

## **About Professor Schell**

Professor Erwin Schell is often referred to as the founder of college sailing.

Professor Schell and Professor George Owen helped organize students by walking through the corridors of the Institute banging on a drum in 1935. Everyone followed them to a lecture hall and they stated a goal of establishing a sailing club which would not only teach people how to sail but would also provide an opportunity for short course dinghy racing just like what had recently been started in Manhasset NY for frostbite racing. Within two months they had raised enough money to have Professor Owen design a fleet of 36 dinghies to be built by the Herreshoff Manufacturing Company in Bristol, RI that winter. They also leased land from the state in front of campus and raised all the money to build a sailing pavilion that year and hired Jack Wood to be the first Sailing Master. The program opened on April 15, 1936 and the first ten national championships were hosted at MIT in tech dinghies. Professor Schell remained very involved with the sailing program for decades and was instrumental in organizing the Intercollegiate Yacht Racing Association during the first year.