Dear Friend of Simsbury Crew,

We are delighted to announce the 50th Anniversary of the Simsbury Crew Team. We are excited to celebrate this remarkable milestone and are looking thoughtfully to the next 50 years with the creation of a Long-Term Growth Fund to secure the fiscal future of our team. Our goal is to raise $50,000 with which to open this fund and all monies collected from the 1st Annual Alumni Appeal will be earmarked for this purpose.

As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, we rely on the support of individuals. In light of COVID-19 we have had to forgo our annual major Grinder Fundraiser and need your support now more than ever. We respectfully request your support through a tax-deductible suggested donation of $20/year, for each year since you've graduated. However, a donation in any amount will help us to cross the finish line! Don’t forget to take advantage of any matching contributions to which you have access.

If interested in supporting this fund-raising effort, please click our PayPal link below or send a check to the address below.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of the Simsbury Crew Team. Your financial support ensures that we will one day have the privilege of celebrating our 100th Anniversary.

Let’s all PULL together to make this happen!

Simsbury Strong,

Friends of Simsbury Crew

Ann Carabillo and Adam Askham

Girls and Boys Head Coaches

PayPal Link: [Simsbury Crew PayPal Giving Fund](https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1344841)

Friends of Simsbury Crew

P.O. Box 273

Simsbury, CT 06070

<https://www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/charity/1344841>

My Fellow Alumni,

There is no way my 15-year-old self would have known when I joined the team in 1980, that Simsbury Crew would become my life work. I am beyond blessed to have had the privilege to row for this team and row in college. The lessons I learned as a rower have been with me in all aspects of my life.

But the real blessing has been the gift of coaching most of you in my 30+ years. I cannot even begin to thank all of you for everything you have taught me. Quite frankly, when I look at my early years and the many photos posted on Facebook and [www.simsburycrew.org](http://www.simsburycrew.org), I realize we grew up together. I was so young when I first took on coaching a group of boys – I really knew very little about what I was doing, other than I loved rowing and wanted you to love it as well. And like family, we grew together, making mistakes, forgiving, and learning along the way.

As a team, you have watched me, and most coaches, fall in love, get married and have babies. You helped me to raise my children. You helped me with my home, and you were there to hug me when my dad died. I know I say it all the time, but we are FAMIlY – coaches, athletes, and parents.

As I have gotten older and look back at the last 50 years and what we have accomplished, I have a deep desire to leave this amazing place stronger than what I found it. Therefore, the Friends of Simsbury Crew is establishing a long-term growth fund to help ensure the financial well-being of the team. Please see the attached letter from the Friends and give what you are able. I have been told $50,000 is a large undertaking, but quite frankly I know what we can do, and I believe we will easily surpass that goal!!

Thank you for trusting and believing in all of us for so many years. You have touched my heart in ways you cannot imagine, coming to the boathouse and being with each of you has truly been the best part of my days. Please keep in touch and come visit often. After all, you are family, and the boathouse is your home.

With all my love,

Coach Ann Carabillo (Venezia), ‘83

Today we launch our 50th Anniversary Celebration!!  While it is certainly not going to be what we had hoped due to COVID-19 it is going be walk down memory lane and a history lesson.  We ask that alumni help along the way.  Please share your memories and photos on our Simsbury Crew Alumni Facebook Page, photos should go in the correct decade folder for ease of looking back.  Please visit our website at [www.simsburycrew.org](http://www.simsburycrew.org/).

50 years ago today, over a year before Title IX, Simsbury Crew made history.  Before we even took our first stroke, we made national news!!  The team began with two girl coxswains; at the time only the boys were rowing.  When the school found out about the girls, they kicked the girls off the team.  The article below made the front page of the Hartford Courant on February 27, 1971 and was subsequently picked up by the Associated Press and was published in newspapers throughout the country.

Please take a moment to read these articles as we begin our trip down memory lane!!