



# Strokewatch

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## FOUR PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

1 There is an old saying that "beauty is as beauty  
 2 does," so that we look to action, rather than  
 3 words. As you read the following, understand  
 4 that we are executing on the vision and a  
 5 mission of our UCLA Crew which, in short,  
 6 means that we strive to be the best through  
 7 our actions, while recognizing that perfection  
 is seldom achievable.

up 52.1% from last year. There is still time to make your donation felt. In-kind donations saw a three-fold increase, and donations to the Berkett Scholarship are now being tracked. UCLA Director of Development Laura Adler and Treasurer Kevin Still are thanked and congratulated for their exceptional efforts and success managing your generous and always greatly appreciated donations. The endowment passed the \$500K mark last year and we are now taking a power 20 toward the \$1M buoy. Two individuals just stepped forward to offer \$100,000 pledges. Please consider posting a donation to the endowment as the momentum continues to gather.



On May 18th Coach Scott Charette participated in his last FOUR conference call as head coach. Coach Scott provided a detailed, upbeat report on the end of the season, with a victory over USC, and the April 25th-26th results of WIRA (Western Intercollegiate Rowing Association) where bad weather impeded all the teams. Orange Coast College nudged UCLA out by two seconds and blocked the Varsity 8 from the WIRA finals. The entire Varsity 8 returns in the Fall, and two extremely promising recruits have accepted an invitation to attend UCLA.

Coach Scott received heartfelt thanks from the entire Board. He saw the program through a difficult 5-year phase of history, and remains a welcomed friend. UCLA posted the coaching position (found at [www.Row2k.com](http://www.Row2k.com) and [www.Higheredjobs.com](http://www.Higheredjobs.com)), and has received a response of 20 applications, so far. As a strong UCLA support group, we are now asked to provide input on the coaching position. The Board asked Jim Jorgensen, Bob Newman, and Kevin Still to assist UCLA Program Director Brian Smith, and you should feel free to reach out to these team members.

After eight years, Sheila Parker Tolle ('78) will step down as the Editor-in-Chief of Strokewatch, and Kyle Knoll steps in as her replacement. Sheila is directing the transition and remains a key member of our Board. We thank Sheila for her exceptional service.

Robert "Fritz" Frassetto ('78), with the assistance of Chris Cole, Barton Carter, Norm Witt, and Kevin Still, is completing the project to update FOUR's Articles & Bylaws to reflect our modern approach to the changed landscaped which has evolved over the decades since FOUR's inception. Expect a

The end of our fiscal year is June 30th, and we are very pleased to report that donations are

## Follow UCLA Men's Rowing!

Website: [www.uclamensrowing.com](http://www.uclamensrowing.com)

Follow us on Facebook: UCLA Men's Rowing Alumni/FOUR



Follow the team on Facebook: UCLA Men's Rowing

## FOUR Board of Directors

- Bob Newman '68
- Jim Jorgensen '70
- Norm Witt '75
- Andrew Jacobs '75
- John Dipol '77
- Robert "Fritz" Frassetto '78
- Dr. Scott Goodwin '78
- Sheila Parker Tolle '78
- Kevin Still '83
- William Palmer '85
- Christopher Beeckler '05
- Brad Stapleton '08
- Nic Smith '11
- Rodd Talebi '14

**Strokewatch** is the newsletter of the UCLA Men's Crew. Its editor is Sheila Parker Tolle '78

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE CONTINUED

dynamic reorganization with more Board seats and greater representation down through the decades to come. Rodd Talebi ('14) has built a stunning website [www.uclamensrowing.com/four/](http://www.uclamensrowing.com/four/), and you should expect to be literally "in the boat" with a rework of our social media this next season.

Plans for the new UCLA Aquatic Center and Boathouse are underway with preliminary permitting in progress. Also expect an overhaul of recognition, awards, naming opportunities, and pledges, with the recent creation of our Julian Wolf Award symbolizing the gracious, driven Spirit of UCLA Crew.

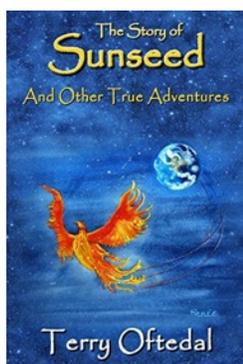
We are on the hunt – expect to make history. The ladder is down for the student-athletes to follow us upwards in the Fall.

Your thoughts and suggestions are welcome. I may be easily reached on my mobile phone (916) 396-4266 and email ([wpalmer@palmercorp.com](mailto:wpalmer@palmercorp.com)). You have an open invitation to attend our regular Board meetings, which we plan to notice to all FOUR members via email. My best to you and your families.

- FOUR President Bill Palmer '85

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## BRUIN AUTHOR - TERRY OFTEDAL '70



It all started with a dream. At that time, in 1972, he had no thought of becoming an author. Today Terry Oftedal is living quietly with his wife Kathryn in a small town near Portland, Oregon. After raising a family and retiring from a colorful business career which included trips to distant lands, Terry has found time to reflect and write. A life-changing dream he had as a young man in Ashland, Oregon serves as a backdrop for his first book *The Story of Sunseed*. He says, "Read the book - it tells you all about who I am. I believe you will learn something new about yourself as well."



Note: Terry has pledged that 100 percent of the net proceeds from his writings will be donated to selected charities or gifted as "Sunseed Awards."

★★★★★ A modern Pepys vividly brings the past 60 years to life

By Colleen Cayes on January 23, 2016

Format: Kindle Edition

This was a hard book for me to put down. I found myself drawn to find out what was going to happen next, as I also remembered where I was and what I was doing during each chapter in Terry's life. It was like enjoying two stories in one -- his classic journey from '50's Fresno through the Hippie movement to Silicon Valley's early high-tech internationalization, paralleling my own turning points, adventures, and self-discovery. Terry's storytelling is vivid, memorable, and relevant to everyone alive today who is curious to know how we got here.

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## MENTORING - Connecting Alumni and Student-Athletes

by Rodd Talebi

This past year, FOUR has always looking for new ways to use the website as a tool to connect the alumni group to the current rowers. After a series of consultations with the rowers and review of their needs, we are announcing a new program to build up a reference database of our alumni for the networking purposes of the rowers.

In the years since we left UCLA, each of us has delved into a career and learned a great deal about the environment of our industries and professions. Pooled together, this information can be extremely valuable to our rowers who are eager to succeed at UCLA as students and as athletes, but also to succeed professionally. For this, all we ask is that you donate your time to our rowers by making your bio and contact information available, so that the students can find an alumnus with relevant experience and contact him/her for professional help: resume building, industry-related questions, contact or job referrals, etc. If you are willing to be a part of this effort, we ask you to go to [www.uclamensrowing.com/network](http://www.uclamensrowing.com/network) to fill out the form and receive more information on the process. And feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at [UclaRowingWebmaster@gmail.com](mailto:UclaRowingWebmaster@gmail.com).

## SUPPORT THE 2015-2016 TEAM! Donations from July 1, 2015 through June 1, 2016

### National Team

#### (\$5,000+)

Barry Berkett '74  
Kevin Curran '75  
Mary Gray (Julian Wolf '47)  
John Nelson '81  
Robert Newman '68

### IRA Champ

#### (\$2,000 to \$4,999)

Joel Breman '58  
Brendan Busse (parent)  
David Grant '86  
Duncan Henderson '71  
Jeffrey Huckaby  
Michael Karp  
Tim Powers '77  
Kevin Still '83  
Sheila Parker Tolle '78

### Pac12 Champ

#### (\$1,000 to \$1,999):

Anonymous  
Stephen Bohlmann '75  
Derrick Bushman  
Scott Case '82  
Robert Frassetto '78  
Nancy Graves  
(W. Graves '53)  
Charles Jackson '72  
Kerns Family (parent)  
Mark Klein '90  
Bruce Kroyer '75  
John Lopuch '68  
Richard Maire '80  
Mark Minich '77  
Laurence Muentner '54  
Terry Oftedal '70  
William Palmer '85  
Edward Phelan '72  
Robert Sitzman '60  
Geoff Strand '71  
Norm Witt '75  
Yen Family (parent)

### Varsity Boat

#### (\$500 to \$999):

Patrick Barnes '61  
Lawrence Bennigson '60  
Edward Bold '59  
Mark Breeding '75  
Walter Brennan '70  
William Brilliant '98  
Barton Carter '94

David Cooke (parent)  
Steve Dalzell '85  
John DeFede '77  
Dietrich Family (parent)  
John DiPol '77  
Brian Donnelly (parent)  
David Fahrner '82  
Mark Fall '83  
Evan Faucher '05  
Jacob Harker '02  
Richard Hartnack '67  
Steven Kokoda '75  
Jeffrey Horner (parent)  
Charles Hughes '84  
Ted F. Humphrey '86  
Inserra Family (parent)  
Andrew Jacobs '75  
Clare Jarvis '70  
James Jorgensen '70  
Brian Knapp '83  
Ariel Maffei '05  
Christopher Metz  
Robert A. Nelson '62  
Jamie Sadler (parent)  
Scott Saylor '77  
Kevin Sherwood '80  
Brad Stapleton '08  
Kina Turner (Kerry '78)  
Guy Weaser '78  
Steven Wolf '64  
Todd Wulffson '86

### Blue Chip Recruit

#### (to \$499):

Blake Addeman '14  
Alter Family (parent)  
Leopold Andreoli '80  
Anonymous  
John Armstrong (parent)  
David Arnold '82  
Avjean Family (parent)  
Rita Bakalar  
Bob Baldwin '80  
Robert Barry '76  
Jeffrey Baus '59  
Barry Bilder  
Binder Family (parent)  
Alex Blaseio '09  
David Boldt  
Kurt Boyd '74  
Geoffrey Bremer '77  
Carol Brown  
Bushman Family (parent)  
Robert Butler

Jerry Cacciotti  
Joseph Carlson '82  
Sandra Carrigg  
Cesario Family (parent)  
Richard Choi  
Sandy Chong  
Daniel Clark '80  
Sheffield Clarke (parent)  
Martin Cooke  
John Cooper '57  
Ryn Corbiel '74  
Patrick Cotter '84  
Matthew Curto  
Harry Daglas '82  
John Daglas '81  
Brooks Dagman '85  
Patrick Delaney '53  
Paul Donnelly  
Dudley Family (parent)  
Todd Dwelle '90  
James Everett '75  
Fred Feldman '61  
Rhonda Foster  
John Frederick (parent)  
Philip Goulding '73  
Martin Graham '55  
Charles Haughey '72  
Scott Hays  
Duvall Hecht (coach)  
Heer Family (parent)  
Matthew Henderson '03  
Horner Family (parent)  
William Houghton '55  
Diane Hubener  
Gordon Hunter '64  
Linda Hurst  
David Janes  
Craig Johnson '81  
Thomas Keller '05  
Deborah Kennedy  
Mary King  
Bryan Kitch '05  
Kline Family (parent)  
Marshall Knight '09  
Arthur Kochman '53  
Brian Konish '78  
Koskey Family  
Frank Kovac '80  
Eric Landoll '06  
Douglas Large '72  
Thomas Larson '74  
Jeffrey Latham '13  
Craig Leeds '76  
Lowell Linden '60

Guy Lochhead '69  
Fred Lonsdale  
Thomas Lumsden '74  
Patrick Lynch '87  
Pete Marchewka '70  
Heidi Mathys  
McAteer Family (parent)  
Kim Medina '72  
Andrew Metz '15  
Michael Meyer  
Lee Miller (coach)  
Barton Morrison '64  
Jane Mulfinger (parent)  
Annette Murdaca  
July Nichols  
Brad Norris (parent)  
Larry Offner '76  
Gregory Oppegard '91  
Anthony Osmundson '62  
Richard Paritzky  
Donald Pierro '76  
Deborah Post  
Justin Price '06  
Walter Reinhard  
Rhee Family (parent)  
Charles Rinck '76  
Gregory Rinehart '86  
Keith Roberts  
Russell Rowell '82  
Carlene Salonites '83  
Kane Schaller '98  
Glenn Sherman '74  
Daniel Shumow  
Benjamin Sigman  
James Sims '66  
Pam Singh '03  
Robert Sire '78  
Peter Sokolove '85  
Sherman Spitz '74  
Jeff Stapleton  
Mike Still '86  
Stoney Family Trust  
Craig Tilson '80  
Briton Turner '43  
Thomas Turner  
Kirk Urata '85  
Lynne Welch '55  
Glenn Wetzel '78  
Kirk Wojno  
Eleanor Wolf  
Helen Wong  
Michael Yraceburn  
Peter Zandbergen  
Arthur Zey '05

## PAC-12 ALL-CENTURY MEN'S ROWING TEAM FEATURES 4 BRUINS

On May 10, 2016, the Pac-12 announced the Men's and Women's Rowing All-Century Teams (<https://pac-12.com/article/2016/05/10/pac-12-sports-report-reveals-mens-and-womens-all-century-rowing-teams>). The teams, comprised of 22 rowers and 3 coxswains, were voted on by a panel consisting of coaches, players, administrators and members of the media. Each member of the team was chosen based on their collegiate careers in the Conference.

Out of 85 nominees on the men's side, Washington leads all schools with eight team selections, followed by California (7), Stanford (4), UCLA (3), Oregon State (2) and USC (1). Spanning over 10 decades, members of the team hold a total of 28 IRA National team titles won. Twenty-two of the 25 members are Olympians, and all-century team members have competed in 39 Olympic games with a total of 26 Olympic medals won.

The UCLA Men's Rowing program is honored to have 3 athletes and 1 of our coaches (Duvall Hecht, Kevin Still, Michael Still, and Kerry Turner) associated with the Bruins on the All-Century Team:

### **Duvall Hecht**, Stanford 1949-52

Olympic Games

Gold medal, 1956 Melbourne, Australia - Pair without coxswain

Established and coached Menlo College Rowing Program

Established and coached University of California, Irvine, Rowing Program

UCLA Men's Rowing, Varsity Coach 1975-79

Duvall Hecht stroked the pair without coxswain with his teammate Jim Fifer in the bow to a gold medal victory in the 1956 Olympic Games held in Melbourne, Australia. This pair was named as one of the most beautiful examples of American rowing. Their crushing defeat of the heavily favored Soviet pair was unprecedented. The Soviets were two time winners at Henley and European Championships. No American pair has won a gold in the sixty years since.

While still a student at Stanford, Duvall teamed up with his best friend and team captain, James Fifer, to race in the Men's Pair w/cox at the 1952 Olympics. They were narrowly eliminated in the semifinals by a quarter of a length. He then joined the Marine Corps but continued to row. In 1956 Duvall once again teamed up with Jim Fifer to earn a spot on the 1956 Olympic team. This time in the Men's pair without cox. At the 1956 US Olympic Trials, Hecht and Fifer beat the defending Olympic champions, Tom Logg and Charles Price, to earn their spot on the team.

He obtained a Master's degree in Journalism from Stanford University and was a Marine pilot. Hecht went on to teach English at Menlo College. While at Menlo, Hecht established Menlo's first rowing club where he was head coach until he moved to Southern California. In 1965, Hecht then established the rowing team at University of California, Irvine. In 1973, he went on to coach the UCLA rowing program before coming back to Irvine in the 1990s. Hecht once again returned as the head coach of the men's varsity rowing program at UCI in the fall of 2008. A pioneer of the audiobook industry, Hecht founded Books on Tape, Inc. in 1975. He later sold it to Random House.



Coach Hecht instilled a true passion for the sport of rowing into his teams. This is evident by the fact that many of his athletes went on to a lifetime of not only supporting rowing but being actively involved in the sport.

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## PAC-12 ALL-CENTURY MEN'S ROWING TEAM CONTINUED

### **Kevin Still**, UCLA 1980-83

#### Olympic Games

Bronze medal, 1984 Los Angeles - Coxed pair

#### World Championships

Bronze medal, 1985 Hazewinkel, Belgium - Men's eight

Bronze medal, 1986 Nottingham, England - Men's eight

#### Goodwill Games

Gold medal, 1986 Moscow, Soviet Union - Men's eight

After transferring from Humboldt State University to UCLA in the fall of 1980, Kevin began rowing for the Bruins during his junior year. Kevin and his UCLA teammates finished 5th at the 1983 Intercollegiate Rowing Association regatta in the men's eight+. He graduated from UCLA in 1983.

In the summer of 1983, Kevin was selected to his first US National Rowing Team. At the 1983 World Rowing Championships in Duisburg, Kevin competed in the coxless four event with Robert Espeseth, Michael Bach, and Kevin Proctor and finished 6th.

In 1984, his fourth competitive season,

Kevin was selected for the first of two Olympic teams that in which he would participate. At the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles, Kevin finished 3rd in the men's coxed pairs competition with Robert Espeseth and Doug Herland, finishing behind Teams Italy and Romania in a time of 7:12.81. At the 1985 World Rowing Championships in Hazewinkel, Kevin sat in seat 6 of the American men's eight+ and finished in third place, 1 second from first place. At the 1986 World Rowing Championships in Nottingham, Kevin, sitting in seat 7, was a part of the American men's eight+ team that finished in third place, winning another bronze medal. Following the World Championships, Still competed at the 1986 Goodwill Games in Moscow, winning a gold medal in the men's eight+. In 1987, Kevin sat in seat 3 of the USA coxed four team at the World Rowing Championships in Copenhagen, but the team had difficulty with the boat's rudder in the semifinals and they did not qualify for the final. At the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul, Kevin and his partner Glenn Florio competed but did not make it past the heats in the men's double sculls event.



During his post-collegiate rowing career, Kevin rowed for the New York Athletic Club where he won 13 US National Championship gold medals. In 1988, the NYAC selected Kevin for the Veteran's Award as their "Athlete of the Year."

Kevin participated in the Olympic Job Opportunities program in 1987, and landed a training position at Johnson & Higgins (now Marsh & McLennan Companies). Kevin continues to work at Marsh USA as a Senior Vice President in its Japan Client Services unit in NYC. Continuously dedicating considerable time and energy to provide UCLA student athletes with the same opportunities he enjoyed as a student rower, Kevin serves an integral role on the Board of Directors of Friends of UCLA Rowing (FOUR) as its Treasurer and Executive Committee Member.

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## PAC-12 ALL-CENTURY MEN'S ROWING TEAM CONTINUED

### **Michael Still**, UCLA 1985-87

#### World Championships

Gold medal, 1987 Copenhagen, Denmark - Men's eight

Bronze medal, 1986 Nottingham - Men's eight

#### Goodwill Games

Gold medal, 1986 Moscow, Soviet Union - Men's eight

Mike was inducted into the USRowing Hall of Fame in '98 for winning gold in the eight at '87 World Championships. He has also won gold at '87 US National Championships, '87 Pac-10 Championships (the first gold in the eight for UCLA in 17 years), '86 Olympic Festival, Head of the Charles and San Diego Crew Classic. Mike paired with Bruin teammate, Craig Webster, to compete at World University Games in Germany where they were the '89 finalists.

Mike coached at UCLA from 1990-91, where his freshman crew won the '90 San Diego Crew Classic and placed 2nd at Pac-10's. Mike also coached at University of San Diego and Stanford University. Mike founded and coached NorCal Crew, a high school rowing team, with 100+ athletes, for 12 years.

Mike Still continues to compete at the highest levels in masters regattas internationally and domestically. Most recently, he won 2 golds at San Diego Crew Classic last April, medaled at Head of the Charles in October and won gold at Henley Masters, England in July. Mike now coaches competitive sculling workouts for BIAC Masters.



### **Kerry Turner**, UCLA 1976-78

#### US National Championships:

Gold medal, 1978 - Men's Eight (Penn Elite Eight)

Gold medal, 1979 - Men's Eight (Penn Elite Eight)

#### Pan-American Games:

Gold medal, 1979 San Juan, Puerto Rico - Men's Eight

Kerry's national and international rowing accomplishments put him in elite company. If not for the 1980 US boycott, Kerry would have represented Team USA at the Moscow Olympics. Kerry is one of the most decorated oarsmen ever to wear the UCLA uniform. In addition to being the ultimate competitor, Kerry was a leader and a treasured teammate.

Kerry's Penn Elite Coach, Ted Nash, commented that "Despite his easy going approach to life, Kerry was a fierce competitor on the water. Kerry was a loyal UCLA student athlete who represented the United States in its highest moments. Kerry's rowing accomplishments, coupled with his qualities as a teammate and the competitive spirit he took to the water are representative of the traits I would look for in a champion."



Kerry met and married Kina Thompson in June 1981. They raised two amazing children, Erin and Karl. He earned an MBA from Cal State Bakersfield in 1984 and later attended the Graduate School of Banking. His 30 year career in banking included positions with East West Bank and City National Bank. His untimely death in 2009 deprived us all of witnessing the full flowering of his gifts. Kerry exemplifies all the qualities and virtues we associate with the outstanding athletes who have represented Pac-12 Rowing during the past century.

## UCLA ALUMNI PROFILES

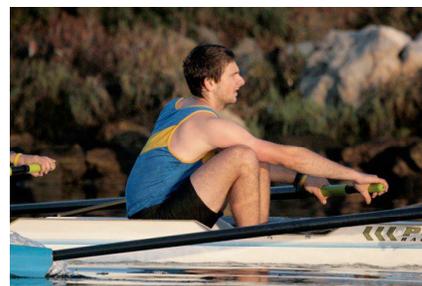
In this edition of Strokewatch, we are profiling two of our alumni from the the '10s: Griffin Lowe '11 and Raffi Tchekmedyan '13.



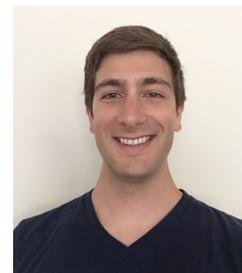
*Griffin Lowe (4th from left) with team in 2011*



*Griffin Lowe, today.*



*Raffi Tchekmedyan at UCLA*



*Raffi Tchekmedyan, today.*

	<b>Griffin Lowe</b>	<b>Raffi Tchekmedyan</b>
Graduation Year	2011	2013
Major	Civil Engineering	Psychobiology
Graduate School		Case Western Reserve School of Medicine
Occupation	Engineer for a Construction Contractor	Medical Student
Home Town	San Diego, CA	Huntington Beach, CA
Current Residence	Vancouver, WA	Cleveland, OH
Hardest Workout	Pretty much any workout Coach Ken Jurkowski had us do on the ergs.	2K pieces in jimmy-rigged straight 4's (extra early during finals week and in the dark because it was right after daylight savings time change).
Favorite Crew Memory	Wakeless Wednesday practices in the creek. The pair racing was always competitive and sometimes a little heated.	Taking a Winnebago to Pac-12's, camping the night before the race, and driving back down after our last race of the season.
Favorite Racing Experience	Beating UCI and OCC in Newport. First race we won that was bigger than a dual in a few years.	Winning the bronze medal at WIRA's in 2011. Especially because we knocked out UCI and OCC in the heat.
Current Health and Fitness Tip	Any workout is better than no workout... and whatever workouts Dylan Shafer '13 is doing these days	Stay disciplined and set goals so that you can work towards something.
Favorite Quote	"Every man, woman, and child!" - Geoff Strand	"Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far."
Favorite Recently Read Book	"The Frackers" by Gregory Zuckerman	"Being Mortal" by Atul Gawande
Why Contribute to FOUR?	No other sport on campus gives walk-on students the opportunity to compete for a Pac-12 Championship like rowing.	FOUR is run by former UCLA rowers and supporters who are passionate about helping current UCLA oarsmen succeed. They provide the backbone that the crew needs in order to continue improving through the good times and the hard times to continue improving.

Friends of UCLA Men's Rowing  
c/o Sheila Parker Tolle  
970 Cloud Ave.  
Menlo Park, CA 94025

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## ABOUT FOUR AND YOUR CONTRIBUTION

The Friends of UCLA Men's Rowing (FOUR) provides financial support and assistance to the UCLA Men's Crew. The Men's Crew is wholly self-financed by oarsmen, alumni, and friends. For the program to continue to grow and prosper, it is vital that new sources of revenue be found.



**Current Funding:** Today each UCLA oarsman must pay roughly \$1200 per year to row. This figure covers approximately half of the per-oarsman cost of equipment, travel, salaries, uniforms, etc. The balance of the annual operating budget must be made up with contributions from donors. To ensure the young men who want to row have the same rich rowing experience we had, you can help by sponsoring an oarsman for a year through a donation of \$1200.

**Future Funding:** One of the most important functions of FOUR is building an endowment. A gift to the Endowment will provide for the program in perpetuity.

### How You Can Donate:

**Online:** You can give online by clicking the link "GIVE NOW" in the upper right corner of our website at [www.uclamensrowing.com](http://www.uclamensrowing.com).

**By Check/Mail:** All checks should be made payable to "UCLA Foundation," please indicate on the memo portion of your check either:

- Men's Crew Current Expenditure Account
- Men's Crew Endowment

Mail to: Friends of UCLA Men's Rowing  
c/o Kevin Still  
5 Ivy Place  
Hartsdale, NY 10530

You will be mailed a receipt from The UCLA Foundation specifying the amount and specific fund designated. Please verify that your donation was directed according to your wishes.

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FOUR is a non-profit organization as defined in Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Tax Identification No. 95-3426607) and is affiliated with the UCLA Alumni Association. Operational and endowment funds raised by FOUR become part of the UCLA Foundation. Your donations are tax deductible.

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