Cougars Win ICSA Women’s National Championship; 8 Cougars Named to All-American Team

Led by three seniors, the Charleston women’s team capped off a great season on the women’s circuit by unleashing a dominating performance at the ICSA Women’s National Championship in Madison, WI in May. The conditions in Madison were the headline for most of the national championships, with a lack of wind wreaking havoc for regatta organizers. The women’s event was scheduled to begin with a 2-day semi-final round. However, after two days only two A-division races had been completed and the event was cancelled. Fortunately the Cougars had finished second at their qualifier and moved on to the final round.

The first day of the women’s championship saw light but sailable conditions that would turn out to be one of the best racing days of all the championships. And the Cougar women reveled in the conditions. Light air has been a strength for the women’s team all year, and the team started the day with great confidence. “We drift faster than other people”, declared senior B-division crew Becky Bestoso. In A-division, senior Allie Blecher and sophomore Alyssa Aitken came out swinging with a 1-2 and never looked back. Becky and senior Shannon Heausler came out of the blocks with a 6, but then posted a series of 2s and 3s for the rest of the day. After 14 races on the first day, the Cougars led the BC Eagles by 47 points.

The second day started with what was becoming the norm for Madison: a postponement. A light breeze finally filled and they were able to finish 6 more races in very marginal conditions. BC came after Shannon and Becky, but the Cougars kept their composure and never let the Eagles put many points on them in any race. Early in the afternoon the breeze died again, and the race committee ran up against the time limit. The Cougars ended up with a 25 point lead over BC, with Allie and Alyssa dominating A-division with only 22 points in 10 races. Shannon and Becky finished fifth in a very close battle in B-division.

The coed team had arrived in Madison in time to watch the final day of women’s racing, which gave them a good preview of what they were in for. After cheering on the women’s team, the coed squad prepared themselves for the three day Team Racing National Championship.

Over the three days of team racing, the race committee made valiant attempts to complete as many races as possible in very trying conditions. There were multiple postponements, abandonments, and re-sails. The sailors kept themselves occupied with games of four-square (the Cougars declared themselves the champions) and bag-o, and trips to “The Daily Scoop” ice cream shop in the student union. The Cougars were seeded in Group 1, and they sailed well to finish 4-2 in the round and moved onto the Gold Round.

Unfortunately their losses to Yale and St. Mary’s carried through to the Gold Round. In the first Gold Round the Cougars pulled off a win against Navy, but lost to Georgetown and BC for a total record of 3-4 in the first Gold Round. But they came out firing on all cylinders in the second round and posted a 5-2 record to put them in a tie with Georgetown for third and earning them a trip to the final four. The final four was going to be an uphill battle for the Cougars against three very strong teams: they had 8 wins to BC’s 10 and St. Mary’s 11. The conditions were still light and extremely marginal, and the Cougars struggled to get the upper hand against their (continued on page 2)
What an amazing year we had in 2009-10. Our success on the water is covered in much greater detail throughout this issue, but to summarize: at the six ICSA national championships, we posted finishes of first (men’s singlehandeds), first (women’s dinghies), third (women’s singlehandeds), fourth (team race), fifth (sloops), and ninth (coed dinghies). We finished second in the Fowle Trophy standings for the year, only two points behind Boston College. And our sailors were honored with a record eight All-American awards for the year, plus a Quantum Women’s Sailor of the Year award to top things off.

Just as importantly, we’ve had a great year as a team off the water. Our team camaraderie was the best it’s been in years, which is a reflection of the strong work ethic, humility, and teamwork displayed by every member of our squad. It was truly a pleasure to go to practice, workouts, and regattas with this group. Also, with the help of a great academic advisor, our GPA is higher than it has been in years. Thanks, Karen! And a big thanks to our outgoing team captains, Cole and Christina, for being great leaders on and off the water. Alyssa and Sam have some big shoes to fill!

Over the summer months, the Cougars have been busy taking advantage of sailing opportunities around the country. They’re getting to sail with some very talented sailors and are learning new types of boats. Several of them are working in New England over the summer and have teamed up with each other (and a few Hoyas) to compete in team racing events. The coaches are looking forward to seeing them all back on campus soon to help welcome the incoming freshman class.

And finally, it’s with much sadness that I now have to say goodbye to you all. I will be moving to Connecticut, getting married in September, and competing as part of the US Sailing Team AlphaGraphics in the women’s match racing discipline for the next couple of years. We hope to represent the US and win gold at the 2012 Olympic Games in London. I have had an incredible journey with the CoC team over the past three years and am honored to have been part of such a dynamic and talented group. I have learned as much from the team as I have taught them, maybe even more. And I’ve made some wonderful friends along the way. I will miss you all very much and will always be a Cougar at heart! Work hard, have fun, be safe, and stay in touch.

– Coach Alice

The coed team at the All-American banquet
Congratulations to our 2009-10 ICSA All-Americans

Alyssa Aitken ’12
Crew All-American

Allie Blecher ’10
Women’s All-American

Zeke Horowitz ’12
Honorable Mention
Coed All-American

Jackson Benvenutti ’11
Honorable Mention
Coed All-American

Shannon Heausler ’10
Women’s All-American

Juan Maegli ’12
Coed All-American

Christina Murray ’10
Crew All-American

Katie Weaver ’10
Crew All-American

Congratulations, Allie Blecher
2010 Quantum Women’s Sailor of the Year

Senior Allie Blecher topped off four great years of college sailing by winning the Quantum Women’s College Sailor of the Year award. After being a finalist last year, Allie had her sights set on the top prize from the beginning of the year.

Along with crews All-American Alyssa Aitken ’12 and Molly O’Neil ’12, Allie posted an impressive record over the past two seasons. Their results included wins at Navy Spring and Charleston, and second place finishes at St. Mary’s, Navy Spring, and the Hoyt coed intersectional. In addition to great dinghy finishes, Allie finished third at the ICSA Women’s Singlehanded Nationals this past fall.

The competition for this award was tight, with Boston College’s Anne Haeger very close to Allie going into nationals. But Allie and Alyssa’s dominant performance at the ICSA Women’s Nationals in Madison, posting only 22 points to Haeger’s 50, eliminated any doubt about who deserved this year’s award.

The award was presented to Allie at the women’s banquet by 2005 recipient and Olympic Gold Medalist Anna Tunnicliffe; it was re-presented at the All-American banquet by Cougar alum and Georgetown assistant coach, the 2006 recipient Alana O’Reilly ’06. Congrats, Allie!
Mendelblatt Team Race
by Perry Emsiek

The College of Charleston sailing team kicked off the spring season on the weekend of February 13-14 with the Frank Mendelblatt Team Race hosted by the University of South Florida and Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida. College of Charleston was represented by Jackson Benvenutti ’11, Juan Maegli ’12, Zeke Horowitz ’12, Christina Murray ’10, Perry Emsiek ’12, and Erin Markee ’10.

For many teams, especially the ones from the Northeast, this weekend was their first time stepping into a boat since the fall season. Fortunately for the Cougars, Charleston has mild winters and sailing can start up the first of February. The team used this factor to their advantage and sailed to a close second overall in the regatta.

The Cougars sailed at Eckerd on Saturday and had a terrific day on the water. After a long lunch break on shore, the teams headed back out to perfect sailing conditions of 10-20 knots. The team went undefeated on day 1, which qualified them for the gold round at USF and they looked forward to another great day of team racing.

Sunday’s forecast called for much lighter winds, dying in the afternoon, and that’s exactly what happened. The teams raced in marginal conditions and the Cougars were 6-0 going into the last race against Yale, who was also 6-0. The wind kept getting lighter and lighter and the Cougars fought hard, but their light air boat handling did not match up. Yale won the regatta 7-0 and College of Charleston came in a close second finishing with a record of 6-1.

SAISA Open
by Chip Swatta

College of Charleston traveled to St. Petersburg, FL on February 20-21 to compete in the SAISA Open, which was hosted by the Eckerd Tritons. Sailing A-division were Chip Swatta ’11 and Alexis Scott ’13. B-division was sailed by Chris Banholzer ’13 and Caroline Warren ’12.

We were graced with beautiful warm weather and clear skies. On both Saturday and Sunday, the wind was light and patchy in the morning with considerable shifts. In the afternoons, the sea breeze came in with a consistent 8-10kts of wind. The Cougars won both A and B divisions and took the win overall.

Bob Bavier Team Race
by Juan Maegli

On February 27-28, the cougars sailed in the Bob Bavier Team Race, which took place in our home waters. On Saturday morning the conditions were not ideal for sailing but nonetheless the Cougars had a very successful day and stood in first place with a record of 7-2. Sailing for the Cougars where Zeke Horowitz ’12 and Erin Markee ’10, Jackson Benvenutti ’11 and Christina Murray ’10, and Juan Maegli ’12 and Katie Weaver ’10. Sammy Stokes ’12 and Alyssa Aitken ’12 were our heavy air crews and they did a great job once the breeze filled in Saturday evening.

The conditions improved on Sunday morning, but the racing was still very difficult because of the amount of cross current throughout the racing area. We definitely took advantage of our local knowledge and cruised to a 5-0 record in the final round.

We were very happy with our result, but being such an early season regatta, there was still a lot of ground for improvement. One thing we learned is that with our good boat speed we can beat any team in college sailing and hopefully the Bob Bavier team race will serve as stepping-stone for our 2010 team racing team!

Charleston Women’s Intersectional
by Sarah Somes

The Charleston Women’s Intersectional on March 6-7 had great racing conditions. The regatta started in a light northerly with a flood tide. After the first two A races the
the day and sailed conservatively in FJs as the breeze from the east at 5-10 knots. The Cougars in the Eckerd Intersectional. The event of March 6-7, where the Cougars competed got to visit sunny Florida for the weekend by Caroline Warren

Eckerd Intersectional
by Caroline Warren

While some of the Cougars traveled to cold weather up north (Annapolis), others got to visit sunny Florida for the weekend of March 6-7, where the Cougars competed in the Eckerd Intersectional. The event started with the sun shining and breeze from the east at 5-10 knots. The Cougars sailed conservatively in FJs as the breeze shifted to the west. The team worked hard to keep focused in the long downwind legs. Cole Allsopp ’11 and Alex Scott ’13 in A-division had many top finishes throughout the day and finished on a high note with a first in the final race.

After a hard day of racing, the Cougars were treated to amazing dinner and fantastic company with the Hall family. The next morning, the sun was shining again and the Cougars were stoked to finish the last three races left in the rotation. The morning started a little slower due to some complications with the houseboat, but the Cougars didn’t mind since the weather was gorgeous. The racing started with the wind out of the east-northeast at 5-10 knots. Andrew Zuber ’11 and Caroline Warren ’12 in B-division had a great morning and finished the event with a second in the final race. The Cougars came in fifth overall. Eckerd ran a great event and could not have ordered better weather for the competitors. Thanks again to the Hall family for the wonderful hospitality.

Graham Hall Team Race
by Ben Spector

The Graham Hall Team Race Regatta was hosted by the US Naval Academy on March 6-7. The Cougars were represented by Coach Nick Ewenson and sailors Kip Watson ’11, Sam Stokes ’12, Perry Em- siek ’12, Sarah Burks ’12, Jeff Aschieris ’13, Mac Mace ’13, Cory DeCollibus ’13, Brooks Clark ’13, and Ben Spector ’13. We had a great mindset throughout the regatta: being one of the youngest teams, we were there to learn.

Saturday presented the 16 teams with sunny skies and 8-12 knots, and 120 races were completed over the day. The umpiring format consisted of having the two coaches of the teams umpire the race, which taught the team valuable lessons about the umpiring system and how to make your issue easier for the umpires to understand while on the water. With help from our great heavy air crews, the team was able to battle through the long day which ended after a re-race against Navy as the sun was departing. After day one we had reached our goal of making the gold division with an 8-8 record, and were ready for more valuable racing.

Day two brought very similar conditions with slightly less breeze. Our team experienced some sickness but we were able to utilize our heavies and press on. Although we didn’t make the final four, we had some great races and beat good teams from Yale and St. Mary’s. We left the regatta in great spirits having gained significantly more experience. Go Cougars!!

Navy Women’s Intersectional
by Alyssa Aitken

The 2010 Navy Spring Women’s Intersectional was a great event with a very wide range of breeze and racing conditions. The original forecast for Saturday called for breeze over 20 knots all day and driving rain. Luckily we did not see as much rain as predicted, and the strong breeze only lasted for two sets in the morning until it completely shut off and shifted about 180 degrees. After the four races with breeze, we headed in for lunch to wait for a light breeze to fill in for afternoon racing. Two races were called off due to significant shifts that made the race course extremely uneven. We finally completed four more races before heading in for a delicious complimentary barbeque organized by the Naval Academy Sailing Squadron! The Cougars ended the day with a strong lead with Allie Blecher ’10 and Alyssa Aitken ’12 sailing A division, and Shannon Heausler ’10, Becky Bestoso ’10, and Molly O’Neil ’12 sailing B division. Our other teammate Deb Ong ’13 was with us as well; and while she came down with a sickness, she was always a great supporter and snarktition the entire weekend!

The racing on Sunday started off with a very light northerly and caused a little bit of a delay while we waited out on the water for a more consistent and steady breeze. We eventually had about 10 knots for two races before lunch. Afterwards we moved the race course into the river to avoid a large fleet of frostbiters who had joined us on the water. The rain held off and we were able to complete all 17 races for the regatta! The Cougars remained consistent and conservative in order to hold off the competition. B division entered the afternoon with a 1 point difference between first, second, and third and in the end the Seahawks got us by one point. As a team the Cougars came out on top and finished with a victory! It was a great weekend overall and an exciting win for the team.
St. Mary’s Team Race
by Cory DeCollihus

The Cougars were represented at the St. Mary’s Team Race by Jackson Benvenuti ‘11, Christina Murray ‘10, Zeke Horowitz ‘12, Erin Markee ‘10, Mac Mace ‘13, Jeff Aschieris ‘13, Brooks Clark ‘13, Sammy Stokes ‘12, and Cory DeCollihus ‘13. The event was hosted out of St. Mary’s gorgeous new facility on the waterfront in St. Mary’s City. Saturday morning was supposed to be the windiest part of the weekend. However, when we arrived the water looked like glass. Nevertheless, we were sent out. The wind was very light with shifty puffs. The Charleston team was able to complete five races on Saturday, and due to extremely light conditions were only able to finish out the final four races of the round on Sunday.

Truxtun Umsted
by Brendan Faria

On the weekend of March 20-21, the Cougars traveled to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland for the Truxtun Umsted Intersectional. Seven members of the Charleston Varsity Sailing Team headed up to the Academy for the regatta. The squad consisted of Juan Maegli ’12 and Katie Weaver ’10 in A-division; Zeke Horowitz ’12 and Erin Markee ’10 in B-division; Erik Bowers ’12 in C-division; Brendan Faria ’13 in D-division; and Sammy Stokes ’12 as a heavy air crew.

Saturday started off with unexpectedly warm weather and a light breeze out of the south. After a short postponement the teams were sent out to sail in the river. For most of the day there was a nice steady breeze of about 7-10 knots and enough current to take into consideration while racing. Toward the end of the day the breeze lightened up and racing ended on good note for all the Cougars.

Sunday brought more of the same conditions except with more chop. We raced out in the channel and faced similar wind directions and speed; however the Cougars struggled a bit at times getting off the starting line and maintaining good boat speed. The race committee got in 19 races which was just one shy of the scheduled 20. Unfortunately they were not able to get off the last start before 1600 hours. After coming in and quickly de-rigging, the Cougars got on the road for the long nine-hour drive home.

The Cougars finished 7th overall in the regatta. We placed 5th in A-division; 11th in B-division; 7th in C-division; and 5th in D-division. Although the result of the weekend was not quite what the Cougars had wanted or set out for, it was a positive experience that highlighted some mistakes and things that needed practice. Racing aside, one of the main events of the trip took place off the water on Saturday night. Team member Erik Bowers ’12 put on quite a show for his fellow teammates by singing a rap song titled “G-Code”. Needless to say it was very amusing and put everyone in good spirits before the final day. Also, a huge thanks to teammate Sammy Stokes ’12 for helping coach and keeping his teammates well equipped with food and gear on the water. Although he did not get the opportunity to sail, his presence was paramount to the Cougars success.

North Points at Tennessee
by Sarah Scudder

On the weekend of March 19, a group of four freshman Cougars headed up and over to Knoxville, Tennessee to sail North Points #3 in JY15’s. The young group was made up of Ben Spector ’13 and Alexis Scott ’13 sailing A-division, and Brooks Clark ’13 and Sarah Scudder ’13 sailing B-division. The opportunity to sail, his presence was paramount to the Cougars success.

St. Mary’s Women’s Intersectional
by Allie Blecher

On March 20-21, the Cougars traveled to the St. Mary’s College of Maryland for the 21st annual St. Mary’s Women’s Intersectional. Greeted with beautiful sunshine and 70 degree weather (instead of the dry-suit-required 30 degree weather St. Mary’s County had to offer last year), the Cougars were excited to sail. The only setback was the lack of breeze. The forecast for both days was nothing more than eight knots and it is debatable whether we ever saw that eight knots. On Saturday, most of the day was spent off the water because of unstable breeze. Towards the end of the day, a not-so-consistent 3-5 knot breeze filled in just enough for four races in each division before the sun went down. Coach Nick Ewenson enjoyed his time spent coaching from a kayak on Saturday and kept the sailors on their toes through all of the waiting around. On Sunday, the breeze filled in more consistently later in the day and allowed for seven more races to be sailed in each division.

Although at times it seemed as if the regatta was never going to happen, St. Mary’s did a wonderful job of keeping the racing fair in the unstable and shifty breeze conditions. After two days of sitting and waiting for breeze and minimal sailing, the Cougars came out on top. With only eleven races in each division, A-division’s Allie Blecher ’10 and Alyssa Aitken ’12 finished second and B-division’s Shannon Heausler ’10 and Becky Bestoso ’10 finished second as well. The Cougars proved that consistency can win a regatta. A big thanks to alternate crew Molly O’Neil for her fantastic support throughout the weekend. Congrats to the Cougars on their second big women’s intersectional win of the spring season!

Seniors Katie Weaver, Becky Bestoso and Christina Murray display their mastery of triple-handed bike riding

The team fought valiantly to finish in the Gold Fleet. But consistent starts, communication and dealing with the tricky conditions proved to be difficult challenges to overcome, and are certainly things the Cougars will continue to concentrate on in the coming months.

Erik Bowers and Sarah Burks hiking hard at practice last spring
The Cougars were able to field three of our own teams to drill against the Rockets and several times we managed to switch up the teams and even get to race with some of the Rockets. Coach Alice and Coach Ward set up some really effective drills as well as some actual races to get a chance to sail the whole course. The weekend proved to be a great success as everyone on the team came away from it having learned something new about team racing, and even with some new friends with whom we look forward to racing in many national team races to come.

Special thanks goes out to the Rockets who took time out of their lives to come down to Charleston and provide us with a great learning experience that we won’t soon forget.

Dellenbaugh Women’s Intersectional
by Becky Bestoso

On Easter weekend women’s team embarked on a journey to the very floodable state of Rhode Island to sail the Dellenbaugh Women’s Intersectional at Brown University. We stayed with the O’Neil family who fed us a fantastic Easter dinner and gave us a great Easter egg hunt! Allie Blecher ’10, Alyssa Aitken ’12, and Molly O’Neil ’12 sailed A-division; and Shannon Haussler ’10, Becky Bestoso ’10, and Deborah Ong ’13 sailed B-division at the event which was held in 420s. The regatta was a great experience for our women’s team since it was the first regatta of the season that had strong breeze. On Saturday it was very windy and everyone on our team got opportunities to sail. Though we are far more comfortable in light conditions, days like these give our team opportunities to gain confidence with our heavy air sailing.

All in all we did well at the event, despite Allie and Molly hitting a “tree” floating in the water and damaging a rudder. We ended up in 4th place overall and are looking forward to the next few weekends.

Southern New England Team Race
by Jackson Benvenuti

The Southern New England Team Racing Regatta (SNETR) was held on Easter weekend, April 3-4. The team of Juan Maegli ‘12, Katie Weaver ‘10, Zeke Horowitz ‘12, Erin Markee ‘10, Christina Murray ‘10, and Jackson Benvenuti ‘11 were fortunate enough to have a direct flight from Charleston to Laguardia airport in New York and were able to avoid much of the travel hassles involved with switching planes especially on a busy travel weekend. Upon arriving in New York, we drove to the Scudder’s residence where we were very kindly greeted by Mrs. Scudder and their dog. After eating an amazing dinner that was waiting on the table for us, we quickly went to bed to prepare for the next day’s racing.

The SNETR is a large enough event that it has to be split up between two separate venues, Coast Guard and Connecticut College. With the two sailing venues right down the river from each other, this format works well. The Cougars found themselves placed at Coast Guard for the first part of the event. A round robin was sailed at each venue to determine which teams would be seeded into the gold and silver divisions. The Cougars sailed extremely well on Saturday, winning nearly every race of the round robin sailed at Coast Guard and easily made it into the gold division. Unfortunately the scores of the first round robins would not carry over.

Later in the afternoon the team travelled up the river to the Connecticut College sailing site and rolled right into what would be the first of two gold fleet round robins of the event. The team continued to sail well, winning every race but two with only one more race to go to finish out the first round.

Sunday did not go as smoothly as Saturday for the Cougars. We lost our first race of the day and the trend continued...
Throughout nearly the entire day. Many lessons were learned and, more importantly, the team held their heads high. They were able to control their emotions, which can quickly take hold of a sailor especially during team racing events. However, redemption was found in the last race of the regatta as the Cougars demonstrated perfect execution of play 4 (a 1-4-5 combination) to defeat the Georgetown Hoyas who went on the win the event.

While the results do now show the strength with which the team sailed, we were fairly happy with the points of greatness that we saw. We also learned a great deal from our failures and mistakes. Certainly we came away from the event a stronger, more mature, and more knowledgeable team. On the trip home everyone was excited for our next event, as we know that we can, and already have, beaten every team out there.

SAISA Dinghy Championship
*by Cory DeCollibus*

The College of Charleston sailed at the SAISA Dinghy Championship at Eckerd College on the weekend of April 10. The Cougars were represented by Zeke Horowitz ‘12, Perry Emsiek ‘12, Mac Mace ‘13 and Cory DeCollibus ‘13. The day started with a strong consistent breeze, but the wind died and become shifty throughout the day. Even though the courses were not always square and there were several break downs, the Cougars were able to have consistent finishes that put them second in the regatta. The hard work paid off and their finish qualified the team for the ICSA Semifinals for fleet racing nationals.

SAISA Team Race Championship
*by Perry Emsiek*

On May 17-18, The College of Charleston hosted the SAISA Team Race. This regatta was the qualifier for Team Race National Championship, which is to be held in Madison, WI at the end of May. Sailing for CoC were Jackson Benvenuti ‘11, Juan Maegli ‘12, Zeke Horowitz ‘12, Katie Weaver ‘10, Erin Markee ‘10, Perry Emsiek ‘10, Sam Stokes ‘12, and Brooks Clark ‘13.

This was a one day event. In the morning, one round robin was sailed in the river but the course was moved to the harbor in the afternoon due to the Blue Angels air show that was in the river. The Cougars finished 14-1, losing to Eckerd in the last round. They won the regatta and earned a qualifying spot for the Team Race Nationals. Go Cougars!

Wick/Shrew Women’s Intersectional
*by Shannon Heausler*

We left the beach weather in Charleston and headed north to a typical New England spring (overcast and rainy). Despite the grim weather the Cougar ladies arrived in good spirits knowing that the event would be less pressure than the past few women’s regattas they had sailed. Many of the top MAISA teams were sailing other events so it was refreshing to see some new faces on the circuit.

The Cougars started strong in both divisions. The hardest part of sailing at the Coast Guard Academy is remaining calm when the wind bounces all over the place. These conditions made for pretty inconsistent finishes across the board. Needless to say, the points between teams were neck and neck the entire weekend.

Tensions rose on shore as coaches became frustrated with their sailors’ decisions. A-division crew Molly O’Neil bore the brunt of coach Alice Manard’s frustration during one rotation. Her bruise has since diminished and the swelling went down quickly after. [Editor’s note: This incident has been grossly exaggerated by the author; Coach Manard was a study in composure for the entire event and would certainly never assault her team (unless they really deserved it).]

Despite the challenging oscillating breeze, the Cougars demonstrated their outstanding patience and ability to maintain leverage on the course. These strategies proved to be helpful tricks for the weekend.

In B-division, Shannon Heausler ‘10 and Becky Bestoso ‘10 were quite pleased to average below four points and win their division. Allie Blecher ‘10 and Alyssa Aitken ‘12 managed a 3rd place finish in a very close A-division. It was good for the Cougars to come away with one last victory before we sailed our district qualifiers in Florida the following weekend.

Thompson Trophy
*by Katie Weaver*

The 2010 Thompson Trophy was hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard Academy on April 24 and 25. Conditions throughout the weekend were extremely shifty with strong current making it very easy to have major gains and losses from race to race. Races were sailed in both 420’s and FJ’s...
with A-division starting in 420’s and B-division in FJ’s. All courses were W-4’s with a windward offset and leeward gates lasting around twenty minutes.

Eighteen teams sailed at this event including the Roger Williams Hawks who beat the Cougars by just nine points to take the event. Other schools at the event included St. Mary’s College of Maryland, Boston College, Harvard University and Hobart and William Smith.

Sailing for the Cougars were Juan Maegli ’12 and Katie Weaver ’10 in A-division, and Zeke Horowitz ’12 and Erin Markee ’10 in B-Division. The Cougar sailors finished third in A-division with 89 points over thirteen races and second in B-division with 82 points.

The Cougar sailors gained experience in extremely shifty conditions at this regatta as well as experience starting against tough teams. It was a successful weekend and great practice leading up to the national semifinals.

Admiral’s Cup
by Christina Murray

The trip to New York for the Admiral’s Cup at Kings Point started off with a long and very sweaty hour delay on the Charleston Airport runway with no AC on the plane. But we quickly recovered and were on our way.

Jackson Benvenutti ’11 and Christina Murray ’10 started out in A-division on Saturday morning drifting around the East River. Racing was then postponed until 2:45. After a very warm day, the temperature dropped and the breeze picked up for a solid 9 races. Mac Mace ’13 and Cory DeCollibus ‘13 sailed B-division and Eric Bowers sailed C-division in a laser. The conditions were breezy and shifty with the current flowing up the course.

The Second day started out with rain and light winds. It was again shifty and stayed between 2 and 8 knots. 9 races were run on Sunday. Trapezoid courses were run on both days. Hobart and William Smith won the regatta, while the Charleston Cougars took second place overall!

SAISA Women’s Championship
by Molly O’Neil

On the last weekend of April, the women’s team travelled to USF in St. Petersburg, Florida for SAISA Women’s Championship. Alumni Meagan Riddle ’08 accompanied the girls to the one-day event. With an 8 o’clock report time and already strong winds about 16-20 knots and gusts of 25 out of the south-southwest, the girls were excited to get out on the water and race! The fleet was small with only five teams competing. The winner of the regatta would receive an automatic berth to the ICSA Women’s National Championship final, and the next three teams would qualify for the ICSA Women’s National Championship Semifinal in Wisconsin.

Due to the windy conditions after one on the water boat rotation the race committee decided not to jeopardize the condition of their boats, so they did not do further rotations. Several capsizes occurred but the Cougars kept their boats up and moving quickly around the modified windward leeward courses. Strong winds and lots of chop made the girls work hard each race. All day Eckerd and Charleston competed for the win and after ten races in each fleet the teams were tied for first place. After a tie breaker the Cougars finished second and qualified for the national semifinals. Allie Bleecher ’10 and Molly O’Neil ’12 finished first in A-division and Shannon Heulser ’10 and Deb Ong ’13 finished second in B-division.

ICSA National Semifinals

On May 1-2, the College of Charleston hosted the ICSA National Championship Eastern Semifinal, the first round of the coed national championship. 18 teams from across the country were treated to spectacular conditions all weekend. Under sunny skies with temperatures in the 80’s, the teams battled for 9 of the 18 berths to the National Championship Finals in Madison, WI. The Western Semifinal was held over the same weekend in Seattle, WA, where they experienced light wind and heavy rain. Competitors in Charleston were also treated to a dinner in the Hospitality Suite at the Carolina First Arena on Saturday night.

The Cooper River gave us a range of conditions over the two days, with each morning starting out with a moderate southerly that built to 12-18 knots by the end of the day. The Cougars utilized a range of crews to match the conditions, and were well represented on the home field by Juan Maegli ’12, Katie Weaver ’10, and Alyssa Aitken ’12 in A-division and Jackson Benvenutti ’11, Christina Murray ’10, Becky Bestoso ’10, and Sam Stokes ’12 in B-division. Boston College showed their strength in the breeze and won the event decisively. The Cougars sailed a great regatta and came on strong on Sunday to take second place overall, edging out the Georgetown Hoyas in the last set. A great team effort!
College of Charleston Sailing Team
Fall 2010 Schedule

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<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9/11-12</td>
<td>Charleston Open</td>
<td>College of Charleston, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Harry Anderson</td>
<td>Yale - New Haven, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/18-19</td>
<td>Hatch Brown Intersectional</td>
<td>MIT/Boston University - Boston, MA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nevins Trophy</td>
<td>Kings Point, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Points #2 (Saturday only)</td>
<td>U of Tennessee - Knoxville, TN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9/25-26</td>
<td>St. Mary’s Intersectional</td>
<td>St. Mary’s College, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAISA Women’s Championships *</td>
<td>USF/Eckerd - St. Petersburg, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>North Points #3 (Saturday only)</td>
<td>Clemson - Clemson, SC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/2-3</td>
<td><strong>T.S. Stern Sloop Match Race</strong></td>
<td>College of Charleston, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Danmark Trophy</td>
<td>Coast Guard - New London, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/9-10</td>
<td>Navy Fall Women’s Intersectional</td>
<td>Navy - Annapolis, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SAISA Sloop Championships *</td>
<td>St. Petersburg Yacht Club, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Moody Trophy</td>
<td>URI - Wakefield, RI</td>
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<td>North Points #4 (Saturday only)</td>
<td>UNC/W - Wilmington, NC</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/16-17</td>
<td>Yale Women’s Intersectional</td>
<td>Yale - Branford, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Captain Hurst Bowl</td>
<td>Navy - Annapolis, MD</td>
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<td></td>
<td>North Points #5 (Saturday only)</td>
<td>Dartmouth - Hanover, NH</td>
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<tr>
<td>10/23-24</td>
<td><strong>SAISA Men’s Singlehanded Championship</strong></td>
<td>College of Charleston, SC</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hoyt Trophy</td>
<td>Brown University - Providence, RI</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stu Nelson Women’s Intersectional</td>
<td>Conn. College - New London, CT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10/30-31</td>
<td><strong>SAISA Fall Dinghy Championship</strong></td>
<td>Eckerd - St. Petersburg, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Victorian Um Regatta</td>
<td>Harvard - Boston, MA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/5-7</td>
<td>ICSA Singlehanded National Championships **</td>
<td>USF - St. Petersburg, FL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11/6-7</td>
<td><strong>SAISA/MAISA</strong></td>
<td>College of Charleston, SC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Freshman Intersectional</td>
<td>Conn. College - New London, CT</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/13-14</td>
<td>Co-ed Atlantic Coast Championship **</td>
<td>Navy - Annapolis, MD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women’s Atlantic Coast Championship **</td>
<td>Eckerd - St. Petersburg, FL</td>
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<tr>
<td>11/19-21</td>
<td>ICSA Sloop National Championship**</td>
<td>Seawanhaka YC/Kings Point, NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/8-9/11</td>
<td>Rose Bowl Intersectional</td>
<td>USC - Long Beach, CA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* = qualifier for national championship  ** = qualified only
-Home regattas are in **bold**; please come out and support the team
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF COLLEGE OF CHARLESTON SAILING

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Mrs. Terri Boley  Mr. Frank Hefner  Mr. Walter Pringle
Mr. and Mrs. Mark Bowers  Mr. Peter Hyndman  Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Scott
Mrs. Debra Davis  Dr. Thomas Kays  Mr. and Mrs. Jon Somes
Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeMayo  Mrs. Diane Leib  Mr. Chris Thornton
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Emsieke  Mr. Joe Markee  Mr. Michael Wilson
Mr. and Mrs. Dan Faria

THANK YOU for housing and feeding us!

The Beigels  Graham Hall Team Race  The Horowitzes  Mendelblatt Team Race
Navy Women’s  The Scudders  SAISA Dinghy Champs  SNETR
Truxtun Umsted  The Stokes  Admiral’s Cup  SAISA/MAISA
The Maguires  Wick-Shrew Women’s  Thompson Trophy  Dellenbaugh Women’s
Thompson Trophy  The O’Neils  Ferrarone Team Race
The Halls  USF Women’s  The Farias
Eckerd Intersectional  The Farias
The Heauslers  SAISA Women’s Champs

The Cougar Current
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