



**WILLIAM & MARY**  
CHARTERED 1693

William & Mary Rowing Club  
Erin Biesecker, President  
Department of Recreational Sports  
400 Brooks Street  
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dear Alumni and Friends,

As our fall racing season comes to an end, we wanted to reflect on how fantastic it has been. Program Director and Varsity Women's Coach, Graham Ludmer, has been with us the past six years and his dedication helps us achieve success daily. Complementing Graham are two new coaches for this season. The Varsity and Novice Men's Coach, Brian Comey, was a coxswain at Mercyhurst, and the Novice Women's Coach, Sarah Tanzer, was a coxswain at Hobart College and Potomac Boat Club. Together, our coaches are managing a huge uptick in participation, topping 70 rowers on the roster for the first time in recent years!

All squads have been collecting medals at our regattas this season from High Point, to Occoquan, to Richmond, and we are carrying that momentum into our final regatta of the season in Augusta, Georgia. To continue our successes in attracting and retaining high-caliber student athletes, and to accommodate our growing club, we need to invest in newer equipment. The majority of our fleet of boats is in the 10-15 year old range, which will soon **negatively impact the performance of our crews**. Over the course of the next few years, we are looking to gradually replace our fleet. Last year we purchased a new King 8+, the *Lucky Lisel '09*, in which the Women's team has been racing. This year **our goal is to purchase another King 8+** which the Men's team will race.

While improving our equipment is very important, we will continue to maintain our long term goals. For this reason, we are continuing the **50/50 Campaign** for 2017. Donations to the Campaign will be split between a fund for the new boat and the endowment: serving our short-term needs while creating the institutional support to continue the club for years to come. For this year's 50/50 Campaign, our goal is to carry our momentum from last year's record setting Campaign and raise **\$25,000**. This would allocate \$12,500 towards the purchase of new boats and \$12,500 to our endowment which would increase the size of the endowment fund by over 40%.

Funding is a significant portion of what makes rowing programs great. William and Mary's Rec Sports Department gives us an annual stipend, which covers transportation to regattas and some of the hotel costs as we travel up and down the East Coast. We collect over \$43,000 from our current rowers per semester in dues. These dues cover many costs – principally the salaries of our coaching staff, regatta entry fees, and additional transportation costs. Because a new boat costs about \$30,000, we continue to rely on gently used racing shells. The growing size of the team means that recently we have been using some of our oldest, and most worn out boats in competitions. **By donating to this year's 50/50 Campaign, you can help us purchase a new boat, which will improve our fleet and the experiences of all rowers on the team.**

Our endowment fund currently has **\$30,000**, which has doubled since last year! This is great progress, and it puts us within reach of our Phase I goal of \$50,000. However, it is far from the multi-million dollar endowments of the most competitive crews. Help us catch these crews off the water by growing our endowment. The fund is privately managed by the Friends of Tribe Rowing and is maintained in perpetuity with only investment earnings being used to support the team. It ensures that there will be money to support future generations of Tribe Rowers in order to help them bring home those medals!

**We ask that you assist the team in meeting its goals for this campaign and leave your mark as we usher in a new era in the history of William and Mary Rowing.**

Sincerely,

Mollie Gaines, VP Team Fundraising WMRC

Erin Biesecker, President WMRC

Graham Ludmer, Program Director WMRC

**Even though you may not be out on the water with us, you still help us build a winning program with your donation.** Below are the tiers and associated incentives for donations:

<u>Tier</u>	<u>Donation Amount</u>	<u>Thank You Gift</u>
Participant	Any amount	Thank you card from current rower
Novice Oarsman	\$100	Tribe Rowing mug
Varsity Oarsman	\$250	T-Shirt Commemorating the New 8+
Coxswain	\$500	Seat naming rights
Captain	\$1,000	Signed oar blade from current rowers
Coach	\$3,000	Coffee table made from old dock wood
Program Director	\$5,000	Full sized table made from old dock wood

We understand that many of our alumni aren't currently in the position to make a large gift. The FTR website outlines how alumni can set up a recurring gift, or subscription, of a modest amount. When we accumulate these individual, monthly contributions from a large number of alumni, the impact becomes huge! Thank you for your continued support of Tribe Rowing!!

All donations to the 50/50 Campaign can be made by check or online through the Friends of Williamsburg Rowing, a 501 (c) (3) organization at [williamsburgrowing.org/for-donors/donate-online/](http://williamsburgrowing.org/for-donors/donate-online/).

For donations made by check, please make checks payable to "Friends of Williamsburg Rowing" and mail your check along with the rest of this form to:

Friends of Williamsburg Rowing  
136 16TH ST NE  
Washington, DC 20002

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an alumnus of WMRC?  Yes  No

If so, please provide the following: Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Are you a parent/relative of a crew member?  Yes  No

If so, please provide the following: Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Graduation Year \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, include my name and tier for purposes of the website.

No, I would prefer to keep my name and donation anonymous.

For donations of \$250 or more, please include shirt size \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know if your employer is willing to match your tax-deductible donations to the team.