In Memory of a Role Model—A Tribute to Mr. McGean

It is with great sadness that the team says goodbye to its greatest and most memorable inspiration: Mr. Michael McGean. An internationally ranked skater himself, Mr. McGean dedicated the latter part of his career to coaching the still emerging Dartmouth skating team, leading them to five national championships. In addition to his contribution on the ice, Mr. McGean also contributed significantly to the college, his alma mater, serving as Secretary of Dartmouth and as the Alumni Director. McGeans’s passion, enthusiasm, and dedication are well remembered by those who knew him; below, team alumni share their fond memories of Mr. McGean and recount his incredible impact on their lives.

“He taught us that you could do it all—and do it all well—that no two passions should be mutually exclusive. Through his example, we were all reminded that being a serious athlete and an Ivy League scholar were mutually compatible activities. His dedication to the college and the sport of figure skating touched our lives and empowered generations of Dartmouth students and alumni. I am deeply grateful to Mr. McGean for the opportunity he gave to every Dartmouth skater to represent the college and connect to both alumni and future generations of skaters. I know that I am not alone in saying that he profoundly impacted my Dartmouth experience and I feel closer to the college and the sport of figure skating for having had him as a coach and role model.” - Ariel Stern ’05

“Mr. McGean’s enthusiasm was infectious and provided the momentum I needed to keep skating in my life then and now... Without him, the team would not have achieved its many awards and honors and I would not have had the opportunity to continue my skating career professionally after college.” - Taylor Grant ’06

“I grew up in the Upper Valley and skated with Mr. McGeen since I was a little girl. While I learned so much from him on the ice, the most important lessons I learned took place off the ice. His tireless work with so many people and causes showed me how to passionately pursue my goals while having fun along the way.”  
- Emily Schaller ’02

“I have so many wonderful memories of Mr. McGeen, but I really credit him with reigniting my love and passion for skating. When I joined the team my freshman year, to say my skating was at a low point is probably an understatement. Day after day with Mr. McGeen on the ice, skating for me went from something I just did, to being thankful and appreciating that I had one more day to skate every time I stepped on the ice at Thompson. My skating recovered, progressed, and I found joy in it again, all in debt to Mr. McGeen.”

- Katherine Kalaris ’07

Mr. McGean with captains Katherine Kalaris ’07 (left) and Nicole Newman ’08 (right). 2007

Team Photo (2007)
“Mr. McGean’s generosity was astounding. Through his love for skating and for life he taught me to always see the good in people. I can’t wait to bring my son to campus one day soon and tell him about the great man who forever shaped my Dartmouth experience.”

-Paola Peacock Friedrich ’03

In December, in honor of his tireless efforts on behalf of the team, this year’s members, team alumni, as well as Mr. McGean’s family, friends and other community members gathered for a ceremony at Rollins Chapel and a reception and community skate at Thompson Arena. The event was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate Mr. McGean’s life and his many contributions to Dartmouth, to the Figure Skating Team, and to the sport of figure skating. The Dartmouth Figure Skating team, past and present, would like to express our deepest gratitude for a man who forever shaped our team and our Dartmouth experience.

A special thank you to Ariel Stern ’05 (captain) for compiling the information and photos for this article.

Mr. McGean’s obituary can be found at:
http://www.meaningfulfunerals.net/
→ search: Michael McGean

Team Photo (2003-2004)

Mr. McGean was featured in the Alumni Magazine!

Competition this Weekend at MIT!

This weekend, February 18-19, the team will travel to MIT in Boston for the second Regional competition of the year. Everyone on the team has been working extra hard this entire term, and the exhibition we hosted Superbowl Sunday was a great success and got everyone ready and excited to compete! We can’t wait to see our hard work pay off this weekend. If you’re in the Boston area, stop by and watch some beautiful skating.

Thanks to the generous donation of club sports, this competition we will proudly be wearing green jackets embroidered with Mr. McGean’s initials and class year in honor of the man who made our team possible. Photos to come!

Don’t forget to follow us on Twitter for updates all day Saturday and Sunday.

http://www.twitter.com/dartmouthfsc
Not only have we had a successful term skating, but outside of Thompson Arena the team has also had a ton of fun this winter. Early in January, we went to the Dartmouth Skiway and volunteered at the Special Olympics cheering on the athletes and helping to coordinate events. Back on campus, we had a Nationals watch party together and a bake-a-thon to bake cookies, cupcakes and other goodies to sell at the exhibition bake sale. Last weekend during Winter Carnival, skaters led off the parade at the annual Occum Pond Party. It is wonderful to have such a united, fun, and supportive team both on and off the ice!

Above: Some beautiful ‘15s rock comfy winter onesies at the National’s watch party!

Left: Skaters representing the Dartmouth FSC at the Occum Pond Party over Winter Carnival!

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!