

The Codger Award

The Codger Award is presented each year at the Annual Rowing Club Banquet to that student who in his or her time with the team has done the most to further the traditions of rowing at William and Mary.

1998: Danielle M. Abate '98 & Tara L. Eng '98

There were two recipients for the 1998 award, because the two were virtually inseparable. Indeed, some members of the team did not know which of the two was Tara and which was Danielle. Tara L. Eng '98 and Danielle M. Abate '98 roomed together, rowed together, and hung out together for four years. Together, they virtually ran the club out of their dorm room. They both held official roles, although often the duties of one became the duties of both. Tara served as Treasurer for a year and Vice President for a year. Danielle was twice elected Women's Captain, represented the club on the Sports Council during the semester for which such a position existed, and took over the as President in the Fall of her Senior year when the incapacitated previous President had to resign. The two together provided the inspiration for the development of the team. The inspiration came on and off the water. Off the water, Danielle and Tara worked hard all Winter, as evidenced by their finishing first and fourth in the 1996-97 Winter Challenge and third and fourth in the 1997-98 Winter Challenge. On the water, they were the cornerstones of successful varsity crews, paving the way for the accomplishments of future generations. Danielle literally gave her ass for the team, stroking the 1998 Varsity despite being in intense physical pain, until the pain forced her to relinquish the seat. Their crew finished the 1998 campaign ranked eighth at Vails, the highest-ranking club-status crew in the country. The United States Rowing Association also named Tara to its Collegiate All-American First Team in 1998, the first year any Tribe rower received such an honor.