

THE MAINSHEET

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY SAILING TEAM



SPRING 2020



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Spring 2020

Coach's Note

What we hoped to be an exceptional season for CUST did not sail into history as was intended. Many of you are aware that previous years' Spring Sailing was constrained by the inability to get on the water early at City Island Yacht Club. The move to Huguenot Yacht Club (HYC) in the summer of 2019 allowed the team to start sailing as soon as the winter weather permitted. This year, we began to prepare by launching boats and making practice plans with the first trip to HYC on February 10th. By February 17th, we had six boats on the dock, and practices started. The weather cooperated, and CUST was practicing nearly every day with 27 heart-filled dry-suit-wearing sailors on the practice roster. On Saturday, February 20th, SUNY Stonybrook came to our sailing venue at HYC for a few races. It was a cold and windy Saturday afternoon, some even got to sail with snow flurries for the first time.

Coming into this season, it was my mission to have adequate practice time to prepare for regattas, and we were definitely on track to achieve this goal. That is until the week of March 2nd, and the school announced measures to contain COVID-19. By March 9th, ICSA had canceled all college sailing regattas and Columbia canceled all travel for practice or events. As the world braced for a pandemic, our hopes of a successful Spring sailing season abruptly stopped.

One item I wish to address is diversity in sailing. Many people on the team have voiced their opinion we need to do more to make the sport more inclusive, which I agree. We on CUST are much more fortunate to be diverse because of the school's varied population.



*A note from
current Head
Coach, Dave
Coughlin*

I want to ensure as the coach that we have a welcoming environment to all. I try to personally get in the boat with new people on the team for them to feel safe, learn the sport, and have a desire to return. If we had more team equipment, it would alleviate the financial burden on students that do not have the funds to purchase them and help make this sport available to more people. Like in many sports some people "walk-on" and "get it" immediately; others realize it is not for them but give it a try. Sailing in competition is not for everyone, but first, you have to be given the opportunity to learn how to, and then realize whether or not it is for you. Let's give all that want it a chance to find out.

As we look forward to this upcoming season, COVID-19 still has a strangle on college sports as a whole. Though it pains our souls deeply, we must begin to accept that there will likely be no FJ dinghies on the docks this September.

Looking forward to COVID 19 being in the past.

- Dave Coughlin

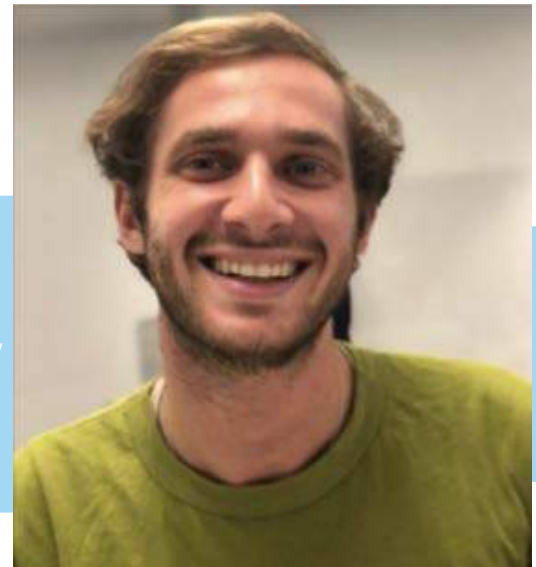
Spring 2020

Captain's Note

There is no doubt that this semester bore witness to an unexpected turn of events that has upended our routines and values we had grown comfortable with. Looking back to those first sunny days of spring in New York City, I am grateful that we were able to get onto the water two weeks earlier than we had in previous seasons. Team members were eager to return to a boathouse they could call their own - Huguenot had just become 'home.' All too unexpectedly we were forced to return to another 'home,' separating skipper and crew without the opportunity to bid farewell. My deepest sympathies go out to our graduating seniors who did not get the opportunity to end their CUST career in its full glory.

It is tough to eloquently express what has taken place as a result of COVID-19 sweeping across the globe. Since the very first cases were confirmed not more than a mile from our yacht club, I have been thinking and praying for all who have lost others and mourning those who have passed on. Yet, even as we experienced the solitude of quarantine, CUSTies would not let their spirits be confined. Reconnecting as an online community, salters were eager to compete on Kahoot, catch up with one another, and listen to chalk talks from little boxes on a screen. In an effort to maintain our boat handling skills, we launched the #StayatHomeSailatHome challenge on Instagram, prompting team members to send in videos of themselves "sailing" in whatever way possible at home.

*A note from
our captain,
Boaz Willis GS/
JTS '22*



Submissions took sailors from bathtubs to fire escapes, all yearning for that peace of mind we find on the water. These all proved effective measures to keep team members in contact, and continue to share our excitement for what the future holds.

While many still dealt with the challenges that come with a pandemic, the death of George Floyd awakened so many Americans to the prevalence of systemic racism and police brutality in this country. As many others have, we will also take his memory for a blessing and an opportunity to create positive change in the world. Starting with the officer board, we are beginning to engage in thoughtful discussions about racial inequality and recognizing our own privileges. We are working towards creating a team culture that makes space for people of all races, ethnicities, faiths, and beliefs to feel at ease and excited about sailing. Moving forward as a board, we are going to be transparent about the concrete steps we are taking to ensure that this is happening -- keep an eye out on our social media platforms for a statement about our next actions. Until we return to our boats, classrooms, and offices, stay safe!

"I've done a lot of sailing of all kinds and written about a lot of it. Some of my writing is based on my own experience of offshore and coastal racing and cruising. I've crossed oceans and sailed in boats that have won major prizes. Yet there's one corner of my sailing career that I think of with extra special affection. That was when I raced for Columbia back during 1960s"

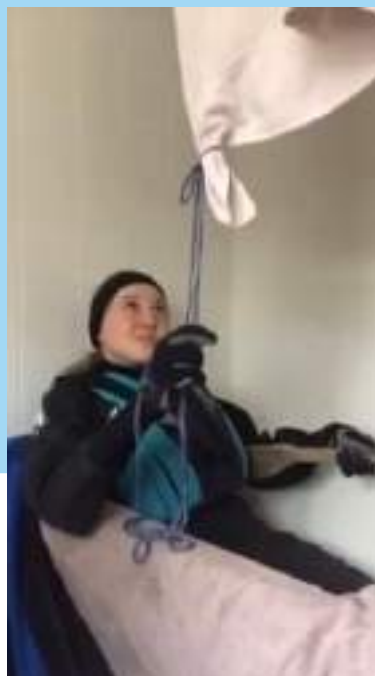
Thanks again to **John Rousmaniere**
for being our guest speaker

THE ANNUAL RECAP



(Clockwise from bottom left)
CUST merchandise and the
silent auction. Team Members.
Captain Boaz Willis and Alumni
co-chair Sara Bergmann





SAIL AT HOME CHALLENGE

#Sail At Home Challenge

This challenge has been introduced after practice on water was no longer possible ! The goal was to be creative and find ways to sail in the place where you were confined!

Everyone was welcomed to join and the winners could even win sailing merch !



Feel free to check our Instagram Page to see the entire videos



SENIOR'S GOODBYES



KYELEE FITTS

"I'm so grateful to CUST for a lot of great memories in my college career. Even if this semester was somewhat derailed, I'm still so proud of the strength of the CUST community. I know I've told this story to a lot of people, but it's still remained one of my fondest memories of CUST. I've attached a photo from the first time I ever set foot in a sailboat – someone on the coach boat was shouting at me to hike and all I could think was "hike? Hike where?" It was that moment, with my butt skimming the water, that I knew I wanted to keep doing this! Have a great summer and looking forward to seeing everyone at the alumni events! If you're a current student at Columbia, no matter what your experience level, JOIN CUST!"

CLASS OF 2020



ISABEL DE LA TORRE

"CUST has been an integral part of my Columbia experience, and I'm so grateful to have been a part of such an amazing community of sailors. I can't begin to describe how heart broken I am to have missed out on our final chapter together: introducing new sailors to the infamous Game, realizing our goal of making it to women's nationals, grabbing sandwiches after practice, celebrating our team at the end of year BBQ. But I know this team, and the incredible people I've met along the way, will always remain in my heart. Thank you for a great 4 years!"

CLASS OF 2020



DAVID TREATMAN

"Thinking about how we've been forced to trade celebration for isolation, I think back fondly on last year's end of season cookout. I am incredibly thankful to have the Columbia Sailing community albeit virtually at the moment. Thanks for being my home for the last 4 years."

CLASS OF 2020



MATEO NAVARRO GOLDARAZ

"Even before the pandemic, Columbia had always been full of change. Students change dorms, classes, routines, some semesters are hard and some are very hard, but winters are always freezing and I could always count on CUST. I've seen many friends with "sailing problems" graduate but they never truly left and I don't plan to either - the Sailing Team will always hold a special place in my heart. Thank you!"

CLASS OF 2020



TIERNAUR ANDERSON

"Sailing with CUST always put me in the best mood. It was great to get out of the city and onto the water, sure, but mostly, it was so refreshing to spend the afternoon with such an amazing group of authentic, kind, and energetic people, all sharing our love of sailing. I will miss CUST and my teammates a lot, and hope that we meet again on the water some day!"

CLASS OF 2020

A STATEMENT FROM THE COLUMBIA SAILING OFFICER BOARD



COLUMBIA SAILING

Columbia Sailing stands in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement. We strongly condemn police brutality and we pledge to take action in combatting systemic racism and all social inequities within our community.

We recognize that we participate in a sport that is often synonymous with whiteness and privilege. We believe it is important not only to educate ourselves on these issues but also to work to enact change. The Officer Board has been discussing how to achieve this; both within the sailing and larger Columbia communities. We intend to continue these discussions with the team at large, not only in this time of grieving but beyond. In facilitating these discussions, we hope to gain a clearer picture of how we might leverage our unique resources to enact positive change in our community.



SPRING 2020 Officers Board

CAPTAIN: *Boaz Willis GS/JTS '22*

FIRST MATE: *Alix Trébaol GS '21*

TREASURER: *Zoe Chan CC '22*

SECRETARIES: *Kalei Brady CC '23*

ALUMNI CHAIR: *Oona Dederer BC '23 & Sara Bergmann BC '23*

COMMUNICATIONS CHAIR: ***Jeanne Fréalle GS '21***

MERCHANDISE CHAIR: ***Alison Keenan BC '22***

SOCIAL CHAIR: ***Matthew Fairbanks CC '22***

Thank you to the board and team members
for all your hard work !
Even during in this particular time

Looking forward to the next semester
together on the water !

2019 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.

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

DONORS

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THANK YOU





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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
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