Langley Crew Athletes Excel at the Next Level

Langley Crew athletes and alumni of the Langley Crew team are excelling in the greater crew community. Taking the skills they have gained from being on the Langley Crew team, and applying them in summer club and collegiate teams, Langley crew athletes are achieving success both academically and on their respective crew teams.

Nathaniel Howe ('12), studying at Yale, has been rowing for the past three seasons on the Yale Lightweight Crew team. During his freshman year, he rowed 4-seat in the Freshman Lightweight 8+, and they took first in the Sprints Championship in that event. At the conclusion of the season in his sophomore year, Nathaniel rowed 2-seat in Third Varsity Lightweight 8+, and his boat won a silver medal at the Sprints Championship. This past spring, he again rowed (this time 3-seat) in their Third Varsity Lightweight 8+, and they came in fourth at the Sprints Championship, finishing just a few inches back from third.

Sabrina Lamont ('14) was the coxswain in the First Varsity 8 at George Mason University where she guided her boat to an eighth-place finish at the prestigious Head of the Charles in Boston, the largest two-day regatta in the world. During Dad Vails, the largest regular intercollegiate regatta, Lamont coxed the Freshman 8+ to a silver medal, the highest medal finish for the history of the George Mason program.

Tillman Findley ('14) began rowing with Auburn University after four years of experience with Langley Crew and quickly earned his place as stroke seat of the Novice 8 boat. Findley’s boat raced at several prestigious regattas such as Head of the Hooch in Chattanooga, Tenn., and SIRAs in Oak Ridge, Tenn. While at the SIRAs, Findley was able to catch up with Coach Mike Lehman, the Langley Head Coach during his four years at Langley who is now the Head Coach of men’s crew at Notre Dame.

During the majority of the spring season, Tyler Seckar ('14) rowed in the seven-seat of Trinity College’s Second Varsity 8 and helped lead her team to a winning spring season. Based on Trinity’s strong spring season and ECAC performance, Trinity won an at-large bid to the NCAA Division III Championship Regatta in Sacramento, Calif. Trinity successfully-defended its 2014 National Championship in the First Varsity 8 and took Silver honors as a team due to the Second Varsity 8’s Bronze finish in its event.

Looking forward to her sophomore year at Trinity, and strong 2015-16 crew seasons, Seckar will be joining local club, Resilient Rowing, as a coach-athlete. To hone her coaching and rowing skills, Seckar is pursuing a US Rowing Level II Coaching Certification and will be coaching and competing at US Rowing Club National Championship and the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta during summer 2015.

Seckar is overjoyed with her Trinity freshman year experience and Resilient Rowing coaching opportunity, and she credits her Langley Crew coach, Ashley Leake, with giving her such a strong rowing foundation upon which to grow her collegiate and coaching crew career.

Charlie Bavisotto ('14) is wrapping up his freshmen year at Drexel University in Philadelphia, where he is majoring in marketing, and a member of the Men’s Division I crew team. During his freshman year he was a coxswain for the Men’s Freshmen Four and Eight boats.

The Men’s Drexel crew team had a very strong season in 2015; and won the Team Trophy at the Dad Vail Regatta in May, and qualified to compete at the 2015 IRA National Championships also in May. Bavisotto’s Freshmen 4 boat won the bronze medal at Dad Vail. At the IRA Nationals, Bavisotto coxed the Freshman 8 boat, which advanced all the way to the Grand Finals; and finished 6th place overall against the best teams in the USA.

Bavisotto has been very happy with his experience at Drexel; and has enjoyed being part of the crew team. Next year he will work six months and attend classes for six months, as part of the Drexel co-op program.

Ryan Cheng ('13) is double majoring in biomedical engineering and physics at University of Virginia and rowing on the Virginia Men’s Rowing Varsity squad. Early in the season, he traveled with the team as an alternate to London, Ontario in Canada for a regatta hosted by Western University.

In the spring, he competed at the Murphy Cup, the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Regatta (SIRAs), and the American Collegiate Rowing Association Regatta (ACRAs). At the Murphy Cup, Cheng raced in the Varsity 4 and placed 6th in the Grand Final. At SIRAs, he raced in the 2nd Varsity 8 to a silver medal. At ACRAs, he raced in the 2nd Varsity 8 and took another a silver medal. While at the Murphy Cup, he ran into Langley Crew Alumni Charlie Bavisotto, while he was coxing for Drexel, and during SIRAs and ACRAs he caught up with Mike Lehman (past Langley head coach) while he was coaching for Notre Dame.

As a member of the Christopher Newport University Rowing Club, Brittany Smith ('14), a pre-med scholars student, has enjoyed opportunities in addition to rowing with the team. Being a member of the rowing club has enabled her to learn how to lead, organize, compromise, and expand the team as well as herself. Early in the year she was elected to the position of Scholarly Chair, and recently she was elected to the Vice President role where she will be responsible for the logistics of the team. Continuing to row in college has added to Smith’s college experience exponentially.

Olivia White ('13) just finished her second year on the West Virginia University rowing team where she find the workouts intense. White says, “Rowing at WVU has been an experience these last two years. There have been some ups and downs but that’s just part of the sport. My teammates are an amazing bunch of girls. We all have the same goals and we work together and push each other to do better.” Many of her closest friends are on the team and they make her proud to be a Mountaineer.