE HENLEY ROYAL REGATTA FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 39 YEARS.

The UCI rowing team broke a 39- year drought this summer by attending the Henley Royal Regatta in England for the first time since 1979.

The crew went through a rigorous training schedule, logging in 12 to 14 sessions a week for 5 weeks before making the trip across the pond.

On the final day of practice Coach Brooks put the boys to the test by having them preform an all out 2112 meter race (Henley Distance.) The boys were issued a pre-race plan and a time to beat. They were measured against the tide to insure the feel would mimic the flow of the Thames River. The boys passed the test with flying colors. Clock- ing in at 7:11 They came away in high spirits. Having held onto their technique and leaving every ounce of themselves on their home water.

Then the boys packed their bags and departed to



## UC Challenge Cup 2018

The fourth UC Challenge Cup was one for the record books as the Irvine hosted regatta added live stream footage and a hosted alumni brunch following the races. A special surprise landed at the end when Dr. Henry T. Nicholas III announced he was donating \$40,000 to the program to send the men's and women's teams to the national championship.

## ACRA National Championship

This year saw the most athletes sent to the national championship since ACRA began. UCI was able to send a total of 54 men and women. The Anteaters also were able to bring home some hardware. With the Women's Freshman 8+ taking gold and the men's Varsity 4+ winning the bronze medal. With only a handful of graduating seniors, the Eaters are bound for another successful season.

England, making their way to Henley-on-Thames to retrieve their rowing shell and check into their new home. They continued to train and soak in the small town of Henley. The Anteaters were treated to a number of luxuries, including a tour of the renowned Leander Club founded back in 1818.

Fast forward, the boys were matched with Durham "A" at the traditional draw by Sir Steven Redgrave. The Durham boat was filled with Olympic-level talent, but this did not shake the Anteaters. They launched with hunger to prove to themselves that they deserved to be here. Although the boys fell to Durham in the end, they rowed the second fastest time of the day and their best race ever.

# Message from the Board of Stewards

Dear Supporters,

With the onset of fall, the return of 26 oarsmen and 14 oarswomen, and the arrival of new recruits, we are ready for a great year. We closed the book on last year's successes with a fantastic trip to London and the Henley Royal Regatta, which truly highlighted the incredible amount of work that went into making the 2017-2018 season a success. A big congratulations to the crew and Coach AJ for that extraordinary effort, and a heartfelt thank you to all of you that helped raise funds for the trip. Not only did Friends of UCI Rowing, along with your contributions, help fund Henley, but we also raised the funds for a new racing 8 for the Varsity Crew as well as paid the varsity coach stipend. This team effort truly paid dividends, and we appreciate your continued support.

There are some big changes in the works. The attention that UCI Rowing received from the Henley trip has helped more than we ever thought. We are now working with the UCI Administration to set up a permanent endowment for both the coaching/Director of Rowing position as well as initiate the program to modernize our boathouse on Shellmaker Island. We will keep you informed on these programs as they progress.

The production of this quarterly report will be the baseline of our communications with you, but we will also be in email contact to let you know about races, race results, and other happenings. We are working with the alumni and UCI staff to improve our alumni contact database, and to help this effort we may reach out to you for help locating long-lost alums.

Our goal for 2018- 2019 is to keep up the fundraising momentum and continue our success growing the program so those boats can keep going fast! So if you haven't made a contribution yet, make this the year you do!

Here are some opportunities to consider if you want to make a huge impact on our program:

1. Make a donation to the Friends of UCI Rowing to help us meet our \$200,000 funding goal. Among several ongoing projects, Friends is now the primary source of paying AJ Brook's salary; I cannot emphasize how important AJ is to this program. Either write a check and use the enclosed envelope, or pay online using our revamped website: <https://ucirowing.org/>
2. Take an active role in attending races. Mark your calendar for the UC Challenge Cup on March 2, 2019. We will be making arrangements for an alumni event after the races.
3. Consider talking to AJ, myself, or any of the Stewards about our endowment opportunities for the long-term success of the program.

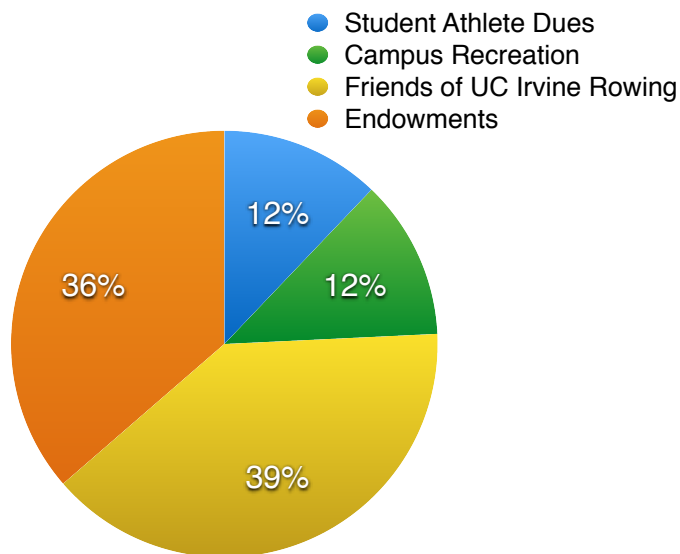
As always, we are incredibly thankful for our alums. Our program has been around for over 50 years due to the support of former UCI Oarsman and coxswains such as yourselves. If there is anything we can do as Stewards of the Friends of UCI Rowing, please don't hesitate to let us know. My email address is [vmestre100@gmail.com](mailto:vmestre100@gmail.com).

Sincerely,  
Vince Mestre and the Board of Stewards

## Financial Report University Advancement

### Program Operations

The annual donations from our families, friends, and alumni make up 39% of the annual fund each year. Your continued commitment is crucial in keeping the program alive and thriving.



### Forever Irvine - Your Legacy - Your Anteaters

Your dedication to University of California, Irvine Rowing may last a lifetime, from youth to career to retirement. By participating in Forever Irvine - a giving program for those who remember University of California, Irvine in their wills or estate plans - your Eater spirit can live on as an enduring personal legacy.

Contact Kara Correa at University Advancement for more information.

### Volunteer

We encourage alumni to give back with time and energy. Whether you are young in your career or retired we could always use a helping hand at any of our numerous events. Please contact:  
Brian Frank - FoUCIR  
[brian.frank@ucirowing.org](mailto:brian.frank@ucirowing.org)  
for more information.





## 2018 President Khalid Ellessaad

Khalid Ellessaad was nothing short of exceptional during his four year tenure with the program. Khalid did not have an average bone in his body, towering at 6'8 and weighing 225 pounds. He went through a remarkable transformation over his four years as an oarsman. Losing more than 40 pounds and graduating with a national championship and a 3.9 GPA in the honors programs for computer science and computer engineering. Khalid was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa (one of the highest honor societies in the world) He was also inducted by Chancellor Gillman!



As with all success stories, real achievements come from the day in, day out grind. Khalid was the ultimate leader. Establishing hard work ethic for the culture of the team. Even with his rigorous academic schedule. He never missed a beat. He had only six absences over four years.



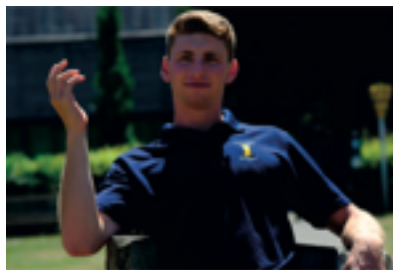
## 2019 President Connor Basile

Introducing Connor Basile ('20) as the 2018-2019 president of the UC Irvine Men's Rowing team.

As a walk on freshman Connor rowed six seat in the Varsity Eight that placed 6th in the nation. Connor was named an All-American Freshman through the ACRA Board and was one of two freshmen in that boat. This year, Connor stroked the Varsity Four to a second place finish at WIRA and the Varsity Eight to an A final finish.

Connor was named to the All-WIRA team along with one other UC Irvine oarsman. He also stroked the Varsity Four to a third place finish at ACRA. Connor capped off the season by stroking the first UC Irvine boat to return to Henley in 39 years! As a walk on novice he never imagined that in only two years his career could have been so successful.

Thanks to the resources provided by the alumni, the Friends of UCI Rowing, and his coaches. He has been able to compete at the highest collegiate level. The best part is his journey has just begun, and with two years left, he is excited to pick up where former captain Khalid left off to and take the Irvine team to new heights.



## Update on the Women's Team President Ali Diaz

Alison Diaz is a third year oarsman and will serve as the President of the UCI Women's Rowing team for the 2018-2019 academic year. Diaz discovered rowing at the age of 13 as an incoming high school freshman after her brother enrolled her in a 2-week rowing camp at their local aquatic center. She fell in love with the team sport and joined the UCI Women's Rowing team in 2016 during her freshman year. In her second year on the team she was promoted to Varsity, and served as the social media chair. This year, not only will she lead as team captain, she will also serve as a cabinet member on the UCI Club Sports Executive council.

As president of the team, her major goals are to increase the size of the team, as well as amplifying community outreach. Similarly, one of her personal goals is to lead the team to victory in their races, including earning their 4th consecutive national title at the American Collegiate Rowing Association Championship.





**Head Coach  
Austin Brooks**

## BUILT TO WIN

A message from men's varsity head coach Austin Brooks, who is gearing up for his sixth season.

As I reflect on the 2017-2018 season and prepare for the 2019 Championship campaign, I want to pause and thank you for being a part of the journey last season: for attending regattas, for helping us acquire an elite eight oared rowing shell, for helping send our boys overseas to compete in the Henley Royal Regatta. Our tradition of success is unmatched and gives us the platform from which we can pursue greatness. And we will continue to do so.

As competitors, it is not in our nature to settle. No matter how many championships we win, it will never be enough. The competitive objective remains the same year after year. But as the head coach of this program, my definition of success is broader than the wins and losses. Our pursuit of greatness is not confined to on the water competitions or the context of the season. My satisfaction lives in the space between seasons and in the on-going pursuit of greatness.

The purpose of this program, is to build a winning team, and there is NO doubt in my mind that we will win big on and off the water. But more importantly - and I mean this from the bottom of my heart - we are building well rounded men. We are building oarsmen.

Thank you for investing in our journey and continuing to pull on the white blade of Irvine.

Let's find our swing,

Austin Brooks  
UC Irvine  
Men's Varsity Head Coach



### **Cole McGuire Assistant Coach**

Fall season is quickly approaching. After a summer behind a desk at my post-graduation job, the thought of getting back out on the water in the morning has me brimming with excitement. This time, however, there's not an ergo test looming ahead to remind me what taking days off costs. I'll get to be on the other side of it.

I'm honored to be a part of Irvine's rowing program this year as a coach. I fully believe in AJ's vision for the team and can't wait to help move towards those goals.

I also believe in the squad returning as varsity oarsmen, and know they have such great potential. Rowing at Irvine was a blessing that I stumbled upon as a wide-eyed freshman. I want to share that with the up-and-coming oarsmen and I feel lucky to do so!

Zot Zot

Cole McGuire



### **IMPACT STORY George Basile**

#### **Parent Connections: Rowing together at UCI**

There are so many unique and interesting ways we as Ant eater parents can engage with our children as they continue on their journey at UCI. Take my story.

Let's start back in 1979 when I was a new student at UCI. I was a tall, gangly freshman; not too much to look at, but a group of students saw something in me. Next thing I knew, I was recruited to the UCI rowing team. And just like that, I had a new group of Ant eater friends.

To this day, I have a special place in my heart for rowing. It is one of the few sports at UCI where you can come on as a complete novice and end up an elite. I rowed for four years, racing for west coast and national championships. My greatest memories from my college days often orbited around my time on "the crew," as do many of my greatest friendships to this day.

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I graduated with a degree in physics and went on to a Ph.D. at UC Berkeley. Rowing was a unique and foundational success platform. I still believe there is no better place to learn how to strive for and find excellence as a team.

Now, let's travel back to today. My son, just finishing his sophomore year at UCI, is also on the rowing team. Although now supported through the UCI recreation department as a club sport, the team still trains and competes nationally like a varsity sport.

Because of dedicated people like men's rowing head coach AJ Brooks, women's rowing head coach Peter Vescovi, campus recreation director Greg Rothberg and Anteater club sports director Adrienne Buckingham, as well as loyal alumni, parents and friends, the rowing team has found ways to do more with less...and continue to win!

Home grown and home trained at UCI, they have gone on to receive West Coast and National Championships and All-American honors. No other sport at UCI has sent more athletes on to the Olympics to win Olympic medals than UCI rowing.

Earlier this month, the team flew to Henley-on-Thames, England and competed in the Henley Royal Regatta, the oldest rowing regatta in the world. More than 200,000 people come to watch this invite-only event. As a UCI dad and former UCI rower, I was able to support the crew as an assistant coach, cheering them on as they blasted their way around the Thames.

It was unbelievable!

Our team will not only bring this international leadership experience back to their fellow rowers and classmates, but they have left an indelible imprint on the international sports community in the UK and beyond.



It's hard to believe, but there are now many more elite academic athletes who know that "Zot! Zot!" is the warrior cry of the fighting UCI Anteaters.

So, to all of you Anteater parents out there who wonder how you can engage with your children as they embrace all that they have to offer at UCI, I say this: Don't worry! UCI creates many avenues for parents to grow along with their students and support success.

Whether it is through sports, the arts, academics, community engagement, leadership or innovation and entrepreneurship, UCI is always looking for new ways to build community between the university, students, parents and a growing network of alumni and supporters.

I never dreamed of sharing a passion for rowing with my son or watching him race along the Thames, but with UCI, who knows what you can – and will – do together!

Zot! Zot! Zot!

George Basile ('83) is the parent of rower Conor Basile, a member of UCI's Parent Executive Board, and a Director at Large with the Friends of UCI Rowing.

## THE NEW SEASON

With the Anteaters back in the classroom, they are tasked by coach Brooks and Vescovi with a diligent training regimen.

The Anteaters are taking a new look at training, with the emphasis on training smarter rather than harder. Coach Brooks has been teaching a lecture up on campus about rowing (video review, hands-on skill building)



The Anteaters are also tasked with two weight and erg sessions a week in the afternoon divided up by breaks in their academic schedules.

The coaches have also added a mandatory study and tutoring session into the mix to help the oarsman excel in the classroom.

We are seeking a team GPA of above 3.0 this quarter.

Help our oarsman by offering post graduation assistance. If any of your companies or businesses allow job shadowing or mentorships, our UCI Rowing family would deeply appreciate the help.

The more we support our oarsman now the more successful they will be in the long run!

Thank you for your continued support of the Friends of UCI Rowing.





# 2017-2018 Donors

## NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP (\$5000+)

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POWELL THURSTON  
CRAIG SANDBERG  
BUDGE COLLINS  
GEORGE STONE  
BRUCE IBBESTON  
DR. HENRY T. NICHOLAS III  
MIKE AGUIAR  
REINHOLD FOUNDATION  
ANFIELD CAPITAL MANGMENT  
DUVALL HECHT  
JOHN CURCI

## COACH'S CLUB (\$1000-\$4999)

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FRANK JAMESON  
TODD CANFIELD  
ROB WALKER  
STEPHEN ZOTOVICH  
BRIAN ATWOOD  
CHRISTOPHER ROMBERG  
GREGORY ROSE  
MARK BRADBURN  
MICHAEL BURKE

CHARLES ROLLIN  
BUCHANAN MICHAEL  
MIKE MAXWELL & CHRISTINE LEE  
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JOHN DASHTARA  
ROBERT AND KATHLEEN ADZICH  
ALAN WIESSBROD  
TRAVIS BOAZ  
CURTIS FLEMMING

## STEWARDS (Up to \$999)

KATHERINE BASILE FERO  
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CHRISTINE BASILE  
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PAUL MARRON  
STACY GLOVER  
JEFFERY DRAPER  
THEODORE KHACHATURIAN  
MICHAEL LEBRUN  
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DAVID MAURER  
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KEUM LEE  
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ANTHONY LEWIS  
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JEFF LEGGAT  
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KAREN FORD  
LORRAINE HART  
DIEGO CANCHOLA  
MIKHALL LYCHAGIN  
KHALID ELASSAAD

CHRISTER FIEGE-KOLLMANN  
JEFF EMDEE  
RONALD LIND  
GRAHAM AUTOMATION  
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LISA COHEN  
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SHERYL ANDERSON  
DANIEL WHITE  
EDWIN OHANLAN  
ELAINE GRONBERG  
GARY TESTA  
WESLEY HEIN  
ALLISON FARIS  
ANDREW TROUNG  
CAROL OLSON  
DORTHY & WILLIAM PHELPS  
GEOFFERY GUERRA  
KEITH BECKER





## 2018-2019 Schedule of Races

### Fall Quarter: 2018

- 11/10 - Head of the Lagoon - Foster City CA - Varsity & Novice Men
- 11/11- San Diego Fall Classic - San Diego CA - Varsity & Novice Women
- 12/1 - Ballona Creek Grand Prix - Marina Del Ray CA - Varsity & Novice Men
- 12/2 - Long Beach Christmas Regatta - Long Beach CA - All Athletes + Alumni

### Winter Quarter: 2019

- 2/9 - Parker Cup - Newport Beach CA - Varsity Men
- 3/2 - UC Challenge Cup - Newport Beach CA - All Athletes
- 3/10 - UCLA Classic - Ballona Creek CA - Varsity Men
- 3/23 - Berg Cup - Newport Beach CA - Varsity Women
- 3/24 - Newport Regatta - Newport Beach CA - Varsity Men
- 3/30 - UC Davis Invite - UC Davis - CA -Varsity Men

### Spring Quarter: 2019

- 4/13 - Collins Cup - Newport Beach CA - All Athletes
- 4/26 - 4/28 - WIRA - Sacramento CA - All Athletes
- 5/22 - 5/26 - ACRA - Gainesville GA - Select Athletes

