

## THE CLASS OF 1965 INVOLVEMENT

Many members of the Dartmouth/Hanover community have played a role in the development of this project, but none have done more than members of the Dartmouth Class of 1965. Under the leadership of Steve Waterhouse, Hank Amon, Mike Gonnerman, Rob Williams and many others, the Class of 1965 provided approximately 50% of the total spend on the project, and quality films cost a lot money to produce! Some 250+ members of the Class contributed to the underwriting process either directly or thru the Class's Project Fund.

To create the source book, *Passion for Skiing*, some 40 classmates contributed specific research to the effort. The Class provided the principal author (Steve Waterhouse) and 4 of the other 9 key writers of chapters in the book (Dick Durrance, Roger Hansen, Stu Keiller, and Doug Leitch). Each of these individuals wrote their sections based on new research, informed input from many others, and their own personal background. One was a former winning ski racer and noted photographer; another an orthopedic surgeon; a third owned a ski clothing company and led the industry association; and the fourth spent time as a ski historian.

Many members of this class played roles in the production of the film, *Passion for Snow*. Some provided useable material for the film or handled needed administrative activities. For example, Steve Waterhouse served as the Executive Producer, the co-Script Writer of the film, and arranged the voice over recording activities. Dick Durrance supplied some critical photographs from his family's archive as his dad and mom were prolific in the early ski film making activity; and is seen being interviewed in the film about his father. Jim Griffiths sourced key background music from the archives in The Rauner Special Collections Library and elsewhere as well as creating some original instrumental music. George Wittereich and Steve Waterhouse provided the actual voice overs for deceased subjects who "speak" in the film. Hank Amon and Rob Williams helped source the "rights" approvals for film clips used. Classmates with special connections like Jim Little and Jim Hamilton helped track down useful content material for the film. Allen Koop helped organize a critical interview with his father, C. Everett Koop, the former US Surgeon General.

The 1965 administrative team have helped to raise and manage the funds to underwrite the

whole business end of the **History of Dartmouth Skiing Project**. Mike Gonnerman has been the key player as the Project Treasurer, but he has been assisted at points by Bob Murphy, Jim Griffiths, his wife Betsy and others. This not-for-profit project effort has been one of the longest project undertakings of any Dartmouth Class, and it continues to this day.

One point to appreciate is that this Class of 1965 attended Dartmouth about in the middle of the 100 year period that the book and film highlight as the development time of the modern ski industry. As a result, this group has actually lived through a lot of the events in ski industry because many of them took place in the second half after WW II.

Importantly, some older family members of this group were the creators of much early ski history. For example, Dick Durrance, Jim Little and Sel Hannah all have fathers who are among the 400+ members of the National Ski Hall of Fame (e.g. thirty six NSSHF members are Dartmouth alumni or staff; and twelve more come from Dartmouth/Hanover families). In addition, some classmates like Allen Koop have fathers whose lives were greatly affected by Dartmouth's snow history in strange ways. All these families are highlighted in the movie. Therefore, this is not just a piece of Dartmouth history, but it is also a very personal piece of history for this Class.

As seems fitting, the film will be owned by Dartmouth College longer term, and should be an iconic part of the College's visual history. The actual handover of ownership will be a featured part of the 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion weekend of the Class of 1965 in 2015 since this group has played such a critical role in making the book and film a reality. It is hoped that various organizations will continue to screen the film on television and at other special gatherings/events as more and more people not connected with the Hanover community become aware of this special aspect of the history of skiing. For the Dartmouth community, the film will likely be something that Dartmouth alumni of the future will view during student days, particularly on Dartmouth students unique 4 day "First Year Trip" that involves a stay at Mt. Moosilauke where it will be screened to help them understand one of the most significant achievements of their new College.