

Telltales December 2019

Hi, alumni!

My name is Kieran McMahon and I am Virginia Sailing's first-ever Alumni Engagement Coordinator! We know you might not have heard from us in awhile, but we are working hard to make sure alumni can stay involved- we have lots of exciting events and opportunities coming up!

In this edition of Telltales, we outline what we've been up to this past semester, let you know how to receive more information, and tell you about our newest fundraising initiatives!



Sailors Kat Catallo ('20) and Elizabeth Harrington ('22).

Racing

This past semester, we competed in six regattas, including The Webb, MAISA Women's Fall, and The Luce. We also placed second in The Kingsmill Cup at William and Mary! One of our long-term goals is adding depth and skill to the race team. This semester, we added 14 new racers, and started implementing an alumni coaching program- more on that later!

In October, we hosted our annual regatta, The Jefferson Cup at Lake Anna. Six teams came to compete, and UVA came in first place! Several alumni came back to help out, including Alexander Singh ('19), Emma McPhail-Snyder ('19), Ian Palmer ('19), and Sam Patterson ('16), who was the PRO for the event (all pictured below). Eliza Schuett ('16) and Boo Devanny ('17) also came. We'd love to see you at Jeff Cup in the future!



Social

We hosted many events for our social and racing members, which included pumpkin carving and a scavenger hunt around Grounds, as well as our Semi Formal at FIG! We also increased membership by 55% this semester!

Our new Board of Officers

In November, the club elected Helen Bechler ('22) as Commodore, Elizabeth Harrington ('22) as Vice Commodore, Kieran McMahon ('22) as Alumni Engagement Coordinator, Caroline O'Keefe ('21) as Treasurer, Braeton Olivier ('23) and Sam Schwarz ('23) as Fleet Captains, Emma Sullivan ('23) as Racing Manager, Gardiner McGuire ('23) and Christian Gynn ('21) as Social Chairs, and Zoe Apsel ('23) as Technical Manager.

We have lots of things planned for this upcoming year! All of us are pictured below.



Staying involved and keeping in touch

We'd love for you to keep in touch with us as the team grows! Alumni involvement is crucial to our sustainability and development, both as a club and a race team.

Here is an overview of the ways we envision alumni like you staying involved:

- Alumni coaching at regattas (this past semester, Eliza Schuett ('16) coached our women's team at MAISA Women's Fall!) and at coaching clinics
- Participation in our **NEW** alumni regatta (planned for Fall 2020!)
- Reunion events in Charlottesville (FIG cocktail hours, Sailgates, etc.)

- Subscription to Telltales, this newsletter, to provide updates on what we are up to
- Hosting our sailors for regattas near your home

Please fill out [this form](#) so we can input your current contact information and so you can tell us what type of news you'd like to receive!

Fundraising

We've also been busy outlining fundraising goals for the future. Our goal by Fall 2020 is \$25,000 to refurbish our fleet of FJs, replace leaky drysuits, and repair our three motorboats. We have several events and initiatives on deck, including a dinosaur nugget fundraiser on the Corner, a fundraising calendar, and swag sales! Check the swag out [here](#).

Right now, we are in the middle of a holiday fundraising campaign! Please check out our letter below and consider Virginia Sailing when in the spirit of giving this holiday season. You can also donate directly through [this link](#). We thank you in advance for your support!

Thank you

Thank you for your past involvement in the team, and we cannot wait to keep you involved in the future. Be sure to check out [our swag](#) and [holiday fundraising letter](#), and make sure you fill out [this form](#) so we can stay in touch. Have a great holiday season, and I look forward to being in touch. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to respond to this email!

Thanks,

Kieran McMahan

