

Lou Berl '84 P'17 Named Head Coach of Harvard-Radcliffe Lightweight Crew

Will Robinson, Oct 11 2013

The Harvard athletic department announced today the hiring of Elizabeth (Lou) O'Brien Berl '84 P'17 as the head coach of Radcliffe lightweight crew.

"We are happy to announce the hiring of Lou Berl as the head coach of Radcliffe lightweight crew," said [Bob Scalise](#), the Nichols Family Director of Athletics. "Lou succeeds in bringing out the best in each member of her crews and her experience as an elite rower and collegiate coach will positively impact the rowing community at Harvard."

"I am thrilled to have been offered this opportunity and I can't wait to start working with this exceptional group of women," said Berl. "I am honored to be joining a long line of great coaches and rowers and am excited to build on the program."

A successful rowing coach at multiple levels, Berl most recently started Lou's Garage Crew (LGC) in Davidson, N.C., an intense training program for competitive youth rowers.

She was formerly the head coach at her alma mater Trinity College, where she led the Bantams to their first-ever NCAA championship regatta and won the New England Rowing Championship with both the varsity and second varsity eights. She also coached boats to gold and silver at the NCAA championships at the University of Virginia and an undefeated Ohio State University novice squad to a first-place finish at the Mid-West Championships and Central Regional Sprints.

Berl began rowing at St. Andrew's and won the Brownlee Crew Prize for outstanding contributions to the crew program and the Malcolm Ford Award for her outstanding qualities of leadership, good sportsmanship and a cheerful spirit. She was a member of the US Junior National team in 1984 before matriculating to Trinity where she served as rowing captain and MVP and graduated with a bachelor's degree in history.

Berl is married to Chris Berl, a three-time US lightweight team member and former heavyweight rower at the University of Pennsylvania, and the two have three daughters, Charlotte '17, Wilder and Allaire. Berl's father, Jon O'Brien, was the School's third Headmaster serving from 1977-1997 alongside her mother, Joan, who worked in admissions and was a beloved matriarch for generations of St. Andreans.

Go Saints!

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