



## Newsletter Update – April 2011

Save the Date – May 7<sup>th</sup> – Annual Alumni Game & Festivities

### Making Connections

By David Ostman

As usual I am looking for ways to keep the undergraduates and alumni groups connected, and this spring will continue to provide some good opportunities to do just that.

The 6 Nations European Rugby Tournament just wrapped up in mid-March, which was a great excuse to gather some folks together to watch some quality Rugby (Italy being the exception) and socialize with friends and teammates. A few alumni recently gathered at the Green Briar Pub in Boston to watch England rock France, 17-9.

We are very excited that the undergraduates will be hosting the first on-campus home match that we've seen in a long time this spring, not to mention that it will be played on the Men's Soccer field! What a wonderful opportunity the team will have to showcase not only their talent but the relationship they've continued to build with the school and administration. For once, the Wheaton fans won't have to pile into a car and drive to a home game. We look forward to producing a good group of alumni to attend the epic event on April 10. It will also be great to know the rest of the spring schedule so that any alumni in the area could come and show support for the team.

The annual Wheaton Alumni Reunion weekend is coming up in a few months where many of us look forward to dusting off and strapping on the old boots to play in the highly anticipated rugby match against the undergrads. During this weekend, we will also be making another official donation to the Wheaton Rugby Archive Collection (WRAC) on campus. Let me know if you have any items you are willing to part with to be donated (please, no more jockstraps).

A nice advantage of being involved with the team, amongst many others, is the ability for undergrads, especially graduating seniors, to reap the benefits of having alumni support with finding potential jobs post-Wheaton. One such case this past year was Josh Gilpatrick '10 who was integral in helping his fellow classmate and teammate, Matt Veilleux '10, get a job with the company, IDEXX, where Josh was already working.

Veilleux, who now works at IDEXX, explains it like this:

"I was looking for a job in Maine. Josh had previously been hired by IDEXX and recommended I apply there. He had already made such a good impression that the management here was clearly impressed that I also had a Wheaton education, and it was obvious during the interview. Basically he paved the way for me."

Before Veilleux started at IDEXX, Matt Monks '05 was instrumental in getting Veilleux an interview at the company where Monks had been working in Boston- CSN Stores. He also reviewed resumes and cover letters for a couple of other fellow ruggers to help tailor them to the way CSN hiring managers would want them to appear.

It's always great hearing stories of ruggers helping fellow ruggers, and I hope they'll be many more to come.

Lastly, we are constantly updating alumni and undergraduate contact information, so please keep me informed of any changes to your address, phone number, e-mail, job status, etc.... I hope to have these spreadsheets accessible on our [website](http://www.wcrau.org) soon.



### **Thank You for your Continued Support of WRAU – the road is long but the journey is worthwhile!**

#### **Pushing the Scrum**

By: Scott St. Onge 1999

It was heartening to learn that the college is taking steps to clarify the role of athletics on campus. Although part of a bigger picture, rugby has the potential to prosper from this discussion. Since our existence we have proudly carried on by making due.

Our quest to endow the club was completed last year and the logical next step for us as an organization is to find a suitable field to call the Rugby Field. Though we have had many exploratory conversations with Wheaton staff and friends over the years, the issue has garnered steam since Lee Williams, the Dean of Students, took over the corner office in Park Hall. Field space is at a premium and the college must act to satisfy league mandated requirements as well as meet the needs of an evolving student population. The league piece is fairly simple: the field hockey team needs a turf field. Opposing teams have refused to play on the current field, and the squad has resorted to using an off-campus facility for "Home" games. In order to meet NEWMAC requirements, Wheaton will need to build a turf field in the immediate future.

The student population at Wheaton has also evolved. Once a school relying on NCAA sanctioned athletics to provide an outlet for students, Wheaton now realizes the need for other athletic organizations. In other words, club sports and intramurals have become very popular. The advance of club level activities is critical. The landscape has changed dramatically over the years; a group that originally included just hockey, rugby, and Frisbee now includes soccer, field hockey, and lacrosse. Wheaton has engaged a campus-wide conversation about athletics and its role in a robust education. Our undergraduate leadership has participated in this conversation with every level of leadership at Wheaton, including President Crutcher. The role of these clubs cannot be underestimated. The camaraderie and enjoyment experienced are key ingredients of the Wheaton experience and for some, a reason to stay at Wheaton.

We will keep alumni updated on the progress we share. We have been active in these conversations and are well represented within the institution. Club President Cameron Stewart continues to impress with his contemplative approach on campus. Additionally, our leader Andy Lounder also keeps in contact with Dean Williams, and Ben Berkowitz and I also represent rugby on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. We will encourage Wheaton to find and fund a space for rugby in the near future. A few options exist and we will keep you posted where this is headed, but for now it is most important that we display a united front of active and engaged alumni.

This leads us to the next phase of our evolution as a Union. Having wrapped up the endowment this past spring we are now moving into Phase 2 of our growth. Make no mistake, the hallmarks and work of Phase 1 will continue but the outcomes might vary. As I move into the Chairmanship I anticipate continued steady growth.

**Elections this Spring!**  
**Make sure your voice is counted and get involved...**



Wheaton is in the process of an open on-campus dialogue about Athletics on campus in partly due to the popularity of Club Sports.



### Pushing the Scrum (Continued)

On the engagement front, we should continue to provide networking assistance and mentoring to current students. Underlying our importance as a Union are the relationships we develop with one another, which means fostering a sense of community and helping our fellow rugger.

Ideally, Andy will still play a critical role working with Wheaton. Given his expertise of Wheaton and educational institutions, we are well-situated on this front. He enjoys a stellar relationship with every office in Norton. Couple Andy's knowledge with our growing presence within the school's Alumni network and leadership, and our voice will grow. We are always looking for more inroads and this is an area where the more people we have involved the better.

The last few years have been monumental in terms of fundraising. Our completion of the endowment is a success story that cannot be understated. This legitimized our group, brought us together for a common goal, and created stakeholders from Madrid to Los Angeles and Toronto to Caracas. We now must enact successful strategies to keep the ball moving. The endowment campaign was much like an initial capital campaign established to achieve a particular purpose. As we transition out of this campaign, I would like to develop a more formalized "membership" system so people do not feel the need to stretch so far year in and year out. In the past we discussed a tiered system for addressing costs and fundraising. I think this is a good approach but would enjoy hearing what our members think. In a tiered "membership" system, we would ask members to contribute based on their graduation date, with the belief that older alumni could contribute more funds due to being established in the workplace. So instead of a big push it is a gradual climb. For instance, if we asked for a \$5 contribution for every year since graduation and everybody contributed we would raise in the neighborhood of \$3,000 this year, and if we followed this model year after year the numbers would only rise. There are other issues in play, including our ongoing field dialogue, but this is what I am thinking and I certainly encourage your thoughts on the matter.

Overall, we are in a unique position and have a great deal of potential. The Union should focus on three critical growth areas in the coming years. First, continued and increased involvement and networks with students and within our group is a key piece of our fabric and charge. Second, we need to pursue strategies to be active and vibrant members within the Wheaton community, including but not limited to involvement in school Alumni activities, dialogue, and support of the Wheaton Fund (full disclosure I am the Co-Chair of the Wheaton Fund as well). This way we can give an amplified voice to our feeling that rugby is an essential activity on campus and a reason why people enroll and ultimately remain at Wheaton. Third, we need to maintain the fundraising momentum, become less reliant on the "old guard" of donors, and develop the next generation of leaders and funders.



### Schedule for Alumni Weekend

#### May 7, 2011

- Semi-Annual Wheaton Rugby Union meeting
  - o Location: TBD
  - o Time: 10:00am
- Warm-Ups and Stretch
  - o Location: Mansfield High School
  - o Time: 11:45pm
- Seventh Annual Alumni Men's Rugby Game
  - o Location: Mansfield High School
  - o Time: 1:00pm
- Traditional Meet-up at Trinity Bar & Grill
  - o Location: Trinity Bar & Grill
  - o Time: 3:30pm
- After Party for Wheaton Rugby
  - o Location: Big City, 138 Brighton Ave, Allston, MA
  - o Time: 6:00pm
- And the party rolls on
  - o Location: Harper's Ferry, directly across from Big City on Brighton Ave.



**Special Thanks to our Editor and Chief Rich Gubitosi for his work on the Newsletter. We are always looking for assistance so if interested please contact Jon Berkowitz.**

#### News and Notes

Look for Wheaton Rugby to be mentioned in the next Wheaton Quarterly Issue. The article was written last fall during Homecoming and we were happy to contribute photos from the event.

If you are around Norton stop by Wheaton on April 10 to see the first on-campus full-side game ever. A big thank you to Dean Williams for making this dream a reality and let's hope the Wheaton lads produce a W.

A buzzword on campus is application – the rugby boys have taken it to heart by recruiting in local high schools which is fantastic news. You too can share in the effort by suggesting prospective students consider Wheaton.



### Reflections from the Outgoing Chairman

By: Andy Louder

Gentlemen,

It is a strange, new experience for me to write an end-of-term letter. It seems like just a short time ago that I was sitting in a Meneely classroom on a July day hammering out a first draft of our constitution with Scott St. Onge, Mark Halbach, Yot Saeteng, Allastair Meffen, and Pat Gillespie. That was almost five years ago. This May, per that constitution, the responsibilities of Chairman of the Rugby Alumni Union will pass to Stonge, and those of the Vice-Chair will pass to Allastair Meffen. We will thank Patrick Bardsley for four years of insightful and generous service as Post-Chair, and I will move into that role. As anyone at all paying attention for the past five years knows, Stonge has been an integral partner in all major decisions that relate to my official duties since the very beginning. Given his exemplary level of service and commitment it would be ludicrous for me to offer greater assurances of his preparedness or capability than he has already demonstrated by his own actions. Stonge is poised to build upon the foundation we have built together and lead the union into its next exciting evolution. Additionally, Allastair has proven himself a mainstay on our board, where for the past four years he has been responsible for all of the planning and execution of "assembly and reunion" events, especially homecoming and the alumni game. His masterful work in these areas, his first-hand understanding of the structure and culture of the board of directors since its inception, and his own demonstrations of reliability and dedication speak to the great value that Allastair's leadership will provide. Like Stonge, Allastair has made the ultimate commitment to our group, of no less than twelve years of service at the executive level (four as Vice-Chair, four as Chair, and four as Post-Chair).

Looking back, our group has accomplished some remarkable things since 2006. First, we formed. It seems simple enough, but no other group at our college has ever even gotten that far. I credit three drivers of our success in that area: (1) the clear and legitimate needs of the rugby program at Wheaton, which would not otherwise have been met, (2) the initiative of a dozen or so individuals who did the leg work in creating an organizational structure and establishing working relationships within the college, and most importantly (3) the strength of all of our friendships from well before the union was even conceived, which promised that if a few of us led, then others would follow.

We went on to outline goals for our group that built off of our mission statement. This short, guiding paragraph is meant to be instructive for us all in perpetuity, so I think it is worth inserting here:

The Wheaton College Men's Rugby Alumni Association is a membership organization whose mission is:

to establish lifelong connections among alumni and current members of the Wheaton Men's Rugby Club, as well as the friends and families that have supported and continue to support that organization in its development;

to advocate academic and co-curricular educational excellence;

to foster values of leadership, community, responsibility, and commitment among all members, while encouraging a collective sense of pride and achievement; and

to contribute to the future development of Wheaton College through patronage of the Wheaton Men's Rugby Club.



### Reflections (Continued)

In keeping with this mission, we established: (1) well-attended, semi-annual alumni events at Wheaton, (2) an array of social events in places like Boston, DC, and New Hampshire, (3) strong advisory support and cooperative ties to the Men's Rugby Club, (4) high-functioning relationships with key college administrators, (5) our first major fundraising campaign, (6) a network for job postings, career advice, and housing assistance, and (7) a useful website and customary avenues for sharing information, stories, and news ([www.wcrau.org](http://www.wcrau.org)). Of course, one of the most visible signs of our success came nearly one year ago, when President Crutcher himself addressed our group in a private ceremony to endow the undergraduate club budget.

These accomplishments belong to all of us. I take pride in my work as Chairman during this period, and I take pride in the work of my collaborators, both on and off of the board of directors. In fact, I have a strong sense that my greatest contribution to the RAU to date has been to nurture a cultural preference for inclusive leadership, not because I had hoped to displace the responsibilities of my role but because I recognize that our abilities as a group exceed mine as an individual.

In that vein, I am convinced that we can continue to increase leadership activity among our members moving forward, and I am equally convinced that this effort will be critical to our successes building upon our accomplishments to date. The fact is that while the board has done a fine job envisioning a future for the RAU, has provided strategic direction, and has been populated by generous individuals with respect to both time and money, the capacity of that small group to execute a vast array of initiatives is decidedly finite. The contributions of a handful of members outside of the board, such as Ben Sloan, Fred Getman, Jay Wright, Matt Monks, Keith McGinley, and others have shown us what we hope will be merely the tip of the iceberg regarding committee membership and broad-based volunteerism.

I do not wish to suggest that I regret any of our good work during my term as Chairman, but I do feel that a regrettable side-effect of focusing so intensely on our important financial goals is that it took focus away from establishing a more extensive base of volunteers. Now, one year rested from the immense success of our endowment project, we can all plan to return to a comfortable, sustainable level of fundraising. I also take the opportunity of this moment in our history to generate a call to arms. Those who have an interest in contributing some amount of time to ongoing committee work or to the execution of a one-off initiative should see this as a chance get involved. We need your help to bring this group beyond its infancy. Speak with any of the board members you like, and discuss with them: what we are doing, what we could be doing, and how you might contribute.

It has been a labor of love to serve as your Chairman, and I look forward to continuing my service as Post-Chair. If I can be credited with good leadership, it is only because you chose to follow. Thank you for sharing your belief in our group and your inspirational hopes and dreams for its future with me over these past four years. Let's make the next four even better.

#### Board of Directors 2009-2011

Andrew Lounder – Chairman

Patrick Bardsley – Post Chairman

Yot Saeteng – Director, Social Development

David Ostman – Director, Club Relations

Diego Herrera – Director At-Large

Scott St. Onge – Vice Chairman

Allastair Meffen – Director, Assembly & Reunion

Jon Berkowitz – Director, Communications

Jared Rudnick – Director At-Large

Cameron Stewart – Club President



## Nominations for 2011 Board of Directors Elections

By Andy Lounder

It's that time again! This May we will have our second set of board elections since the inception of the RAU (two-year cycles), and we will have our first Vice-Chair election in that time (four-year cycles). At the end of April (one week ahead of the spring open meeting election process), Stonge and I will call for nominations to the positions described below. I have added the names of those running for reelection, as well. Please consider running, and please also begin to think about your votes. Nominees will in many cases begin sending out brief notes to the group regarding their candidacy in the weeks leading up to the elections. Additional information or questions can be directed to those mentioned or as always Andy or Stonge, at [andrewlounder@gmail.com](mailto:andrewlounder@gmail.com) or [scottstonge@gmail.com](mailto:scottstonge@gmail.com).

### **Committee Chairs**

Assembly and Reunion (no incumbent):

Allastair Meffen, '02 has chosen to vacate this position in order to pursue the Vice-Chair role. The job responsibilities focus primarily upon organizing the two primary events of the year: alumni game and homecoming. This requires liaising with Wheaton and negotiating with external vendors in order to make a multi-faceted, multi-site event come off without a hitch. Questions can be directed to Allastair, at [ameffen@imprivata.com](mailto:ameffen@imprivata.com).

Club Relations (Dave Ostman, '08 is incumbent):

The club relations role provides us with a formal link to the Men's Rugby Club. In the big picture, the position exists to make sure that we are helping the students in the most effective ways possible. Day to day, it requires frequent contact with club leaders, including the provision of advice to students and the relay of information, both to and from the students. In his tenure in this position, Dave has also taken on the networking project as his own. Questions can be directed to Dave, at [dc.ostman@gmail.com](mailto:dc.ostman@gmail.com).

Social Development (Yot Saeteng, '02 is incumbent):

The person in charge of social development is responsible for arranging gatherings outside of the two big campus-based gatherings. On one hand, it doesn't take much to send out an email and encourage people to meet up. On the other, it requires that you have good ideas for getting people together and that you can team up with others to make sure there's decent attendance and a good time is had. Questions can be directed to Yot, at [yot.saeteng@gmail.com](mailto:yot.saeteng@gmail.com).

Communications (Jon Berkowitz, '03 is incumbent):

The communications role focuses on web and print-based information. Jon has primarily concerned himself with the construction of the new RAU website during his tenure, and the board envisions that site being useful in myriad ways moving forward. Questions can be directed to Jon, at [jnberkowitz@gmail.com](mailto:jnberkowitz@gmail.com).



### Nominations for 2011 Board of Directors Elections (Continued)

#### At-Large Members

Position #1 (no incumbent; Patrick Bardsley, '99 is nominated)

Position #2 (Jared Rudnick, '01 is incumbent)

Both At-large board positions are exactly the same. These individuals are responsible first and foremost for contributing to major board decisions, and they are also called upon to assist the efforts of the Committee Chairs. Questions can be directed to Jared, at [jaredrudnick@hotmail.com](mailto:jaredrudnick@hotmail.com).

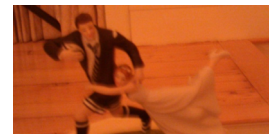
#### Vice-Chair

The way our constitution works, nominees for Vice-Chair must come out of the Board of Directors. The board has been in discussion for over a year regarding potential nominees, and several members have showed interest toward the future, but Allastair Meffen is the only person who has decided to run in this cycle. The responsibilities are significant in that the Vice-Chair commits to twelve years of service at the executive level (four as Vice-Chair, four as Chair, and four as Post-Chair).

Please note that none of these positions operates entirely independently from the group. Board members have built a strong tradition of cooperation and a sharing of expertise in recent years. Additionally, all members of the board of directors are involved in major decisions. Looking forward to elections!

#### “If I Was the Marrying Kind...”

By: Andy Lounder



As a bunch of 20 and 30-somethings, it should be no wonder that many of us are getting hitched and making families. It's important that we celebrate these major life events by welcoming the additions to our individual families into the Wheaton Rugby fold, too. Without further ado, here's the happy news, in rough chronological order. Todd Carlson, '04 now has a beautiful, nearly one year old daughter, Charlotte. Chris Cote '04 and wife, Sarah welcomed a daughter of their own, Lilly, last August. Filling out the happy hat trick of rugby births this past year, Shawn Thibeault '01 and his wife, Liz welcomed daughter, Reese in December. Last August, Ben Berkowitz, '00 exchanged vows with his wife, Jessica. Mark Halbach '08 wed longtime sweetheart and perennial rugby supporter, Colleen last fall (a number of Wheaton ruggers were in attendance, including Dave Ostman '08, Morgan Jennings '08, Trevor Paul '08, and me). The picture here is of their wedding topper, taken with my cell phone. I should also say that Wheaton rugby featured prominently in the slideshow at the reception, to massive cheers from the young, roguishly good-looking group in the back. This past November, Scott St. Onge, '99 popped the question to his special lady, Lauren, and they are to be wed in our nation's capital this August. In December, Keith McGinley, '05 proposed to his girl, Stephanie. Finally, after three years of engagement I will finally say “I do” myself, on May 29, in Bermuda. Let's try and avoid any unseemly injuries over Alumni Game weekend, shall we?