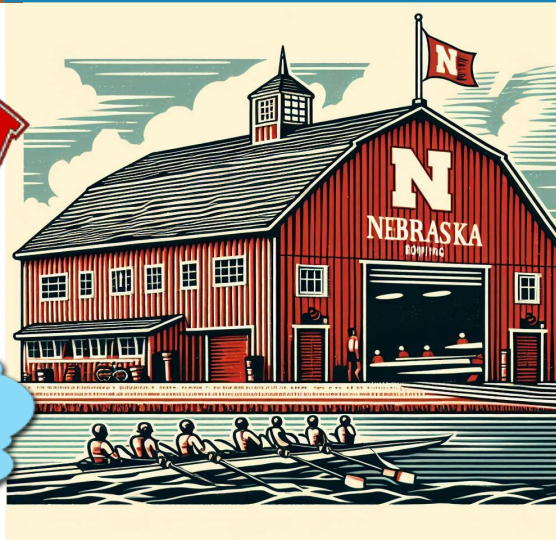


FRIENDS OF NEBRASKA ROWING

Rowing towards Tomorrow, Visions of the Future



FONR FOCUS SUMMER'24 NEWSLETTER

The Voice of the University of Nebraska Rowing Alumni Community



Forward :

We hope the Summer 2024 edition of FONR FOCUS "Rowing Towards Tomorrow" finds you in good health and smooth water. It is with tremendous joy that we reflect on the remarkable progress we have made together. Our fleet continues to grow and evolve, expertly meeting the practice and racing needs of our dedicated team. Since our inaugural FONR events, we have celebrated countless milestones, including the momentous 50th anniversary of Men's and Women's Crew. Our competitive spirit has soared, marked by back-to-back appearances at the ACRA championships.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing financial support, which has been instrumental in fueling our growth. In the past 18 months alone, we have received 45 generous gifts totaling over \$19,000. These contributions are essential for us to match the unwavering commitment provided by UNL Campus Recreation. Our endowment remains the cornerstone of our long-term strategy, ensuring the enduring sustainability of rowing at Nebraska. Combined with the annual support from Campus Rec, it provides a consistent and reliable source of funding year after year.

In the ever-changing landscape of university funding, philanthropy has emerged as the most critical factor in safeguarding our legacy. The University administration recognizes the stewardship of competitive Rowing as a shining beacon of tradition. By providing a stable and predictable environment, free from financial uncertainty, we empower our students and coaches to focus their energy and passion on the sport they love. As former athletes, we understand the profound impact of Olympic sports philanthropy. The legacy of leadership and determination forged through rowing will inspire countless generations of students, creating lifelong memories that will shape their future. We are eternally grateful for your enduring friendship and unwavering support.

Sincerely, Frank Dolezal - FONR Equipment Chair and Secretary

Letter from FONR President :

The Friends of Nebraska Rowing,

Our vision is to provide the financial resources and guidance necessary to cultivate a sustainable, competitive rowing team at the University of Nebraska. Over the past seven years, we have built a strong foundation and infrastructure, setting the stage for team growth, our competitive expansion, and championship pursuits.

To ensure this continued success, we have identified several priorities. First and foremost, we need to increase the number of student-athletes. Our 10-year plan calls for 18-22 this year, and we are close to that goal. Next year, we aim for 24-32. This growth necessitates increased equipment, coaching, and financial support, achieved through a coordinated plan between the Crew, Campus Rec and FONR. Additionally, we must focus on committee engagement, fundraising efforts, refining program structure, and documenting our operating systems for future consistency.

Finally, I want to emphasize the crucial role of collaboration in our journey. Fostering a strong partnership between the Crew and FONR is paramount. By establishing open communication channels for mentoring and active listening, we can ensure that both entities understand their roles and activities. This will create a supportive and collaborative environment where we can work together to achieve our vision of a thriving rowing program that enriches the lives of our student-athletes and brings pride to the University of Nebraska.

Cheers - Mark Stormberg, President FONR

FRIENDS OF NEBRASKA ROWING

Rowing Towards Tomorrow - <https://www.nebraskacrew.com/>

2024 Fall Rowing Alumni Event - September 6th & 7th

The "Row Big Red" Alumni Weekend is fast approaching! Join us on September 6th and 7th to reconnect with fellow rowing enthusiasts and celebrate your alma mater. Register Now!: <https://auctria.events/rowbigred>.

Boathouse Bash: Kick off the weekend on Friday night from 5-9 pm at our Boathouse Bash. Enjoy free parking, delicious Val's Pizza, and refreshing root beer floats.

Alumni Fun Row: Get back on the water from 8 am to noon on Saturday morning. We'll provide coffee, donuts, and a BBQ lunch to fuel your day.

Online Auction: Starting August 1st. You will find various exciting items up for bid, all proceeds supporting the growth of Nebraska Crew. <https://auctria.events/rowbigred>

How to Get Involved: To register for events or participate in the online auction, visit our website at <https://auctria.events/rowbigred>. We can't wait to see you there!

UNL Rowing to Honor Late Colonel Mark R. Forman

The University of Nebraska Rowing Team and Friends of Nebraska Rowing will honor former oarsman the late Colonel Mark R. Forman in a boat naming ceremony on Saturday, September 7, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at the UNL Rowing Center at Pawnee Lake.

A 1979 graduate of Bellevue West High School, Forman played college football with the Kearney State Lopers before transferring to UNL and joining the rowing team. He was a key member of the Husker Men's Varsity crew, which won numerous races and championships.

Forman graduated from UNL in 1983 and married his high school sweetheart, Tish, before completing Army Ranger School. As a Special Forces officer, he had many assignments overseas, including command assignments. He was part of the 10th Mountain Division and served in Afghanistan.

Forman retired as a Colonel and was tragically killed in a bicycle accident in Kansas in 2017.

His former teammates funded a donation, securing the privilege to name an eight-man varsity rowing shell in his name. The public is invited to attend this commemoration.

Lodging Information :

Due to the Colorado Football Game, Hotel Rooms are in Demand, Below are some suggestions, we have a few rooms still reserved in Lincoln, please contact Ellen Jirovsky ellenjirovsky@outlook.com

Country Inn & Suites (Airport) Lincoln

Sunset Inn & Suites 402-643-3388 1329 Progressive Road, Seward

Cobblestone Hotel & Suites 888-615-5431 2575 - Progressive Road, Seward

East Hills Inn & Suites. 402-643-3679 - 131 E. Main St., Seward

<https://auctria.events/rowbigred>

UNL Rowing Endowment Update

The Mark and Lisa Endowment Fund is dedicated to ensuring the enduring success of Nebraska Rowing.

Since its inception in 2010, the Fund has grown to a market value of approximately \$180,000. This amount will increase over the next five years thanks to 100,000 in outstanding pledges. Our next goal is to grow the Fund to \$ 500,000, which would perpetually support a part-time Head Coach. Since adding salaried coaches in 2021, we have seen a significant increase in "on the water time," better-conditioned athletes, and faster race times, enhancing the student-athlete experience. Promises made, promises kept for the long haul. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to making this possible. If you would like to help us keep our promise and keep the Huskers on the water for the long haul, don't hesitate to get in touch with our University Foundation partner, Joye Fehringer, at 402-875-0611 or joye.fehringer@nufoundation.org for more information.



Spring Rowing Season & ACRA Championships



Sophie and Abbie Compete at 2024 ACRA Championships in Tennessee (partially funded by FONR). The shell and oars were purchased with

Nebraska Crew made Waves by sending two boats to compete in the 2024 American Collegiate Rowing Association (ACRA) National Championship in Oak Ridge, Tennessee. The competition was fierce, showcasing top collegiate rowing teams nationwide. The Women's Varsity Pair, comprised of Abigail Steffen and Sophie Kruse, took to the water with remarkable skill and tenacity. Facing off against 17 other highly competitive teams on Friday, Steffen and Kruse delivered an outstanding performance. Their coordination, synergy, strength, and dedication were evident as they secured an impressive seventh place overall. On the men's side, the Novice Four team, including Sophie Kruse, MacGregor O'Brien, Ben Jacobs, Leo Martin, and Andrew Maas, faced a challenging field of 32 entries. Despite the stiff competition, the team rowed with commendable effort and spirit. Their determination and teamwork were clear as they worked together to tackle the course, finishing 5th in their heat, 28th overall. This experience serves as a valuable first step for these novice rowers, providing them with essential exposure and experience at the national-level and highlighting the power of teamwork in rowing. "We are incredibly proud of the dedication and competitive spirit demonstrated by each of these athletes in representing Nebraska Rowing," "Their hard work and commitment to excellence are evident in their performances. Well done!"

Corn Rows – Chapter 7

Lisa Rohde, Olympic Silver Medallist, in her words



I grew up on a farm in northeastern Nebraska between Emerson and Hubbard. I started college at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln in the fall of 1973. Little did I know that a chance encounter in the snack bar at Abel Hall would eventually lead to me standing on the field at the LA Coliseum as an athlete at the Olympic Opening ceremonies. I was a member of the 1984 Olympic Rowing Team. My boat, the Quadruple Sculls with coxswain, won a silver medal. What a journey it had been, and it all started with Nebraska Crew. I retired from competitive rowing after 1984, stayed out East, and went to work earning a living and furthering my education. I attended Medical School and had an exciting career as an Internal Medicine Physician specializing in Hospital Care. I hated that I had lost touch with the crew over those years. I was thrilled when I got a call from Pete Zandbergen a few years ago, letting me know that there was an active Friends of Nebraska Rowing group that I was welcome to join. I did and have been impressed with all the positive improvements the program has made. I have attended and thoroughly enjoyed three reunions in Lincoln (with alumni rows) and look forward to more in the future. I have even traveled to Oak Ridge, TN, to watch the Huskers compete in the ACRA National Championships, where they made me proud. Nebraska will always be home; my Husker Rowing family means the world to me.

Reflection: Lisa made her home state and teammates proud by securing an Olympic silver medal in the women's quad at LA in '84. Rohde and her teammates demonstrated exceptional rowing skills and determination, earning a spot on the podium. Her Olympic success was not the end of her achievements. Her medical career, from Carolinas Medical Center to Presbyterian Hospital, demonstrated a commitment to helping others that matched her athletic drive. Rohde's Olympic silver medal inspires aspiring athletes and medical professionals alike, proving that with dedication and perseverance, one can achieve great heights in multiple fields. Her story reminds us that local heroes can make a global impact, and we are proud to claim Lisa Rohde as one of our own.



Glow Big Red

We are thrilled to share the outstanding success of the 2024 "Glow Big Red" campaign with you. Last February, our community accepted the annual challenge, resulting in 82 generous gifts that, combined with University Bonus Funds and matching gifts, totaled over \$9,000. This remarkable achievement is a testament to the unwavering support and dedication of our alumni, friends, and supporters. The funds raised through this campaign will significantly enhance our rowing program. Here are some exciting improvements we will be making: Enhanced lighting will allow our rowers to train safely and effectively. Hydration Stations that will ensure our athletes stay hydrated and healthy during their rigorous training sessions. We will also upgrade erg/cardio equipment to help our rowers achieve peak physical condition and improve their performance on the water. Last, we will add essential Coaching and Regatta Equipment to support our coaching staff and ensure our team is well-prepared for competitions. As we look ahead to the future, these improvements will undoubtedly elevate our program and help our athletes achieve their goals. We are immensely grateful for your support and proud to be part of such a passionate and committed community. - Frank Dolezal

Thank you! 2024 Glow Big Red Donors

Matching Donor/Leaders : Allan and Cher Maybee, Ellen and Carl Jirovsky, Jerry & Jeanne Huber

- Robert Sklenarik
- John Ray
- "Rowing Friends"
- Jeanne & Jerry Huber
- Billy Coghill
- "Auggie"
- Herman Dolezal
- Marty Fehringer
- Libby and Will
- Tina Kearney
- Anonymous Donors
- Laura Dendinger
- Cal "Sharkeater" Rudd
- Johnathan Kelly
- Freddy F
- Ann Marie & Michael Park
- Cant row or swim
- Joye Fehringer
- Sarah "Woots" Rider
- Abby Steffen
- The Apeman of Lincoln
- Sophie Kruse
- Katie Orr
- "Red Bear"
- Leo Martin
- Michael Hansen
- Teg'l
- "The Yeti's"
- Arjun Komanduri
- Mike Baker
- Galen Wilke
- Frank Dolezal
- Erin Lieuallen
- Aaron Jirovsky
- Ashton Krueger
- Linda Monroe
- Robyn Whalen
- Diane Lewis
- Jeffrey Place
- Shirley Lanosz
- Jerianne Scheer
- Korsman Family
- "Rowing pups"
- Chuck Clifford
- Anonymous
- Richard Loukota
- Linnea Fredrickson
- Mark and Lisa Stormberg
- Kasey Hesse
- Justin Miller
- Stephanie Fryers
- Joel Merriman
- Deb Radenslaben
- Kennard Britton
- Ellen & Carl Jirovsky
- Stan Campbell
- Cecelia Ficke



Nebraska Crew in the News



Nebraska Athletes at practice in Equipment provided by FONR

- The Nebraska Crew has splashed onto various news outlets. Here are some recent highlights featuring our members and their remarkable achievements,
- ****You can view these videos and stories at **** : <http://www.nebraskacrew.com/news/>
- Kevin Fierro-Chavez: UNL Student Success Feature Read about Kevin's journey and success at UNL in this featured article: UNL Student Success Feature
- Abby Steffen: Student Success Video Watch Abby Steffen's inspiring story in this student success video: Student Success Video
- Ellen Jirovsky: Boys in the Boat Movie - Seward Ellen shares her memories related to the "Boys in the Boat" movie in this article from the Seward Independent: Ellen Jirovsky's Memories
- Al Maybee: Boys in the Boat Movie - Scottsbluff Star Herald Read about Al Maybee's reflections on UNL rowing and the "Boys in the Boat" movie in this piece from the Scottsbluff Star Herald: Al Maybee's Reflections
- NebraskaLand Magazine: RowBig Red The Nebraska Crew Team is featured in NebraskaLand Magazine's article "RowBig Red": RowBig Red Article

Alumni Spotlight

Stormberg Strikes Gold at Henley Royal Masters Regatta

Mark "Stormy" Stormberg, President of Friends of Nebraska Rowing Alumni and former Husker rower, recently proved that passion for rowing can truly last a lifetime. A remarkable 53 years after first picking up an oar at the University of Nebraska, Stormy led his eight-oared crew to a thrilling victory at the prestigious Henley Royal Masters Regatta on the River Thames in England.

Stormy's crew achieved this hard-fought victory, defeating the British Master Champions by just a few feet in the semifinals. The team ultimately triumphed over the British Weymouth Crew in the final by a considerable margin, showcasing their unwavering determination and skill. In the true spirit of rowing, both crews exchanged heartfelt cheers of "Hip, Hip, Hooray!" and "Well raced!" following each race. This camaraderie and sportsmanship exemplify the lifelong bonds and friendships that rowing can foster.

"Without Nebraska Rowing, this would not have been possible," said Stormy, emphasizing the impact of his early experiences on his continued involvement in the sport. This victory serves as a testament to Stormy's enduring passion and competitive spirit and highlights the lifelong rewards of rowing, inspiring current and future Husker rowers alike.

The Friends of Nebraska Rowing Alumni, under Stormy's leadership, continues to support student-athletes in their rowing endeavors, ensuring that they can experience the lasting benefits of this incredible sport. We invite all alums and rowing enthusiasts to congratulate Stormy on this extraordinary achievement. Row Big Red!



Mark Stormberg at the Henley Royal Regatta, giving a thumbs up to his old Nebraska Crew-Mates and Alumni-Friends.



Memorabilia Request

FONR recently received a generous donation of a display/trophy case to showcase our rich history and memorabilia. We plan to fill it with items (posters, T-shirts, photos, etc.) that celebrate the sport of rowing at Nebraska. We aim to have the display ready for the September Alumni Banquet, and we need your help! If you want to donate any items for display, please contact Ellen Jirvosky at ellenjirvosky@outlook.com and Allen Maybe at ckmaybee@yahoo.com. Let's pull together and create a collection that honors our legacy!

FONR Defined Roles Update :

The Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR) has released a detailed outline of roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln's Rowing Club. This comprehensive document aims to clarify the collaborative effort required to support the team's competitive goals and ensure the program's long-term sustainability.

FONR's primary responsibilities lie in several key areas:

Campus Boathouse: Proposing and securing funding for on-campus training facilities, rowing tanks, and shell storage/repair facilities.

Rowing Fleet and Equipment: Developing a master plan for acquiring and maintaining rowing equipment, including and proposing names for new shells.

Financial: Creating a sustainable funding model to cover coaching salaries, equipment, and facility needs.

Alumni/University Coalition: Fostering collaboration between FONR, Campus Recreation, the Alumni Association, the Nebraska Foundation, and other university resources.

FONR Membership: Implementing strategies to grow and maintain a robust membership base.

Collaboration with Campus Recreation and Coaching Staff: The document also outlines the roles of Campus Recreation and the coaching staff. Campus Recreation is primarily responsible for maintaining the Pawnee Lake rowing venue, providing and maintaining infrastructure, and making final decisions regarding facilities. The coaching staff focuses on training and competition, equipment maintenance, and athlete recruitment.

A Shared Vision for Success : By clearly defining the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder, FONR aims to create a unified approach to supporting the UNL Rowing Club. This collaborative effort is crucial for achieving the team's competitive aspirations, enhancing the student-athlete experience, and ensuring the program's continued growth and success.

Volunteers Needed

Get Involved with Nebraska Crew – We Need Your Help!

Experience the thrill of Nebraska Crew from the heart of the action! From the excitement of the home Regatta to the Fall Alumni event, volunteering offers a unique way to engage with our student-athletes and gain a fun, behind-the-scenes perspective on the team.

No experience? No problem! Most volunteer opportunities require no prior experience, and we're always looking for enthusiastic individuals to join our Friends of Nebraska Rowing (FONR) board.

Interested in making a difference? Contact Mark Stormberg today or fill out our easy online volunteer form to learn more about available opportunities and find the perfect fit for your skills and interests.



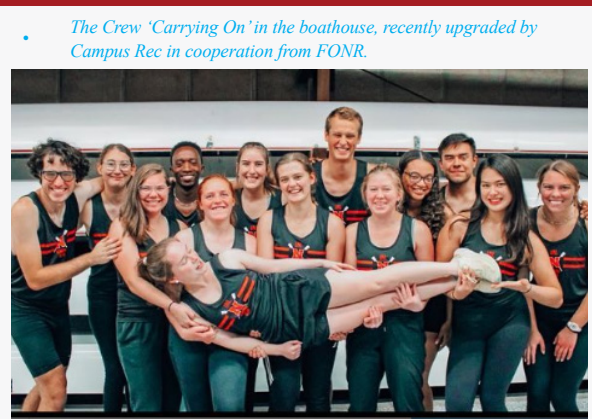
Nebraska Mens 4+ "On the Docks"



Mixed 8+ Crusin on the lake.



Crew having a blast at the Homecoming Parade, Shiny Red Shell Trailer Repainted by Duncan Aviation, a donation coordinated by FONR.



The Crew 'Carrying On' in the boathouse, recently upgraded by Campus Rec in cooperation from FONR.

View Updates on our website:
www.nebraskacrew.com



Wet-Docking on the Beach, Oars freshly painted in coordination with FONR



"Peace out" from the Bridges of Wichita

Current FONR Board

Any FONR member is eligible (and encouraged) to serve.

MARK STORMBERG
 JERRY HUBER
 TIM JENSEN
 FRANK DOLEZAL
 JOEL MERRIMAN
 ELLEN JIROVSKY
 JOYE FEHRINGER

LISA ROHDE
 ALLAN MAYBEE
 JUSTIN MILLER
 PETE ZANDBERGEN
 AMY LANHAM
 ABBIE STEFFEN
 SOPHIE KRUSE

Crew Shop : https://stores.inksoft.com/nebraska_rowing_club/

Show your support for the Nebraska Rowing team with our stylish and comfortable merchandise!

We offer a variety of items to choose from, including:

T-shirts
 Sweatshirts
 Hats
 Bags
 And more!
 Our merchandise is perfect for fans of all ages and is a great way to show your team spirit.

Shop now and support the Nebraska Rowing team!



Event	Race	Event Dates	Location	Opponent
Alumni Weekend	Friday Night at the Boathouse	9/6/2024	Lincoln, NE	
Alumni Weekend	Saturday Morning Alumni Rowing	9/7/2024	Pawnee Lake, NE	
Head Race	Head of the Des Moines	9/28/2024	Des Moines IA	Upper Midwest Rowing Clubs
Parade	Nebraska Homecoming Parade	10/4/2024	Lincoln, NE	
Head Race	Head of the Rock	10/13/2024	Rockford, IL	Central US Rowing Colleges
Invitational	Colorado Invite	10/19/2024	Boulder, CO	Colorado Rowing Universities
Head Race	Wichita Frostbite	11/3/2024	Wichita, KS	Southern Midwest Rowing Clubs