



# Stetson Rowing

## Stetson University – DeLand, FL

### History of Stetson Rowing

Stetson Crew was established in 1988 by Betsy Cowan and Katherine Bryan, two students, with the help of the West Volusia YMCA and local supporter, Mrs. Dorothea Griesman. Coached by Warren Morgan, the original co-ed team was composed of a small group of students who wanted to pursue an activity that would challenge them both mentally and physically. The YMCA loaned the team 3 eight-oared shells and a launch for the coach. With space donated by the Lake Beresford Yacht Club, the team built racks and a shed to store their boats and equipment. Although the team had little money, it survived due largely to its own enthusiasm and the generosity of others.

In the spring of 1991, Dr. Curt Rausch joined Stetson Crew as the Women's Coach and that fall became the Head coach. Stetson Crew hosted its first regatta in 1992, winning 4 of the 7 races against the University of Florida. This year also brought Stetson its first 4-man shells.

In 1993 Stetson Crew gained Varsity status with the University. As an NCAA DI sport, crew was now funded by the university to the point of hiring coaches to make Stetson Crew a competitive sport. These coaches include former Stetson Crew member Dino Evans (Head coach, 93-94), Michael O'Gorman (Head coach 94-97) and Anne Dinshah (97-98). During this time Stetson Crew attended the Dad Vail regatta for the first time in Philadelphia.

In the Fall of 1998, Charles Huthmaker (Stetson Crew c/o '92) was hired as Head Coach to help rebuild. Over the next two years Stetson Crew flourished with numerous medals at the FIRA and SIRA Championships.

As a result of this success, Stetson University increased the coaching staff to 2 full-time Head Coaches. For the first time, Stetson Crew had 2 full-time coaches whose sole purpose was the growth and prosperity of the program. Chris Day (Stetson Crew c/o 2000) was hired as Stetson's first Head Men's Coach. The competitiveness of the program has reflected the vision and leadership.

The crew program has continued to grow in the early part of the decade. In 2004, Stetson took home a record six medals at the FIRA State Championships. The women's varsity pair went on to finish fifth in the prestigious Dad Vail Regatta at the end of the season.

Huthmaker moved on following the 2003-04 season and Stetson hired former Temple coach Christine Deatruck to head the program. Coach Deatruck remained on as Head Coach until the summer of 2008. Chris Thomas had been the Assistant Coach since the fall of 2006, and was named Interim Head Coach with Deatruck's departure. Chris Thomas held the Head Coaching hat for 1 year and Chris Mulstay was his assistant.

In the 2007 year, a more lightweight focus came to the Hatters and racing was good on Lake Beresford and beyond.

2008 the Hatters raced at the Head of the Hooch in Chattanooga TN with 15 athletes but were able to earn 6 top 3 spots in the regatta. The spring campaign of 2009 saw good results with the Women's V4+ win Gold at SIRA as well as the Women's Lt4+ earning 3<sup>rd</sup> and moving on to the Dad Vail Regatta in Philadelphia.

The Fall of 2009 saw Susan Saint Sing hired as the new Head Coach and she helped guide the Hatters to several FIRA and SIRA championships. In 2010 Hatter Women's Pair of Delia Hanna and Jane Horton won the Women's Pair and Jane also won the Women's 1x. The team won silver in the Women's Light four. The spring of 2010 also saw the Women's light 8 ranked nationally for the first time in school history with a 15<sup>th</sup> spot. The Stetson Women's Light Four of Caitlin Burke, Jacqueline Horbert, Alison Lucy, Katie Breller and Cox Jen Jones won Bronze at the Dad Vail Regatta.

The Fall of 2010 saw two boats travel to and compete in the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston.

In 2011 the Hatters won three medals at the FIRA with Women's 2x, Men's and Women's LT4+ and going to the podium, the Women's light 8 also earned the 10<sup>th</sup> spot in the Light 8 national poll.

In the Spring of 2012 the Hatters continued winning at the FIRA with Gold in the W2x of Caitlin Mooney and Callie Peacock, Gold in the W1x of Pricilla White, and Gold in WLT4+ of Caitlin Burke, Christine Kapusta, Caitlin Mooney, Jacqueline Horbert and cox Kerry Burke.

In the summer of 2012 Coach Saint Sing left Stetson and Mark Wilson was hired in the Fall. Coach Wilson hired former National Team Sculler James Dietz to be the assistant. In the Spring of 2013 the Hatters won three medals at the FIRA regatta in the Women's 2x, Men's 1x and Men's 2-. The team went on to the SIRA regatta where the Women's Lightweight 4+ earned Bronze. The team ended the season with the Men's Pair of David Nutting and Mike Sigrist and the Women's Light four of Deonna Graham, Alicja Duda, Tori Teter, Kiara Urena and cox Madeline Briggs competing at the Dad Vail Regatta.