

COLUMBIA SAILING

MAINSHEET



SPRING 2024

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A LETTER FROM OUR CAPTAINS

Dear Columbia Sailing Community,

My name is Alexander Vincenti, and I am thrilled to be taking the helm of Columbia Sailing with my co-captain Chase O'Malley. The club has experienced many setbacks in recent years with rule changes and financial limitations, but nevertheless, Columbia Sailing has endured these challenges and the **sailing community on campus is still thriving**.

During our co-presidency, we plan to lay the groundwork for a stable and competitive club for years to come. In pursuit of this effort, our two primary goals for this year are to provide two successful seasons on the water in the spring and fall as well as establish a stronger connection with our alumni community.

With new rule changes restricting our use of Columbia University vans, **the club now bears the burden of paying for transportation to and from practices and regattas**. If the club is to overcome these obstacles and have successful seasons on the water, **we need support from alumni and parents**.

In order to set the foundations of a stable and competitive club, we know that our most important asset is our Columbia Sailing alumni. We recognize the importance of growing and fostering a community between both current and past sailors, and this is why we have planned an **exciting annual celebration at Chelsea Piers** and are organizing alumni events and mixers.

Facing obstacles is nothing new for Columbia Sailing, and each time the club has managed to overcome them and be successful. The challenges we face today are the most formidable they have ever been, but we are confident that through the efforts of the executive board and our general body members, the support of our beloved community, and our steadfast love for sailing, Columbia Sailing will begin to establish itself as a stable and competitive club.

Sincerely,

Alexander Vincenti
Co-Captain of Columbia Sailing

PHOTO GALLERY



Alex Y. (skipper)
and Alex V. (crew)
at the 2023 Club
Nationals in Austin,
TX.

From left to right:
Chase O., Alex Y., and
Alex V. at last year's
Annual Fundraiser,
which was held at our
home base of
Huguenot Yacht Club.



Columbia sailors hit
the Delaware River
for the Princeton
Spring Open
(Spring 2023)

SPRING 2023 RECAP

Columbia Sailing had an eventful spring in 2023, and the team traveled to five regattas over the course of the season. However, the club was faced with yet another chronic setback: Huguenot Yacht Club had just begun dredging their marina and would not finish until the summer. Thanks to the generosity of SUNY Maritime, the Lions were still able to practice, and found themselves under the Throgs Neck Bridge with the SUNY Mariners. The team greatly appreciates SUNY's hospitality while the home base was under construction and wishes the best to Coach Zach Runci and the Mariners for welcoming the Lions last spring.

After two back-to-back trips to Stony Brook University for the Seawolf Spring Open (2/5) and the Stony Brook Cup (4/8) to kick off the season, the Lions enjoyed a podium finish at Princeton University, placing 3/11 at the Delaware River Dinghy Regatta. Next, Columbia had a special visit to Boston for an out of conference event, competing in Northeastern's Oberg Trophy (14/15). The team had a blast staying with CUST alumni and former Assistant Coach Ali Keenan's family during the regatta weekend, and the Lions thank the Keenans for their kindness and hospitality.

Next, Columbia Sailing held the Annual Fundraiser at Huguenot Yacht Club, and shortly after embarked on the most eventful trip of the year, flying to the National Invitational Tournament in Austin, Texas. After an extended stay in postponement due to high winds on the first day, the regatta kicked off with a bang and sailors hit the waters of Lake Travis, braving 25kt breezes. The second day turned out to be a polar opposite, and postponement happened again, this time due to no breeze! After enjoying some time in the water, the Lions put together a successful second day, highlighted by Chase O'Malley and Ali Keenan's multiple 1st place finishes. Columbia finished 6/9 to round out the regatta and finish off an exciting season of sailing.

SPRING 2023 RECAP



Your CUST Lions traveled to Stony Brook University last Spring to compete in the Seawolf Spring Open.

Pictured left are teammates Ali Keenan (CC '22), Chase O'Malley (SEAS '26), Rachel Peng (CC '23), and Alex Yuen (CC '25).

In 2023, Columbia Sailing held the Annie at Huguenot Yacht Club. From left to right, here are Alex Vincenti and Alex Yuen posing for a picture at the event



From left to right: Chase, Alex V., Alex Y., Ali, and Rachel pose for a family photo- on Princeton's campus!



Sailing on Lake Travis was a first for the Columbia Sailing Team. However, with great breeze and even better team spirit, the lions battled it out against top club teams from across the country!

After a tricky first day on Lake Travis, the lions rallied to find success at day two of the National Invitational Regatta!

Pictured right is current Captain Chase O'Malley (SEAS '26) and Alison Keenan (BC '22, SEAS '23) getting their first bullet of the day at UT Austin.



Sunny and 75°F, conditions were beautiful in Texas and Austin Yacht Club was a great venue for the team to showcase their skills on a national stage. UT Austin's new fleet of collegiate-style E420s not only sailed great, but reminded the team of what's to come for Columbia Sailing!

FALL 2023 RECAP



This fall, Columbia Sailing ran into many obstacles as the club attempted to get back on the water. The team faced complications with practicing caused by Club Sports delays, including a new rule change that disallowed the club to use university vans for transportation. However, Columbia Sailing experienced increased interest and gave chalk talks to many new prospective sailors during weekly meetings. Additionally, the team bonded during media day and the many social events held throughout the fall semester. Finally, we would again like to thank Coach Zach Runci, now at Fordham University, for inviting members of our team to practice with their team at City Island in The Bronx multiple times during the fall semester.

SAILOR SPOTLIGHT

Alex Yuen

Columbia Sailing has been a staple of my college experience, and I am beyond proud of the growth that our team has experienced over the past three years. Coming to Columbia, I was excited at the prospect of joining an Ivy League sailing team with a rich legacy and strong foundation. However, when I arrived, the team's longtime coach had just retired, and COVID-19 had severely impaired the club. Columbia Club Sports cut the team's funding, and resources were sparse. The situation was certainly not what I was expecting, but nevertheless, I joined the team with the goal of turning the culture back around.

The crew that I have been with since my first year in 2021 has done everything in their power to cut through the red tape of Club Sports to practice, travel, and compete in regattas against all odds. During my freshman year, we attended multiple team and fleet racing events in the spring, and our season was highlighted by a trip to the America Trophy. I stepped into the role of Captain the following year, and we kept finding ways to sail. We traveled to Stony Brook, Princeton, and even made the trek to Austin, Texas for the National Invitational Tournament. Most importantly, I have grown close with my fellow sailors. The Columbia Club Sports experience, while frustrating at times, has transformed my teammates into a family.



I have since realized that my expectations of a regimented varsity team were wrong—Columbia Sailing has a much different, more seasoned character. This club and its members are resilient, and no matter how many setbacks we face or how many times we capsize into dark waters, we will always right our boats and keep moving forward. Columbia Sailing is defined by its perseverance, diligence, and optimism, and I want to thank the club and my CUST family for instilling these values within me during my time as Captain. Now, there are no two people better fit to carry on this legacy than our new Co-Captains Alex Vincenti and Chase O'Malley.

Sincerely,
Alex Yuen
Merchandise Chair, Columbia Sailing

THE FUTURE OF COLUMBIA SAILING



Chase O'Malley
Co-Captain

Hometown: Kent Island, MD
Major: Chemical Engineering
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Alexander Vincenti
Co-Captain

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Major: Political Science
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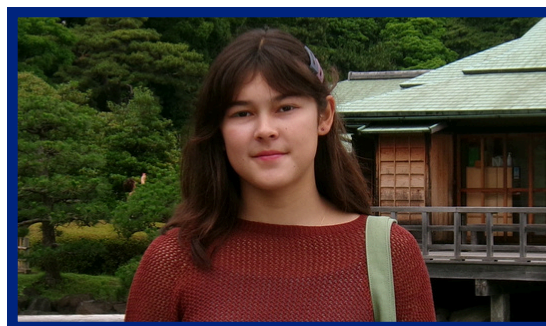


Giulio Basilico
Vice Captain

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Secretary

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Alex Yuen
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THE FUTURE OF COLUMBIA SAILING

Arielle Rieder
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Treasurer

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Major: Chemistry (Pre-Med)

School: CC '25

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WELCOME, COACH CAMILLE!



Camille McGriff graduated from Hobart and William Smith Colleges in May of 2022 after leaving an impressive mark on the HWS sailing program. She currently studies at Columbia's Graduate School of Architecture, Planning, and Preservation.

Camille learned to sail in Fairhope, Alabama at 11 years old, the same place where she grew up. Only a couple years after starting, she began to compete for both her high school and on her own.

As starting skipper in college, Camille drove at two regattas her junior season (2020-2021), including 2021 College Women's Nationals where she placed 7th in B Division. During her senior year (2021-2022) she competed in nine regattas as a skipper. Her most notable finishes include 14th overall in A Division at the College Sailing Womens' Western Semifinal, 9th place in A Division at the St. Mary's College Women's Interconference, and 2nd place at the King's Point Women's Regatta.

Camille has been coaching sailing since 2016, first at her hometown Fairhope Yacht Club and subsequently in Nantucket, Massachusetts with Nantucket Community Sailing (NCS). With NCS, she conducted private lessons to sailors of all ages and served as the Head Coach of both the Opti Blue program and Advanced Women's Clinic.

Camille is excited to continue her first Inter-collegiate Sailing Association coaching endeavor with Columbia Sailing for years to come.

MOVING TO LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB



This year, the executive board began planning Columbia Sailing's move to its new home at Larchmont Yacht Club. As a world-renowned club, LYC will provide greater support for Columbia Sailing's future. Since its founding in 1880, Larchmont has been one of the most famous and influential clubs, not only in the New York area, but in the world. The move to Larchmont will provide Columbia Sailing with the infrastructure to rebuild. LYC will offer coaching assistance, supply classrooms for chalk talks, and have access to Larchmont's new fleet of z420s. This move sets the groundwork for a strong comeback for Columbia Sailing, and financial support from our alumni and parents will make this move possible. With your support, we will put Columbia Sailing on the map and be able to provide our members with an unrivaled sailing experience.

THE ALUMNI ANCHORAGE

Februrary Mixer



The Columbia Sailing Team Alumni coordinated a young alumni mixer. It was held at The Folley and served as a great opportunity for our team to reconnect. The organizers graciously invited four members of our current executive board and we're so glad they did! Everyone had a great time, and it was so much fun for us to connect with young alumni and hear their stories.

THE ALUMNI ANCHORAGE



From left to right:
Alexander, Amelia,
Rachel, Luke, David,
Hibah

Current and Former
Captains:

From left to right:
Adam, David, Sara,
and Alexander



THE ANNUAL

Save the Date



THE COLUMBIA SAILING CLUB
INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL
CELEBRATION

20 APRIL 2024
CHELSEA PIERS, NEW YORK CITY

INVITATION TO FOLLOW

ANNUAL GIVING

To our alumni, current members, and friends and family of the team,

As Co-Captain of the team, an undergraduate at Columbia, and most importantly an avid sailor, it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you Columbia Sailing's 2024 fundraising goals! As outlined by last season's Captain Alex Yuen, and my current Co-Captain Alex Vincenti, Columbia Sailing has certainly experienced some setbacks in recent years. However, **this year's revitalized push for fundraising represents our club's newfound dedication and ambition.** We are determined to leave behind the survival mindset and instead strive towards bigger goals. We've made significant alumni outreach efforts over the last year, networking with past members, working with the Inter-Collegiate Sailing Association, and digging through yearbooks and the university archives. **If this is the first edition of The Mainsheet you have received, we welcome you back to the Columbia Sailing community!** We are excited to have you reconnect with the team over the coming years through our revitalized community events such as The Annual, alumni mixers hosted in and out of Manhattan, and events for friends, family, and alumni of the team alike. If you remember your past teammates, consider forwarding this edition of The Mainsheet to them; **lets rebuild the team, together.**

This year's goal is ambitious; **we hope to raise \$25,000.** This goal reflects our current mindset and is indicative of our renewed efforts over recent years to restore Columbia Sailing to the once prominent team it was. We are getting back on the water, and more importantly, traveling to bigger regattas—making a name for ourselves at events like the National Invitational Regatta in Austin, Texas last spring, **where members of the team got multiple first-place finishes.** Additionally, we are growing the team while making sailing accessible to new students of all skill levels each year. It's impossible to ignore the recent setbacks the club has faced. **Columbia Club Sports has cut our funding in half,** and new regulations prevent us from using university resources to travel to and from practices and regattas. Coupled with the fallout of COVID-19 on college sailing nationwide, these challenges are a massive roadblock to overcome. However, we are more determined than ever to grow the team to new heights, in spite of the adversity we have faced. Whether you can only give ten dollars or one thousand, we would be extremely grateful for your support.

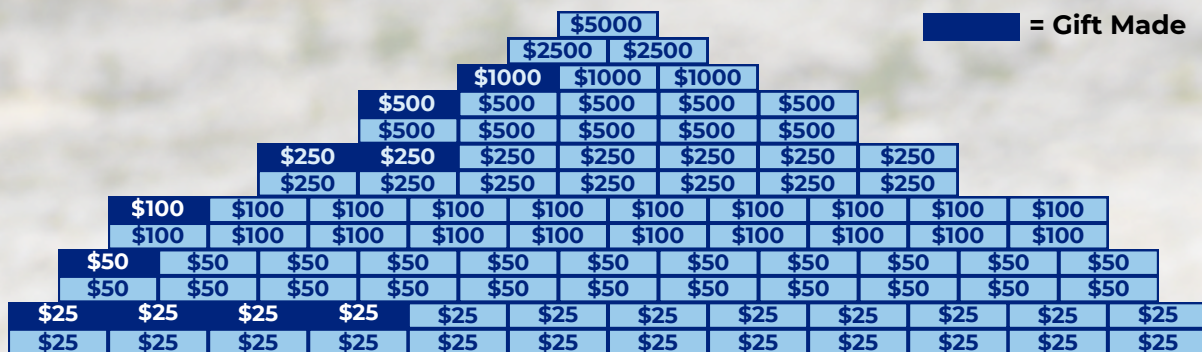
I'm looking forward to leading the team through an exciting new chapter for Columbia Sailing! I invite you to join us on this journey and make your permanent mark on the future of our team.

Sincerely,
Chase O'Malley
Co-Captain, Columbia Sailing

ANNUAL GIVING

SUPPORT OUR SAILORS

One main function of our alumni network is to drive the financial support of our sailing team! Currently, we are relying on alumni donations to be able to hire a full-time coach and provide reliable transportation to practice. Every single gift helps us achieve our goals. If you would like to support the team, refer to the instructions on the following page or email cqd2102@barnard.edu.



Potential Impact:

Donor

Up to \$250

Provides transportation for one sailor to attend a week of practices and regattas.

Captain Sponsor

\$250+

Repairs and outfits our boats and helps purchase expensive gear such as drysuits and spray gear for new sailors to borrow while first learning the sport.

Commodore Sponsor

\$1000+

Provides the team with new sails for the boats, hotels for weekend regattas, and flights to and from national level regattas.

Grand Admiral Sponsor

\$5000+

Supports our most ambitious initiatives, such as moving to a new home yacht club, purchasing a new fleet of boats, and hiring a full time coach; ensuring the longevity of the team for years to come.

ANNUAL GIVING

Make A Donation

[DONATE HERE](#)

For Online donations:

1. Go to the Columbia University Home Page and click on "Giving" on the right hand side
2. Click on ["Make A Gift"](#)
3. Under Search Columbia Funds: enter "Sailing Club Gift"
4. Enter a gift amount then click "Add Gift"
5. Answer "Would you like to make this a recurring gift?"
6. Enter contact information
7. Enter payment information

For Check Donations:

1. Checks need to be made payable to "Columbia University"
2. In the memo section of the check ask them to write in "donation to" - Sailing Club Gift
3. Make sure a name and address is on the check
4. Mail the checks to **Dodge Fitness Center c/o Brian Jines 3030 Broadway, MC 1923 New York, NY 10027**
5. If the club is collecting checks at an event, fill out a Gift Account deposit sheet and submit it with the checks to the Club Sports Office.

STAY CONNECTED

Email

Website

Instagram

Facebook

Linktree