



# WATER SKI BOOSTER CLUB

Newsletter No. 4 - October 2025

The Best is On the Bayou

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear ULM Water Ski Booster Club Members,

The past year has been a busy and productive one for our booster club, and I want to take a moment to update you on the progress we've made as well as the challenges ahead.

### The Realities We Face

Like many smaller universities, ULM has faced financial headwinds. The administration has worked hard to reduce expenses, cut staff, and tighten budgets across the board. Everyone is doing their part, and we, too, must rise to the challenge. On the athletic side, while the Warhawks ski team has not captured a national championship since 2018, the team has consistently finished in the top three each of the past five years—proof of our resilience and competitive spirit.

### The Good News

Amid these challenges, there is tremendous momentum building:

- **Leadership:** ULM has a new president, Dr. Carrie Castile, who is taking bold action to realign the university's priorities with its mission of serving the state and local community. Dr. Castile is a strong supporter of the ski team and loves to win.
- **Executive Oversight:** As part of our discussions with Dr. Castile, Scott McDonald—a former ULM baseball player, banker, and Athletic Director—has come out of retirement to serve as her Chief of Staff. Importantly, Scott has also been appointed University Executive over the ski team. His history with ULM and his strong personal relationship with Dean Murphy make him a great advocate for our program.
- **Coaching:** We have hired Martin Kolman, the first world champion in ULM coaching history. Martin, a ULM alumnus and the 2019 World Overall Champion, brings unmatched expertise and recruiting power. We believe his leadership will take our team's performance to the next level. *(Continued on Page 2 with "Looking Forward")*

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## Welcome to Coach Martin Kolman



[See details page 3.](#)

## Team Spotlight: TY KOSEK



[See details page 2.](#)

## Alum Spotlight: Aarne Clow



[See details page 5.](#)

JOIN NOW:



\*Letter from the President, continued:

## Looking Forward

- Collegiate athletics is built on tradition and legacy. Cornell rowing (the oldest collegiate sport in the US) has earned 26 national titles since 1895. Oklahoma State wrestling has collected 34 championships since 1928—yet has not won since 2006. By comparison, ULM Water Skiing already holds 29 national titles and is on the brink of becoming the most decorated collegiate sports program in the nation.
- Reaching that milestone requires more than talent and tradition — it requires resources. With university budgets under pressure, we cannot rely solely on institutional support. That is why the booster club is launching the **Continuing the Legacy Endowment Campaign**: a \$4 million, five-year effort designed to secure the future of ULM Water Skiing permanently.
- The endowment will be dedicated exclusively to scholarships and program expenses. By spending only 4% of the annual return, we will protect the principal and provide reliable funding year after year — ensuring our program’s strength for generations to come.

## Closing

We have much to be proud of and much to look forward to. The foundation is strong, the leadership is committed, and the opportunities are clear. With your continued support, ULM Water Skiing will not only maintain its position as a world-class program but also achieve a legacy unmatched in collegiate sports history.

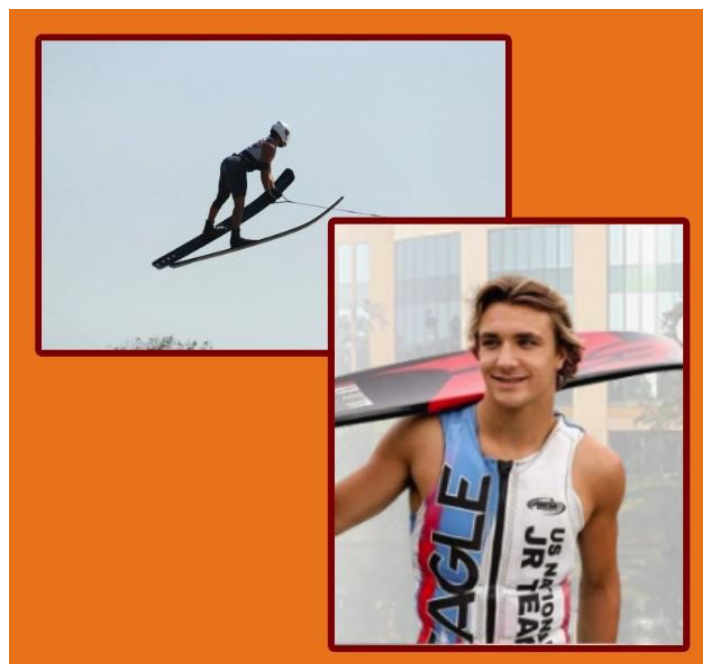
On behalf of the booster club, thank you for your loyalty and dedication. Together, we will continue the legacy.



Sincerely,  
Perry Cox

With gratitude,  
Perry N Cox , President  
ULM Water Ski Team Booster Club

## TEAM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: TY KOSEK



The ULM Waterski Team is proud to introduce our captain, **Ty Kosek**, who transferred to ULM in 2025. This fall, Ty enters his junior year as a **Kinesiology major**, bringing both academic focus and athletic passion to our program.

Ty is a true three-event competitor, but his favorite discipline is **Jump**. As he puts it, *“There is nothing like being able to fly 200 feet through the air.”* His love for pushing the limits perfectly reflects the spirit of the Warhawks.

Originally from **Buffalo, Minnesota**, Ty admits that what he misses most about home—besides family—is experiencing all four seasons. (Who knows, maybe Monroe will surprise him with a little snow this winter!)

Off the water, Ty enjoys a wide variety of hobbies, including **skiing, weightlifting, guitar, swimming, hiking, and golf**. A fun fact about him: before joining ULM, Ty also competed internationally in **fighting and sparring competitions**, proving that his competitive edge extends well beyond waterskiing.

When asked about his experience at ULM, Ty shared that he loves **Monroe, the team environment, and the lifelong friendships he’s building here**. He believes Bayou DeSiard offers one of the very best waterski sites in the collegiate world—and we couldn’t agree more.

We are grateful for Ty’s **dedication, leadership, and energy** as he guides the Warhawk Waterski Team into another exciting season.

Contributed by: Terra Hancock Taylor



## WELCOME: COACH MARTIN KOLMAN



ULM has named alumnus and world-class waterski champion **Martin Kolman** as the new head coach of the ULM Waterski team. This reunion marks the return of a foundational figure in ULM’s water skiing legacy—and the Booster Club couldn’t be more excited to support his journey back to the bayou! Martin’s connections with ULM run deep. He was an integral part of the Warhawk team from **August 2012 through December 2017**, both as a student-athlete and a graduate assistant—and during that tenure he helped the team secure **five national championships**. His roots as a student-athlete are the perfect foundation for inspiring the next generation.

Martin credits his time at ULM for laying the foundation to becoming the 2019, **IWWF Men’s World Overall Champion**. Martin’s additional top-tier accomplishments include:

- **European Overall Champion** in **2014** and **2021**
- **European Trick Champion** in **2021** and **2024**
- Served as **head coach** for the **Chilean Olympic Committee’s waterski team** (2019–2020)
- Currently occupies the role of **Chairman of the IWWF Athlete Commission**

As Martin officially steps into his role this September, he’ll begin the season working closely with current team members and coaches, laying the groundwork for an amazing season ahead. With his leadership, we will push toward our **30th national championship**—a goal within reach with our combined community’s support and Martin’s elite pedigree.

Booster Club President Perry Cox summed it up well: “We’re thrilled to support hiring Martin Kolman, a former world-champion three-event skier and world-class coach, to lead our program back to the preeminent spot we’ve enjoyed.” Your unwavering support—whether in attendance at meets, financial contributions, or behind-the-scenes encouragement—means everything as we embark on this new chapter together. Here’s to rallying behind our team and returning champion, Coach Martin Kolman.

*Contributed by: Cali Armstrong Ellison*



**The 2017 National Championship ULM Water Ski Team:** (Back) Alex King, Freddie Winter, Tom Poole, Ricky Downs, Siani Oliver, Tycho Hof, Martin Kolman, Joey McNamara, Hanna Straltsova, and Taylor Garcia. (Front) Janice Stevens, Kate Svecova, Danylo Filchenko, Emma Brunel, Lieke Rolvers, Sara Westerlund, and Sasha Danisheuskaya. Photos by Emerald McIntyre/ULM Photo Services

## ULM WATERSKI: A TEAM, A FAMILY, A LEGACY



To celebrate our legacy and promote the future of the team, we are proud to share our brand-new **ULM Waterski promotional video**. This production by the ULM Booster Club highlights the passion, tradition, and family spirit that define our program.

At the University of Louisiana Monroe, waterskiing is more than a sport — it's a family for life. Every student-athlete who joins the team becomes part of a lifelong network of friends, teammates, and champions who carry the ULM spirit far beyond their years on the bayou.

The ULM Waterski Team isn't just any collegiate team — it is the **most decorated waterski program in collegiate sports history**. With countless national titles and individual accolades, the Warhawks continue to raise the standard of excellence both on the water and in the classroom.

One of the most unique aspects of ULM's program is its **practice site, located right in the heart of campus**. No other collegiate waterski team in the country has such an advantage. While other schools may travel to train, our athletes only need to walk across campus to enjoy world-class conditions on Bayou DeSiard.

This visibility also makes our athletes something of **celebrities on campus**. Known for their dedication, discipline, and remarkable achievements, ULM waterskiers quickly become recognized as special members of the university community. Their presence, both in and out of competition, brings pride to the school and inspires future generations of Warhawks.

Together, as a team and as a family, ULM Waterski continues to prove why it stands unmatched in collegiate athletics. **Go Warhawks!**

*Contributed by: Cali Armstrong Ellison*

## UPCOMING EVENTS



We kicked off the Fall 2025 season in style at Woody's Warhawk Classic tournament on Bayou DeSiard, Sept. 20-21. The Alumni and Boosters Club hosted a "meet & greet" for the ULM Ski Team on Friday evening at the Tom Murphy boat house and we fueled up the team with lots of Johnny's Pizzas to prepare them for the tournament! We had a god showing of alums and some new parents got to see what they can expect their kids to be like in 40 years... welcome aboard!!

This team is really coming together and you can see it both on and off the water, these kids can get it done! The Men's team won overall, and the Women finished second (but closed the gap on ULL!). On Sunday, there was some really great jumping with Warhawks Ty Kosek and Nellie Allard winning their respective divisions...AND, who should show up to help cheer on the team and meet some of the alumni?? None other than new University President Carrie Castille!!

A very special thanks to our "Forever Coach" Jay Bennett, for stepping up and in while Martin has been on the IR list... Jay has "moved" up to Funroe in his motor home and is already working his magic, preparing the team both mentally and physically for the upcoming Nationals. Jay has been giving his time and expertise to our programs throughout the years and has been instrumental in our successes since the beginning in 1977!! Thanks, ever so much, Jay!!

*Contributed by: Bill Rainwater, aka Cap'n Billy!*



## ALUM MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: AARNE CLOW

Many of you know Aarne Clow as the Mastercraft Rep showing off the latest model ski boat and handing out T-shirts at the US Nationals! Aarne is also a grad of ULM and a founding member of the ULM Ski Team Booster Club.

Aarne made the journey across the US from Placerville, CA to Monroe, LA in the spring of 1982 to join the ULM ski team. Aarne was not exactly recruited to the ULM Ski Team. Barry Horton was checking out Monroe and Aarne just tagged along. Barry passed, but Aarne was hooked. And that is where he met our Booster Club President Perry Cox:

Being from Mississippi and Aarne from California, we had to sort out our cultural differences. As Aarne would say, "I could only understand every other word he said". Our friendship began the day he arrived on campus in his California Red Faded Hippy Van. I was a hack of a water skier; he was the cool (all the girls drooled over) top-shelf ski kid from the West Coast. I figured he could teach me how to ski, and I could help console the deflated ladies he rejected. Aarne was a great coach and significantly influenced my life on and off the water. We have remained friends over the past 44 years, and I have thoroughly enjoyed spending more time together working on the ULM Waterski team Booster Club. We enjoy giving each other grief as much, if not more, than any compliment. That is what true friends do. Aarne is an incredible asset to our booster club.

Aarne helped secure a victory at Collegiate Nationals each of the three years he skied on the team. After graduation and a short stay in Washington State, Aarne returned to Louisiana and joined Mastercraft Boat Company, eventually settling in Vonore, TN where he still resides with his wife Paulette. Aarne's 40 years with Mastercraft has enabled him to stay active in the sport and connect with many ULM grads and students. He is also the go-to guy for a boat upgrade!

The Booster Club was envisioned where all great ideas come from – at a water ski tournament! "I was at LA Night Jam at Bennet's. A group of skiers from my era and some of the ULM pros were hanging around the pool at Jay's talking. The word from the team was 'Hey we need some support?' Perry and I and a few others decided to create the Booster Club to help out the team. It was also a great way to reconnect with old friends and give back to the school and team that have meant so much to me."

Aarne will retire in January and plans to spend more time with his 7 grandkids, do some sailing and Water ski! Look for him OTW (On the water) in Bakersfield this August!

*Contributed by: Kelley Scharosch*



## SKI TEAM PRACTICE WITH OUR NEW UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, DR. CARRIE L. CASTILLE



Dr. Carrie L. Castille

ULM's new president, Dr. Carrie L. Castille, joined the team for a ride in the ski boat at a recent Waterski Team practice. As posted on the University's official Facebook page, Dr. Castille "got to tag along with our Water Ski Team today. What a ride!" This hands-on participation underscores Dr. Castille's commitment to demonstrating genuine support for our ski team, one of ULM's proudest athletic legacies.

As the first woman to lead ULM in its nearly 94-year history, Dr. Castille—who began her presidency in early June 2025—has already brought energy, vision, and connection to campus leadership. We welcome Dr. Castille and are excited to work with her.

And... Be sure to join the **ULM Water Ski Team Alumni Booster Club** 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.

### 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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The fall season is just around the corner, and we're thrilled to introduce the **ULM Waterski Team's Fall 2025 roster**. Get ready to cheer as these dedicated athletes represent ULM with heart, ambition, and Warhawk pride!

## MEET THE WARHAWKS FALL 2025



Ally Custer  
Lake Lotawana, MO



Nellie Allard  
Canada



Lucy Roberts  
Great Britain



Samie Hoops  
Roachdale, Indiana



Carly Bonhem  
Canada



Eva Henderson  
Gardner, IL



Damir Filaretov  
Ukraine



Jaeden Eade  
Clermont, Florida



Eline Vang  
Norway





Jake Chambers  
Canada



Viktor Motov  
Russia



Noah Pollard  
Great Britain



Ty Kosek  
Buffalo, MN



Jaret Zollner  
Jacksonville, IL



Connor Pauley  
Lutz, FL



Jacob Duffy  
Center City, MN



Aatu Virta  
Norway



Nicolas Nelson  
Mexico



Sondre Stalheim  
Norway



## **ULM FALL TOURNAMENT SCHEDULE**

**SEPTEMBER 6-7, 2025      FALL CLASSIC**

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

**SEPTEMBER 20-21, 2025      WOODY'S WARHAWK CLASSIC**

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

**OCTOBER 4-5, 2025      SCR REGIONALS**

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

**OCTOBER 16-18, 2025      NCWSA NATIONALS**

**Hosted by: The West Coast Region  
Imperial Lakes, El Centro, CA  
2828 West Evan Hewes  
Imperial, CA 92251**

**MAKE THE TRIP TO NATIONALS  
& be a part of the excitement as our WARHAWKS  
Compete for another national championship!!**

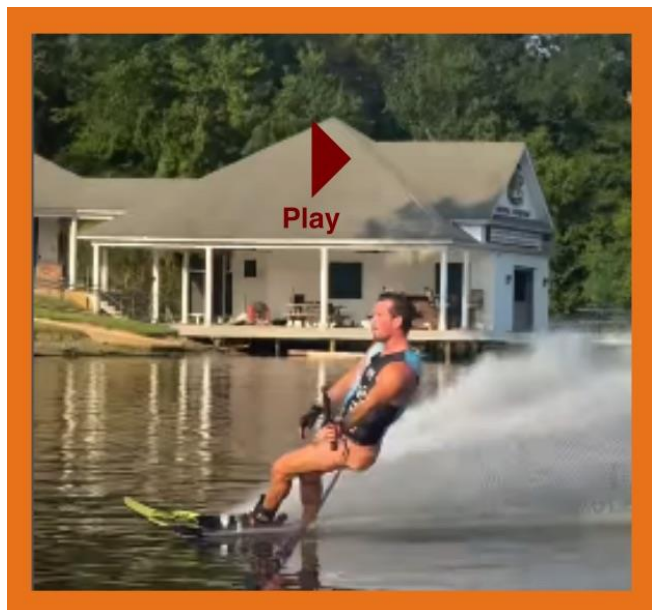


**Date and Location: October 16-18, 2025  
Imperial Lakes, El Centro, California  
2828 West Evan Hewes  
Imperial, CA 92251**

## GREAT THINGS ARE HAPPENING ON THE BAYOU!!

There is **NOTHING BETTER** than skiing right in the middle of campus!!

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



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## ULM WATER SKI BOOSTERS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President (Steering)

Perry N Cox

[perry@cox-inc.com](mailto:perry@cox-inc.com)

Treasurer (Finance, Accounting)

Kelley Scharosch

[kascharosch@gmail.com](mailto:kascharosch@gmail.com)

Secretary (Legal)

Brian Swenson

[brian.swenz1@gmail.com](mailto:brian.swenz1@gmail.com)

Executive Member (Membership, Recruitment)

Regina Jaquess

[rjaquess@gmail.com](mailto:rjaquess@gmail.com)

## BOARD MEMBERS:

Aarne Clow (Marketing)

[aarne.clow@mastercraft.com](mailto:aarne.clow@mastercraft.com)

Bill Rainwater (Social)

[wrrainwater@aol.com](mailto:wrrainwater@aol.com)

Cali Armstrong Ellison (Legal, Newsletter)

[admin@armstronglawfirm.com](mailto:admin@armstronglawfirm.com)

Carl Bantle (Steering)

[cbantle@shreveport.com](mailto:cbantle@shreveport.com)

Scott Greenwood (Recruitment)

[scottggreenwood@comcast.net](mailto:scottggreenwood@comcast.net)

Terra Taylor (Local Liaison, Steering)

[terrataylor86@gmail.com](mailto:terrataylor86@gmail.com)

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