A LETTER FROM THE COMMODORE—

This spring was an exciting and busy season for the Princeton Sailing Team, and I truly enjoyed the first half of my time as commodore. The team has made significant progress in several areas, fulfilling both short-term and long-term goals.

The intersession trip to Florida was a great beginning, as we were able to build up team relations and enthusiasm for a season of racing. Everyone caught the team-racing fever, and there is still widespread enthusiasm to learn more. In February we moved boats in freezing weather, pouring warm water into the stern plug of the crash boat and getting shocked looks from freshmen.

We had spent the fall season bringing everyone up to a basic level of sailing proficiency, and many of the new freshmen improved their skippering skills this spring, expanding our resources immensely. I had high hopes going into the spring season, and now, following several great months of spring sailing, I can reflect on how much has happened. Sailors who attended their first regattas in the fall have branched out into skippering with impressive versatility and enthusiasm. We have accomplished a lot with a young officer corps, See “Commodore,” p. 4

SEASON HIGHLIGHTS—

ICSA decided to add National Semifinal Regattas to the last weekend of the regular college sailing season this year, meaning that all the other regattas had to be held within a season that was one weekend shorter. So, after being coached by Jason Balich ’00 during the warmest and sunniest sailing of the spring season, during our trip to St. Petersburg, Florida, we had to get off to a quick start.

At our first regatta in February, the Tom Noble Team Race, Princeton finished sixth out of eight teams but had some great races against top schools. In one race, Georgetown won, but only by inches—after being out-team-raced by Princeton around most of the course. We placed seventh at the Central #1 qualifier at Ocean County College in Toms River, NJ, a few weeks later. We were fourth among Central division teams, qualifying us for America’s Trophy at Hobart.

The following weekend, the team hosted Central #2 for the first time. The racing was exciting, and both Princeton boats sailed well, each winning

FLORIDA TRIP—

This year’s preseason training trip to Tampa, FL, was a great success. The team left New Jersey mere hours after some sailors finished their first semester exams to hop aboard a plane to sunny Florida. The next day, Coach Jason Balich ’00 arrived from Boston, and by Monday morning we were ready to sail!

As in past years, we sailed at the University of South Florida, using their fleet of FJs. With Coach Jason, we practiced a number of drills, working to increase the effectiveness of our practices in Perth Amboy. While working on a number of new warm-up drills, we also focused on introducing newer sailors to team racing. We were signed up for a couple team racing regattas for the spring season, so it was time to get back into practice! What started in the beginning of the week with a couple of skill-oriented drills, such as heated rounds of Pig-in-the-Middle, culminated in team racing against USF! Each day we competed against each other in crew races, team races, or

See “Highlights,” p. 4

See “Florida,” p. 5
ROSE BOWL- MERCEDITH PFISTER ’11

Before returning to reading week and fall semester finals at Princeton, Allison Tracy ’10, Brandon Racusin ’09, John Wetenhall ’11 and I were lucky enough to jet off to California for a weekend. Given my love for sailing and for Orange County, I was excited to compete in the 23rd annual Rose Bowl Regatta as my first on-the-road regatta with the Princeton sailing team. Hosted by USC at the Alamitos Bay Yacht Club in Long Beach, this was a very big regatta, with 28 college teams from both coasts and two divisions of high school teams. It is great to be able to send a Princeton team so we can race against some of the west coast schools and also encourage some of the great high-school sailors to sail at Princeton. Each college team gave a short presentation on Saturday night about its school and sailing team to give the high-schoolers a sample of some of their college sailing options. Allison gave an enthusiastic presentation, and we were able to talk to some of the younger sailors.

John Wetenhall ’11, Allison Tracy ’10, Meredith Pfister ’11, and Brandon Racusin ’09 at Rose Bowl in California

We arrived in California on Thursday night and drove to the house of our gracious hostess, Nina Nielsen ’76. Although the warm and sunny Southern California weather was missing on Friday, there was enough wind for us to get in some good practice. There were lots of shifts, puffs and current, so it was ideal to have the time on Friday to check out these conditions and get back in the sailing groove—it had been over a month since any of us had sailed. I crewed for Allison in the A fleet while John crewed for Brandon in the B fleet. Having grown up sailing lasers and typically skippering double-handed boats, I came to the regatta with very little crewing experience.

See “Rose Bowl,” p. 5

AMERICA TROPHY- SCOTT ARCIENAS’09

On the weekend of the America Trophy—April 12-13—it was 75 degrees at the Georgetown Sailing Center. Bright and sunny for the National Cherry Blossom Festival in Washington, D.C. Unfortunately for all MAISA sailors, however, three weeks previously the Executive Committee had decided to move our championship regatta from the warm waters of the Potomac to Hobart’s sailing site on Seneca Lake, where it was snowing.

Over the course of the weekend, conditions ranged from the aforementioned snow to air temperatures suitable for board shorts—though the few who attempted that feat inevitably switched back to drysuits the moment they made contact with the frigid water—with the wind ranging from under five to over twenty knots sustained.

The sailing site on Seneca is gorgeous, with the school overlooking this largest of the Finger Lakes from atop a massive cliff—down which a good number of sailors, myself included, fell—and when the wind comes straight up the length of the lake, the Hobart sailors claim that the wind is wonderful and as regular as the most constant sea breeze. During the regatta, however, it came from no such direction and instead howled down the cliff to strike the sailing site with great unpredictability.

Due in part to the rather shifty conditions, both Princeton boats—so accustomed to Raritan’s steady breeze—began the regatta rather less than well, but we improved throughout the day and climbed steadily up the board from an initial position of seventeenth after the first set to thirteenth at the end of the day, and this upward trend continued through Sunday with a final finish of twelfth behind Fordham, Columbia, and Navy, thanks to at least five top ten finishes from each boat.

The unpredictable wind made things a bit frustrating for us over the weekend, but we were consoled the next day when, examining the results, we noticed that in fact only one boat in each division—the Georgetown A and the SUNY B—managed to get through the regatta without at least two double-digit finishes.

All in all, it was a great regatta, and Nick, Allison, Matt and I thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.
Class of 2008 - Featured Graduates

**Nick Burroughs – Peter Jarow ’08**

As of graduation, Princeton Sailing will lose both a teammate and a leader who has helped transformed the team. From practice captain to commodore to team elder, Nick Burroughs ’08 (who is affectionately called “El Burrito”) has served a role in practically every part of PUST. I sat down with him to reflect on some of his fondest memories from the past four years.

*First College Regatta?* At his first Friday practice, Burroughs was alerted that the team needed more sailors for the annual freshman groundbreaker regatta, and he quickly volunteered. The conditions were difficult since the wind blew 25 knots from over land. Burroughs managed to pull out some key races that earned PUST a mid-fleet finish. The most important thing, though, was that the regatta forced him to miss his audition for the improvisational comedy group Quipfire, which, if he had made it, might have cost the sailing team one of its top skippers and officers.

*Favorite Eric Leitner phrase?* “It’s all about the big picture – think wide-screen TVs. Plasma, Nick, plasma.”

*Favorite Freshman Year Memory?* Burroughs’ favorite memory from freshman year was the annual Leroy Grant regatta. As it was held during Houseparties weekend, veteran upperclassmen were in short supply. Burroughs skipperred A division and brought in some top finishes that won PUST the regatta. Burroughs delighted even more in the logistical win of getting the

See “Nick,” p. 7

**Ted Conbeer – Whitney Davis ’09**

As the end of another Princeton sailing season came to a close in May, the team trailered the FJs back from Perth Amboy to our modest boathouse on Lake Carnegie for summer storage. The old shack shows the signs of the years it has endured, but one artifact that has gracefully withstood the test of time is the collection of initials etched into the walls. Who etches these letters, and when, are often unknown or unclaimed, but most are the initials of the infamous members of PUST, whose anecdotes are still repeated to younger generations of sailors years later.

*Ted Conbeer ’08 sails with Cat Valencia ’10 in Tampa Bay*

Of this year’s seniors, Ted Conbeer is sure to have his initials etched into the boathouse walls, though my guess is not by him. Ted is incredibly modest and was shocked to find out I would be writing a newsletter article on him.

Ted grew up sailing on Lake Michigan and spent some summers teaching in a junior sailing program, but he was never a competitive sailor before coming to Princeton. He didn’t even sail on his high school team because he didn’t want to buy a drysuit and commute an hour to practice. At Princeton, though, Ted dedicated himself to the sailing team, not just by buying a drysuit and commuting an hour to Raritan Yacht Club, but also by pushing his teammates in practice, by traveling numerous times each season to regattas, by serving as treasurer for two years, and by consistently being a strong presence at meetings, boat moving, boat work, and team bonding sessions.

Ted has always had a natural leadership role on the team—not just as an officer, dealing with finances

See “Ted,” p. 7
and the spirit of healthy cooperation spreading into the team will make it easier to achieve our goal of building an increasingly competitive, fun and well-balanced team.

Hosting Central #2 in April at Raritan Yacht Club was an impressive accomplishment for Princeton, and we received compliments on the organization from participants and coaches alike. We pulled everything off smoothly with the help of a large portion of the team and volunteers from RYC. Some of the team members successfully taught themselves how to use the perplexing Navy Scoring Program while others ran the committee boat. We took advantage of our local knowledge to place second in the regatta; both A and B Division teams had several first-place finishes.

One of the new developments this spring was the establishment of a stronger relationship with RYC through Ann Myer, Rear Commodore, to whom we owe a lot of thanks. Eric Leitner, former Princeton Sailing coach and RYC member, continues to be a strong tie at the club and helped out during Central #2 with a slew of other eager Raritan members. Their help was invaluable and we greatly appreciate their efforts.

We return in September for preseason during orientation, and I am very excited to recruit a new group of freshmen to build the team. One of our most important strengths this year has been the dedication of the freshman class. The team’s ability to retain a large number of the sailors who come out in the fall reflects very well on the upperclassmen who have worked hard to make sailing at Princeton competitive and fun. The dedication of each sailor continues to strengthen the team as a whole, and I have nothing but high hopes for the fall season.

At press time, the newest update is that the ongoing process of searching for a full-time coach has finally concluded, and we are looking forward to welcoming Rene Sosa to the team. This exciting news came just in time for publication in this newsletter! For more information and updates, please sign up for our TigerNet Sailing Discussion Group at www.princeton.edu/tigernet. We appreciate the enthusiasm of all the alumni who have contributed to this process, providing guidance and advice along the way.

Highlights, cont. from p. 1

several bullets to place the team in second behind Navy. I spent most of my time as Race Committee, dealing with commercial traffic and informing the Coast Guard that, despite a concerned boater’s call of a vessel in distress, the drysuit-clad sailors of the capsized FJ did not require Coast Guard assistance.

April 12th and 13th Matt Tilghman ’09, Allison Tracy ’10, Scott Arcenas ’09 and I headed up to Hobart for America’s Trophy, where, after practicing in boardshorts the day before on Raritan Bay, we encountered snow flurries in upstate New York. None of us had sailed in the unpredictable conditions on Lake Geneva, which made the regatta difficult. We steadily improved, though, making it into twelfth place in a very competitive fleet—four places away from qualifying for the National Semifinal regattas.

On the last weekend of the regular season, the co-ed team headed to Thompson Trophy at Connecticut College, while the ladies went down to St. Mary’s for the MAISA Women’s Championship. At Thompson Trophy we were treated to stories of how the Conn team in Adam Werbelow’s day built the first boat ramp with stolen railroad ties, and of classic Thames River conditions, with big puffs lifting the entire fleet onto a plane at points downwind. While we didn’t finish very well at the event, upperclassman Mary Gambler ’11, Eric Domb ’10 and Esteban Plaza-Jennings ’11 gained valuable experience that they will take into next season.

The women’s team finished in sixth place at St. Mary’s, two places out of a berth to Nationals. Allison Tracy ’10, Kathleen Connor ’11, Whitney Davis ’09 and Natacha Jamar ’09 battled with similarly puffy and shitty conditions. Allison and Kathleen started off slow but improved throughout the regatta, while Whitney and Natacha placed generally in the middle of the pack. Considering how little the women’s pairs sailed together before the regatta, the finish was quite impressive. With all the sailors returning next fall, we look forward to competing in more women’s events next year and improving our results.
Florida - cont. from p. 1
fleet races, keeping track of individual scores for each sailor. Congratulations to Matthew Tilghman '09, who scored the highest number of points! Congratulations also go out to Allison Tracy '10, Scott Arencas '09, Nick Burroughs '08, and Eric Domb '10, who came in second, third, fourth, and fifth, respectively. Not all was fun and games, though, as we also got down to the nitty gritty details of making sure that every member of the team could fully rig a boat and knew all of the necessary knots. There was trial by fire about the necessities of even sun-screen application, in light of the fashion faux pas known as the “lifejacket tan.” And, after practice, some members of the team had to learn—the hard way—of the dangers of cheating while playing Scrabble with competitive Princetonians.

By Saturday, after an intense week of sailing and sun, the team was ready to journey back to New Jersey to start a full season of competitive regattas. Thank you to Jason Balich for taking a week off of work to come coach us!

The team lines up for a race during this year’s preseason trip to Florida

“Rose Bowl,” cont. from p. 2
I learned so much from sailing with Allison and from the coaching we received this weekend, and by the end Allison and I had improved our boat-handling tremendously. John and Brandon also made great progress.

Friday night we got some great advice from Nina about the sailing conditions along with lots of information about the West Coast sailing scene and fun stories about her experience on the Princeton sailing team. She also had a surprise for us for Saturday, as she had found a coach to work with us for the day. Caleb runs the Newport Beach Junior Sailing Program and is a great sailor and coach who sailed at St. Mary’s. He helped us work on our tacks and accelerations by the docks on Saturday morning and had great tactical advice. There was a fair amount of wind, but not so much that Allison and I could not keep the boat flat—which was key.

The college fleet and the high school gold fleet competed right in front of Alamitos Bay Yacht Club, rotating off the beach, while the silver fleet raced in a separate area. The races were always exciting, and it was a good challenge to race against so many talented sailors. We held our own the first day, with both of our boats averaging finishes in the low twenties. We came out stronger on Sunday, averaging finishes in the high teens. Allison and I finished tenth in one race and Brandon and John finished seventh in another, as we started to work well together and to get a feel for the conditions and the competition. We hung out on the beach with Doug Turnbull ’01, who had coached the Princeton team last year. He was also very helpful, providing us with advice between our sets. It was also great to talk to the UC San Diego team and get a perspective on West Coast college sailing, and to hear some of Doug’s stories from his days on the Princeton Sailing Team.

We finished the regatta in 22nd out of 28 teams, similar to last year’s team, who finished 21st out of 27. Since our competition was so strong, we were really excited about our results. I got a lot of sailing experience and learned so much. Hopefully we will be able to send a team next year, because it is not only a fun, team-building experience, but also a great way to represent Princeton sailing on the West Coast. I would love to go again and try to improve on our finishes!
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 November, as reflected below. As a club sport at Princeton, the team thrives on the funding, housing, advice, and time donated by so many outside the university, and, as such, each contribution at any level is welcome. Thank you again to the alumni, friends, parents, and others – the team depends on you for its successes.

The following list acknowledges the thoughtfulness of our recent donors; if you do not see your name listed below, please understand that we receive donor updates at certain times of the year and might not have been informed of your gift at press time. We will endeavor to list you in the Fall 2008 newsletter. Please let Emily Kalkstein ’98, President, or Anoop Gupta ’01, Treasurer, know if you have not received a tax acknowledgement from the University.

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Jay Brown ’01 • Ed Freitag ’68 • Scott & Jane Gamber P11 • Tony Widmann ’49

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Bob Adams ’57 • Nelle Alexander ’76 • Marilee Allan ’75 • Ted Burdick ’92
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Nick, cont. from p. 3
four Princeton sailors to Cornell by a complicated arrangement of switching cross-state buses and even navigating a motorcycle rally in downtown Ithaca.

Favorite Sophomore Year Memory? Sophomore year, Burroughs got to experience the intersession training trip in Florida for the first time. Practicing with USF, working on his tan, and cooking what would become his (in)famous breakfast dinner, Burroughs discovered what would be one of his favorite parts of sailing at Princeton—though a lot of it would be a haze.

Favorite Junior Year Memory? At the end of season Junior year, Burroughs performed some of his best sailing during the America’s Trophy, which brings together some of the nation’s top teams. Despite difficult conditions, Burroughs managed to string together four races in which he finished second, third, third, and second. He was particularly pleased when coaches from top varsity programs like the Naval Academy congratulated him for a great day.

Favorite Senior Year Memory? “While there might not be any more college regattas to go to, that doesn’t mean that my Princeton sailing career has ended,” Burroughs said. “I’m looking forward to some quality boat work and fun times with the alums over the next two weeks.”

Advice for younger sailors? “College sailing is all psychological,” Burroughs said. “It’s all about sailing smart and has very little to do with boat speed. It’s all calling the shifts, getting good starts, and covering the fleet.”

While his time as a Princeton sailor has concluded, Burroughs will certainly not stay off the water for long. This summer, he will move to Baltimore, MD, to work for Constellation Energy, and he plans to keep up his dinghy sailing in nearby Annapolis.

Ted, cont. from p. 3
and fighting for more funding in club sports budget meetings, but also because of his general, unquestionable dedication to the team. During my first core group meeting I remember Ted explaining that being part of the core group means making a decision about whether you want sailing to be the main focus of your experience at Princeton. If the answer is yes and you commit to the group, then you will be part of a team that pushes each other, leans on each other, and really improves the present and future of the program.

As a concentrator in mechanical and aerospace engineering, Ted had long, arduous problem sets due every Thursday when he was an underclassman, but he never missed Wednesday practice and as a result pulled all-nighters every week. His response to my shock at this routine was just to say, “It is great to find out what you are capable of when you commit to something.”

No matter how rough the winds and waves, Ted jumps right into the boat. Even though at War Memorial Regatta in 2007 he claims he had “no business being out there” and he DNFed a race, he still has the smile of a true hardcore sailor on his face remembering the experience. Ted has always been a favorite skipper to sail with and is often requested by both novice and experienced crews because of his teaching abilities and supportive demeanor. He is an important motivator, leader, and dedicated sailor.

Ted plans to continue sailing after graduation; living and working in Chicago will allow him to continue to compete on a regular basis. However, first he is spending a year in Thailand through Princeton in Asia, working for Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures. Ted was an involved Outdoor Action leader while at Princeton and will put his sailing skills on hold for a year to focus on his other outdoor talents. But, as he reminded me, he will still be using those knots!
**Friends of Princeton Sailing News**

**Anoop Gupta '01 Named Treasurer**

Emily Kalkstein ’98, President, and Greg Davis ’00, Secretary, are pleased to announce the appointment of Anoop Gupta ‘01 as the new Treasurer of the Friends of Princeton Sailing alumni board. Jason Balich ’00, after serving as Treasurer since 2001—even before Jonathan Foot ’84 stepped down as President—recommended his good friend and former teammate as his replacement. Anoop represents Princeton Sailing from the left coast, where he works for Microsoft out of Seattle. He met with Dick Rose ’60 in Seattle this winter and looks forward to meeting other local sailing alumni, as well as working closely with the team to manage their budget and raise funds.

After years of benefiting from Jason’s service, counsel, and time, we will miss working with him. However, as you will note elsewhere in the newsletter, Jason went out with a bang, accompanying the team as coach on their Intersession trip to Florida! Jason, thanks for all your hard work and best of luck with your new career in real estate development. See you on the water.

**Request for Regatta Housing**

The team has been fortunate over the years to benefit from the warm beds—not to mention the advice, on-site coaching, and financial support—of our generous alumni. We travel every weekend September through November and 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 Regatta Captain Jackie Temkin at jtemkin@princeton.edu. Thanks to the Tipsons, the Jamars, the Temkins, the Gambers, Scott Morrison, Jim Kremer and Pat Campbell for hosting us this spring!

**Special Thanks:** We would also like to express our gratitude to the Gambers, parents of Mary Gamber ’11, for donating a 420 and trailer to the team this spring. This will allow us to practice for regattas in which we sail 420s.

**PU Sailing Gear!** We are pleased to offer short-sleeved white pique polo shirts with the words, “Princeton Sailing,” and the orange and black Princeton burgee embroidered on the left breast. Available in youth sizes L-XL and adult sizes S-XL. $35. We also offer sewn appliquéd nylon burgees with brass grommets. 12” by 18”. $25. Finally, we have orange and black Princeton burgee stickers. $2. Support the team by purchasing some of these great accessories! Contact secretary Michelle Arader at marader@princeton.edu.