“Ever since I started rowing in high school,” said Tom Bischoff MC ’20, “I’ve applied lessons learned in the boat to different aspects of life. Rowing is all about maintaining focus and effort in the face of challenges, and I’ve used that mindset in my academic pursuits as well.”

Majoring in statistics and data science, Tom has been a member of Yale’s heavyweight crew team since his first year. “Coach Gladstone believes in having a balance between our studies, our training, and our free time,” Tom said. “We have lives as students, and with our tough classes, we have to be smarter and more efficient with our workouts. We make every practice count.”

Between crew practice and studying, Tom is also an undergraduate learning assistant. “I grade student assignments and give them feedback,” he said. “I have office hours in Bass Library, where I get to help students with the material. It’s very rewarding.

“I try to make everything that I do have a purpose,” Tom added. “People have been willing to support my education through high school and now at Yale. I want to pay that generosity forward, so I try to make the most of what I’m doing here.”

Tom manages to take his busy schedule in stride. “You’ve got to take one thing at a time,” he said with a laugh. “It’s like that in life and in rowing. There may seem like a lot between you and the finish line before you even start, but if you take one thing at a time, you’ll see you can succeed.”

A robust financial aid program brings exceptional students like Tom to Yale, regardless of their financial circumstances. To learn more about ways to support these students, please visit giving.yale.edu or call 800.395.7646.