

The Codger Award

The Codger Award is presented each year at the Annual Rowing Club Banquet to that student who in his or her time with the team has done the most to further the traditions of rowing at William and Mary.

2000: Adam D. Ayers '00

Adam D. Ayers arrived at William and Mary looking very much not like the stereotypical rower. By the time he left, no one else better personified the team. He was a member of the extraordinary Class of 2000 which had done so much to revitalize the program, and among all of his classmates he stood out. In his Freshman year, he took on the role of the team's fundraising chair, from which position he helped put in place a new system which made fundraising easier and more successful. From that post, he moved on to become the team's Treasurer as a Sophomore, and his efforts there helped the team make a profit after many years in debt, a profit which he reinvested in the team to purchase much needed equipment - boats, oars, coxboxes, motors - which allowed the team's swelling numbers to get on the water. By his Junior year, he was the clear unanimous choice of his teammates to take over as President. He was also elected the Men's Captain, but remained popular with the women's squad as well, who appreciated his concern for and attention to the whole team. On top of the amount of time that participating in this sport entails for most team members - which included, for Adam, overcoming his 5'8" frame to make the First Varsity Eight in his Junior and Senior years - Adam often found himself putting in extremely long hours off the water. He drove the trailer to Massachusetts, Ohio, North Carolina, or wherever else equipment needed to come or go. He spent much of his time fixing things. Somewhere in there, he found the time to get good grades, leading by example in all areas of his life. In the four years Adam rowed at William and Mary, no one did more for the team as a whole, and his impact on the team will be felt for several years to come.