



# THE GAIN LINE

## MURFC Alumni Association

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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#### DIRECTOR

*Michael Coco, '97*

#### DIRECTOR

*Craig Scheiderer, '97*

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### COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

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#### COMMUNICATIONS

*Toby Edison, '92*

#### AUDIT

*Gary Squire, '96*

#### SCHOLARSHIP

*Sean Michael Edwards*

#### FUNDRAISING

(TBD)

#### EVENTS

(TBD)

## 2002 MURFC SCHOLARSHIP AND AWARDS BANQUETTE

On December 7th, 2002 the Miami University Rugby Football Club held its first ever season end scholarship and awards banquet. The event brought together not only the team, but alumni, friends and family of the club.

The night marked the first presentation of two annual scholarships organized by the Alumni Association for club players. Ryan S. Rybka and Thomas Q. Campbell were the inaugural recipients of the Memorial Scholarships presented in honor of Doug Edwards. Both men were selected from a pool of outstanding candidates and continue to set a distinct example for future leaders of the club.

The scholarships have been designed and supported by the MURFC-AA to be presented on an annual basis. Criteria

makes all sophomore and junior members with two semesters of participation with the club eligible for consideration. Applications are submitted to the Scholarship Committee in the Spring who review candidates for presentation in the Fall during the Old Boys Awards Ceremony.

Other awards of the evening included a special presentation to Coach Kevin Kittredge (Associate Professor of Chemistry, Miami University) and Coach Jared Moore (1998) for their continued efforts through this past season.

Player awards also took center stage during the evening. Past traditions were rekindled as well with the passing of the "Band Hat" to Eric (Shuffles) Van Wagoner and the Pillsbury Dough Boy found a new home with Nick McCauley. Special thanks for the



evening goes to Barb Edwards who hosted the event at her home, and went above and beyond in her hospitality. Bill Griffith and his crew did a phenomenal job cooking for the 75-plus people in attendance, and we could not have had the success we shared with out all of them.

This year's scholarship presentation will be held during the 35th annual Old Boys weekend where the MURFC-AA will again be presenting two scholarship awards.

### KEVIN KITTREDGE: MURFC HEAD COACH

In the fall of 2002 Miami University welcomed the addition of Kevin Kittredge to its rugby family. An Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Miami University, Kevin was also an Old Boy of Illinois-Champaign looking to continue his connection with the sport. After university Kevin played with various men's clubs around southern Califor-

nia from 1988-98, highlighting his play with Fresno Men's Club and the Monterey Rebels. He and his wife Marina Canepa Kittredge, were married in June of 2000 and moved to the Oxford area in 2001, where she is also an Assistant Professor of Chemistry. It was a perfect match when Kevin offered his skills and took on the position of

Head Coach for the Miami Men's Rugby Football Club in 2002.

With a successful year under his belt, and building upon experience and support, Kevin is eagerly looking forward to another promising year at the helm and carrying on the tradition of the "Cradle of Coaches".

**BUILDING TOWARDS THE FUTURE.**

The momentum created behind the scenes of Miami Rugby through out the past year has been nothing short of phenomenal. Aside from surpassing our initial financial goals for 2002, we followed through on our mission to give directly back to the club with the gift of two scholarships this past December, and we have successfully positioned our efforts to build towards a bright future for Miami Rugby. A much deserved thank you goes out to each and every member of the Alumni who has sought to continually give back to the club.

As we look forward to the goals of this year, one of the biggest is building on the incredible turn out of our Old Boys' Weekend of 2002. This year the Miami University Rugby Football Club will be celebrating it's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniver-

sary. Aside from successfully defending our ownership of "Mr. Ball" in the annual game, we look forward to a bigger and more successful return to Oxford this September.

Old Boys' Weekend 2003 will mark a pivotal year both for the Club and the Alumni Association. Starting later this Summer we will begin our recruitment once again for individuals wishing to assist in the set up and success of the weekend. Anyone interested in offering their services to any of the vacant committee positions, please contact Michael Coco or Craig Scheiderer.

Building upon the strong foundation generously provided by the Alumni, the MURFC-AA has taken impressive strides over the past year to insure a vibrant future for both the

university club as well as the returning Old Boys. In July of 2003, the MURFC-AA received approval of it's 501( C ) 3 application granting us tax exempt status from the IRS. Combining this with the investment of our capital endowment has secured the perpetuation of our two annual scholarships for university club players. It has also served to enrich the possibility of future capital purchases for the club as well as the realization of large scale goals. Again, a sincere and heart felt thank you goes out to each and every Alum who has supported and help create this incorporated and fully functioning association dedicated to the enrichment of the Miami University Men's Rugby Football Club.

**MIAMI UNIVERSITY RFC  
FALL SCHEDULE**

<b>8.30</b>	Skills Camp (Home)
<b>9.06</b>	Old Boys (Home)
<b>9.13</b>	U. Alabama (Home)
<b>9.20</b>	UC (Away)
<b>9.27</b>	BGSU (Away)
<b>10.04</b>	Pitt (Home)
<b>10.11</b>	Open
<b>10.18</b>	Kent State (Away)
<b>10.25</b>	Marshall (Away)
<b>11.01</b>	D2 sweet 16
<b>11.08</b>	D2 elite 8

**TOUR ANNOUNCEMENT**

**A testament to the bonds forged on the pitch at  
Miami University:**

Over the past number of years a group of gentlemen have made the annual pilgrimage to Scottsdale, Arizona for what in days past has been called "The Wild West Blues Fest". Each year MURFC Alumni have "distinguished" themselves in, and upon, the 48th state. This year is sure to be no exception. The dates and name of the tournament have changed for 2003, but the host and the reasons for gathering out west have remained the same. We are looking to dedicate a touring side to our unofficial "Old Boys Weekend" once again with the entry of a *Miami Social Side* in this years tournament. Randy Mahlerwein is organizing this years tour and details are enclosed for those wishing to join what has become an epic addition to our annual calendar.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Wild West Critter Fest Rugby Tournament**

**WHEN:** Saturday, December 6, 2003  
**WHERE:** Chaparral Park, Scottsdale, Arizona  
**WHAT:** Men's, Women's divisions.  
 3 matches Guaranteed.  
 Post Match Social

Contact: Randy Mahlerwein: [rmahlerwein@hotmail.com](mailto:rmahlerwein@hotmail.com)

## OLD BOYS WEEKEND SCHEDULE

### Friday September 5th

12:56pm

Golf Outing at Hueston Woods State Park  
RSVP: Steve Fazekas - (614) 989-9764

6 pm Informal Gathering at The Stadium  
16 South Poplar St. Oxford, OH

### Saturday, September 6th

9 am Annual General Meeting  
Shriver Student Center  
Corner of Spring St. and State Route 27  
Oxford, OH

**1 pm Kickoff: Old Boys Game**  
Club Fields—St. Route 73  
East of Campus

5 pm Old Boys Awards,  
BBQ & Scholarships Awarded

**NEW EMAIL LIST SERVE**  
There is a new email list serve for the old boys. To subscribe, send an email to [murugby-subscribe@yahoo.com](mailto:murugby-subscribe@yahoo.com)

Or visit the website at:  
[www.groups.yahoo.com/group/murugby](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/murugby)

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### ANNUAL DUES MEMBERSHIP DUES ARE

**\$60.00 FOR 2002**

**\$ 75.00 FOR 2003**

**2002 DUES MUST BE  
PAID FOR VOTING  
RIGHTS AT THE 2003  
AGM.**

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**Make Checks payable to:  
MURFC AA  
90 Bent Tree Drive, #2C  
Fairfield, OH 45014**

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## LETTER FROM MURFC-AA PRESIDENT

### Dear Alumni & Friends of Miami Rugby:

We all know that Miami Rugby has enjoyed support from its alumni and friends for the past 35 years but it had come time to formally organize ourselves. So last year, before the 34<sup>th</sup> annual match between the Old Boys and the university team, we officially established the MU Men's RFC Alumni Association. This non-profit Alumni Association has been charged with the long term support of the undergraduate rugby program at Miami University.

This first year presented many challenges, to which we have had many successes. These successes include:

- A successful Old Boys with close to 100 alums
- Recognition by the IRS as a tax exempt Charitable Organization
- Exceeding our first year fund raising goal of \$25,000
- Establishment of an endowment fund for the long term support of the undergraduate program
- Awarding two annual scholarships to current

players

- Assisting the club in securing a new coach in Kevin Kittredge (an Assistant Professor of Chemistry at Miami)
- Supporting Coach Kittredge in attending a USA Rugby Level I training course
- Distribution of "The Gain Line" to 225+ alumni around the world, including: England, France, Germany & Singapore

Thank you to all of those who have helped us achieve these accomplishments in only our first year of existence.

As we prepare for Miami Rugby's 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Old Boys this coming September 6<sup>th</sup>, there is no doubt that we are well on our way to many more successes for the Alumni Association and Miami Rugby!

**Sincerely,**

**Mike Coco, 1997**  
**President MU RFC Alumni Association**

*Miami University Men's Rugby  
Football Club  
Alumni Association  
P.O. Box 1603  
Traverse City, MI 49685*

## YEAR IN REVIEW - CLUB PRESIDENT'S LETTER -

### **Miami Rugby Alumni,**

The fall season was a great success! We played University of Cincinnati twice; both games were hard fought and were narrowly defeated in both games. Our first meeting with the Bearcats was the weekend after Old Boys. This game was the first under the direction of the new coaching staff, and as a team we showed that nothing has changed. Despite the hard work we lost the first game 17-27. As the second match rolled around in the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the season, we showed that we improved our rugby and our fitness with a loss of 14-16.

Miami was also the host to a few games that brought to Oxford that we do not normally play. The first of the two games was against the University of Kentucky, we then rounded off the end of the fall season with a match against Ohio Wesleyan. In both home games the visiting team played a decent game, but not at our skill level. We sent both teams home with a overwhelming victory.

Due to a void in the Cincinnati Wolfhounds schedule we played them on their turf in the fourth week of the season. This was a grueling game that matched old school rugby versus new school. In the end youth defeated age and experience by a winning score of 24 -10.

To fill out the fifth weekend of the season we played at home against The Ohio State B-side. As in the previous matches we came out strong and continued our dominance throughout the

game. With strong leadership from our experienced players we were able to handle what was ranked the second best team in Ohio 50-24.

The biggest game of the season was our sixth week. The team traveled to Athens to play Ohio University. After the three hour drive the legs were tired and as a result we came out of the gate sluggish. Despite a come back early in the second half we were sent home with a 17-34 loss.

Between the fall and spring semester we traveled to the University of Florida, to play their team. The team traveled together in a bus and enjoyed a fun time with the Florida club. Despite some hard played rugby, we did not manage to come out on top. As usual we look for-



*Driving the scrum vs. Ohio University*

ward to going back down to Florida next year.

The spring season brought a whole new game to the campus of Miami. We came out of the gates on a running start beating University of Michigan by a few tries. In the following week we took on the Ohio Classic, a tournament held in Columbus, Ohio. Though we entered two sides we only traveled with 23 players. With our stamina at its best we won all four games on Saturday and made our way to the finals. The finals staged us against Ohio State's B side for the second time in less than a year. With some outstanding play from our backs we claimed the trophy for first place.

The last weekend of the season took the team to The Wolfhounds Pitch for a round robin tournament against University of Cincinnati and Ohio University. The first game was against UC early in the morning. We started playing like we had not made it out of bed yet that morning, but by the second half of the game we were able to come back and tie the Bearcats in the last few minutes. The last game of the season against OU was not one of our best performances. we came out slow and continued to struggle through the end of the game.

I would like to say thanks to the newest members of the Alumni Association, Matt Bertin, and Steve Olson. Please keep in touch with the team. We are always looking for alumni support in any way possible.

**Sean Edwards**  
President MURFC