



WATER SKI BOOSTER CLUB

Newsletter No. 2. - June 2024

The Best is On the Bayou

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Boosters and Friends,

We are approaching the first anniversary of our booster club. As I have stated before, we have two simple goals: Reconnect old skiers and friends, and help the University regain its National Dominance. I am thrilled to share some exciting updates and accomplishments from our recent efforts.

Accomplishments for 2023-2024

- Membership has grown to 55
- We have raised over \$20,000
- Recruitment has been enhanced with more skiers and talent
- Several Social events (LA Night Jam, Intercollegiate Nationals, Wine on the Water)
- Social Media platform up and running
- Marketing products for the ULM ski team
- Ski team moved up to second in the nationals from third.
- Plus, we expect a big announcement this summer that will change the landscape of our program.

With that said we are just getting the wheels turning and we have big plans for 2024-2025 and beyond. Your board has a standing video meeting once a month and we are all working diligently to move the needle as soon as possible on all aspects of the program. Danny Sheedy our membership chairman is looking for help in reaching out to other prospective members and corporate sponsors to join our club, so if you have an interest, please contact Danny or myself and we can get you connected. Our membership renewals will be coming up and I ask that you please commit to renewing your membership and encourage others to join. The fellowship has been priceless and giving back makes us all feel good. Here is to another great year for our ULM Ski Team. Cheers!



Sincerely,
Perry Cox

Memorial Planned

to celebrate our beloved Bilwood and others who are no longer with us



See details on page 5.

Team Spotlight:

Damir Filaretov



See details on page 3.

Alum Spotlight:

Regina Jaquess



See details on page 3.

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WATER SKI
BOOSTER CLUB

A MESSAGE FROM COACH ZANE NICHOLSON



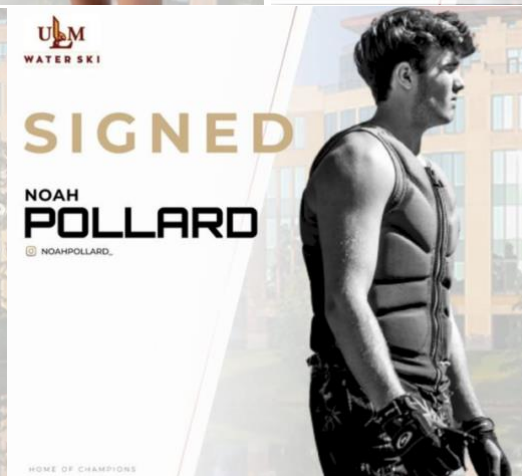
I want to extend a big Warhawk *thank-you* to the Booster Club membership! We are incredibly lucky to have such a committed and passionate booster club. Your belief in our team and your constant willingness to help with team projects like refurbishing the jump, recruiting support, providing resources, funding, physical support, and moral support mean the world to us.

I look forward to continuing this partnership and achieving great things for the ULM ski team together. Thanks for continuing to be a big part of this TEAM. G-O-O-O-O Warhawks!!!

Sincerely, Coach Zane

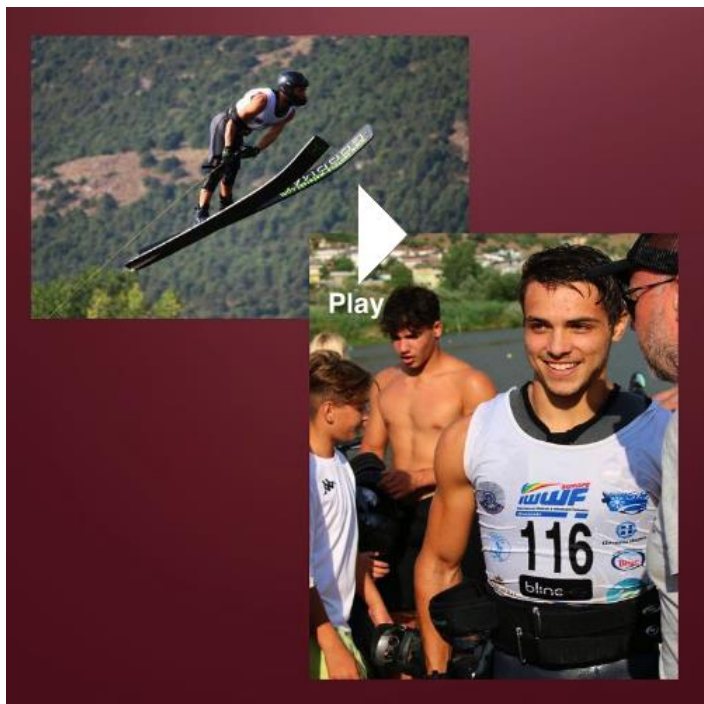
NEW RECRUITS SIGNED FOR FALL 2024

The ULM ski team has announced its new recruits signed for the fall 2024 season. Under the leadership of coach Zane Nicholson the team continues to maintain its status as one of the top collegiate water ski teams in the nation. The new recruits will join the current team members as they prepare for 2024 fall competition. Welcome to the Warhawk family:



TEAM SPOTLIGHTS

TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: DAMIR FILARETOV

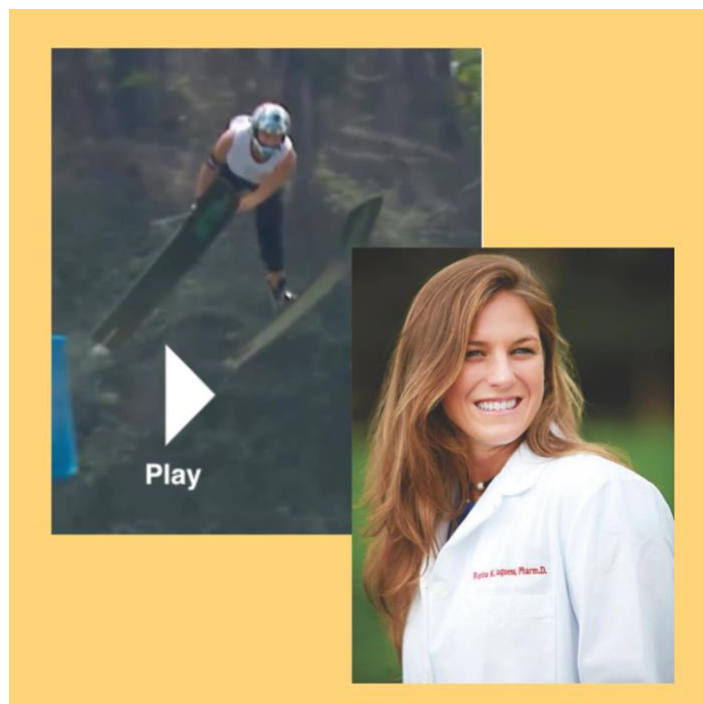


Damir Filaretov is a key member of our ULM water ski team. Damir is studying computer science and is known for his exceptional skills and contributions to the team's success. Originally from Dnipro, Ukraine, Damir has been a member of the Ukrainian water ski team for 10 years. Damir won the Junior World Championship in Santiago, Chili in January 2023.

During his two years at ULM, he has become a prominent figure in collegiate water skiing.

In a compelling interview on the TWBC Podcast, Damir shared with host Tony Lightfoot the extraordinary challenges of being a water ski athlete from a war-torn country. [\(CLICK for link to listen.\)](#) Damir's dedication and skill have not only helped ULM maintain its dominant position in collegiate water skiing but have also earned him recognition as a key athlete to watch. His journey from Ukraine to become a crucial part of ULM's water ski team underscores his commitment and passion for the sport.

ALUM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: REGINA JAQUESS



We are extremely proud of the legacy of ULM alumnus Regina Jaquess. Regina skied for ULM 2002-2005, was the team captain all four years, and was the team advisor & coach for 2 additional years after her eligibility. She was inducted into the NCWSA Hall of Fame in 2019.

Regina continues to be an icon in the water ski world. She has held every major slalom title in the world and is currently ranked the No. 1 on the IWWF World Rankings List. As recently stated in Return to Baseline article (Feb. 29, 2024), Regina is arguably the greatest water skier of all time, "and is "The only skier in the 21st century to win professional titles in all four disciplines – slalom, trick, jump, and overall." Regina has set the world slalom record nine times, and currently holds that record, 5 at 10.25m, or 41 off. Regina has her sights set on being the first female skier to successfully run 41 off in competition.

After earning her Doctor of Pharmacy at ULM in 2009, Regina continued her status as a top-tier athlete while developing an impressive professional career. She currently owns and operates her own compounding pharmacy, [Emerald Coast Compounding Pharmacy](#), in Santa Rosa Beach, Florida. Her dedication to water skiing and to her profession exemplifies a balance of excellence and commitment, making her a role model for many aspiring athletes

WINE OVER WATER



Kneeling: Joey McNamara, Aarne Clow.; Standing: Terri James Hayward, Dr. Mike Hayward, Jessica Rainwater-Grigson, Coach Zane Nicholson, Carl Bantle, “the legend” Mark Norton, Scott Greenwood, and Cap’n Bill Rainwater in the back.

Several Booster Club members recently attended the “Wine over Water” event hosted by the ULM Alumni Association. This picture was taken at the Waterfront Grill – better known by many of us as the old *Sleaz-esta*. Ski team coach Zane Nicholson joined us for the event, as well as our “warm-up” gathering pictured above. It was a very nice evening visiting our old stomping grounds. We were honored to be able to meet with President Barry, as well as awesome staff members of the ULM Alumni Association Sarah Siereveld and Becca Kleinpeter who have been instrumental in helping initiate our organization.



Carl Bantle & ULM supporter Damon Marsala of Marsala Beverage.



Scott Greenwood, Carl Bantle, and Aarne Clow in front of the ULM ski team facility.

Wine Over Water benefits ULM scholarships, alumni chapters, and the work of the ULM Alumni Association in its mission to support ULM in “changing lives.” The Alumni Association connects, engages, and fosters relationships with current and future alumni to one another, and the university, through communications, events, and programs.

Join the Boosters and volunteer to help with future events – It’s a great opportunity to be a part of the legacy that helped make each of us who we are.

ULM FALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE

SEPTEMBER 7-8, 2024 FALL CLASSIC

**Hosted by: The University of Texas
New Frameswitch, Hutto, TX**

SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2024 BAYOU CLASSIC

**Hosted by: The University of Louisiana - Monroe
Bayou Desiard, Monroe, LA**

SEPTEMBER 28-29, 2024 SCR REGIONALS

**Hosted by: Texas State Univeristy
Lakes of Katy, Katy, TX**

OCTOBER 10-12, 2024 NCWSA NATIONALS

**Hosted by: SCR
San Marcos River Ranch, San Marcos, TX**



MEMORIAL planned to celebrate Bilwood Smith, and all other members who are no longer with us

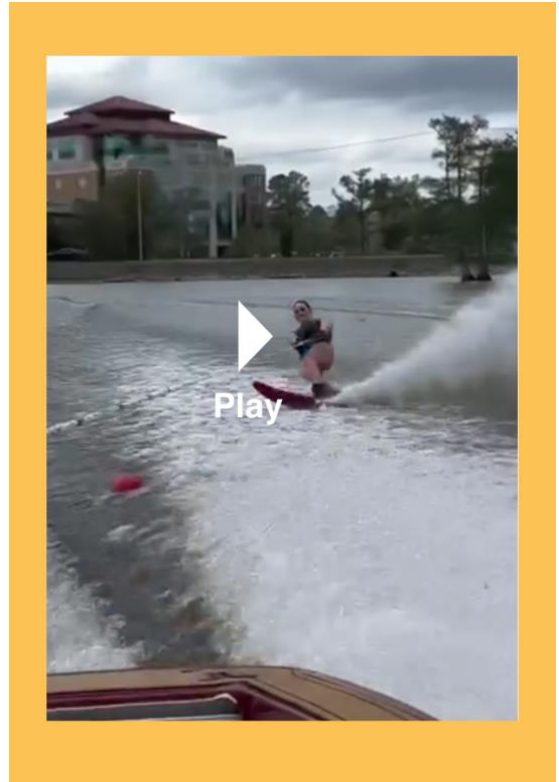
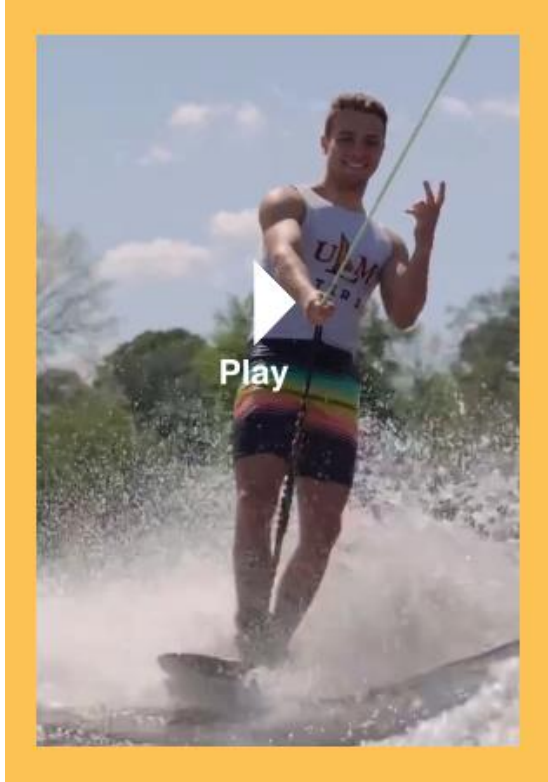
Our dear team member Bilwood Smith (1980-1984) lost his long-fought battle with cancer April 17, 2024. He was at home, surrounded by his lovely family: wife Christy, son Bilwood III and his wife, Mary Kate, daughter Mindy and husband Andrew, and their 4 children, along with other family members.

Bilwood was a very special guy, a great friend, incredible father and husband- always smiling, always laughing, always making everyone around him feel included. In his final days team members traveled from around the world to visit with Bilwood. After visiting Bilwood while he was still in the hospital, one close friend related that a nurse, smiling, instructed him, 'Mr. Smith's in that room right there (pointing) – go on in, I think he's having a party in there.'

Capt'n Bill Rainwater, Wendy Gladney, and Jay Bennett have planned a memorial gathering of alumni and friends to be held during LA Night Jam hosted by Tri Lakes June 8, 2024. The Memorial gathering will be held on Jay's deck about 2 pm to hang out, tell stories, celebrate the lives of those no longer with us, and enjoy the watching some great skiing in their memory. Many alum are planning to attend – hope to see you there!

GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING ON THE BAYOU!!

Click each photo to share in the fun times and great skiing happening on the bayou that are sure to bring back great memories.



IF YOU HAVEN'T JOINED THE ULM BOOSTERS, WE NEED YOU!

If you haven't joined the ULM Water Ski Booster Club, take the plunge today. Click the link below to join!! You will receive some great gifts for joining (bumper stickers, hats, tumblers, backpacks...) to remind you daily of your contribution, our priceless memories, and the legacy of our ski team. [CLICK HERE](#) to join!!



CLICK BELOW to follow ULM Water Ski Boosters:



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