



# STROKEWATCH

FRIENDS OF UCLA ROWING



[www.uclamensrowing.org](http://www.uclamensrowing.org)

Summer, 2004

## THE PASSING OF A LEGEND

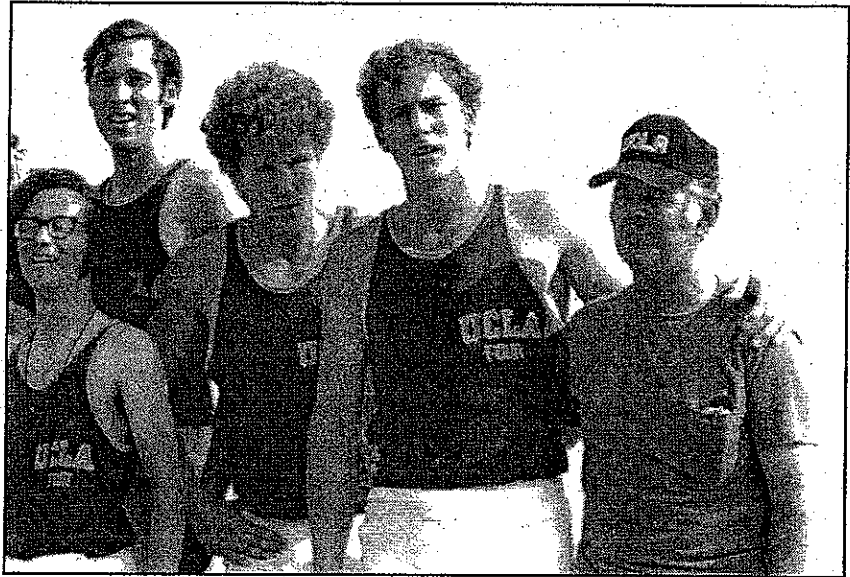
By Erinn McMahan

Paul Herrick, known to generations of Bruins as Rigger Brown, died on June 8th at the age of 82. With his passing, UCLA Rowing lost one of its biggest supporters, and all of us lost a friend. Rigger was unique in that he transcended the many generations of rowers and coaches, and connected everyone who had ever been with the team together into one family. Whether you rowed one year or four, your memories of Rigger are probably the fondest of any.

Rigger began at UCLA in 1960 working for the carpentry shop. His first exposure to the rowing program came when he was assigned the job of transporting racks from the old boathouse to the new one. After working on some errands for the team, Rigger was approached by Coach John Bissett and asked if he had ever worked on boats. To which he replied, "no, but they're wood aren't they? Well, I'm a cabinet maker so it just takes some imagination." His skill and resourcefulness soon led Bissett to request a six-month lease of Rigger's talents. UCLA gladly complied and Rigger became a fixture at the boathouse, even past his retirement and until the last months of his life.

After Rigger became the team's first full-time rigger in 1964, it was decided that he needed a name more appropriate to his job. The only problem was that Bissett didn't like the sound of "Rigger Herrick". As Rigger described it, "I liked Charlie Brown, so we put them together and got 'Rigger Brown', which sounds more like it."

In his approximately 20 years with



Rigger Brown was a friend and supporter to many generations of Bruin rowers.

the rowing program, Rigger meant much more to the program than his nickname implied. In addition to his skill with boats and rowing equipment, he was coach, counselor, and friend for the many generations of rowers that passed through the boathouse. For years, from the late 1960's to the mid-70's, Rigger drove the launch for coaches Bissett and Johnsen. More importantly, however, when the crews were off the water, Rigger helped many a rower through the pressures of rowing, school, and life.

Rigger retired in 1984, but never really left the program. He continued to visit the boathouse until the last months of his life, always taking the time to say hello to all of his friends. He would ask the coaches how the athletes were doing, and offer advice on training, technique, and rigging. With Jim Durden, the current rigger and boatman, he would swap stories about damaged boats, bent riggers, or submerged trailers. For all of us, a visit from Rigger was a cherished part of our week.

Away from the boathouse, Rigger had many other pursuits and passions. A devoted father and husband, he had three children, John, David, and Melanie, with Ruth Herrick, his wife of 56 years who passed away in 1996. From 1998 until the time of his passing he was married to Helen Herrick. His woodworking skills were not confined to Pocock racing shells, as he was an avid builder of model airplanes and a member of the Southern California Ignition Flyers since 1972. He was so skilled in baseball that he played at the semi-pro level at one point in his life. Before coming to UCLA, he was even President of the Malibu Mountain Archery Club during the 1950's.

For me, I can say with certainty that the day that Rigger first called me "Coach" was the first time I felt like I truly belonged to the Bruin Crew family. His acceptance was something I will cherish always, because to me he truly represented what is so special about rowing for UCLA.

## 2004 Spring Starts With 3 Wins

The Bruin Men opened the 2004 spring racing season with victories over St. Mary's, UC Irvine, and Loyola Marymount. The season began with the home race against the Gaels of St. Mary's on March 10. Rowing in the "1967 Pac-8 Champions" shell that would be christened later that day as part of the Alumni Day celebration, the Varsity 8 comfortably beat their opponents from Northern California by over a length. Earlier in the day, the Freshman 8 won by a similar margin, earning their first shirts as collegiate rowers.

The following day, March 11, would see the Bruin's Varsity and Junior Varsity Eights in action against Marina del Rey rival, Loyola Marymount, for the Guy Lundberg Memorial Cup. As Loyola was unable to field a JV or Freshman Eight, the Bruin JV boat raced in the varsity event while the Frosh had the day off to rest. In the race, both the V8 and JV8 took a length from the Lions in the first 500 meters of the race. While the varsity boat was able to keep adding to that

lead as the race progressed, the JV were overtaken in the third 500. The V8 would go on to beat their counterparts from Loyola by almost 10 seconds on the tide-shortened 1750 meter course. The victory extended the Bruins lead in the Guy Lundberg Cup series to 3-1.

The Bruins kept to their winning ways the next weekend, March 17, with victories over UC Irvine in both the JV and Varsity Eights. In the varsity race, the Bruins enjoyed a length lead until the last 250 meters of the race when a bad sprint and inexperience led to a comeback by the crew from Irvine. Still the Bruins were able to respond to their hard-charging opponents and held on to take the victory by approximately 1/3 of a length. In the JV event, both crews tested each other for the entire 2000 meters, with neither taking more than a few seats. A composed third 500 and a strong sprint from the UCLA JV gave them a narrow 1-second margin of victory over the courageous crew from UC Irvine.



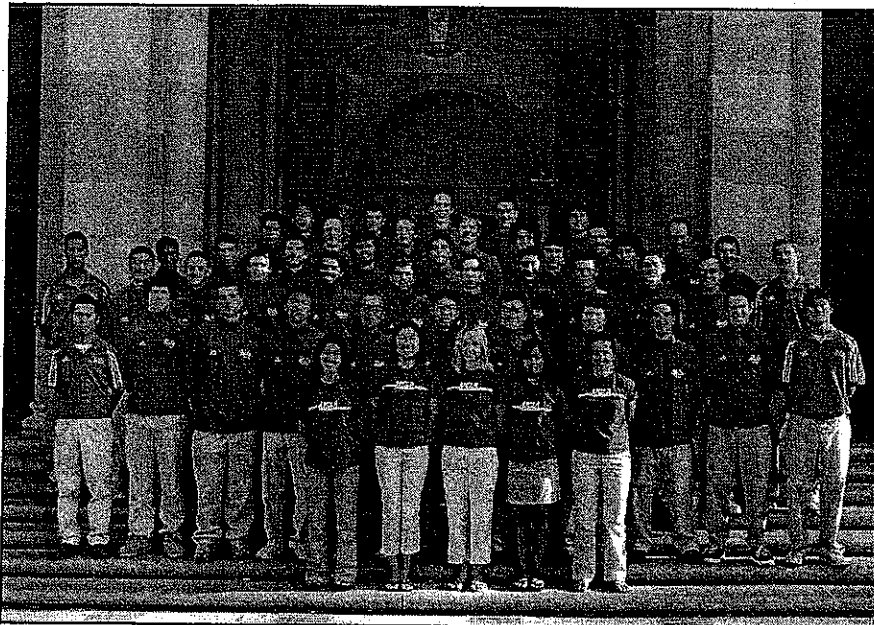
## Pac-10/PCRC Recap

The Bruin Men wrapped up the 2004 racing season with gold and silver medals at the Pacific Coast Rowing Championships and consecutive victories over USC in the heat and final of the Pac-10 Championships. At the PCRC event, the Varsity Lightweight Four beat UC Davis by 16 seconds to take the gold, while the Novice Light Four took second behind Cal.

Despite racing without team captain and six seat Ken Tu, the Varsity 8 (pictured above) claimed a fourth place finish in the opening heat at the Pac-10's with a time of 6:16. USC would follow in fifth with a time of 6:20. The Bruins challenged the 3rd place crew from Santa Clara, but ended up missing the final qualifying spot in the grand final by 3 seconds. Cal and Oregon State claimed 1st and 2nd in the heat respectively.

The Bruins again used a strong middle 1000 meters en route to a 2nd place finish in the petite final, narrowly losing to Washington State by 2.5 seconds. The Trojans finished in 5th, over 5 seconds back of UCLA.

Solid showings from the JV and Frosh eights, as well as the Varsity four, pushed the Bruins into 5th in the team points competition. Washington State, USC, and Oregon occupied the 6th, 7th, and 8th place positions respectively.

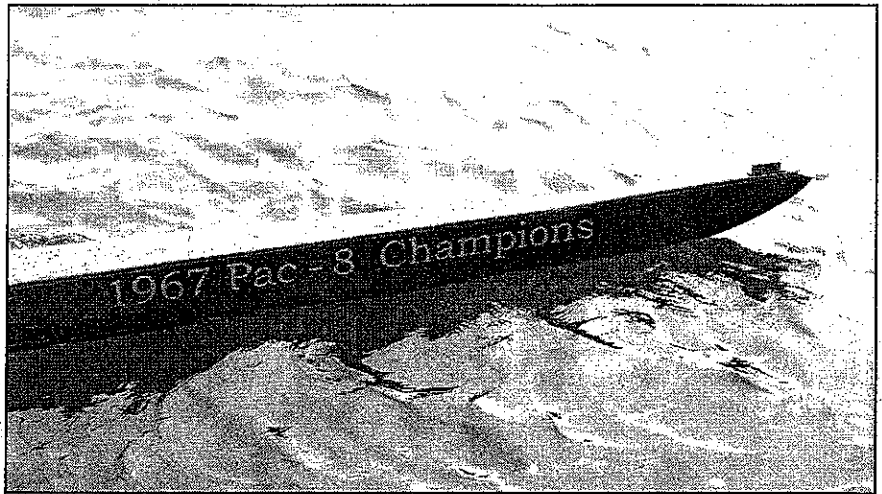


The 2003-2004 UCLA Men's Rowing Team

# 1967 Pac-8 Champions Honored At 2004 Alumni Day

With support from the Friends of UCLA Rowing, the UCLA Men's and Women's Rowing Programs celebrated their annual Alumni Day on Saturday, March 13. The morning began with an intra-squad race for the UCLA Women, and a race vs. St. Mary's College for the UCLA Men. The men emerged victorious in both the novice and varsity races, while the junior class women raced to victory in the intra-squad scrimmage.

The day was later highlighted by a boat christening ceremony honoring the men of the 1967 Varsity 8, who brought UCLA its first Pac-8 and West Coast championship in the sport of rowing. Several members of the 1967 Varsity 8 were present to officially christen the shell as the "1967 Pac-8 Champions", including Bob Swartz (coxswain), Erik Johnson (#8), Pat Moran (#7), Bob Newman (#5), Walter Brennan (#3),



UCLA's new heavyweight varsity eight, the "1967 Pac-8 Champions"

and Mike Harris (Bow).

During the same boat christening ceremony, the UCLA Women honored donor Tom Bengaard and longtime supporter Lin Werner by naming two new racing shells the "Big Tom" and the "Ms. Lin".

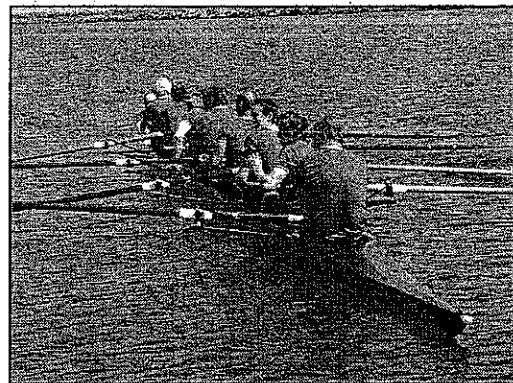
After lunch, the men from the '67 V8,

with Duncan Henderson, stroke seat for the 1970 Pac-8 championship boat, went out for a row on Ballona Creek with current team members David Hampton, Ken Tu and Evan Faucher. The three current rowers later remarked that the power and rhythm that won in

'67 was still present in 2004.



Stern Pair - Johnson and Moran



The eight returns to the dock



Five Seat - Bob Newman



Bow Seat - Mike Harris

## An Update From The F.O.U.R. Treasurer

By Lyndsey Wells

We had a great year! Thank you all so much for your generous support of UCLA Men's Rowing. Without your support, men's rowing at UCLA would not be flourishing as it is today. We look forward to the future as the program grows stronger and stronger with each passing year.

Last fall, I joined the program in a more permanent position to help our program reach its goals. I am excited to report that those goals were reached. We raised in excess of \$40,000 with our Sponsor-A-Rowing Campaign, which was generously supported by the Alumni, and the Erg-A-Thon, which was supported by friends and family of the athletes. It is clear that the UCLA Men's Rowing Family is excited about the program, especially our alumni, as their increased support has been the primary reason for our success. The funds raised this year have helped the team travel to the S.D. Crew Classic

and the Pac-10 Championships, pay the coaching staff, as well as purchase a new racing eight.

We also received amazing support from the athletes' families. In our first year of the Erg-A-Thon, almost \$6,000 was raised. In addition to financial support, many parents generously gave of their time to support the team at each of the races. Food for the athletes at races was never a problem; in fact, many times the athletes even took food home!

At this year's Alumni Day, the program was honored to christen a new racing shell the "1967 Pac-8 Champions". The shell was named for the men who brought UCLA its first Pac-8 and West Coast Championship in the sport of rowing. The program was honored to have Bob Swartz, Pat Moran, Erik Johnson, Bob Newman, Walt Brennan, and Mike Harris at the event to officially christen the new shell.

The program is also very excited to

work with John Nelson, Class of 1981, in the naming of a new shell to be purchased in the Fall of 2004. John's generous donation, which made the purchase of the boat possible, will benefit many future generations of UCLA oarsmen. We will have more about John's donation, as well as the name of the newly purchased shell, in the next issue of *Strokewatch*.

The Coaches and I have a great passion for the sport of rowing and we have a strong commitment to the success and legacy of the team. With your support there are no limits to what this program can achieve. We are currently gearing up for the 2004-05 racing season and I am planning more Alumni events. Look for details in future issues of the *Strokewatch*, or on our website at [uclamensrowing.org](http://uclamensrowing.org).

We welcome and look forward to your involvement! Please contact me if you have any questions or would like to get more involved with F.O.U.R.

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## Thank You 2003-2004 Donors

### Anniversary Level

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### Double Sponsorship Level

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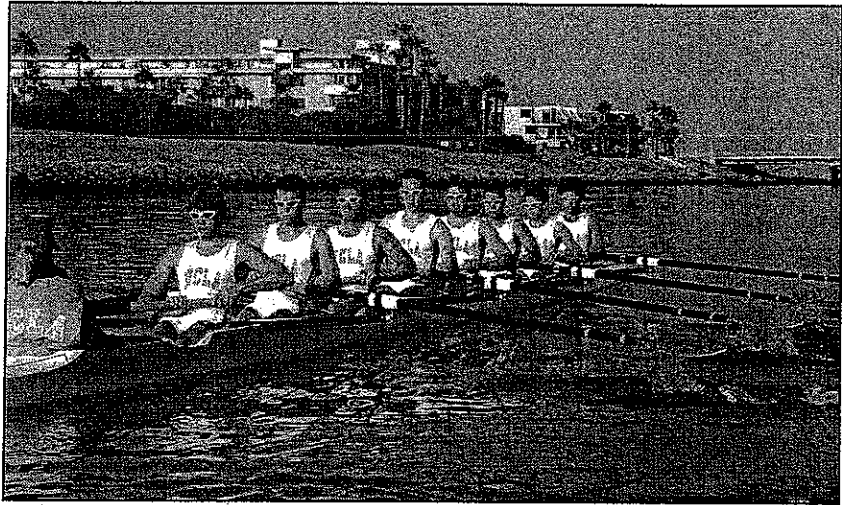
### Platinum Level

John J. Nelson

## Bruin Men Add Sponsor - Rudy Project USA

In March of 2004, Rudy Project USA agreed to sponsor the UCLA Men's Rowing Team. Rudy Project became the official sunglasses supplier for the team starting with the 2004 racing season. Coach Erinn McMahan, who worked with the company in arranging the sponsorship deal, said "Rudy Project makes the best sunglasses for athletes available today. The optical quality, styling and guarantee against scratching of the lens makes them unique amongst their competitors."

Rudy Project is a modern, marketing oriented company that has established itself as one of the leading brands worldwide. They design and manufacture hi-tech sunglasses, goggles, helmets, and accessories using the application of science, advanced materials, and computer technology. The com-



pany was founded by Rudy Barbazza, a pioneer in the Italian sunglass and sporting goods industry.

Rudy Project has long been a champion of sponsoring and supporting athletes at every level of competition. Recently, the company was the official

sunglasses provider for the 2004 Tour de France. Among others, Rudy Project sponsors cyclists Jan Ullrich and Erik Zabel, and triathletes Michellie Jones and Spencer Smith.

For more information, visit their website at [www.rudyprojectusa.com](http://www.rudyprojectusa.com).

## Thank You 2004 Erg-A-Thon Donors

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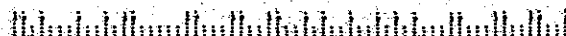
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## 2004-2005 MEN'S ROWING SCHEDULE

OCTOBER 23 & 24	HEAD OF THE CHARLES	BOSTON
NOVEMBER 6	HEAD OF THE MARINA	MARINA DEL REY
NOVEMBER 7	NEWPORT	NEWPORT BEACH
NOVEMBER 20	USC FALL RACE	BALLONA CREEK
FEBRUARY 26 & 27	BOTAFOGO RC (BRAZIL)	BALLONA CREEK
MARCH 5	ALUMNI DAY	BALLONA CREEK
MARCH 12	LOYOLA MARYMOUNT	BALLONA CREEK
MARCH 19	ORANGE COAST COLLEGE	BALLONA CREEK
APRIL 2 & 3	SAN DIEGO CREW CLASSIC	MISSION BAY
APRIL 9	UC SANTA BARBARA	BALLONA CREEK
APRIL 23	STANFORD & OREGON ST.	REDWOOD SHORES
APRIL 30	USC	BALLONA CREEK
MAY 14 & 15	PCRC/PAC-10	LAKE NATOMA
JUNE 2-5	IRA REGATTA	COOPER RIVER, NJ