A Letter from the Commodore
Whitney Davis
On my way back to sailing preseason at Princeton at the end of the summer I had a lot going through my mind. I was trying to think of how the team could continue to pursue its competitive progress and keep up its morale in light of not having found a full-time coach, which had been a goal for the year. Last winter and spring we had actively pursued finding a full-time coach. However, we realized that it was very difficult to find a qualified candidate without being able to offer the same benefits as teams with University funding. The administration holds its position on keeping the sailing team a club sport despite discussions last year in view of the coaching search and competing with Varsity programs at other schools. This presents a hurdle in finding an eligible collegiate sailing coach. However with the help of our alumni board and officer core we were able to post a job description, screen resumes, conduct phone conferences, and run on-campus interviews with our most promising candidates and came very close to finding a potential coach who was the right fit. Due to the near success of our efforts last spring, we have become newly revived this fall and are continuing our search for a head coach. This could not be done without the ongoing generous support of our alumni and we continue to be very appreciative and thankful.

Though it was difficult without a coach this season we learned to run productive practices and maintain our spirited nature. Our full two weeks of preseason that took place before classes started put us up to our competitive level right at the start of the season and we preformed consistently well all fall. We were also able to recruit an enthusiastic and solid freshmen class of sailors who improved exponentially this season and who I know will contribute greatly to the team next spring. We are geared up to attend the Rose Bowl regatta this January out in California for the second time in two years and have a competitive group signed up for our training trip to Florida over intersession. I am very excited about our new officers as they are a positive and hardworking group and I know will be able to lead the team to new heights in the future. Finally, I can’t wait to continue sailing for an ever improving program during the remainder of my time at Princeton and see the wonderful experiences I have had on the team mirrored in the younger sailors.

Mary Gamber and Edith Lederman at Princeton Women’s in October

Season Highlights
Allison Tracy
This fall season began at a fast pace as we opened up preseason practices, moved boats and attended our first regattas. Nick Burroughs ’08 and Joe Codega ’09 participated in a Laser Regatta at King’s Point early on in September, the first time we’ve competed in a Laser event for a long time, while four other sailors ventured out to Cornell. Our first qualifier was Central #1 at OCC, where we alternated between 420s and the infamous Tech Dinghies. We had some of our best sailors there between Nick, Whitney Davis ’09, Scott Arcenas ’09, Natacha Jamar ’09, Brandon Racusin ’09 and me. (Continued pg. 6)
Two Freshmen Receive a Warm (and Wet) Welcome to the Sailing Team.

John Wetenhall and Tucker Willsie

Arriving on campus, neither of us knew exactly what we wanted to do outside of class. During Frosh week, we were bombarded with opportunities to try anything from TigerTones to sprint football to Student Volunteers Council. Both of us, however, chose the sailing team. We thought it would be an exciting experience to learn to sail, and it has been quite exciting.

The first time we pulled into the beautiful seaside town of Perth Amboy, we noticed a strange odor coming through the window. No, it wasn’t the week-old Wawa in the back of Allison’s car, instead, it was our first introduction to the waters of Raritan Bay. Not to be deterred, we marched down to the dock, rigged the boats, and listened intently as practice captain Nick Burroughs (’08) led the chalk talk. Still early in the season, the sun was shining and it felt like summer. That was enough to make us forget the smell of the ocean until we took a second look at the water beneath us. Just as we were reminded of the questionable quality of the water, Nick mentioned that the heavy winds meant capsizing was more than a possibility. With the thought of taking a dip in Raritan Bay fresh in our minds, we hopped in our boats and set sail.

As we rounded the docks and headed out into the mooring field, our sails filled with wind and we forgot about the foul odor of Raritan Bay and our fears of capsizing. With the wind at our backs, we sped out into the bay, smiling with delight at the intoxicating feeling of sailing.

With the assistance of upperclassmen like Ted Conbeer (’08), Scott Arcenas (’09), Brandon Racusin (’09), Whitney Davis (’09), and Matt Tilghman (’09)(no relation to President Tilghman), we learned the basics: tacks and jibes, how to judge the telltails, and other important aspects of crewing. Pretty soon, we were tacking and jibing like pros, well, maybe not pros, but at least we were keeping up with the fleet.

It seemed that sailing wasn’t too hard after all. Of course, then the wind picked up and the boat began to heel over and we took off. We immediately familiarized ourselves with the hiking straps and flattened the boat. On Tucker’s next jibe, however, I looked over and saw the white hull of his FJ – and Tucker in the Bay. I laughed at Tucker’s misfortune, however, I would not escape the wrath of Raritan that day. Nick whistled for us to tack, and as I hopped up on the rail and reached my feet for the hiking straps I suddenly realized that I missed them. I hung there for a moment clinging to the jib sheet like a lifeline, but it would not save me; I ended up going for a swim too.

“I need to consider learning to skipper!” Tucker shouted, looking up at Matt Tilghman standing high and dry on the keel. Before I could think about my predicament too much, however, I was pulling myself back onto the boat and we were sailing once again. The wind picked up again, but this time we were in control, lessons learned. The sun was shining, and despite the wet clothes we were having a genuinely good time.

Eric Domb ’10, Esteban Plaza-Jennings ’11, Ted Conbeer ’08, Nick Burroughs ’08, Tucker Willsie ’11, John Wetenhall ’11, Scott Arcenas ’09, Brandon Racusin ’09 and Matt Tilghman ’09 preparing for the Pole Swim.... And diving in!
Summer Team Racing

Allison Tracy

At the beginning of this summer as we were all shifting gears for a new and warmer season, a bunch of Princeton sailors met in Boston to participate in the annual Charles River Open Team Race. Nick Burroughs ’08 skippered for Eric Domb ’10, I sailed with Scott Arcenas ’09, and Ted Conbeer skippered for Hannah Burroughs, a freshman at Stanford this fall. We met at the MIT Pavilion on Saturday morning and spread out on the burning hot, black-tiled observation deck at MIT. The deck was filled with college sailors, past and present, and very alive for that early in the morning.

The event included 42 teams this year and required the FJs and 420s of Boston University and the nearby Community Boating. We sailed a Digital-N course so that races could start one after the other. This system allowed the two race committees to run a total of 490 races! There was a good mix of college sailors, high school teams and masters, all sailing at a very high level. I knew it was going to be difficult when I realized that several of my former coaches were sailing, but it was really a fun time even though we were out of our league. The racing took place right outside the MIT pavilion and the view from the observation deck was perfect for watching the races. We spent a lot of time dissecting the different moves and trying to learn as much as we could. It was intriguing to watch the face-offs between high caliber teams like Silver Panda, especially when they were dealing with the wicked shifts coming off the pavilion itself. Sometimes the boats came in almost to the pavilion itself looking for strong right shifts off the land.

The first day was designed to determine two separate fleets based on skill level, so we ended up racing against teams that were closer to us on Sunday. We had sufficient wind on both days, which is uncharacteristic of the Charles River. On Sunday I saw what I think was a Mercury capsize near Community Boating as we sailed the boats back at the end of the day.

We were at the lower end of the competition and we only won a few races, but I think we could have done a lot better with practice. In some cases we were really close and it was only a minor mistake that sealed the deal. We felt like we knew what was happening and what was going to happen, but the execution is not there yet. Team racing obviously requires a lot of communication and good instincts about what your team members might do in a given situation. In the end we discovered important strengths and weaknesses on both an individual and a group level.

Team racing is something I would love to see develop further in this team and sailing at the Charles River Open was a smart move. We were able to carry out some team racing drills this fall even as we were teaching a whole new group of sailors. They were a little confused but we will certainly focus on this more in Florida. Talking about team racing is pretty exciting once you get the hang of it. I think what we’ve been lacking in the past is actual experience, even though it may take several of these experiences to find a groove. Coincidentally there are many regattas this spring that have switched from fleet racing to team racing events, so we are planning to schedule a few team races and try it out. This will be an exciting spring as we gain further experience with team racing, practicing what we know and learning how to function together on the water.
The Friends of Princeton Sailing receives tremendous support from many of our alumni sailors, friends, team parents, and grandparents. Thanks to all who have made contributions to the team since last April, as reflected below. As a club sport at Princeton, the team thrives on the funding, housing, advice, and time donated to them by so many outside the university, and, as such, each contribution at any level is welcome. Thank again to the alumni, friends, parents, and others – the team depends on you for its successes.

As we experience delays in receiving notice from the University of each gift or pledge made to the Friends of Princeton Sailing, you may not see your name listed below. We will endeavor to list you in the Spring 2008 newsletter. Please let Emily Kalkstein ’98, President, or Jason Balich ’00, Treasurer, know if you have not received a tax acknowledgement from the University.

PRESIDENT’S CIRCLE ($1000+)

Jason Balich ’00 • Ed Freitag ’68 • Dick Rose ’60

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Nelle Alexander ’76 • Henry Barkhorn ’71 • Ted Burdick ’92 • Frank & Gail Flannery P95 P97
Bob Stern ’48 • Michael Streicker ’99 • Susan & Charles Temkin P09 • Tim & Susan Davis P09

BACKSTAY ($100+)

Richard Boyd, Jr. ’76 • Joan & Mente Benjamin G08 • Polly Burroughs W39 • Rick Burroughs ’69
Joseph & Lorraine Codega P09 • Chris Constant ’00 • Greg Davis ’00 • Lisa Flannery ’95
Anoop Gupta ’01 • Jamie Isbester ’83 • Bob Johnstone ’56 • Ellen Kratzer ’84 • Cheryl LaFleur ’75
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Victoria Taylor ’03 • Carel Warfield ’79 • George Whittle ’48

>> THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT <<

For team and alumni news, visit Princeton Sailing online www.princeton.edu/~sailing
Alumni Recap: Adventures of the 1996 Rose Bowl

In early January of 1996 Kate Snedeker ’99 traveled with skipper Mike Albert ’96 and Gregg Furie ’97 and crew Hilary Bramwell ’00 to attend the Rose Bowl in California as we will this coming January. The four sailors met with light wind on the west coast and spent a lot of time on the beach waiting for races to start. Luckily, they did get some races off despite the lack of wind.

After a few days of lying in the sun the sailors discovered through the team from St. Mary’s that the snow-storm back home was essentially trapping them in California. While her roommates were sledding down the steps of Blair arch, Kate was waiting with Hilary in the airport, watching promotional films on the Boeing 777. Obviously there were no flights, but Kate and Hilary made the news in the airport by talking about not being able to get back for exams. The good thing was that they had the opportunity of looking around LA for an extra day before getting involved in the nightmare of travel. Kate is still sailing, of course, and had some interesting stories of trips in more recent years, as well: “I got back into a Laser for the first time in a long, long time this spring. I was up at the University of Edinburgh’s outdoor center, and if you know what you are doing and stay within a certain distance of the center, you can basically take a Laser out on your own. The first trip up was very windy, the second trip was anything but. Perfect for refreshing my memory of roll tacks etc. Not quite a day out at Raritan though - sound carries very well over the loch, and every once in a while I’d be startled by a loud ‘baaaaaah’ or ‘mooooo’ from the sheep and cows on the fields across the loch. Not quite the barge horns of Raritan!”

Miscellaneous Boats
Is there a laser, lark, 420 or another dinghy lying around in your garage? Maybe a tech? We’re looking for a little diversity in our fleet so that we can practice in these boats for regattas, so let us know! Contact practice captain Mary Gamber at mgamber@princeton.edu.

PRINCETON SAILING GEAR!
Show your PUST pride! The team is selling short-sleeved pique polo shirts with the orange and black Princeton burgee and the words “Princeton Sailing” embroidered on the left breast. Available in white, youth sizes L-XL and adult sizes S-XL-$35. The team is also selling sewn appliquéd burgees (12” by 18”) with brass grommets-$25, and stickers for $2. Support the team through purchase of one of these great accessories! Contact Secretary Michelle Arader at marader@princeton.edu.

Request for Regatta Housing:
The Princeton Sailing Team has been very fortunate over the years to benefit from the warm beds- not to mention the advice, on-site coaching, and financial support- of the alumni. The team travels every weekend in September through November and again in March through May to the following sites: Annapolis, Baltimore, Boston, Brown, Cornell, Georgetown, New London, CT, Old Dominion, St. Mary’s, and Washington College. If you live close to any of these venues and would be willing to host four sailors for a weekend, please contact the Regatta Captain Jackie Temkin at jtemkin@princeton.edu.

Special thanks to Jonathan Foot ’84, Ed Freitag ’68 and Michele Maxson ’01 for hosting sailors at their houses this fall! We really appreciate getting to know alumni.

Stay in Touch: Join the TigerNet Email List to receive updates from the team and keep up to date!
(Continued from pg. 1) It was a pretty interesting day, starting out with heavy wind and rain that caused a few capsizes and general chaos. However, I remember being restless as we sat on land for a bit, trapped by decree of the race committee. The conditions on Sunday were very irregular because the wind over the land caused very significant shifts and puffs. There were many situations on downwind legs where the back of the fleet would catch up with a puff while the front of the fleet was completely stopped, resulting in some condensed mark roundings and finishes. Some of these really hurt us and some of them helped out a little bit, so sometimes we just had to accept our fate. The shifts were somewhat predictable but it was a good challenge and we were working hard to use what we could see of the puffs to strategize during the races. We just barely missed qualifying by a few points after an unfavorable protest.

Our travels brought us all the way up to Boston to sail at Tufts for the Hood Trophy in late September. I crewed for Nick in A-Division while Matt Tilghman ’09 and Sarah Langberg ’09 sailed B-Division. This intersectional had to be one of the most challenging regattas we went to, but in that way it was one of the most interesting. The congestion was unbelievable at mark roundings with about 23 out of 24 boats piling in a pinwheel around a mark and trying to luff up to wait their turn. The skill level was very high so everyone knew where they wanted to be and who they wanted to let in or pin out at the mark.

The Larks are complicated boats, but they are also very light and suited to the Mystic Lakes. On that note, I think that we really joined the ranks of “people confused by the Mystic Lakes” during this weekend. We discussed the conditions a lot with Jonathan Foot, who was a very gracious host and a welcome spectator. Princeton Women’s ran smoothly this same weekend and we placed fourth behind Navy, Fordham and Hobart. Following this regatta we began talking more seriously about attending women’s events.

Central #2 was a good morale-booster for us. Scott and I swept B-Division with eight bullets while Nick held a steady second to St. Mary’s in A-Division. We placed second and played around a lot with the unusual land breeze. This finally qualified us for War Memorial at SUNY Maritime.

Ted Conbeer ’08 and Esteban Plaza-Jennigs ’11 skippered for MAISA Club Championships during Tropical Storm Noel, placing 11th out of 15 teams.

We returned to SUNY Maritime to finish our season with Atlantic Coast Trophy and we encountered a huge challenge with the wind shifts. I sailed A-Division with Scott while Brandon skippered B-Division with Whitney on the first day and Nick skippered on Sunday. We got a fair amount of wind both days, picking up to 20 knots at some points, but the shifts combined with the current to produce some very strange conditions. We placed 13th out of 16 teams but I feel that we could have done better had we more of a sense of the location.