

THE MAINSHEET

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SAILING TEAM



FALL 2020



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Fall 2019

FALL 2020

COACH'S NOTE

2020 was no one's first choice, especially for College Sailors. Fortunately, I have belief we are through the worst and preparing for a great Spring/Summer/Fall sailing season of 2021. To start we have a new slate of CUST officers led by Sara Bergman, congratulations to the new board and thank you Boaz Willis for your work with CUST during these pandemic times. Boaz did a great job, we started on the water last February, 2020. We had already been sailing three weeks before the lock down, that is a first for CUST.

As of writing this post there is no definitive answer if there will be Spring Sailing from Columbia University. I was informed by CU Athletics that all winter sports were canceled through the end of February. CUST is ready to sail if given the green light, I have the team trailer at the top of gangway for easy access, the whaler is next to travel lift ready launch at a moment's notice, docks are in place waiting for a few dinghies to call home.

This week I attended the Mid Atlantic Intercollegiate Sailing Associations (MAISA) "North" Coaches call and MAISA is intending to have Championships Events this Spring but under an abbreviated schedule. MAISA is intending to adopt one day events. So, there will be no overnight travel. What this means is long days for a team that needs to travel long distance. For example, if Hobart William Smith (HWS) in upstate NY was to attend at event at Kings Point or NY Maritime (KP, NYM) they would leave very early morning to arrive to start sailing races by noon, end sailing at 5 PM and drive back to HWS. As well if CUST had an event at HWS we would do the same long day.



For CUST we are lucky to be near KP and NYM which host many regattas. MAISA is attempting to schedule 6-8 potential Saturday events over the spring. Additionally, schedule eliminations to championships which are qualifiers to nationals. It is shaping up that Coed events will be at KP and NYM, the lower half of the MAISA North District and the Women's events at Cornell and Hobart William Smith, the northern half of MAISA North District. The hope is that teams will have a balance of "long day" events.

To update on equipment, prior to the pandemic I ordered a new mast for the one 420 dinghy the team possesses. The mast is completed and paid for! When we do start sailing the team will have a 420 dinghy to practice boat handling. While speaking of equipment, please keep the team in mind for donations, both monetary and equipment. We are always seeking extra life jackets, dry suits, boots, any sailing gear would be appreciated, besides the traditional upgrades of new sails, rigging, engines, support craft, marks, etc.

In closing, when CUST does startup again, we would like to aspire to reach higher levels of diversity, equity and inclusion on our team. It is a goal to make the sport of sailing available to all backgrounds and experience levels. In order to make this goal a reality and grow our team we will need to increase the coaches and volunteers. If you know anyone in the area with experience please have them reach out.

- Dave Coughlin

FALL 2020

CAPTAIN'S NOTE

This semester has truly been a unique experience for everyone, including Columbia Sailing. Having to live with the reality that we would not be able to go out on the water this Fall was difficult, but we persevered. Entering this year as Alumni CoChair, I was eager to create an environment that would be welcoming and comforting as we all navigate these difficult times. As a board, we were tasked with creating a plan that would allow our community to grow and bond, while also increasing our knowledge of the sport.

We switched between fun games that allowed us to get to know each other and educational “chalk talks” that provided both newcomers and seasoned sailors with important knowledge they can take with them on the water. In those talks, we explored topics such as points of sail and parts of the boat, and leeward and windward mark roundings. Our game nights included a “two truths and a lie” Kahoot, sailing Pictionary, and speed friending.

I was fortunate to plan the Alumni Cocktail Party which took place on December 6 and



A note from our captain, Sara Bergmann, BC '23

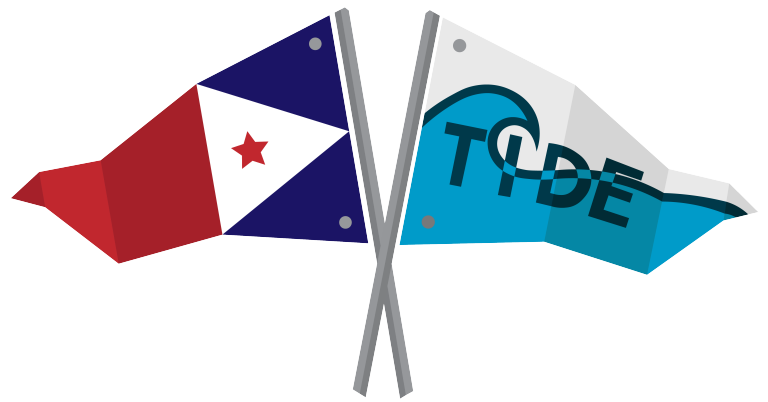


allowed those who usually connect at the Alumni Regatta, and those who cannot make the trip, to get together virtually. It was incredible to hear people's fond memories and stories of their time on the team. While those in attendance included plenty of memories of being on the water, the ones that they regarded as their favorites were times in which the team was simply gathered together having a good time. That, to me, resonates with the true spirit of our team. As much as being on the water sailing is part of our central purpose, creating a community of people with a shared interest who can get together, connect, and celebrate that mutual appreciation is equally important and special.

I extend my greatest thanks and appreciation to former captain Boaz Willis (GS/JTS '22) for all of his hard work, as well as the rest of the 2019-2020 officer board. I am extremely optimistic and excited about the future and look forward to getting back on the water as soon as it is safe. We dearly miss our van rides to Huguenot, practices on the sound, and beautiful sunsets at the end of the day. However, our safety and that of others come first in planning for the future. This spring we hope to continue building connections with our team members and Alumni through our regular meetings and special events. Wishing everyone the best 2021 has to offer. Stay safe and sail fast!

- Sara Bergmann

ICSA TIDE



Current Team Member, Ali Keenan, shares her experience on the TIDE task force.

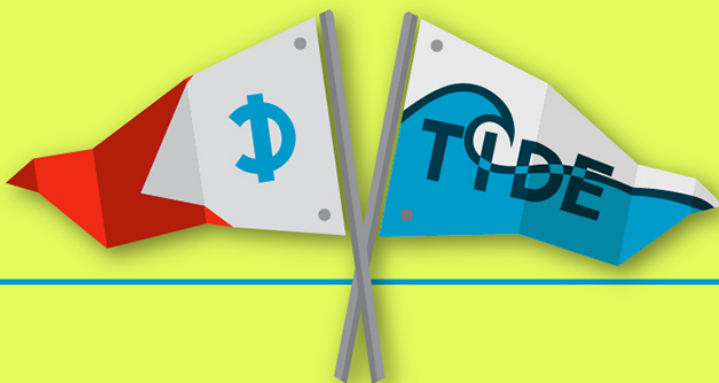
The Inclusivity, Diversity, and Equity task force was formed this past summer, and I joined when I heard of it in the fall. We are currently working on many initiatives including building an educational program for coaches and student leaders that will cover topics such as team culture, recruiting, and community outreach. With this program, we hope to empower team leaders to create a more inclusive team and have resources to address systemic racism, sexism, and homophobia in College Sailing and the greater sailing community.

This fall we sent out a culture and demographics survey to coaches and athletes to get a baseline for future comparison and to base our initiatives

in data rather than assumptions we have about College Sailing culture. I was invited to be the MAISA representative on the group writing the report from the survey results. The preliminary results are very interesting, and we hope to be able to share the report in the next few months.

At the conference level, MAISA TIDE is working on adding an anti-discrimination clause to the conference bylaws, updating the bylaws to have a representative from every team serving on the committee, and creating a gear exchange to alleviate the cost barrier for new sailors.

-Alison Keenan



**THE
INCLUSIVITY
DIVERSITY &
EQUITY**

TASK FORCE

FIRST-YEAR PERSPECTIVE



A first-year at Columbia College and newly elected 2021 Alumni Chair, Ava Rotondo shares her experience joining the CUST family.

I learned to sail my dad's 12-foot sloop on a small lake nestled between the rolling mountains in Berkshire County, Massachusetts. As an 8-year-old, I found sailing to be monotonous — it took growing up a bit for me to recognize the true beauty of sailing.

Sailing went from my hobby to my sport. In high school, I lived on a 40-foot Hunter in Tampa Bay for a week while learning the basics of coastal and keelboat sailing. The experience inspired me to get involved in sailing back at home in Northern Virginia, so I joined DC Sail's high school racing team in Washington, DC. There I learned to race FJs and 420s in the Anacostia River.

I am a first year student at Columbia College, but I have yet to step foot on Columbia's campus as a student. I was excited to sail at Columbia, so naturally this all-virtual year has been a disappointment. While trying to navigate the fully-virtual waters of my fall semester, I was so glad to connect with Columbia Sailing and meet the team. They were able to create a wonderful atmosphere of camaraderie — even over Zoom.

I have heard many times that the team is a “family,” and it was the first community that made me feel fully at-home at Columbia. I am looking forward to serving as Alumni Chair this coming year and keeping the familial spirit strong despite the distance. I especially look forward to meeting my teammates in-person and sailing with them soon!

-Ava Rotondo



Ava skippering at a regatta on the Anacostia River in Washington, DC.

ALUMNI ON THE WATER

Congratulations to John Rousmaniere (GS '67) on his induction to the National Sailing Hall of Fame.



Ali Keenan (BC '22) and Mateo Navarro (SEAS '20) sailing Snipes at the Mystic Lake Open in Medford, MA.



Jon Bassett (CC '88) and Ali Keenan (BC '22) racing Interclubs at Cottage Park Yacht Club in Winthrop, MA.



David Treatman (GS/JTS '20) sailing a Mark-O Atlantic City Catboat in Barnegat Bay, NJ.



If you have any pictures, thoughts, or memories about CUST you want to share, please email them to Ali, the communications chair, at sailcolumbia@gmail.com.



SPRING 2021 OFFICERS BOARD

CAPTAIN: *Sara Bergmann BC '23*

FIRST MATE: *Oona Dederer CC '23*

TREASURER: *Isabelle Wagler SEAS '23*

SECRETARY: *Eden Halpert BC '23*

ALUMNI CHAIR: *Ava Rotondo CC '24*

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: *Alison Keenan BC '22*

MERCHANDISE CHAIR: *Leon Aharonian SEAS '23*

SOCIAL CHAIR: *Evelyn Reyes CC '24*

THANK YOU

Thank you to the 2020 board members for all your hard work adapting to a virtual semester!

2020 DONORS

As a team, we want to thank you all for your generous donations to Columbia University Sailing. As a club sport, we rely heavily on the kindness of alumni, family, and friends to make possible all we do. From boat repairs and improving our equipment to hiring a coach and attending away regattas, your contributions go a long way, and we promise we are putting your considerate gifts to good use.

On behalf of all members of Columbia University Sailing, thank you for all you have done and continue to do for us.

CAPTAIN SPONSORS

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Kelly & Charles Spiggle
D'Arcy McGrath

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Aaron Willis

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Christopher Jackson
Marie Johnson
Christine Lai Ku
Richard W. Leonard
Rachel & Irwin Levin

Donald & Elizabeth Lewis
Kerry Morrison
Robert Newsome
Luke Pelessone
Brooke & Jonathan Penders
Eric J. Pinstein
John Rousmaniere
Jeff & Regina Wootton
William McCulloch Zalisk
Jose de la Torre R. III



*Due to the ongoing pandemic, The Annual will be held virtually this year.
More details will come in the following weeks.*



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<https://columbiasailing.org/>



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We rely on the generosity of our alumni and parents to support the Annual Fund.

This fund allows us to travel to regattas, improve our facilities, and employ our coach. Please consider contributing via mail or online at

<https://columbiasailing.org/donate/>