



# ROWING AT VIRGINIA

Virginia's nationally-renowned women's rowing program began its first season of varsity competition in 1995-96. It is part of a long rowing tradition at UVa, however, that dates back to the 19th century.

Rowing is the oldest intercollegiate sport at UVa. It was formed in 1876, when alumnus Francis Rives donated \$1,000 to start a crew. By 1877, the Rives Boat Club Crew was training for competition. After competing successfully for several years, changing river conditions forced the team to disband in 1886.

Rowing returned to Virginia in 1967 after the construction of the Rivanna Reservoir provided five miles of calm water within a reasonable distance of the University. The women's crew program began in 1974. Since 1988, when current head coach Kevin Sauer was hired, Virginia crews have competed successfully at both the regional and national level.

In 1996, the women's crew was undefeated and placed sixth nationally in its first season as a varsity team. Virginia followed that exceptional debut with a fourth-place finish at the inaugural NCAA Championships in 1997. The Cavaliers improved on that finish by placing third overall in 1998 and capturing the second varsity eight championship crown. The program reached new heights again in 1999, tying with Brown for first place at NAAs and receiving the second-place team trophy by virtue of a tie breaker. The second varsity eight defended its national title. In 2000, Virginia finished third overall at the NCAA Championships, marking its fourth consecutive top four finish. The Cavaliers finished seventh overall at the 2001 NCAA Championships, fourth in 2002 and sixth in 2003. UVa won the NCAA Championship in the varsity four and finished tied for sixth in the team competition at the 2004 NCAA Championships. The Cavaliers finished second at the NCAA Championships in 2005, defended their NCAA Championship in the varsity four and won the national champi-

onship in the second varsity eight. Virginia is one of only four programs in the nation to compete in all eight NCAA Division I championship regattas.

While intercollegiate competition for most athletes is the culmination of years of dedicated practice and competition in their sport, many athletes receive their first exposure to rowing in college. Under the guidance of Sauer and his staff, many Virginia stu-



*Charlotte Quesada urges on coxswain Sarah Harrick before the start of the second varsity eight grand final at the 1999 NCAA Championships. Minutes later, the Cavaliers celebrated their second consecutive 2-V8 national title.*

dents have made the transition from freshman novices to world-class rowers and coxswains.

Following graduation from UVa, many recent Cavalier rowers have continued their careers beyond the collegiate arena. Among them are 1999 UVa graduate **Andrea Saathoff**, who was invited to train for the 2000 United States Olympic Rowing Team. The 1999 first-team All-American is a three-time member of the Under-23 National Team and earned a bronze medal in the four

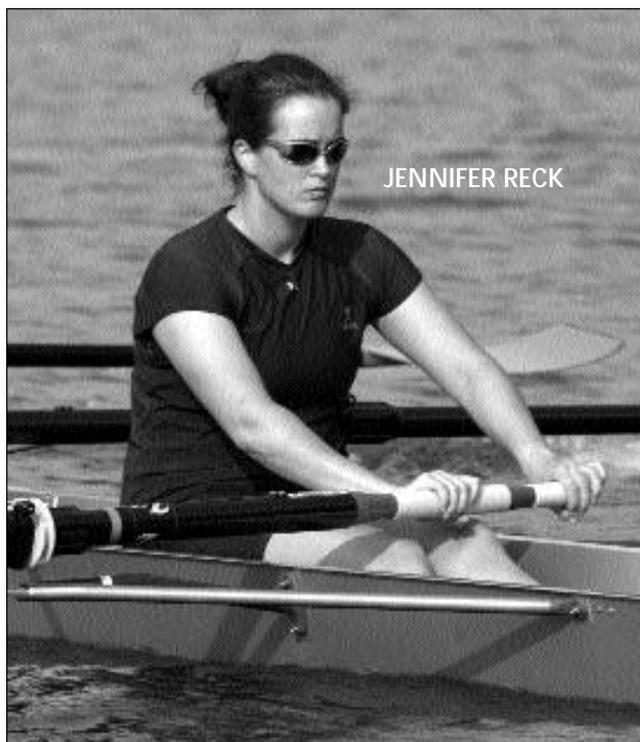
the 1998 U.S. Elite Championships. She was joined on that team by former UVa rowers **Jenny Sherman** ('02) and **Michelle Giller** ('00), and coxswain **Sarah Harrick** ('99).

Following her freshman season at Virginia in 2001, **Jen Reck** stroked the U.S. four to a silver medal at the Under-23 World Championships in Linz, Austria.

**Charlotte Hollings**, a 1986 UVa graduate, rowed to a World Championship gold in 1994. **Kristin Reed**, who finished her Virginia career in 1995 with a gold medal at the national championships, captured a gold medal at the 1994 Nations Cup under-23 world championships. Another 1995 graduate, **Anne Taufen**, captured a gold medal at the 1993 U.S. Olympic Festival. **Grace Mowery**, a 1993 graduate, competed in the 1997 World Rowing Championships as a member of the U. S. lightweight quad. **Molly Baker**, a 2003 graduate, is training at the Princeton Training Center with the National Team, as is Lindsay Shoop, who finished her Virginia career in 2004. Baker, Shoop and Reck rowed in both National Selection Regattas in the spring of 2005. Baker was also a member of the United States' women's straight four crew that finished seventh in that event at the 2004 World Rowing Championships. Seventeen Virginia rowers were selected to the ACC's 50th Anniversary Rowing Team.

Despite devoting long hours to practice and competition, numerous Cavaliers have been recognized for their accomplishments in and outside the sport of rowing. As a senior in 2000, **Kirin Surplless** was awarded the CRCANational Scholar Athlete Award. The award recognizes the outstanding academic accomplishments of female collegiate rowers. Surplless graduated in 2000 with a degree in commerce and was accepted into the master's program at UVa's McIntire School of Commerce. In 2001, **Risa Mandzuk** and **Margot Noordzij** joined Surplless as National Scholar-Athletes at Virginia, and Reck and **Meg Van Dam** earned that honor in 2002. Reck earned the honor again in 2003 and 2004.

During her last year as a Cavalier in 1999, **Charlotte Quesada** was one of 10 finalists for the NCAA Woman of the Year Award for her outstanding achievements in athletics, academics and community leadership. Quesada also was selected to the 1999 GTE University Division Academic All-District III Team. Other former Cavaliers who have earned All-District III Academic honors include **Amy Burns** in 1997, **Kirsten Eckelmeyer** in 1998 and **Jennifer Reck** in 2004. Reck received the Woody Hayes National Scholar-Athlete Award in January of



JENNIFER RECK

without coxswain at the 1999 Under-23 World Championships in Hamburg, Germany. She also rowed at the 1997 Under-23 World Championships in Milan, Italy, along with former Cavalier **Brook McFadden** ('98). In 1998, Saathoff captured the silver medal at

FORMER CAVALIERS IN THE COACHING RANKS

NAME (YR. GRAD)	COACHING TITLE	COLLEGE OR HIGH SCHOOL
Grace Mowery (1993)	Assistant Coach	University of Cincinnati
Molly McHugh (1994)	Head Coach	Dartmouth University
Cinda Ewton (1999)	Assistant Coach	Victoria Rowing Club, Canada
Sarah Harrick (1999)	Head Coach	Washington - Lee H.S.
Andrea Saathoff (1999)	Assistant Coach	University of Miami
Nicole Younts (1999)	Assistant Coach	Stanford
Sarah Dondero (2000)	Assistant Coach	George Washington
Emily Egge (2000)	Assistant Coach	Duke University
Marina Traub (2000)	Head Coach	Trinity College