

The 2007 Season

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Coaching Staff

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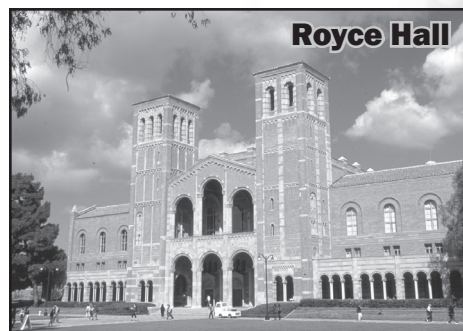
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CREDITS: The 2007 UCLA women's rowing media guide was written, designed and edited by Alex Timiraos, Sports Information Assistant. Photography by ASUCLA Campus Studio (Don Liebig, Scott Quintard, and Todd Cheney). Other photography courtesy Jack Hamann. Cover design by Alex Timiraos. Coordinated by Marina Graphics Printing. Special thanks to Getty Images, ASUCLA Photography, Berliner Studios, Andrew Bernstein, Ruth Chambers, the Los Angeles Convention and Visitors Bureau, and Scott Quintard for their photos in the UCLA Experience.

COVER: UCLA's varsity eight crew is featured on the top of the cover. Below are the eight four-year seniors: (left to right) Kirsten Potenza, Alexis Kalionzes, Jessica Fritz, Brittany Merchant, Elizabeth Lee, Erin Rice, Leah Wachtel and Megan McQuown.

PURCHASE: Copies of the women's rowing media guide can be purchased in person at UCLA's Sports Information Office for \$6.00. By mail, make checks payable for \$8.00 to UC Regents and mail to UCLA Athletic Dept. - Sports Information Office, Women's Rowing Guide, PO Box 24044, Los Angeles, CA 90024.



Royce Hall

Quick Facts

Location	J.D. Morgan Center
	325 Westwood Plaza
	Los Angeles, CA 90095
Athletics Phone	(310) 825-8699
Ticket Office	(310) UCLA-WIN
Chancellor	Dr. Albert Carnesale
Director of Athletics	Daniel G. Guerrero
Associate Athletic Director	Bob Field
Sr. Women's Administrator	Petrina Long
Faculty Athletic Rep.	Donald Morrison
Home Venue	Marina del Rey/Ballona Creek
Facility Phone	(310) 823-0048
Enrollment	36,890

Founded	1919
Colors	Blue and Gold
Nickname	Bruins
Conference	Pacific-10
Conference Phone	(925) 932-4411
Conference Fax	(925) 932-4601
National Affiliation	NCAA Division I
Head Coach (Alma Mater)	Amy Fuller Kearney (UCSB, 1990)
Rowing Office Phone	(310) 206-6828
E-mail	afuller@athletics.ucla.edu
Assistant Coaches	Bill Zack
	Dawn Regan

	Liz Pallas-Jacobs (volunteer)
2006 Pac-10 Team Finish	6th
2006 Pac-10 Varsity Eight Finish	6th
2006 NCAA Postseason	12th
Letterwinners Returning	23
Sports Information Director	Marc Dellins
Women's Rowing SID	Alex Timiraos
E-mail:	atimiraos@athletics.ucla.edu
Sports Information Phone	310-206-7870
Sports Information FAX	310-825-8664
Web Site	www.uclabruins.com
Athletic FanFone	310-825-8575

Name	Year	Position	Height	Hometown (High School)
Anna Boero	Fr.	Starboard	5-10	Wilton, Conn. (Wilton)
Charlotte Burke	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-11	Belvedere, Calif. (Redwood)
Jessica Buzawa	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-10	San Jose, Calif. (Cupertino)
Renee Cornwell	Fr.	Port	5-10	Lake Forest, Calif. (El Toro)
Lauren Counter	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-11	Long Beach, Calif. (Long Beach Poly)
Caitlyn Czisny	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-11	Newport Beach, Calif. (Corona Del Mar)
Kaitlin Doering	Fr.	Port	6-0	Alameda, Calif. (Alameda)
Patricia Dudziec	Jr.	Port	5-11	San Francisco, Calif. (St. Ignatius)
Marisa Durham	So.	Port/Starboard	5-10	Lakewood, Calif. (Downey)
Candace Ferguson	So.	Port/Starboard	5-10	Yorba Linda, Calif. (Lutheran)
Christine Fiacco	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-6	Alpharetta, Ga. (Centennial)
Kristin Fitzmorris	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-7	Dana Point, Calif. (Dana Point)
Jessica Fritz	Sr.	Port/Starboard	5-7	Laguna Beach, Calif. (Laguna Hills)
Ashley Guzik	Jr.	Port/Starboard	5-10	Carmel Valley, Calif. (Robert Louis Stevenson)
Maida Habibovic	Jr.	Port/Starboard	5-10	Chicago, Ill. (Lincoln Park)
Erin Haggerty	Jr.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Ventura, Calif. (Buena)
Lynn Hancock	Fr.	Port/Starboard	6-2	Vancouver, B.C. (Crofton House)
Bree Hemingway	So.	Port/Starboard	5-9	El Cajon, Calif. (Grossmont)
Briana Hernandez	Fr.	Port	5-8	Los Alamitos, Calif. (Los Alamitos)
Elizabeth Herron	Jr.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Tiburon, Calif. (Branson School)
Alexandra Howard	So.	Port	5-11	Fairfield, Conn. (Fairfield Warde)
Vanessa Jansen	Jr.	Starboard	5-8	Prunedale, Calif. (North Monterey County)
Jennica Janssen	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-7	Redwood City, Calif. (Carlmont)
Alexis Kalionzes	Sr.	Port/Starboard	5-8	Santa Monica, Calif. (Santa Monica)
Victoria Kaso	So.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Alameda, Calif. (Holy Names)
Christina King	Fr.	Port	5-9	Irvine, Calif. (Mater Dei)
Stephanie King	Fr.	Port/Starboard	6-0	Huntington Beach, Calif. (Mater Dei)
Kellie Koscher	Fr.	Starboard	5-7	Lighthouse Point, Fla. (Pine Crest School)
Sofia Larsson	Fr.	Port	6-0	Los Gatos, Calif. (Los Gatos)
Alexandra Lauren	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-11	Sarasota, Fla. (Taft School [CT])
Elizabeth Lee	Sr.	Starboard	5-11	Sacramento, Calif. (C.K. McClatchy)
Megan Lightfoot	So.	Starboard	5-8	Santa Rosa, Calif. (Maria Carrillo)
Brittany Liljeqvist	Fr.	Coxswain	5-2	La Canada, Calif. (Wilton [CT])
Marissa Linden	Fr.	Coxswain	5-1	Long Beach, Calif. (Long Beach Poly)
Megan McQuown	Sr.	Coxswain	5-2	San Diego, Calif. (University City)
Samantha Melzer	Fr.	Starboard	5-9	Escondido, Calif. (Cathedral Catholic)
Brittany Merchant	Sr.	Port	5-11	Modesto, Calif. (Thomas Downey)
Lila Miller	Fr.	Starboard	5-5	Piedmont, Calif. (Piedmont)
Lariss Pender-Healy	So.	Port	5-8	Austin, Texas (Westlake)
Jennifer Perkins	Fr.	Port	5-7	San Carlos, Calif. (Carlmont)
Megan Petitti	Jr.	Coxswain	5-2	Apple Valley, Calif. (Apple Valley)
Danielle Piccinini	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-10	Oakland, Calif. (Carondelet)
Kirsten Potenza	Sr.	Coxswain	5-1	San Francisco, Calif. (Mercy)
Francesca Propper	Fr.	Port/Starboard	6-0	Haverford, Pa. (Kent School [CT])
Erin Rice	Sr.	Starboard	5-8	St. Louis, Mo. (Mary Institute)
Hayley Robinson	Jr.	Port	6-1	Cranford, N.J. (Cranford)
Lillian Sakkis	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-11	Moraga, Calif. (Campolindo)
Sheerin Salimi	So.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Los Altos Hills, Calif. (Los Altos)
Anne Schier	Fr.	Starboard	5-7	Orinda, Calif. (Miramonte)
Gevrina Seferaj	Fr.	Coxswain	5-2	Tustin, Calif. (Mater Dei)
Christine Seidel	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-10	San Diego, Calif. (Poway)
Destinie Slavich	Fr.	Starboard	6-0	San Francisco, Calif. (Lowell)
Christina Sprouse	Fr.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Northridge, Calif. (L.A. Baptist)
Whitney Standefer	Fr.	Starboard	6-1	Chattanooga, Tenn. (Girls Preparatory)
Vanessa Teff	So.	Starboard	5-10	Middleton, Wis. (Edgewood)
Lynette Thompson	Jr.	Port/Starboard	5-9	Bellflower, Calif. (Bellflower)
Emily Wachtel	So.	Coxswain	5-0	Agoura Hills, Calif. (Agoura)
Leah Wachtel	Sr.	Port	5-8	Portola Valley, Calif. (Menlo-Atherton)
Jennifer Weber	Jr.	Port	5-8	San Diego, Calif. (Mission Bay)

Head Coach: Amy Fuller Kearney (6th season)

Assistant Coach: Bill Zack (5th season)

Assistant Coach: Dawn Regan (2nd season)

Volunteer Assistant Coach: Elizabeth Pallas-Jacobs (1st season)



Class Breakdown

SENIORS (8)

Jessica Fritz
Alexis Kalionzes
Elizabeth Lee
Megan McQuown
Brittany Merchant
Kirsten Potenza
Erin Rice
Leah Wachtel

JUNIORS (10)

Patricia Dudziec
Ashley Guzik
Maida Habibovic
Erin Haggerty
Elizabeth Herron
Vanessa Jansen
Megan Petitti
Hayley Robinson
Lynette Thompson
Jennifer Weber

SOPHOMORES (10)

Marisa Durham
Candace Ferguson
Bree Hemingway
Alexandra Howard
Victoria Kaso
Megan Lightfoot
Larisa Pender-Healy
Sheerin Salimi
Vanessa Teff
Emily Wachtel

FRESHMEN (31)

Anna Boero
Charlotte Burke
Jessica Buzawa
Renee Cornwell
Lauren Counter
Caitlyn Czisny
Kaitlin Doering
Christine Fiacco
Kristin Fitzmorris
Lynn Hancock
Briana Hernandez
Jennica Janssen
Christina King
Stephanie King
Kellie Koscher

Sofia Larsson
Alexandra Lauren
Brittany Liljeqvist
Marissa Linden
Samantha Melzer
Lila Miller
Jennifer Perkins
Danielle Piccinini
Francesca Proper
Lillian Sakkis
Anne Schier
Gevrina Seferaj
Christine Seidel
Destinie Slavich
Christina Sprouse
Whitney Standefer

Geographic Breakdown

CALIFORNIA (46)

Charlotte Burke
Jessica Buzawa
Renee Cornwell
Lauren Counter
Caitlyn Czisny
Kaitlin Doering
Patricia Dudziec
Marisa Durham
Candace Ferguson
Kristin Fitzmorris
Jessica Fritz
Ashley Guzik
Erin Haggerty
Bree Hemingway
Briana Hernandez

Elizabeth Herron
Vanessa Jansen
Jennica Janssen
Alexis Kalionzes
Victoria Kaso
Christina King
Stephanie King
Sofia Larsson
Elizabeth Lee
Megan Lightfoot
Brittany Liljeqvist
Marissa Linden
Megan McQuown
Samantha Melzer
Brittany Merchant
Lila Miller

Jennifer Perkins
Megan Petitti
Danielle Piccinini
Kirsten Potenza
Lillian Sakkis
Sheerin Salimi
Anne Schier
Gevrina Seferaj
Christine Seidel
Destinie Slavich
Christina Sprouse
Lynette Thompson
Emily Wachtel
Leah Wachtel
Jennifer Weber

CONNECTICUT (2)

Anna Boero
Alexandra Howard

FLORIDA (2)

Kellie Koscher
Alexandra Lauren

CANADA (1)

Lynn Hancock

GEORGIA (1)

Christine Fiacco

ILLINOIS (1)

Maida Habibovic

MISSOURI (1)

Erin Rice

NEW JERSEY (1)

Hayley Robinson

PENNSYLVANIA (1)

Francesca Proper

TENNESSEE (1)

Whitney Standefer

TEXAS (1)

Larisa Pender-Healy

WISCONSIN (1)

Vanessa Teff

Coming on the heels of its second-consecutive varsity eight appearance at the NCAA Championships, the UCLA women's rowing team plans to take aim at the Pac-10 title and a team berth in the 2007 NCAA Championships. The Bruins lost just three seniors to graduation and welcome a group of talented, enthusiastic newcomers to help send UCLA to Oak Ridge, Tenn., for the NCAA Championships.

After last season's varsity eight finished 12th at the NCAA Championships, the Bruins return 23 rowers this spring, including eight of UCLA's nine rowers from the 12th-place V8+ crew. Sixth-year head coach Amy Fuller Kearney has helped build the Bruins' rowing program and looks to turn UCLA into a national power.

"Our goal is to get to the NCAA Championships as a team," Fuller Kearney said. "Last year we had one varsity eight bid and our second varsity finished second at the Pac-10 Championships. We thought we should have been in there, but this year we're going to make sure that we're not on the bubble. Our goal is to get the highest team standing we can at Pac-10 Championships."

RETURNING ROWERS

UCLA returns 23 rowers from last season's team, including 18 members of the Bruins' varsity boats. Headlined by eight seniors, the Bruins have the leadership and experience necessary to reach their ultimate goal – a trip to the NCAA Championships.

Last season's varsity eight and second varsity eight coxswains, seniors Kirsten Potenza and Megan McQuown, return this season and look to play instrumental roles in the Bruins' success. "They're both natural leaders and four-year student-athletes," Fuller Kearney said. "They have grown so much over the last four years, and I have confidence in both of them. It's like having a coach in the boat."

Vanessa Teff returns for her sophomore campaign after having earned 2006 POCOCK All-America honors. Slated to row in the stroke seat, Teff has gained the respect and confidence of her teammates and coaches. "She has great natural leadership and boat feel," Fuller Kearney said. "She is a very powerful rower, and we're excited to have her leading the charge."

Junior Patricia Dudziec returns to the varsity eight after sitting in the seven seat in 2006. "She has one of the most efficient strokes on the team and has done an excellent job following Vanessa Teff's rhythm."

Other veterans expected to make significant contributions at the varsity level include seniors Jessica Fritz, Elizabeth Lee and Erin Rice, juniors Erin Haggerty and Elizabeth Herron and sophomore Alexandra Howard. Fritz, a four-year rower, competed in the second varsity last season and should join her teammates in the varsity eight this year.

"Jessica trained over the summer more than any athlete I have ever coached at UCLA," Fuller Kearney said. "She is bringing a lot of confidence to the varsity eight. Elizabeth Lee is one of the most competitive people I have ever met, and she will do whatever it takes to succeed."

Returning athletes vying for spots in the second varsity eight include seniors Alexis Kalionzes, Brittany Merchant and Leah Wachtel and junior Vanessa



Jansen. All four helped lead the Bruins' 2V8+ to a second-place finish at Pac-10 Championships one year ago.

"We did not lose many seniors to graduation last year, so we have a strong contingent in that second varsity eight that earned a silver medal at Pac-10s," Fuller Kearney said. "Leah Wachtel was the stroke and she is in her best form. Alexis keeps stepping up and getting stronger, as does Brittany Merchant. Brittany has really made strides in the small boats this winter."

Returning rowers who will challenge for a spot in the varsity four boat include juniors Maida Habibovic and Jennifer Weber and sophomores Victoria Kaso, Megan Lightfoot, Larisa Pender-Healy and Bree Hemingway.

"They're all returning athletes vying for spots in the varsity four," Fuller Kearney said. "Maida has shown herself to be a good leader with an excellent attitude. Jen Weber and Victoria Kaso are both very fit with a great power-to-weight ratio, and Megan Lightfoot, a walk-on from last season, has really stepped up this year in terms of fitness."

INCOMING ROWERS

A strong combination of recruits and walk-on novice rowers should compete for varsity spots and strengthen UCLA's novice rowing program. Freshman Lynn Hancock rowed for the prestigious Burnaby Lake Rowing Club in Vancouver, British Columbia (Canada) and will challenge for a seat in a varsity boat. Other key newcomers include junior Hayley Robinson, a transfer from Barry University, Renee Cornwell and Destinie Slavich.

"Hayley Robinson brings much needed power to the boat," Fuller Kearney said. "She raced for Barry last year and finished second in the Division II eight at the NCAA Championships. She also spent a portion of the summer at the U.S. Under-23 National Team Selection Camp. Cornwell's fitness is amazing, and she has been making technical changes every day. Destinie Slavich is vying for a seat in the second varsity eight and she's been dramatically improving her erg score."

Other freshmen expected to compete for seats in the varsity four this season include Charlotte Burke, Lauren Counter, Caitlyn Czisny, Kaitlin Doering, Christina King, Alexandra Lauren, Danielle Piccinini, Lillian Sakkis and Anne Schier.

The good news for the Bruins is that in addition to this list of athletes working to get into an NCAA boat, there are two and a half eights of freshmen/novice rowers who are both working hard to earn a seat in the novice eight and also developing power and fitness for next season.

"I think the best thing about our program this year is that we have depth," Fuller Kearney said. "We have so many talented athletes, and it makes coaching both fun and exciting. They push each other to reach their potential, and they take every opportunity to improve and move up in the rankings."



The UCLA Boathouse

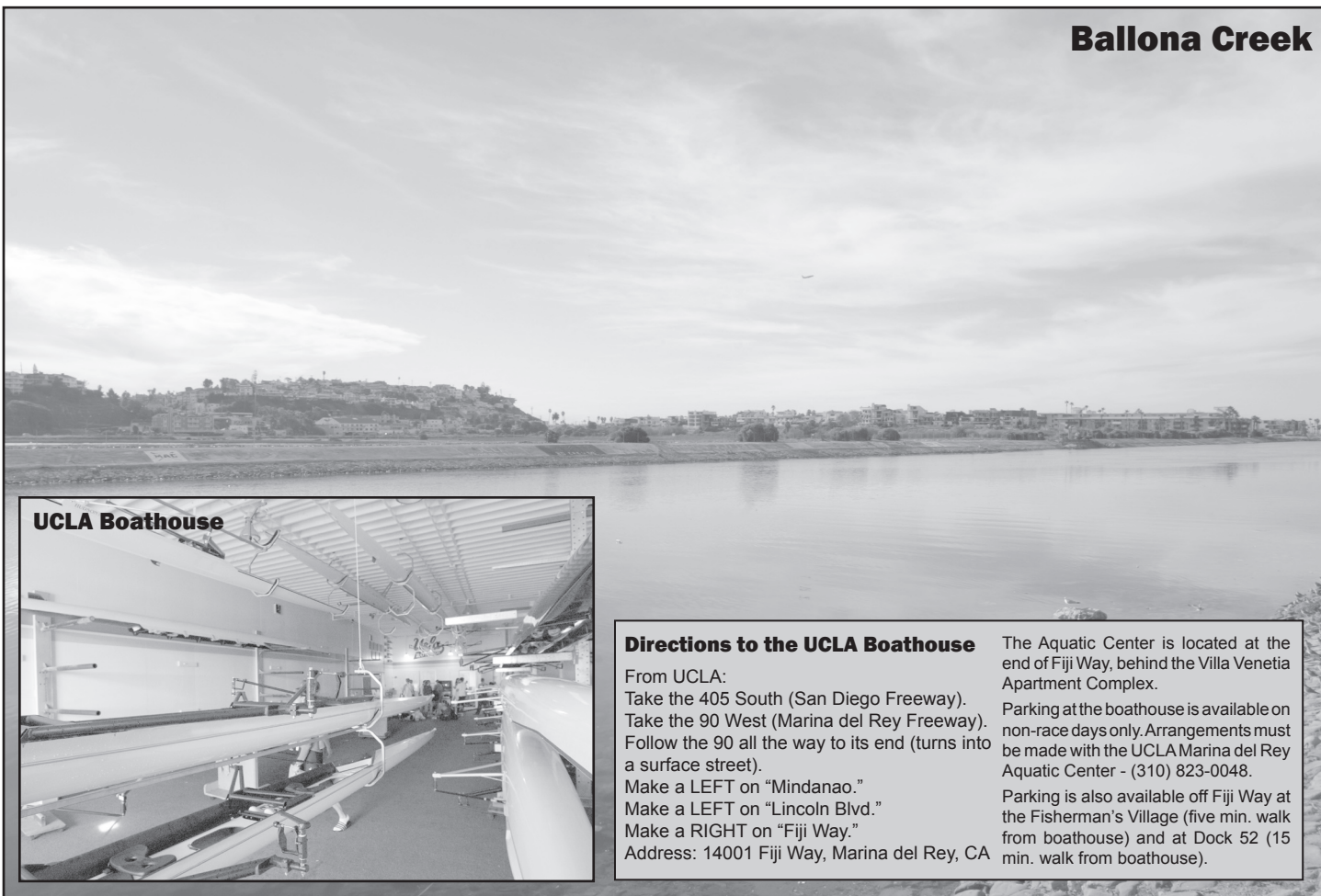
Marina del Rey



The UCLA Boathouse, surrounded by Marina del Rey and Ballona Creek, is located just 11 miles south of UCLA. On the north side of the boathouse, the marina serves as both a practice site and a racing venue for fall regattas. On the south side, Ballona Creek serves as UCLA's own 2000m race course.

The UCLA women's rowing team also trains on campus at both Drake Stadium and at the Acosta Strength and Conditioning Facility. For ergometer workouts, the Bruins have 40 ergometers overlooking Drake Stadium and UCLA's beautiful North campus.

Ballona Creek



UCLA Boathouse



Directions to the UCLA Boathouse

From UCLA:
Take the 405 South (San Diego Freeway).
Take the 90 West (Marina del Rey Freeway).
Follow the 90 all the way to its end (turns into a surface street).
Make a LEFT on "Mindanao."
Make a LEFT on "Lincoln Blvd."
Make a RIGHT on "Fiji Way."
Address: 14001 Fiji Way, Marina del Rey, CA

The Aquatic Center is located at the end of Fiji Way, behind the Villa Venetia Apartment Complex.

Parking at the boathouse is available on non-race days only. Arrangements must be made with the UCLA Marina del Rey Aquatic Center - (310) 823-0048.

Parking is also available off Fiji Way at the Fisherman's Village (five min. walk from boathouse) and at Dock 52 (15 min. walk from boathouse).