Annual Report 2005-2006

The 2005-2006 DSP board started Spring ’05 with a meeting of all the graduating seniors to define a goal for the future of patrol. We identified intra-patrol cohesiveness, higher-level medical certifications, and building an alumni base as areas that had room for growth. We thought that these three main goals would serve to fulfill our responsibility for patient care as well as ensure the continuity of the organization by focusing on the aspects that make Dartmouth students love Patrol. While working on reflection and goal setting during the spring, we also certified all 15 members of our 2008 class in a rigorous 100-hour Outdoor Emergency Care class.

Over the summer the board put together the first Alumni Newsletter, compiling a mailing list and collecting articles. We sent the newsletter out when we returned to campus in the Fall and also organized a pro-deal Patagonia Jacket order to replace the ad-hoc sweatshirt order that usually occurs once a season. We hoped that professional looking jackets could be used as uniforms while working in the first aid room or the lodge at the Skiway and would also look good worn around campus. (continued p.2)

Training for Senior OEC Exam

A Day in OEC

It was a warm spring afternoon at Dartmouth. Students were throwing baseballs, playing ultimate frisbee on the green, and prospie tour groups abounded. In other words, it was the perfect time to streak the campus, as showed by the few ADs who took it upon themselves to sprint full-speed across the green sans robes. Everybody was laughing and entire tour groups stopped and watched the hilarious spectacle. Most of the streakers crossed North Main Street successfully and escaped into dorm clusters to re-clothe, but Vic, a nude AD who trailed behind the others, wasn’t so lucky. He was struck by a car while jaystreaking.

At first, nobody knew what to do. Tour guides balked in their prepared speeches and prospies screamed and covered their eyes. Brothers and friends surrounded Vic, as he tried unsuccessfully to get up. The driver slowly kept going, not knowing how to react, before finally halting 50 feet down from the accident. Within minutes, Vic’s friends carried him onto the sidewalk. He was lying on his side, breathing heavily and nursing a trauma to an extremity; it didn’t look good. That’s when we realized that, since we were (by then) at least partially trained to deal with these emergencies, we had to do something. This was the real deal and we sprang into action.

First, we checked for scene safety—there were no direct threats now that Vic was out of the road. Next, we looked for BSI—none was available—but we decided to continue without them for Vic’s sake. After attempting to stabilize Vic’s C-spine and running through the scene size-up and initial assessment, we performed a rapid body survey as best we could. His CSMs were good, so we quickly scavenged for something with which we could splint the limb. Crucial minutes of searching passed, but we soon realized that a notebook lay on the ground near us! (continued p.6)
During the Fall 31 members of the class of 2009 in our apprentice program were trained in CPR by Training Officer and certified CPR instructor [Formerly Blue] Ben Schiffman ’07. The apprentices also played a key role in acting as patients for our annual fall refresher.

All 15 candidates along with an impressive 12 instructors returned to campus on December 28th for a 3-day training extravaganza of unparalleled intensity. Candidate training also brought four dedicated DSP alumni back to the Skiway. These individuals made a valuable contribution to candidate training and Ski Patrol leadership should continue to encourage alumni to return to candidate training to help with instruction and maintain their National Ski Patrol certifications. With students as lead instructors, candidates spent a full day at each station: Outdoor Emergency Care, Ski and Toboggan training, and Mountain Operations.

When winter term finally began, a dearth of snow, an abundance of rain, and limited open terrain undeniably plagued the Skiway throughout the season. Ski Patrol, however, was undeterred and continued to operate at the level to which it had been working towards for the past nine months. Although the season was shorter than usual, patrol ran calls with the same frequency of seasons past. Patrollers professionally dealt with everything from lost children and broken thumbs to critical patients with multi-traumatic injuries requiring helicopter transport. Patrollers showed up to their shifts at the Skiway rain or shine and participated in the weekly training topics showing their dedication to the organization and their love of patrolling. The Dartmouth Ski patrol received encouragement from many directions during the course of the season, including praising articles in the Valley News, gratitude from Skiway General Manager Doug Holler, and a consistent flow of cards and notes from the various patients that pass through the First Aid Room.

Leading Patrol is no easy task; every position from being a Shift Supervisor to Patrol Director or Assistant director requires a lengthy time commitment and offers little in tangible rewards. I would not have been able to continue to work with patrol at the level I did throughout this past year with out the encouragement and help of Assistant Director Laurel Clark ’06. Laurel tirelessly devoted herself to every task and issue that came up throughout the season. Every student on patrol also owes a heartfelt thanks to Patrol Director Matthew H. T. Fulton. His dedication and constant work makes patrol the valuable learning experience that it is for so many Dartmouth students.

There are two primary areas that should focus the future of patrol: accomplishing the standard level of play, and striving for further success and achievement. Improving patrol is a very difficult task to accomplish, but the importance of trying cannot be overstated. In fact, in order to truly operate patrol at the same level of year’s past, it is now necessary to at least attempt improvement. Next year’s board should focus on identifying and delegating the minimal amount of work necessary for patrol to operate at its current level. Once that work is delegated to the officers on the board, patrol leadership must then identify areas in need of improvement.

There is much work to be done in training and in alumni development. The OEC class will require professional instructors and constant practice; this can always be extended and improved. As our OEC class comes closer and closer to resembling a state certified National Registry EMT-Basic class, our level of patient care will continue to progress. As we continue to connect with our alumni through newsletters and mailings we can better build a consistent base and start to add to our existing Peter Brundage ’45 Patrol endowment. An endowment can be used to build the cohesiveness and professionalism of patrol with separate Top Shack facilities, propane grills, extra sleds, ski-tuning equipment, hot tubs, snowmobiles and private helicopters for remote skiing trips to Northern New England.

It is with a heavy heart that I hand the keys [and the blitz account password] of the most memorable aspect of my college education over to Elan Guterman ’07 Director for the 2006-2007 season. I hope that she and the new board find patrol to be as educationally valuable and personally fulfilling as I have over the past four years.

Sentimentally,

Paul “PFEIN” Feingold ’06
Student Director 2005-2006

On scene, below MBA steep
**Medicine Beyond the Skiway**  By Ben Zabar '04

While working on the ambulance in Boulder, I get a call that an ATV rolled over on someone. The cell phone report was broken, no report on injuries or exact location.

Search and rescue, the fire department, the sheriff, the world itself is sent with us. We get to the trail head before anyone else. No one is there to meet us. Soon the sheriff shows up, and we grab some local 4 wheelers to get us up to where the patient should be. We go screaming up the hill, my medic and the sheriff in one truck, me in the other. We split up near the top to search these trails. All of a sudden my truck is crawling over boulders on a 10ft wide trail, bouncing through mud puddles. A few times I think that we are going to flip over and roll down the hill.

Suddenly I realize that I am being paid to go four wheeling at a moments notice while searching the woods, mapping for the driver and working the radio to keep in touch with my partner in the other truck and the search team back at the trailhead. Man, I love this job.

So we get a report that the patient is on trail 286D. We top the hill, start down the trail, and come across six ATVs clustered together. I radio that I’m on scene and jump out to check the patient. The patient is a 32 year old female. She was driving when the ATV rolled and landed on her. She was able to kick it off, unsure if she blacked out. She is complaining of right leg pain on the thigh, and some neck pain. She says that when she rolled and landed she heard something in her head go “crunch.” Her friends did a great job, they splinted her leg with sticks and tape, they kept her warm and made sure not to move her head. I do a quick assessment, take a set of vitals, and call in a radio report.

After a few minutes my paramedic shows up and does an assessment. We decide that since there is tenderness when we feel her neck the safest thing to do is to carry her out. The search and rescue load her in a litter and once the patient is in it they suck all the air out so she can't move, thereby immobilizing the spine. As we are carrying her down she starts complaining of back pain that gets worse and worse. We stop the litter and I start an IV. We really need the line to give pain meds. It is made harder since I can’t see the vein and there are about 20 search and rescue people, two medics, and the trauma coordinator watching me. I get the stick, the medic gives her pain medication, and within five minutes she goes from crying to telling jokes. Fentanyl is a great drug.

Eventually we get her back to the ambulance and take her to the hospital. In all, the call takes about three and half hours, a long time considering most of our calls last 20-30 min.

I didn’t find out what her injuries were, but she was released from the hospital to go home a few hours later. It was a great experience to be the first one to a call. I had to do an assessment and make a plan of action. It was a great chance to use the skills that I learned in my EMT class and bettered in Ski Patrol. I will be attending medical school in the fall.

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**Boarder Cross**  By Jon Scherr '08

On March 5, 2006 at 2:30 pm, I along with dozens of patrollers and apprentice, collapsed with exhaustion and relief. The second annual Skier/Boardercross benefit event for the Women’s Information Service (WISE) of Lebanon, NH was over, and our months of relentless work and stress had paid off—we had raised over two-thousand dollars.

WISE is a non-profit organization based in Lebanon, New Hampshire, that provides counseling for battered women and their families and educates women about domestic violence and methods of preventing it.

Although the event itself lasted only four hours, planning and organizing the event took a great deal of work from many patrollers. Despite uncooperative weather and snow conditions, with support from area manager Doug Holler and the Dartmouth Skiway, along with the countless sponsors for the event, the event ultimately went on without a hitch.

Observing the snow-caked faces of competitors after they finished, one could see how difficult the course was. The race itself was located on lower John Meck down Holts’ Face and included obstacles such as hairpin turns, kickers, and rollers. Racers competed in heats of four, grouped by age. Skiers and snowboarders competed separately for grand prizes of new Völkl skis and snowboards, and season passes for the 2006-2007 season at the Skiway. The event’s sponsors included Völkl/Tecnica, 99 Rock, Megaprint, The Programming Board, and Chi Heorot and Psi Upsilon Fraternities. Paid Patroller Vaughn Stites introduced the annual benefit event several years ago, and since then it has grown considerably. Hopefully next year’s event will draw an even bigger crowd, larger sponsors, and larger alumni donations.

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“I have been lucky enough to attend all three of the Skiway women’s S&T clinics. Mother Tucker welcomed us all and within 15 minutes, I was reminded of why we bring these women back every year. By forcing us to take a step back and work on the basics, Mother Tucker ensured we all came out of the day excited about our improvement.

“The toboggan part of the women’s S&T clinic has always been one of my favorite parts, and this year was no exception. The instructors are always willing to confidently sit in the sleds as they get taken down the most challenging terrain available, while providing suggestions about handling the sled more cleanly. Maybe sometime next year we can teach the men.”

-Laurel Clark ’06
Senior Bio's

Lauren Maynard
I am an English major and Studio Art minor with a focus in photography. With one extra term left, I'll be working this summer and returning in the fall to finish up. I've been the on and off social chair of patrol, as well as the assistant director and I credit Skipa with inspiring me to get my EMT. I will most likely be traveling next year before giving in to the grind, making my millions, and buying a nice ski house in Alta. Obviously.

Laurel Clark
Major: History
Next year plans or aspirations: Moving to the Las Vegas Valley to teach elementary school and close the achievement gap for Teach For America
Random personal or humorous information: I've been told I sound like a 12yo girl on the radio (is this a random/humorous fact about me? I don't know...)

Andrea Lauerman
I'm an Environmental Studies major with a specific interest in Ecology. I hope to teach science to middle schoolers and maybe go to graduate school for a degree in ecology. I spent this past fall in Africa on the ENVS FSP and I hope to return there sometime soon. I am really excited to get somewhere with a somewhat warmer climate!

Lauren Burrows
Major: Economics
Next year plans or aspirations: Working for Lehman Brothers in investment banking in NYC
Random personal or humorous information: I'm from Illinois and first learned to ski on landfill that had been converted into a ski resort. Thankfully I've come a long way since then!

Jeff Woodward
I love the outdoors and playing outside! I'm from Newton, MA, and majored in Math and Environmental Earth Sciences. At Dartmouth, I was President of the DOC and worked on the Snow Sculpture as well as being on Ski Patrol. I'm climbing my way across the West this summer, and next year I'll be working for OSPIRG (the Oregon State Public Interest Research Group). Yay idealism!

Mike Rosenzweig
Patrol Positions: Apprentice Liasion, Social Chair, Shift Supervisor
Major: Engineering
Minor: Chemistry
Other Interests: Psi U, Club Tennis
Plans: Thayer MEM program then who knows
Favorite Movie: Mean Girls, Bring It On, Notting Hill
Favorite Ski Patroller: Paul Feingold

Anne O'Hagen
Major: Economics and Environmental Studies
Next year I'll be a 1L Yale Law School in beautiful New Haven, CT.
Funniest Patrol Memory: Sophomore year, Andrea and I were on the Impossible Work Detail (think Paul Bunyan-like tasks with wee little pocket saws) when a drunken skier came upon us. After he admitted to having "a little too much wine with my lunch," I radioed (with many giggles) to alert Skiway Management. The suspect was apprehended in the parking lot.

Matt Slaine
Major: Economics and Government
Next year plans or aspirations: Working at Deutsche Bank I-Bank next year hopefully MBA/JD program in the future.
Random personal or humorous information: Lift evacuation was not one of my fortes...Hi Gumpper!

Lauren Burrows
Major: Economics
Next year plans or aspirations: Working for Lehman Brothers in investment banking in NYC
Random personal or humorous information: I'm from Illinois and first learned to ski on landfill that had been converted into a ski resort. Thankfully I've come a long way since then!
Congratulations Class of 2006!

Todd Rabkin Golden
Major: Anthropology
The plan for this summer is I'm working at DHMC and also working as an EMT-Intermediate. The patrol Olympics have always been a great event and I also still remember the first calls I helped at with the 04s & 05s.

Carolyn Weaver
I am a math major, from West Hartford, CT. Next year, I am returning to CT, to work in the actuarial program at St. Paul Travelers. Sometime during my freshman fall, I was coerced into attending the DSP information session. At the end of the meeting, I attempted to sneak away without signing up for an interview, only to be stopped by Caroline Engel '05. She spoke to me for maybe five minutes, but that was all it took.

Emily Bussigel
Major: biophysical chemistry
Plans for next year: Columbia Law Driving to Alaska after graduation and staying there all summer. I can't wait.

Joanna Hunter
Major: French
Next year plans or aspirations: to work for a baseball team or in sports broadcasting Random personal or humorous information: completely wiped out on a sled run on the steep of Thomas with Emily in the sled the day OEC was selected, yet somehow still made the class

Paul 'PFein' Feingold
Major: Environmental Studies and Pre-Med
In June I began as an Operations Analyst at Global Rescue that does medevac, medical consultation, search and rescue, and security services on a membership and for-hire basis. I am planning on joining the Wachusset Ski Patrol this winter and I am considering enrolling in a Paramedic class that begins in October. The future is both open and uncertain. Whatever my path, I am determined to achieve the supremity of ultra-individuals such as VaughnTENSITY Stites or Matthew H. T. Fulton. I'm not joking and I think I'm on my way.

Stephanie Rathgeb
In her first year bio she wrote: "I don't have injuries when I ski, 'cause I can ski!! I don't know... snowboarded into a tree once... but the tree was merciful... that's why I don't... snowboard.. TREES!! THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!!"
And on her participation in patrol: "The dean told me I was supposed to come out of my box in college and now you wanna stuff me back into one??!! How about : committed, scandalous, sketchy, half ass, and pure?"

Justin Altschuler (this should be self-evident)
Major: Senior Fellow (yes, that is my official major)
Next Year: med school at UCSF UCB

Jamie Gumpper
Next year plans: Don't Have Any Clue Favorite memory: I was skiing down Pass-Fail with Vaughntensity. Maybe it was the bright sun, maybe it was the cool breeze, maybe it was the soft snow, but Vaughn decided to have some fun ski as fast as I've ever seen him ski. I guess the high velocity was a little too much for him because all of a sudden I saw one of the greatest sights known to man - Vaughn Stites in a yard sale. He lost everything and then slid face first on his stomach for at least 20 yards. Vaughn would not assume guilt for his fall, however, and promptly made Erin and I take some boo and mark an X on "the large sheet of ice" where he had fallen. Needless to say, there was no ice.
A Day in OEC (con’t)

We tore off the notebook’s cardboard cover and folded it in half. Nate took off his shirt to use as a cravat, and then we stabilized the limb above and below the injury before applying the splint. Vic groaned and writhed in pain, but we kept the injured area as stable as possible. After re-checking CSMs as best we could (it was hard to understand Vic’s responses, as they were whimpers and grunts more than actual words), S&S and H-Po showed up, along with a group of ADs in an SUV. As nobody had a backboard, we did the best we could with what was available—we had somebody hold Vic’s C-spine, and then had several others hold Vic level as he was lifted into the SUV. Vic continued to cry, breathe rapidly, and try to use his injured limb, so we told a student in the car to keep his limb steady and comfort him as they made their trip to the medical center.

It was quite a while before we saw Vic again, but when we did, he was back on all fours, happily trotting alongside the rest of the AD dogs without any sign of injury. And although we’re not specifically trained to treat canines, we left this experience feeling great about the job we did, proud of our developing OEC skills, and eager to keep up the Ski Patrol training.

A Whole New Mountain  By Eli Diament ’02

Since finally leaving Dartmouth after the 2003/2004 winter, I have continued my patrolling activities at Wachusett Mountain in Massachusetts. The medical education, experience and Senior Patroller Status that I received from DSP were invaluable in securing me a position at the mountain. I work every Saturday night from 4pm - 10pm. As you can imagine, working a night shift is quite different from the daytime shifts. Obviously a couple of additions have been made to my patrol pack included a flashlight, headlamp, and lighter.

Working at a “for profit” mountain as a volunteer on one of the busiest shifts of the week always keeps it interesting. Most nights are quite busy, and some leave little to no time for dinner. I have added quite a number of valuable skills to my repertoire including how to “nicely” break up a group of teens, partaking in a little social smoking in the woods, how to subdue a large man who can’t stand (or ski) because he has had at least 7 too many drinks and finally, how to explain to a teenage couple that it is not appropriate to be having sex in our very dark on-hill cabin (“please put your pants back on and get back to skiing”).

Besides these common calls which keep our crew of 10 in good spirits, I have had the opportunity to work on more serious calls. One of these calls was a 14 year old male who I found on sweep in the woods. He had accidentally been left on the hill due to a miscount on the bus. I found him approximately 15 feet off the trail in the woods with snow guns blaring overhead. Given the conditions that night, I had stopped to shout into the woods and heard him call back faintly. He had a humerus that was severely fractured in multiple locations, a broken wrist (on the opposite arm), a couple of broken ribs and tenderness in his right quadrants. He was suffering from major hypothermia and shivering uncontrollably. After a painful extrication by three patrollers, he was transported to the hospital.

The call left both me, and the other two patrollers pretty shaken up and is a good story to all when thinking about the need to take sweep seriously! Finally, I’m glad that I was able to find a local mountain and keep my patrolling status active. I help out every year by teaching at our annual refresher and am considering working towards my S&T TE exam. I still enjoy mentoring candidates at our mountain. I’m grateful that DSP provided me with a wonderful foundation and hope to continue my involvement with patrol for many years to come.
The Call of the Wild ER  By Lauren Brown ’05

I graduated from Dartmouth after a lifetime wanting to teach, one class short of a teaching credential, and absolutely convinced that I did not want to spend the rest of my life in a classroom. Joining the Ski Patrol my freshman year had been an attempt to survive the treacherous northeastern winters I had heard much about when leaving my native southern California, but my choice led to much more of a change than I had ever expected.

I loved every moment of being on the hill at the Skiway, hanging out with other patrollers on campus, or "skiing" at Tremblant, but all along I thought that it had nothing to do with my future; it was only a pastime. The medical training certainly interested me, but I couldn’t see myself tackling the demanding lifestyle that being a physician requires. However, this was all about to change.

The winter of my junior year, I was one of four patrollers called to the scene of an accident involving a Dartmouth classmate that several others knew. We all switched into automatic and the patient was assessed, backboarded, and loaded into the helicopter quickly and safely. When the helicopter took off and the whirring of the blades finally faded into the distance, I couldn’t decide which I wanted to do more: throw up or run away. I didn’t feel gratified at having been part of possibly saving someone’s life, instead I felt completely scared out of my mind.

I entered my senior year with the intent of finishing my teaching credential, but couldn’t seem to find the same motivation that had driven me before. Many times I found my thoughts drifting back to that call the year earlier, but I told myself that it had only proven that, mentally, I didn’t have what it would take to be a physician. However, while I knew that the call had scared the hell out of me, it had also shown me in a split second the motivation many have for becoming a physician: someone at the other end of that helicopter ride would be able to help the patient because of his or her time and dedication.

After a summer of tutoring and wrestling with my own doubts, I decided that the only way to show myself if I could "cut it" was trial by fire: I got a job in the emergency room of a local hospital. From that, I’ve gained confidence and the conviction that I want to pursue medicine, and, that I can pursue it. I’m excited to be starting a premedical program at the University of Vermont this summer. I know that many of my fellow classmates joined patrol because it was a logical extension of their desire to provide healthcare later in their lives, but I’m grateful for the roundabout way that it instilled the same desire in me.

Toboggan Enhancement Seminar  By Dimitri Gerakaris ’69

A totally unique NSP sanctioned Toboggan Enhancement Seminar occurs each year the first Sunday of Presidents’ Week at the Dartmouth Skiway. Six toboggans each match three tobogganeers with two highly experienced NSP instructors working one-on-one with a patroller in the handles and on the tail rope, while the third patroller gets a patient’s feel for toboggan riding and handling. This idea evolved as I worked on my Senior and grew to appreciate the fabulously talented corps of Eastern Division toboggan instructors. Subsequently training as an NSP toboggan instructor myself, I held my breath as I asked if my colleagues would be willing to teach in such concentrated numbers at the Skiway, which previously had been out of the loop from Division training. "You really need a dozen experienced instructors for 6 Toboggs? - That’s unheard of - well, OK, we’ll try it!"

The team of some of the very best instructors in the Northeast was overwhelmed by the enthusiasm and learning ability of DSP patrollers and they have been flocking back every year since 2004. Attended by DSP’s newest student patrollers to the most experienced community members, this is an annual event that quickly fills to the max.

Although taught at the Basic Patroller level within everyone’s comfort zone, it carries credit as one of the three Senior electives required in addition to the core curriculum of Toboggan and OEC achievement and also fulfills the DSP annual requirement for extra-curricular training. Instructors travel and teach at their own expense and are housed and fed by DSP community patrollers so the seminar can be totally free of charge.

As Instructor of Record I have the dream job of composing each patrol team and matching them to the instructors I feel best match their personalities and abilities. And on the day of the event, I get to facilitate from team to team and see how things are working; the results have been dramatic with regard to improved toboggan handling ability and confidence that DSP can handle any rescue on any trail under any condition.
Since our last newsletter, we heard from past director Frank Lion '50. Frank shared his recollections: "Our training wasn't anywhere near as rigorous and comprehensive as it is now. My NSP number was 1060. We practiced at Oak Hill and learned to handle the toboggan and we learned CPR and how to set/stabilize fractures and apply tourniquets .... and that was about it. Of course that we were passable skiers was a given...."

Mike Bayer '01, Hilary Alvarez '03, and Matt Fulton '96 gathered in NYC on October 7th to celebrate the wedding of Dave Gacioch '00 to his Cornell Law sweetheart Anne Geiger. Congrats!

Also see articles from Eli Diament '02 and alumni coordinator Ben Zabar '04 in this newsletter. We’d love to share your stories from Dartmouth or life afterwards!

For the latest alumni news, go to: http://incircle.dartmouth.org/
and join the DSP Alumni Group, or contact Ben at: Benjamin.Zabar.04@alum.dartmouth.org
111 Park Street Apt 10U
New Haven, CT 06511
(303) 877-9093

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