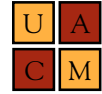


# The Catch



Summer 2001

The University of Massachusetts Crew Club Alumni Newsletter



## In Memory of Jennifer Bragg Capobianco '93

*Jen was many things to so many people. A daughter. A sister. A wife. An environmentalist. A seamstress. A mom. And to many of us in the rowing world, an amazing friend and coxswain. I can picture her now... all bundled up, cox box in hand, curly black locks sticking out from underneath her hat as she got ready to lead the sleek eight down the Connecticut. On and off the water Jen had an energetic and compassionate spirit about her. She had a silent, subtle way of letting you know she cared for you. Whether that was her warm gaze or a big hug after not having seen each other in a while or a hat she knit for you, for no reason but for the sake of giving. She had a sneaky, selfless grin that she wore, stretched from rosy cheek to rosy cheek, when she got excited about doing something special for someone. In 1998, Jen married Jeff after their "college courtship" and last October they were graced with a beautiful daughter, Eva Donna. I picture her to have been an amazing wife to Jeff ... they were best friends for as long as many of us have known them. Jen will be missed and always remembered by those of us who had the pleasure to be touched by her generosity and love.*

*By Alycia Braga '93*



Jennifer Bragg Capobianco 1993

It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of Jennifer Bragg Capobianco. Jen was a victim during the occupational shooting that occurred in Wakefield, MA on December 26, 2000. She was a UMass graduate '93 and a coxswain for the Men's Crew. Jen leaves behind her daughter Eva and her husband, Jeff Capobianco, a UMass lightweight rower and '93 graduate.

### **The Eva Capobianco Higher Educational Savings Fund**

The UMass Crew Club Alumni Association has set up an Educational Savings Fund for Jenn and Jeff's daughter, Eva. We thought that this would be the best way for us to collectively show our support to Jeff and their families and also in honoring Jenn. The fund is setup through Salomon Smith Barney. All contributions may be sent to: Salomon Smith Barney, 25 Recreation Park Drive, Suite 200, Hingham, MA 02018 (Attn: Brant M. Despathy, Senior Vice-President). The Alumni Board would like to express our thanks to Rob Malionek '93 for his assistance setting up the educational fund.

## Spring Race Results

*Heavy-Duty Hardware in 2001*

The 2000-2001 UMass Men's Crew finished a successful campaign for 2000-2001 this past May. At the conclusion of the season, the men's program proved that the Aggie spirit is alive and well, taking medals at the Atlantic Ten Invitational, New England Fours Championship, New England Championship Regatta, and with the Varsity Four taking Gold at the AVAYA Intercollegiate Championship Regatta.

The varsity men's squad spent the fall season racing in a variety of boat classes for the Heads of the Textile, Connecticut, Charles, and Schuylkill Regattas. During this time, the novice men were introduced to the noble discipline of oarsmanship and also participated in fall racing.

After a winter and early spring of intense training, Coach DeRose's crews were eager to test their speed. An unexpected scheduling conflict dashed the Aggies' hopes of bringing their first set of shirts home as the traditional slugfest with archrival Boston College was cancelled. Opening their season the next weekend, the varsity Men's Four defeated Colby and WPI; the JV Four lost to Amherst and Iona; the Novice 8 lost to George Washington and WPI; and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice 8 defeated George Washington.

While the Novice Squad headed to Lake Quinsigamond to do battle with Holy Cross and Trinity for the annual tri-race (which was cancelled due to inclement weather), the Varsity Fours stayed at home on the Connecticut. Unfortunately, both boats lost with the varsity coming in second to Bowdoin College.

The Aggies next headed to the University of Rhode Island Invitational. The program had a great showing taking first in the Varsity and JV Fours, Varsity Pair, and 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice 8. The Novice 8 and Novice Four finished second and fourth, respectively.

At the Atlantic Ten Men's Invitational Regatta, the Novice Eight and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice Eight came in second in their races. Back in Massachusetts that weekend, the JV four concluded their season with a Gold medal at the New England Fours Championship. The Varsity Four took another tough second place finish to Bowdoin College.

For the New England Championship Regatta the UMass crews found an extra gear when the raced on Quinsigamond. For the first time in 32 years the Novice 8 took gold. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice Eight also took Gold for the first time in four years for that event. It is also believed to be the first time ever that a school has swept both Novice events. Despite battling all the way down the course the Varsity Four again fell to the boys from Bowdoin.

Firing on all cylinders, the crews heading to Gainesville, GA to race in the AVAYA Intercollegiate Championship Regatta. Led by seniors Sherri Olivet-Gallo, Gavin Blackmore, and JR Hurley, the Varsity Four with Juniors Don Hettrick and Bill O'Brien finished in style blowing away the field by more than five seconds and taking the Gold. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice 8 took Bronze in their event and the Novice 8 finished a respectable fourth.

The hard-nosed UMass Aggies combined for one of the most successful campaigns in the past five years. The success of the Varsity and the Novice squads should make for a strong, deep, and quick 2001-2002 squad. Congratulations to the 00-01 UMass Men's Crew athletes. The UMass Alumni are proud and look forward to the coming season.

*By John Macuga, Catch Correspondent*

## UMass Crew Invades Tampa Florida

During the last two weeks of January 2001, the UMass Men's and Women's Crews attended a training camp in Tampa, Florida. Although Tampa wasn't as hot and sunny as it's been in previous years, no one was complaining considering what they left behind in western Mass. (burr!). The crews spent most of their time in Tampa working on the technical aspects of rowing to help prepare for the upcoming spring racing season.

The typical training day for the men and women began on the water with a training session from 7am - 9am, a second row at 11:30am - 1:30pm, and occasionally a third row at 3:30pm. The evenings were usually filled with rest and relaxation down in the hotel pool or hot tub. Some crew members even mustered up the energy to cruise the streets of Ybor City for a taste of Tampa night life.

From a coaching point of view the camp was a success. Both the men's and women's crews made noticeable improvements in their rowing as well as on their tans. This year's camp saw a perfect mixture of hard work and good fun. In addition to training sessions on the water, the crews spent much of their free time together (including coaches) making the camp also successful in strengthening the bond between the two sides of UMass Rowing.

We are all looking forward to a spring rowing season filled with fast and exciting race action. Please come and check out the great work our UMass athletes have been doing. The Crews would like to invite everyone (alumni, family, and friends of UMass Crew) to join us this spring for our competitive racing season. Come and take the opportunity to support and cheer us on to victory.

*By Marc DeRose*



AVAYA Gold Medal Four

*Courtesy of Marc DeRose*

## 2001 Annual Crew Banquet

On **March 17, 2001** in the UMass Campus Center Auditorium over 300 athletes, parents, friends and Alumni gathered for the annual Crew Banquet for the Men & Women's teams. A special thanks to **Bruce White '89** for his generosity in supporting the *1st Annual Death Loop Challenge*, affectionately named for the 6.5 M course which loops around the scenic Amherst campus and runs up Butterfield Hill TWICE! A dozen Alumni were joined by a number of Novice & Varsity members in competing for the much coveted medals. Novices Greg Stamm & Joe Barnes crossed the finish line together in a photo-finish with a time of 40:22 followed by the first Alumni finisher, Matt Soroka in a time of 40:54. No CPR was needed. All proceeds from the race went to support the Crew Club's operating budget. Following the banquet, over 50 Alumni gathered at the Amherst Brewing Company in downtown Amherst to reminisce, catch-up and throw back a couple in honor of St. Patty's Day and of course, the Aggies.

## UMass Crew-mors

Alumni Association President **Frank Nocito '98** ran the Honolulu Marathon this past January. As part of his endeavor, Frank raised \$5,800 for cancer research.

In a terrible omission by the *Catch* staff, we failed to note that **Bob Spousta '70**, an 1871 Club member, won the Grand Master Singles at last year's Head of the Charles!

In yet another omission, another 1871 Club member, **Matt Collins '91** finished fifteenth in the Master's Single at last year's Head of the Charles. (The *Catch* staff apologizes; responsible parties have been terminated.)

**Mark Child '88** and wife Haley welcomed their first baby, Ian Brennan into the world Nov. 6, 2000! **Chris Cajoleit '88** recently moved to Stockholm Sweden to live with his girlfriend while she finishes school. He is currently working for a sail loft, Gransegel.

**John Dow '80** was married this past September in Spain. Upon their return, John and wife Miranda held a reception on Oct 9, at the Lord Jeffery Inn, Amherst, MA. In attendance were some notables from the 1980 team. **Robert Hanson '80**, **Al Flanders** - coach; **Ron Reese** - aka Crusher; **Jack Frackelton '81** - stroke, 1871 club; **Karl Liebich '80**-aka Big Doggie, 1871 Club. A good time was had by all.

**Mukund Goenka '98** is currently working for e-Publishing Corp. in Santa Clara, CA. **Mike Petronis '98** is currently a fighter pilot navigation officer stationed in Pensacola, FL.

**Dan O'Neil '88** moved to Austin Texas in November to begin working for Dell. **Al Rand '89** was spotted around Boston and is happily selling liquor to all of Boston's finest establishments. **Larry Katz '90** has moved back to the Boston area- it is pretty much impossible to keep up on Larry's west coast/ east coast flip flops.

**Varick Pelton '96** just bought a house in LA and will be moving in May. **Mike Irvin '95** is attending school in Santa Cruz, CA to get a PhD in Psychology. **Melissa Wheelock '96** is a doctor doing her residency at Cambridge Hospital in Boston.

**Jay Sullivan '89** was recently married in Washington D.C. In attendance were **Andy Parks '88**, **Jim Brabazon '89**, **Bruce White '89**, **Stephen Meisner '90**, **Rachel White '90**, **Dan O'Neil '88**, **Paul Schor '90**, & **Matt Collins '91**.

In a tremendous display of magnanimity and

to appease the town building inspector, **Anthony Stefan** replaced the railings and support beams on the front porches of the Crew House, 29 Phillips Street. God bless him.

**Maurice Dressler '98** recently married Abigail, a woman he met at an Amherst bar and bit her on the neck. They now reside near Boston. Congratulations! **Brendan English '99** is currently working for the US Dept of Transportation in Boston. When he is not spending our hard earned tax dollars on big lunches he is flying small planes above Boston.

**Matt Soroka '99** and **Liz Tringali '99** both recently competed in their first triathlons in Ashland, MA. Matt finished 10<sup>th</sup> in his age division and highly recommends the triathlon experience to anyone interested.

From the frozen tundra of Lewiston, ME to the rolling hills of Appalachia, **Kevin Gruber '00** will be a graduate student at the University of West Virginia starting this fall and serving as assistant women's crew coach. **Nancy LaRocque '97**, WV's head coach, recently led the school's coxed four all the way to the finals at the Henley Women's Regatta in England losing to Oxford Brookes University and beat Maine's Bowdoin College and UK's Manchester University along the way!

**John Macuga '99** recently ran into **Fran MacDonald**. Fran is the Director of Enrollment at the Massachusetts Maritime Academy and is also the Academy's crew coach.

Lightweight lightning bolt, **Gavin Blackmore '01** is currently training for a place on the U.S. National Team and a seat in one of the U.S. lightweight sweep boats. He is a resident at the Princeton Training Center.

### RECONNECT 2001!

The UMass Crew Club Alumni Association is currently trying to round up all of those rowers that we have lost contact with. A major goal of the Alumni Association is to keep Alumni connected with each other as well as with the current Club members. Since we assume that we have your information if you are reading this, please pass this request along to those who didn't receive a copy of *The Catch*:

Please send us the following information so that we can enter you into our growing Alumni database: Name, Year of Graduation, Rower or Coxswain, Address, Email, Phone Number, Current area of employment.

One more request that might test your recollection skills. Please send a team roster with as many members as you can remember along with any contact information you might have. Please send to [massaggies@hotmail.com](mailto:massaggies@hotmail.com).

## UMass Crew Club Alumni Association Mission Statement

The UMass Crew Club Alumni Association comprise all men and women who have rowed for the University of Massachusetts Crew Club as well as those who are Friends of the Club.

The core purpose of the University of Massachusetts Crew Club is: "To provide the means for students to expand their academic horizons through the athletic excellence in the sport of rowing."

Pursuant to this, the UMass Crew Club Alumni Association is committed to:

- Providing a supportive network for all Alumni, maintaining an open channel of communication between all of its members.
- Working towards the long-term financial security of the Crew Club, providing support, direction, and advisement (mentoring and career advice, coach selection, and general advisement) where appropriate.
- Serving as a liaison bridging the relationships between Alumni, Parents, and Athletes.
- Advising of the Parents Committee in its formation and maintenance, to aid in preparations for all races.



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(Locations: The Boston Arts, Services, Dept's, Dept and Justice Plaza, Just 2 min. walk from MIT Mall)

## CREW OFFICERS

413-545-0487

President: William O'Brien  
Vice-President Admin: Raymond Dinsmore  
Vice-President Finance: Benjamin Truitt  
Vice-President Public Relations: Philip Silvia III

## ALUMNI BOARD

617-492-1321

President: Frank L. Nocito  
Vice-President: John Macuga  
Treasurer: John P. Mazzone  
Secretary: Derek Silveira  
Foundation Committee Chair: Michael Weissel  
Web Master: Thor Runeman  
Program Coordinator: Greg Dunn  
Data Base: Alycia Braga & Leigh Twarog  
Parent Liaison: Liz Tringali  
Alumni Relations: Matt Soroka  
Newsletter Editor-in-Chief: Melissa Wheelock

## MEN'S COACHING STAFF

413-545-0487

Varsity Men Head Coach: Marc DeRose  
Novice Men Coach: Brian Mehr

## TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS

UMass Men's Crew Alumni Fund  
University of Massachusetts  
Memorial Hall  
Amherst, MA 01003

If you would like to get involved in the UMass Crew Club Alumni Association please contact Frank Nocito at: [fnocito@hotmail.com](mailto:fnocito@hotmail.com).



## The Catch

UMass Crew Club Alumni Newsletter  
PO Box 53120  
Medford, MA 02153  
[massaggies@hotmail.com](mailto:massaggies@hotmail.com)

## Fall 2001 Race Schedule

### UMass Men & Women

September 30 Textile River Regatta Lowell MA  
October 6 Head of the Housatonic Shelton CT  
October 7 Head of the Connecticut Middletown CT  
October 20-21 Head of the Charles Boston MA  
October 27 Head of the Schuylkill Philadelphia PA

### The new home for UMass Crew is now live!

[www.umasscrew.com](http://www.umasscrew.com)

This new site will keep you informed, involved, and interactive. Here's a sampling of what you'll find on the new site:

\* Up-to-date team information including news, events, coach and athlete information, photos, race schedules, and results.

\* A UMass Crew Club Alumni Association section that offers information on the latest from the latest issue of The Catch and fundraising activities to the Minutes from the Alumni Board meetings.

\* But perhaps the most notable addition to the website is a growing database of UMass Crew members, past and present. It's a great way to network, keep in touch with old friends, and a chance to make some new ones.

### Head of the Charles 2001

*The Alumni Association hopes to field at least a couple of boats in this year's Head of the Charles. It has proved to be a great fundraiser for the men's program and a great time for those who compete. Please contact Matt Soroka (508) 303-9232 or at [soroka2000@hotmail.com](mailto:soroka2000@hotmail.com) if interested. Put the date on your calendar, hit the erg, weights, bike, whatever, and make a bid for a seat soon!! October will be here before we know it.*

Mailing Label