The 2011-2012 Dartmouth Figure Skating Team
at the 2012 US Intercollegiate National Championships in Ann Arbor
From top row left: Joseph Miller ’14, Margaret Jessiman ’12, Claire Michaud ’12,
Pinar Gürel (Grad) Chrissy Bettencourt ’13,
Second Row: Jacki Smith (coach), Isabel Hines ’13, Iris Yu ’14, Kristen Nehls ’14,
Maria Sperduto ’14, Deborah Lee ’12, Alina Everett ’12
Front Row: Elana Folbe ’15, Melissa Li ’15, Caroline Knoop ’15, Kelsey Anspach ’15, Kirsten Seagers ’15

6 Time National Champions

Captains: Isabel Hines ’13 and Joseph Miller ’14
Prospective Student Outreach Chair: Kirsten Seagers ’15 and Jing Jiao ’13
Treasurer: Iris Yu ’14
Alumni/Donor Relations: Kristen Nehls ’14 and Kelsey Anspach ’15,
Programming Chairs: Caroline Knoop ’15 and Maria Sperduto ’14
Webmaster: Anita Naik ’15
Apparel Chair: Elana Folbe ’15

www.dartmouth.edu/~skating/
Follow us on Twitter @DartmouthFSC
E-mail: Figure.Skating.Club@dartmouth.edu
Dear Friends of Dartmouth Figure Skating,

We are so excited to start another fantastic year and can’t wait to reunite on the ice! Last season was such a thrilling experience for all of us and this new season brings even more excitement. We are thrilled to have our much beloved coach Jacki return for her final year in Hanover and to host the Intercollegiate Nationals in April. As always, we deeply appreciate the support of all our alumni and we would love for you to come cheer us on!

This year, we hope to build on the success of last year’s squad which ended with a win at Nationals. In our first competition of the year, 18 of our 26 skaters went down to Liberty University in Virginia and captured first place! In the coming months, we hope to grow even more as a team and as individual skaters as we welcome our new valued members. In order to maintain with the spirit of last year, we will continue with team power stroking and partner exercises and hope to add more team off-ice practice!

As we look back on our last few years on the team, we both completely agree that being a part of such a welcoming team has shaped our Dartmouth experiences more than any other activity. We are thrilled to be able to share such a supportive environment with all our underclassmen and to be able to continue the amazing legacy that our previous captains have left us. All the members of the team, past and present, have been so inspiring. Every member consistently amazes us with the diversity of activities each has committed his/herself to beyond skating. Despite all of our various pursuits, we are able to unite and find a strong common bond on the ice.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible generosity of the parents, and friends who supported our team during the 2011-12 academic year with a gift. Together we raised $50,537 – more than doubling the $22,724 in funds received during 2010-11. We are humbled and amazed by your support and thank those who contributed to our success.

To fully meet the needs of the program in the coming year, our fundraising goal is to once again surpass $40,000 with a stretch goal of surpassing the $50,000 mark. Our fundraising success directly impacts the “on ice” success of the program. Friends of Figure Skating donations ensure that the team has professional coaching each season and makes it possible to travel to important regional qualifying competitions. Please support our teammates by giving as generously as you can. Additionally you may be able to increase the impact of your gift through your employer’s Matching Gift program. Please don’t forget to check if your employer offers a matching program by visiting www.matchinggifts.com/tse/. Register Dartmouth College as the 501(c)(3) entity and specify that the gift should be attributed to Friends of Figure Skating. Your gift helps ensure our opportunity to represent the “College on the Hill” to the best of our abilities.

We are able to do what we love because of you. We hope that this letter finds you well and we are all looking forward to another great year!

Welcome to the 2012-2013 season!

Isabel Hines ’13
Joseph Miller ’14

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Coach’s Update

It feels like just yesterday we were celebrating all of the great results the team had in Colorado which led us to be the 2012 US Intercollegiate Team Champions. But here we are with another season upon us and we are jumping right in! We have quite a quick start to the season as our skaters already competed in Virginia at Liberty University.

Our freshman class is very talented this year and we are excited about them joining our team. As always, I am looking forward to the upcoming season, especially because at the end of last season I thought that my family would be moving to Atlanta! I will be with Dartmouth for another season, and I can’t wait to defend our National title here on our home ice! Yes, that is right - we will be hosting the 2013 US Intercollegiate Team Championships April 13th-14th.

They say it is hard to win a National title but it is even harder to defend it. I know the skaters on this team are up to the challenge and ready to work hard to make that happen. We hope you will be able to come and support Dartmouth as we go for our seventh National title.

Jacki Smith
Skater Update: Chrissy Bettencourt ‘13

I spent last spring interning at an architecture firm, Oudens-Ello Architecture, located in South Boston. As an Engineering modified with Studio Art major, architecture has been one of my main interests for many years. This internship was an invaluable opportunity, as I was working at a small firm and got some real experience working on a few projects, one of which was very near and dear to me – the Collis Student Center here at Dartmouth! After my internship ended, I spent the summer studying abroad in Edinburgh, Scotland on the Film foreign study program. While studying at the Screen Academy Scotland, we took three classes: Film Festivals, Digital Cinematography, and Music Video Production. Our major project for the term was producing three music videos for local Edinburgh based bands, and I was the editor for a rock band called The Last September. In addition to our studies, I also had the opportunity to visit London and see beach volleyball at the Olympics, take a ride on the Jacobite (Harry Potter) train over Glenfinnan Viaduct from Fort William to Mallaig, and attend some performing arts events at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. This trip was an absolutely amazing experience, and I quickly fell in love with the city, even despite the weather, which Scottish people can never seem to stop talking about! A few days after returning to the US, I drove on up to Dartmouth for my favorite part of this college: DOC First-year Trips! For the third year in a row I led a group of 10 first-year students on a rock climbing trip at Holt’s Ledge and the Winslow cliff near the Dartmouth Skiway. So now that I’m back at Dartmouth and my adventures from the past few months have ended, I’m even more excited for a senior year that will be similarly exciting, and I’m even more excited to be back on the ice with skating team for what is sure to be another fantastic year.

Chrissy Bettencourt ‘13

Dartmouth Receives Nationals Bid

Dartmouth FSC is so proud to host the USFSA Collegiate Nationals at Thompson Arena on April 13th-14th! The weekend will include freestyle and dance of all levels as well as team maneuvers. Skaters will also have the chance to get to know each other at the competitor’s welcoming party. All alumni and friends of the team are encouraged join us as we compete for our seventh national championship! If anyone is interested in volunteering before or during the event, please e-mail us at figure.skating.club@dartmouth.edu. We look forward to a fantastic, memorable weekend!
The year since my graduation from Dartmouth in June 2011 has been a whirlwind. It’s been filled with challenges, adventures—and lots of skating! I took a huge leap and moved to Brussels to work in the European Parliament, which is the parliament of the European Union (EU). Working in Europe—and working inside the EU institutions—was a huge learning experience. I made new friends from all over the world—young people who worked in NGOs, other EU institutions, and even NATO—and I also volunteered for the Brussels branch of a Dartmouth alum-founded organization called Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, with which I’ve been involved since freshman summer. Though I was sad to miss out my first postgrad Homecoming, autumn in Brussels was pretty great. However, my time in the EU was cut short. I returned to the U.S. in December, thinking that resolving a visa issue would take one month; it ended up taking three.

While I waited for my visa to process, I worked as a Majority Staff Fellow in the Senate Subcommittee on Contracting Oversight in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. I lived—well, crashed—with my older sister and her roommate, and enjoyed the extensive Dartmouth community in DC! Zoe Dmitrovsky ’09 and I took full advantage of the outdoor skating rink in the Sculpture Garden on the National Mall—it was almost like being back at Occom Pond!

Once back in Brussels, I intended to stay for awhile. Though there’s very little summer in Brussels (there is so much rain, it rivals London). I loved being in Europe—Brussels was an adventure, whether it be deciding on a moment’s notice to drive to the Netherlands and go to the beach, going on monthly trips to France with the European Parliament, or traveling to Berlin to see family and friends. However, now I’m back (geographically) to (almost) where I started: the Northeast. When I was given an amazing job opportunity in New York, I moved back to the U.S. and began work at the Council on Foreign Relations, where I now work as a Research Associate for Energy and National Security.

Though it’s never come close to filling the void left by the Dartmouth Figure Skating Team, I’ve continued to work as a Technical Specialist for US Figure Skating, serving at Midwestern and Pacific Coast Sectionals, and the 2012 U.S. National Synchronized Skating Team Championships—and even traveling to Sweden with Team USA for 2012 Worlds. I even had a mini-Dartmouth Figure Skaters reunion at 2012 Nationals, when I met up with Cynthia Chen ‘GR, who competed on a Masters team from Colorado!

The Figure Skating Team has played such an important role in my post-graduate life—just as they did when I was at Dartmouth. I felt so lucky to be part of such a strong community when I was in Hanover. Now, far away from our beloved alma mater, I feel even more lucky—if that’s at all possible.

Alex Mahler-Haug ’11