

ROWERS TO BE TESTED AT SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 15, 2013 –Oakridge, Tennessee

Shocker Rowing heads to Tennessee April 20 and 21st to face some of the country's best at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association (SIRA)'s Championships. Wichita State University will compete against rowers from Southern, Midwestern and East and West Coast Schools.

The Women's Varsity eight of Coxswain Ashley Brown '14, Stroke Rachel Tuck '14, 7 seat Shelby Fath '14, 6 seat Megan Allison '16, 5 seat Gabby Stewart '16, 4 seat Emily Russell '13, 3 seat Emily Ozbun '15, 2 seat Bethany Hesse and bow Logan Vincent '15 head into the races ranked 4th in the cMax ACRA poll but unranked in the ACRA poll. The cMax poll is a computer generated poll that looks at finishing times, the ACRA (American Collegiate Rowing Association) is a poll voted on by ACRA coaches. WSU will face at SIRAs: 7th ranked Emory, 8th ranked Georgia Tech, and 10th ranked Florida which were ranked 10th, 13th and 7th respectively by cMax.

In the ACRA coaches' poll, many of the coaches vote on teams they see at regattas they attend. The majority of the voting coaches are at programs on one of the coasts and do not regularly see Midwest teams. Attending SIRAs is a piece of the puzzle that will allow WSU to not only gain the notice of the ACRA pollsters but test itself against a large contingent of programs with fast speed.

The Shocker Rowing men's eight and men's four are also poised to face the challenge of racing against top quality programs. The men's varsity eight has 27 entries including ACRA coaches' top ranked Virginia, 6th ranked Purdue and teams that are not ACRA schools but have good speeds like Jacksonville which just won the Florida Championships and UCSD. Racing UCSD will allow the Shockers to compare its speed to other West Coast teams that UCSD has raced and help define its place among the nation's men's programs. Athletes attending SIRAs fundraised and paid for the trip in part out of their own pockets, they have been attending extra practices to demonstrate their commitment to representing Wichita State University and the Midwest well at SIRAs.

Those athletes not attending SIRAs will have a scrimmage at home on April 20 at 8:15 AM against rowers from the Wichita Rowing Association on the Little Arkansas River, Wichita.