

Bender
of
Twigs



Calvin Cupp

In 2024, we proudly celebrate the 50th anniversary of Shocker Rowing at Wichita State University. For half of this incredible journey, Calvin Cupp has been at the helm as our Head Rowing Coach. His strategic vision and relentless dedication have propelled our rowing program and facilities to unprecedented heights.

Calvin's dream of a permanent home for Shocker Rowing became a reality in 2018 with the opening of the River Vista Boathouse on the Westbank of the Arkansas River in downtown Wichita. This milestone was achieved through Calvin's unwavering determination and collaboration with the City of Wichita, university administration, and local community leaders.

Born in Bernice, Louisiana, Calvin attended Northwestern State University, where he was a pioneering member of the rowing team from 1988 to 1991. His coaching career began in 1992 at Louisiana State University, followed by a return to his alma mater, Northwestern State University, where he eventually became head coach. In 1999, Calvin took the reins at Wichita State University, and the rest is history.

Beyond the rowing world, Calvin cherishes time with his family. His wife, Christi, has dedicated countless hours volunteering for Shocker Rowing, supporting Calvin in numerous roles. They have two adult children, Ellen and Nolan, whom Calvin coached in softball and soccer during their youth. Calvin's hobbies include restoring his 1969 C10 Chevy Truck, collecting comic books, and enjoying movie nights with Christi at the theater.

Calvin's passion for rowing is deeply rooted in his care for his students, both past and present. Being part of WSU rowing means joining a family of like-minded, enthusiastic individuals, thanks to the culture Calvin has fostered. Shocker Rowing alumni are a testament to this enduring legacy.

As we commemorate 50 years of Shocker Rowing, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to Calvin for his tireless dedication and hard work. He has profoundly impacted the lives of thousands of Wichita State students, leaving an indelible legacy. I am honored to call Calvin a colleague and a friend.

Here's to you, Calvin, and to many more years of success and camaraderie!