

Lyman S. A. Perry '60

Lyman S. A. Perry '60 has been selected to receive the inaugural Craig Thrasher Service to Rowing Award for his outstanding service to the rowing community.

Lyman's Navy story started with his father, who was an All-American football player at the Naval Academy and after a distinguished career in the Navy, served as Athletic Director here at USNA. Once on the banks of the Severn River, Lyman's path diverged and he began his own Hall of Fame career in the sport of rowing.

It turned out that Lyman had a gift for the sport and setting a graceful rhythm, stroking his plebe boat to an IRA Championship in 1957. Three years later, he would stroke the Navy Varsity to win the Olympic trials and represent the United States at the 1960 Olympics in Rome. In addition to his stellar collegiate rowing career, Lyman's first decade in the sport includes a brief second experience as an elite athlete when ordered to Philadelphia by the US Navy in the summer of 1963 to train for the 1964 Olympic Games. During this period, he joined the squad at College Boat Club of the University of Pennsylvania as stroke of Joe Burk's elite eight, did some additional training at Fairmount R.A. and competed successfully as a sculler.

In 1964 the US Navy ordered Lyman to return to the Naval Academy to teach navigation and to coach the lightweight plebes. He also was able to support the 1965 Navy Heavyweight Team, who went on to sweep the IRA National Championship. Between 1965 and 1968 he had resigned from the US Navy, gained admission to the University of Pennsylvania's Graduate School of Architecture, was recruited by Joe Burk to coach Penn's freshmen lightweights while in graduate school, and joined the University Barge Club. He finished the decade continuing to scull and in 1970 was elected President of UBC.

Lyman always found the time to give back to the sport in such ways as becoming a licensed referee and conceiving and organizing the first few iterations of the Head of the Schuylkill. Along with his Olympic teammate Bill Knecht, Lyman also surveyed and laid out a six-lane rowing course on the Cooper River in Camden, which, after several major improvements, is now a top-class 2,000-meter competitive racing venue.

Throughout the succeeding decades, Lyman has been a regular masters' competitor for UBC in eights, quads, doubles and singles across the USA, Canada, England, Ireland, Holland, Portugal, and the Czech Republic, winning many gold medals and simply "enjoying the opportunity to still be rowing."

Lyman has sponsored many candidates for admission to the Academy and has been a consistent and generous donor to several funds that benefit the institution. In 2004 he was invited to become a trustee of the USNA Foundation, serving for over 14 years and was recently elevated to emeritus status. He is also a donor member of the Robert Means Thompson Foundation, a member of the President's Circle, and a founding donor to the Academy's new Terwilliger Center, a 25,000 square foot education and training facility for student athletes.



Lyman donated his father's portrait which now hangs in Chet's conference room and attached are some moments from the ceremony. Contingent from the Schuylkill Navy and Lyman's University Barge Club from Philadelphia!!





