Happy Holidays from Dartmouth FSC!

The Dartmouth Figure Skating Team kicked off the competition season with a fantastic 3rd place finish at the Cornell competition. We had a great time spending time together and skating to represent Dartmouth and to honor Mr. McGean. Since getting back to campus, the team has been quite busy hosting another fun exhibition, practicing to prepare for our next competition at MIT, and studying for finals.

Last weekend the team spent a very special afternoon remembering and honoring Mr. McGean at a memorial event at the rink. It was wonderful to meet alumni and hear all about Mr. McGean and his immeasurable contributions to the team. More information on this special day to come!

This term three skaters enjoyed terms abroad. Although we missed them and can't wait to have them back, we’re so excited to hear about their experiences. Below, Isabel Hines ’13, Jing Jiao ’13, and Maria Sperduto ’14 update us on their fall terms abroad.
Off Term Updates

Isabel Hines ‘13

This term I have been studying abroad in Madrid, Spain. The experience has been absolutely amazing and I couldn't be more sad for it to end. I have been studying modern Spanish literature, Spanish history, and finally Spanish art history. Madrid has quickly become one of my favorite cities in the world. Thanks to all the great suggestions from my cousin and our dear captain Margs, I feel like I have really gotten to know the city. The Dartmouth program has really allowed me to explore not only Madrid but also the rest of Spain. During the past two months, I have travelled to various cities around Madrid as well as to Cataluña and Pais Vasco. After the program, I will be traveling around Europe with friends to Switzerland and France. Though I am sad to leave Europe, I couldn't be more excited to return to the states and rejoin my team on the ice in the spring!

Right: Isabel Hines (right) enjoying Toledo, Spain!

Below: Jing Jiao and her new friends in Beijing, China!

Jing Jiao ‘13

This term I've been pretty busy studying in China with 14 other Dartmouth students. We've traveled all over the country including Tibet and it has been an amazing experience! The food is great and incredibly different from Western cuisine. The Chinese work schedule is definitely more tedious however, 4-6 hours of class and a quiz a day, but at least we didn't have a midterm or final. The weather also near rivals Hanover in its unpredictability: yesterday it was snowing and today I didn't have to wear a jacket. Lately, I've been traveling all over China with my dad seeing my extended family, most of whom I haven't seen in over a full decade. After these couple of weeks with my dad I will be interning at an international trademark law firm in Beijing. As fun as this experience has been I miss the States more each day and am happily anticipating my return in March!
Maria Sperduto ‘14

I’m in Rome, Italy and having a blast speaking Italian, studying in beautiful places, and eating AMAZING food. My host family is more wonderful than I could have imagined, and every Sunday we have a huge lunch with ALL of the family (grandparents and babies) that usually lasts about four hours. The food is amazing and we always end up laughing really hard about miscommunications; they speak zero English, so my Italian has improved a ton.

Classes for this program are an Italian literature course, a language course, and an art history course. The book we’ve been reading for literature writes about lesser known piazzas, fountains, and churches of Rome, and we usually go to them for class and talk about the writing in a café nearby. Art history is amazing because every class is on-site, meaning within the first week we had visited the cliché places like Il Colosseo and Il Foro Romano and moved on to discussing the intricacies of the architecture and the works in the many art museums of Rome.

We have a culture class in which we’ve had cooking lessons in wonderful restaurants, wine tastings, happy hours with our professors, gelato trips, etc. We’ve become great friends with the owner and baristas at a café/bar near school where we usually study, and also made Italian friends at the gym. It will be hard to leave, but I also can’t wait to get back to Dartmouth. With one week left of the program, I’m enjoying every moment of this rich culture. We are so familiar with Rome that for our final project, we all had to give one-hour walking tours in Italian, in different areas of the city. Walking through Rome’s famous monuments and tiny twisty streets of the city center every day on the way to school is definitely something I’ll never forget! Can’t wait to be on the ice again with you all soon. Bacci e abbracci da Roma!

Above: Maria giving a tour of Rome! In this picture, she’s talking about the pantheon.

Many thanks to all our Friends of Dartmouth Figure Skating, who help make our team possible! We use Friends donations for coaching fees, competition travel fees, and other necessary team expenses. For more information about how you can make a contribution, visit our team website www.dartmouth.edu/~skating. Your Friends of Dartmouth Figure Skating donation is tax-deductible and will be used exclusively for the support of the Dartmouth Figure Skating Team. We appreciate all of your support!