Making the U.S. Snowboarding Rookie Team

Incredible Year For Alpine Athletes
Changing of the Guard: New Chairman of the Board
WVA Seniors Say Goodbye

A publication of the Waterville Valley Black & Blue Trail Smashers / Snowsports Educational Foundation
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hat a year and a great season we’ve had! The weather was great the last couple of weeks of the season and our athletes excelled in the post season! Our results at the regional and national championships were outstanding and one of our athletes even earned herself a spot on the U.S. Snowboarding Rookie Team.

I want to thank all of you for being an integral part of BBTS this past season. We hope the year was filled with great experiences for your family. We are a family-orientated, athlete-centric program, and your commitment and support is always appreciated.

We continue the legacy of having great coaches and teachers to lead our athletes to reach their personal best. Through the efforts of many individuals, both staff and volunteers, BBTS is providing athletic and academic programs that model integrity and excellence. Our unique model at WVA includes quality, athlete-focused coaching from our World-Class coaching staff coupled with an innovative and enriching education experience. Our work and commitment to excellence never ends. BBTS works hard to put together programs, facilities, venues and professional staff to support the dreams of your children.

In the coming months, we will review all aspects of all our programming in an effort to determine what worked well and what might need additional focus. It is through this process that we are able to shape programming for next year and develop a plan that truly carries out the mission of BBTS.

In conjunction with Board of Trustees, staff members, parents, and outside experts, we are in the process of developing a new strategic plan. This will be our road map to the future of BBTS. It is an exciting project and I look forward to keeping our community informed and engaged.

To stay connected to BBTS, please visit our website wvbbts.org or follow us on facebook, twitter or Instagram where we post daily updates, current news, and information. Also be on the look out for e-blasts.

As a non-profit, we are looking for continued support of all our fundraising initiatives. Thank you to those who have made a gift to our organization. We have many exciting ideas moving forward and we will need everyone’s help to achieve these goals.

Finally, we have a full complement of camps coming up for all three Snowsports. Be sure to check them out on our website!

Go BBTS!

Peter Stokloza
Dear BBTS Families,

As we celebrate the end of another season, and many families transition back to full-time life at home, I wanted to convey a very heartfelt thank you for your many contributions to BBTS over this year. Despite an uncooperative Mother Nature, we were able to conclude the season with some tremendous events and see unparalleled successes across all of our snowsports.

This year marks the end of my 3-year term as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. It has been a tremendous privilege and an amazing learning experience to serve our club and academy families in this capacity. Brad Benson was voted in as your new Chairman, with Andrew Borggaard as Vice Chairman, and I welcome them both with tremendous enthusiasm as I’m confident their leadership will bring our organization to new heights. I will continue to serve on the board as past-chairman, and support Brad and the rest of the Trustees in executing BBTS’ long-term strategic initiatives.

The past three years have been a very exciting time for the organization marked by rapid change. During this period we’ve sent multiple athletes to the Winter Olympics who achieved tremendous individual success. We built the Tom Barbeau training center which serves as the home of Burdenko and trampoline training for all BBTS athletes. We launched the Pinnacle Program, a first of its kind full-term academic and competition program which continues to grow and attract tremendous scholar-athletes. And perhaps most importantly, we invested in snowmaking through a collaborative deal with Waterville Valley Resort that allows us to provide quality training and competition venues despite a lack of snow!

Peter Stokloza and his staff have also worked very hard to achieve USSA Gold Club Certification and Community Olympic Development Program status; major accomplishments that distinguish BBTS and highlight the success of our Club over the years. Yet with all these endeavors in place, we’re not done yet. We’re constantly trying to evolve the organization to keep pace with a rapidly transforming industry, changing demographics, and the desire to provide the best experience we can for all of our families.

These accomplishments could not have been achieved without your strong support and loyalty, and I personally appreciate all of the time, effort, and financial assistance that you’ve provided to make BBTS such a special place. As a non-profit organization serving a very diverse, and specialized group of athletes, we could not do this without your continued support.

Thank you again, and I’ll look forward to seeing you all again in the Fall.

GO BBTS!

Sincerely,

Tyler Gannon
As the new Chairman of the Board, Brad Benson hopes to continue moving WVBBTS forward. Having already held a Chairman position with another organization, Brad brings a different skill set to our Board of Trustees. He is currently the Chair of the Board at "The Derryfield School" in Manchester NH and has extensive experience in the management of an extremely successful private secondary educational institution.

"I believe that this will benefit WVA as we continue forward with our Pinnacle Program and Winter Academy Programs. My ultimate dream is that when a family or an athlete looks for a club or snowsports academy, WVBBTS is the one that they want and choose."

Brad and Linda Benson joined BBTS about 10 years ago when a good friend of theirs – Steve Lannan – convinced them that this was the best place for the boys to be if they wanted the opportunity to ski at a higher level. He explained that the club had a sense of family, belonging, and that this was the best ski club to be a part of.

“There is none better in my opinion. We started in seasonal and moved to WVBBTS. It has been a great experience for the boys, Linda and me!” says Brad.

After a few years, Brad decided to join the Board of Trustees. He met people like Wayne Ferguson and Robert Mann, both of whom had committed time and energy to the club. It soon became clear that Brad too had a skill set that was needed to help further the organization.

“There was this desire to help and make a difference in the club that I had thoroughly enjoyed being a part of. As the head of a family run business we always strive to make a difference in the organizations, clubs and non-profits we are associated with.”

Brad says that BBTS perfectly combines his passion for skiing, his family, and the desire to make a difference. He also says that he never forgets the time his mother, Jay Benson, sat in his office to make it a point that he understood he has a responsibility to help others and to make a difference.

“It is fascinating to me but our company (103 years old) still believes and strives to accomplish those very simple but extremely important goals. We always want to make sure that in the end we have made a difference in the organizations we have chosen to get involved in and we have hopefully made them better for others.”

WVBBTS has been an interesting experience for Brad. It is a fairly complex and diversified organization, not only in the three snowsports we support but also the academic models we run. There has been enormous change and growth within our organization since Brad first became involved.

“There have been many opportunities for me and my company to contribute. From building storage sheds on the mountain, to building a dry slope training facility, to the tramp center, to being able to renovate the ‘Anna McIntyre Timing Building’ and honor Anna.”

Although Brad’s boys chose freestyle skiing, his time on the board has helped him understand the complexity of the other disciplines as well as the complexities of our club.

“Most importantly, I have had the opportunity to make new friends who share the same passion that I do and that cherish their time on the ‘hill’.”
Plymouth resident and Waterville Valley Academy alum Nora Healey is an aspiring Olympic snowboarder and US team hopeful. Nora has come that much closer to achieving her dreams by being named to the US Snowboard Rookie Team.

“The moment that I saw, on my cell phone, that the US Snowboarding Team coach was calling me, I started to freak out! I tried to keep my cool throughout the phone call. It is such an amazing opportunity to have and I can’t wait get started!” said Nora.

She’s spent the past 5 seasons training at Waterville Valley Academy as a Winter Term student-athlete. “Nora isn’t just a great athlete, but a great person and a wonderful role model for others.” Says WVA Headmaster, Robert Sampson.

“It has been an amazing five years with Nora Healey.” Says Tim McLaughlin, WVBBTS Snowboard Program Director. “When she first came to Waterville Valley Academy, she was 12 years old. We knew then that Nora was going somewhere in snowboarding. She rode with conviction at such a young age that it was easy for us to mold her fundamentals and help her become the snowboarder that she is today.”

This has been an amazing season for Nora. She had multiple World Cup starts, two first place finishes on the Revolution Tour - earning her the title Over-all Female Revolution Tour Champion. She was invited to her second Junior World Championships in Seiser Alm, Italy where she earned a bronze medal in Slope Style and a silver medal in Big Air. And now she’s been invited to join the U.S. Rookie team.

“Without out all of the support I have gotten over the years, I wouldn’t be where I am today!”

“This is an exclamation point on her season and we could not be more proud of her. She has been a great role model for our young snowboard athletes. We wish her the best of luck as she moves to Utah next year. I can’t wait to see what the future brings for Nora.” Says Tim.

So what does this invite mean for Nora? She will be coached by the Rookie Coach, Dave Reynolds, and have full access to the Olympic Training Facility in Park City, UT, which includes personal trainers,
physical therapy, nutritionists and a chef.

Nora begins her journey this summer by attending a camp in Mt. Hood. From there she will travel with the B and Rookie Teams until the season begins. Once the season starts, Nora will compete in World Cups, the Grand Prix in Mammoth, and more Revolution Tour stops.

Currently Nora is working out a schedule with her accepted college, Westminster College. Westminster works closely with the US Ski and Snowboard Teams so students can pursue their studies while training with the team. With all that in her future, it is safe to say that Nora is extremely excited about the road ahead.

Nora wants to thank her coaches and the faculty at Waterville Valley Academy for all their help and guidance to reach her goals. She also continues to thank family, friends and community members in Plymouth and all the surrounding areas in New Hampshire for all their support.

but despite the financial concern, her sights are still set on the 2018 Olympics and beyond. This is an exciting time for the Healeys. Nora’s sister, Colleen, also competes on the World Cup circuit. This year she made it to the World Cup finals in Spain for US Boardercross. Coleen, also a Waterville Valley Academy alum, has been working to make the team as well!

Karen says, "It’s so amazing to have two sisters both on the World Cup circuit for US snowboarding! Nora and Colleen know how lucky they are to receive enough support to help them with travel to all these new international events. We are truly blessed!"

"I would like to thank everyone who helped me get to this point. Without out all of the support I have gotten over the years, I wouldn’t be where I am today!"

Nora’s mother, Karen Healey, says “None of this would have been possible without the support and guidance from USASA coaches and directors, WVBBTS and Waterville Valley coaches and faculty, Waterville Valley Resort, and all the family, friends and community members of the Plymouth, and surrounding NH areas.”

She says Nora will have to continue to fundraise to cover travel and lodging expenses. Nora says she plans to get a summer job as in previous years to help with costs,

It’s so amazing to have two sisters both on the World Cup circuit for US snowboarding!
Congratulations are in order for WVBBTS Weekend Athlete Sam Goldberg!

Sam was named the Xaverian Athlete of the Year at the Xaverian Brothers High School in Massachusetts. He was highlighted for his success not only on the ski slopes, but on the soccer field as well. Xaverian is a private all-boys Catholic school that prides itself on tremendous athletic programs. The school has turned out eight professional athletes and over 400 Division-I scholarship athletes. Some big name recipients of this award include NFL star Matt Hasselbeck, NBA stars Dana Barros and James Bailey, Pro European soccer player Steve Cesnek, and the NHL’s Mark Young.

Sam is the first skier in 50 years to win this prestigious award and has the stats to support the decision! Sam has won six top-ten Individual medals at states, took the 2015 Overall State Champion in Giant Slalom, and is the 2016 Combined State Champion. His individual standings in the Massachusetts Bay Ski League East are just as impressive. He was ranked 5th as a freshmen, 7th as a sophomore, and 1st both his junior and senior years. Sam has eight overall league race wins, was All Scholastics for both the 2015 and 2016 winter seasons, and was named the 2016 Skier of the Year! He helped his team take states in 2013 and 2016 as well as the MBSLE in 2016.

Sam has been in the BBTS program since 2007. On the weekends he works with coach Todd Harris. During the school week, he works with Xavarian ski coach Chuck Carmone, whose children are also part of the BBTS program. Sam will be attending Bates College in the fall. He has yet to decide on a sport but, plans to do a walk on tryout for soccer and is thinking about club ski racing instead of NCAA racing.

Amazing job Sam, the club couldn’t be more proud of you!
It was another incredible year for the BBTS /WVA Alpine team on many levels. Our presence and performances at the state, regional and national championships as well as the FIS circuit was exceptional. BBTS rivals all other programs in both the number of athletes per event and the performance of each athlete.

A few highlights include:

**Peter Fucigna**
*WVA Grad, heading to Dartmouth College*
Won FIS SL race in SR

**Chris Bertram**
*WVA-Pinnacle Senior, heading to Boston College*
4th at the U19 National DH

**Zoe Zimmerman**
*WVA-Winter-Term, 8th grade*
Won all events and the overall at the U14 Eastern Championship
Won U14 Nationals SG

**Matt Ryan**
*WVA-Winter-Term, 8th grade*
Won the Overall at U14 Eastern Championship as well as the SL and SG

**Hannah Trudeau**
*WVA-Pinnacle Sophomore*
U16 Eastern GS Champion

6 BBTS athletes qualified for the U16 Nationals
6 Athletes qualified for the U19 Nationals
1 Athlete qualified for the US Nationals

All athletes represented themselves, their families and BBTS very well at every USSA and FIS Alpine competition this year. We are very proud of their progress, personal successes and achievements.

Go BBTS!
How long have you guys been at WVA?

**Chris Bertram:** I’ve been at WVA since my freshman year, but I never did the five-months. I did the six-week and the ten-week program. Then my junior year I decided to make the switch and do Pinnacle, the full time program.

**Dougie Fay:** I’ve been here for three years. I started off in the five-month program my sophomore year, then did two years of Pinnacle.

**Shelbie Osak:** This is my 5th year. I came here in 8th grade for the early term. Then my freshman year I did 5 months and since my sophomore year I’ve been in Pinnacle.

What brought you guys here?

**Chris:** I skied on the weekend program, as a Mitey Mite, I’ve been here for a while.

**Dougie:** I used to be at a program over in Stowe, but they didn’t have a fulltime snowboard program. I saw they had an academy over here with the potential for a year round program, so I first applied to the five-month program to get a sense of what the school’s about, and then I went for Pinnacle.

**Shelbie:** Tom came to my mountain and recruited. A lot of our athletes came here in 7th grade. I decided to go someplace else, but didn’t like it. The kids who came here said they loved it, so I came here and stayed ever since.

What do you guys want to do when you grow up?

**Chris:** Ski.

**Dougie:** Snowboard.

**Shelbie:** Live life.

Where are you guys going to school?

**Chris:** I’m doing a PG year then I’m going to Boston College.

**Dougie:** I’m doing a PG year, then going to Westminster in Salt Lake City, Utah. I’m majoring in Marketing with a minor in Communications.

**Shelbie:** I’m going to St. Michael’s and I want to major in Communications. I don’t know about a minor yet.

What are you going to miss most about WVA?

**Chris:** Just the community. The feeling around it and how everyone is so close.

**Dougie:** The coaches and our evening cook EB.

**Shelbie:** Yeah, the community, the friendships I’ve made, the family feel, and the adults who’ve helped me through everything.

Your favorite WVA memory?

**Chris:** Just the whole experience, everything.

**Shelbie:** It kind of just all blends together into one big memory and good time.

**Dougie:** Yeah.

Any advice for current or future WVA students?

**Shelbie:** Have fun! Just don’t take it for granted. You have a wonderful life here and not a lot of people get to experience it, and the friendships that you’ll have here will never be broken, they’ll always be with you.

**Dougie:** Work hard, train hard, and remember it’s all about having fun. It’s not always about winning even though it may seem like it. The whole reason we do this is because we love it. Oh yeah, and do your homework!

**Chris:** Enjoy it.
Props to Sport Thoma!

We want to give a loud shout out to Sport Thoma for all they do for BBTS!

They’re a key sponsor and help make things like Fit Day, The Swap, BBTS Apparel, and store discounts possible. They definitely go above and beyond!

Thanks for all you do Sport Thoma!

Thank You 2015-2016 Season Sponsors!

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Thanks for all the support, good times, and the memories. No regrets!
- Douglas Fay

Thanks for believing in me, I would have never been able to do it without you guys.
- Shelbie Osak

Thanks for 3 years of memories! I had a great time and had some great experiences.
- Morgan Brandner

Thanks for 6 years of memories!
- Kimmy

Thanks for the good times!
- Chris Bertram

It was a great run!
- Chase St. Laurent

Thanks for all the great years of memories! I really grew as a person. #neverforget
- Anna Whitney
When Waterville Valley Academy hired Bob Sampson to run its academic program we sent a message to our constituencies and to our competition: WVA is serious about academics. Sampson, a career ski coach and academic administrator, was a perfect fit for the position. In addition to the 30 years of coaching, most of which took place as a WVBBTS coach, Bob was the principal at Rivendell Academy from 2006 to 2008, and White Mountains Regional High School from 2004 to 2006. He was also the assistant principal at Woodsville High School from 1998 to 2004. Upon his arrival at WVA, he declared that he would have a full-term program in place within five years. He accomplished that in four, spearheading the transformation of our institution from a part-time school to a full-time professional learning community.

Since Bob’s arrival, Waterville Valley Academy students and parents have benefited from a first-rate faculty. In 2015-16, 50% of the teachers had advanced degrees. This puts WVA among the most qualified academic institutions in this regard in central and northern New Hampshire. That is quite a statement given our focus on athletics.

The quality of the academics, already well established, flourished under Bob’s tutelage. The road to a full-time school began with the PEAK middle school program, the first WVA academic offering that employed our own curriculum. This program was a successful theme-based approach to learning crafted by a seasoned and qualified faculty. This was replaced with the full-term middle and high school Pinnacle program. Now in its third year, the full-time learning community of Bob’s vision is a reality. Students are succeeding athletically and academically at WVA due, in large part, to the efforts of Bob Sampson. As we enter the fourth year of Pinnacle, Bob has equipped his staff with the necessary training to teach a substantial number of AP courses, furthering our reputation as a school where athletes can thrive academically. Sampson’s pioneering vision is exemplified by the fact that WVA is the only snow sports academy in the country that offers AP courses.

With Bob directing his qualified staff, he also sought to enhance the sense of community and culture at the school, seen through the advent of Valentine’s Day dances; and later, the always enjoyable Winter Carnival. Bob believes that everyone should be treated with common courtesy, no matter what, even if you don’t respect someone for one reason or another. Maybe it’s their taste in music, or the way they dress. Regardless, everyone deserves to be treated with common courtesy. Be nice. At first look, this seems like a pretty simple message that’s been said before, but in practice, it is a profound message that has resonated with our community. For students who have been at the school for many years, it’s a source of humor, because they’ve heard the common courtesy speech so many times; it’s also something that they know is serious, and they leave WVA and take it with them into the world. It’s something they will always remember.

In closing, it is understood that we will miss Bob and all that he has brought to WVA. As a member of his faculty I think I speak for everyone in saying that we thoroughly enjoyed working for him. He is now moving on to become the new principle of Camden Hills Regional High School, and they are lucky to have him. Bob is somewhat indomitable, as we have witnessed with his recent injury: fracturing his femur. Within a couple of months he was riding his bicycle, and hiking; and then, after snapping the titanium rod in his leg in November, he switched to the titanium plate, and by the last week in March was seen skiing: first with a mono-ski, so he could favor his good leg; and then, with his regular set-up, skiing smoothly and seemingly effortlessly. To play with the cliché of someone riding off into the distance, I think it’s safe to say that Bob will be riding somewhere [or skiing], but not off into any distance; but rather, right square in the here and now, ready for action, and ready for success. All the best, Bob Sampson. Be well.

By: Dan Newton
Welcoming New Staff

Tucker Barnaby, WVA Director of Academic Programs and Student Life

Tucker Barnaby has accepted the position of Head of Academics and Student Life for Waterville Valley Academy. He will begin on July 1st.

Tucker has been the Math Department Chair and Associate Athletic Director at Trinity Pawling School in New York for nine years. His experiences makes him uniquely qualified for our athletically focused school. Originally from the White Mountains of New Hampshire, Tucker is anxious to return to his home state. With a Master’s in Education, he looks forward to working with the faculty to build a curriculum suited to our unique program. Over the years, he has coached skiing, soccer and baseball and truly looks forward to taking an active role in the life of our School.

“Tucker brings a unique blend of experience and understanding of both a high quality private school education and student life. I am greatly looking forward to him helping to lead our academy forward and enriching the lives our students and the WVA community.” - Peter Stokloza

Tucker will be returning to the Granite State with his wife Amy and their children, Cannon, Tucker Clayton and Campbell. Please join me in welcoming the Barnabys to WVBBS/SEF.

Mike Savage, Alpine Program Director and Head U19 Women’s FIS coach

Michael Savage, a veteran in the Alpine coaching world, has been named the new Alpine Program Director and U19 Women’s FIS coach for Waterville Valley Black and Blue Trail Smashers Snowsports Educational Foundation. Mike has traveled with the USST Women’s Europa Cup and World Cup circuits, led the SMS Women’s team and directed alpine programs at Sage Ridge School and more recently Carrabassett Valley Academy. During his time at CVA, he helped establish one of the top Women’s Alpine Programs in the United States, coaching future Olympian Kirsten Clark. In 2005, Mike started an elite women’s private alpine team, Team Savage Ski Racing, where he trained elite women from across the country to become the best they could be in alpine ski racing. Team Savage alumni represented NCAA programs across the United States. He is looking forward to applying the knowledge he has acquired globally to WVBBS/SEF.

“I'm confident Mike will have an immediate impact on the BBTS program. Throughout his career, he has had tremendous success with the athletes he coaches. We are very lucky to have him.” – Peter Stokloza

Susan Jacobs, Controller

Susan comes to BBTS from The Cambridge School of Weston where she served as the Associate Director of Finance for three years. With over sixteen years in financial positions, she brings a wealth of experience to BBTS. During those years, she has worked for both non-profit and for-profit businesses. Her credentials include a BS in Management from Bentley University, a Master of Accounting from Suffolk University and a certificate in Leadership in Action from the Harvard Leadership Development Program.
What brought you to BBTS?
The minute I met Wes, Shuf, and Nick, I knew BBTS was the place to be. I had been looking at the Loon program, but after going to a Freestyle America camp, and meeting Wes and Shuf, I knew there was no better place to be. Their focus on fundamentals and progression was so far ahead of anything I had ever seen.

What was it like as a weekend athlete at first?
As a weekend athlete, I made a lot of progress. I had never had a coach, and all of sudden I was learning new things every weekend. I got a third at the Preston Cup in Aerials in my first competition, and knew the next goal would be to do the five month program. The five month program was a real turning point for me, as I began to progress steadily.

What was your favorite BBTS memory?
I have a lot of great memories. Probably the best memories are days spent hiking rails, and working on a trick with my friends. Getting third at Eastern Championships was pretty cool too. It was my first real podium, and it showed me that if I worked hard, I could continue to progress.

What’s it like being on the US Team?
Unbelievable. Getting to train every...
day in the Center of Excellence, with the trainers and the PT people is awesome. Every day I see Olympic athletes, and get to work out side by side with them, both freestyle and alpine. The CoE is amazing, and I just consider myself blessed every day. There are a lot of other benefits too, like priority access to events, training camps, clothing, free Epic pass. It’s a dream come true.

How did BBTS help you on the way to the US Team?
BBTS helped me in so many ways. Wes and Shuf focused on fundamentals so much that I had a strong base to build upon. I learned to spin both ways, and learned proper technique which many freeskiers skip on their journey. Also, the hours on the airbag and tramp helped develop the air awareness and strength you need to progress. The airbag was a big advantage when I was 14 and 15, since I was able to do the same trick over and over. Also, because Shuf, Wes, and Nick have trained many high-level athletes, they give you the mental approach as well. If you show promise, they encourage you, but also point out that you have a lot of work to still do as well. The focus on trampoline training was great as well. I spent many days on the BBTS tramps!

What is your best ski memory overall?
It would probably have to be a tie between getting second at the Copper Rev Tour and making the US Team. At the Rev Tour, I knew I really needed to do well, since there were a lot of good skiers there. I decided that since we had three full days of practice, I would train the course every minute I had - not even stopping for lunch, just eating protein bars on the chair. By the time practice was over, I felt totally comfortable on the course and knew that I should podium. Finishing second behind Tim Ryan, my BBTS teammate, was awesome.

What’s next?
Right now, it’s all about healing my ACL. I work out at the CoE, do PT with a trainer, and stretch. I have learned a lot about nutrition from the dietitians at the team facility, and have improved my eating habits. I hope to be cleared to ski in February or March, and from then it will be skiing out west until the end of April, US team camp in May, water ramping in June, Hood in July, and New Zealand in August. With hard work and luck, it will happen.

If you are a BBTS Alum or know an alum who you think should be featured, we’d love to hear from you! Email your submissions to contact_us@wvbts.org
The Salvuccis

The Salvucci family has been a part of WVBBTS for about 15 years now. Karen and Greg have 4 children, Larry, Jill, Jacqueline, and Gregory, who have all been through the program at some point or another. They didn’t initially seek out WVBBTS. They had a few friends who owned condos in Waterville Valley who encouraged them to come up on weekends. After a few visits, they decided to invest in a condo of their own. Then some friends, who were members of BBTS, suggested they enroll their children in the program, saying the kids will get to learn how to ski, become great skiers, and that the program is kind of a family thing!

They enrolled their oldest son, Larry, in the Mitey Mites program and he stayed in until he was a J-5. “Ski competition wasn’t really his thing, he just really loved free-skiing all day. Then Jill came along and she totally embraced it!” says Karen, “we really became more involved in the program by way of Jill.”

Jackie and Gregory were both born while the family was already a part of the program and grew up with BBTS. Once old enough, they were enrolled in Mitey Mites with Ron. Fast-forward about seven years later, Jill has since graduated from Waterville Valley Academy, Jackie is in the middle of it as a U16 preparing for her second Winter Term, and Gregory will be a U14. As for their oldest son, Larry, he is still very much involved in the Waterville Valley community. He took a job with snowsports and eventually worked with the resort’s Adaptive Program.

BBTS has given my kids a really good perspective ... you don’t get good at things without hard work.

“Even though he didn’t enjoy racing, he really loved Waterville Valley and was always with us every step of the way!”

When asked if they had any expectations when they joined the program, the family said very few. The expectations were, very simply, that the kids would learn to ski.

“We just figured this would be a great way to get the kids to learn how to ski without us having to teach them.” Says Karen, but Waterville also gave them a place to go every weekend during the winter and helped keep the children busy, outdoors, athletic, and so much more.

“They’re happy, they love what they’re doing and can’t wait for snowfall to come! It’s a place where we’ve become a part of a community, and it’s a community of people we enjoy being with. It almost has a family sense. We’ve learned about success and how to deal with failure and that in those times we weren’t forgotten. BBTS has given my kids a really good perspective. Things aren’t always going to come easy, things are going to be hard, and you don’t get good at things without hard work.”

Just like many BBTS families, they know a lot of people who aren’t part of a snowsports club or don’t even ski. Not many people understand why parents pack up their children and make the drive to Waterville Valley every Friday night. Even fewer understand why someone would un-enroll their children from a regular school and enroll them in a snowsports academy for 3-5 months. Karen says she tells them, “It’s really good for my children to devote themselves to being the best they can possibly be; to focus on one aspect of their life and be good at it. At the end of the season, no matter what the results are, they can feel really good about themselves knowing they put everything into something they’re passionate about.”
Visitors From Peru

On Thursday, March 3rd, two Waterville Valley Resort lift attendants who are originally from South America visited WVA students. Belen and Guillermo are college students in Lima, Peru. The two took some time to speak with Spanish and French students. They asked them questions about their lives back in Peru, and what they thought about Waterville Valley. Belen also has family in Switzerland and speaks fluent French. WVA French students were able to take advantage of that and spoke with her for a while. Guillermo also shared about his family in Brazil. We wish Belen and Guillermo safe travel back to Peru!

Heading To Cyprus

Waterville Valley Academy is a journey. It has a beginning and end, but for both teacher and student, it is just a part of a much grander journey. We all know BBTS student-athletes give their all to snowsport goals beyond WVA, but less known are the goals of our teachers.

Amanda Loud, our foreign language teacher has a dream she will pursue this summer. While she spends her time at WVA focused on expanding the minds of her language and theology students, she is looking forward to expanding her knowledge of Early Civilization and the role the island of Cyprus has played in history. In January, she was awarded a $5,100 scholarship from the Classical Association of New England in order to travel to the island nation this July. There she will join a study tour called Cyprus: Where East Meets West, sponsored by The Vergilian Society. It is an incredible opportunity for both Amanda and WVA students, who will benefit from her thirst to learn and share.

Cal Conniff Grant

This season, WVBBTS-SEF is the proud recipient of the Cal Conniff Grant! Cal Conniff’s career had a huge impact on the American ski industry, which culminated as President and Executive Director of the National Ski Areas Association. Each year the New England Ski Museum provides grants to individuals and organizations that align with the Museum’s mission to preserve the history of all winter sports. WVBBTS was awarded $1000 to help preserve its rich history and create a historical archive of the club and academy.

Cal Conniff Grant

Lib Randall and Sally Jensen are representing not only Waterville Valley Academy, but the entire state of New Hampshire when they head to Houston, TX in July. The two have been selected as NH representatives to the 8th Annual Leadership Academy in Earth Science and STEM for middle school teachers. It is a great honor for which they had to compete. Exxon Mobile Exploration and the American Geosciences Institute hosts the week long professional development academy, providing an opportunity for teachers to exchange ideas and expand their knowledge about Earth science, hands-on activities, resources and field experience to share with their students.
The quality of Snowmaking really shined this season. Old Man Winter seemingly took a last minute vacation and left the mountain pretty bare for a while. If it weren’t for the efforts of the snowmaking crews and WVBBTS leased snowguns, this season had the potential to be a bust. Instead, we were one of the few resorts able to open and close as scheduled, hold competitions and even take on any that were in danger of being cancelled due to poor conditions around the North East. WVBBTS athletes who compete in Massachusetts leagues where ahead of the game. They were able to train on snow at Waterville back in December when most places still didn’t have enough snow to open.

The Snowmaking initiative is a step to ensure WVBBTS athletes not only have top notch coaching, but top notch on snow training venues. One of the things that make this possible is the relationship we have with Waterville Valley Resort. Without the Resort, we wouldn’t have the manpower to prep the trails for the season. Their snowmaking team does a fantastic job! This truly is a win-win relationship with the Mountain. We invest in the equipment and our venues get priority. The Mountain supplies the electricity and water, then the Mountain can use the guns to do what they need to attract more business and extend their season.

**Snowmaking Phases 2 & 3**

Staying strategically focused means keeping your eye on what the needs of our athletes are and continually working to meet those needs. Phases 2 and 3 of the Snowmaking Initiative represents that long term view and connects the scope of the entire project with the people who can help make it happen.

**Highlights of Partnership with WV Resort**

- Commitment to make snow on World Cup starting November 1
- Preseason operation of the T-bar lift as soon as snow production permits
- In season commitment to operate T-bar lift weekends, holidays and 3-4 midweek days
- 5-year leases on fan guns ensures the newest technology and most advanced equipment
- Creation of a Trail Scheduling Committee giving WVBBTS formal input regarding use and scheduling of WV venues and primary user rights to World Cup trail
- Mountain donating water, electricity and labor to our snowmaking initiative
- The resort will also waive lift operation fees for the first year
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Believe To Achieve
Thank You For Your Support!
GOT PICS?

Have pictures to share?

Send them to Tracy at twhite@wvbbts.org. We would love to use them on the website, social media, and printed material!

* When sending pictures, please include names, date, and place.
CONNECT WITH WVBBTS!

Peter Stokloza, WVBBTS & WVA CEO/Executive Director
pstokloza@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x116

Tucker Barnaby, WVA Director of Academic Programs & Student Life
tbarnaby@gowva.org | 603-236-4246 x114

Tracy White, Director of Advancement
twhite@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x117

Susan Jacobs, Controller
sjacobs@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x118

Kimberly Berman, Director of Admissions & Dean of Studies
kberman@gowva.org | 603-236-4246 x115

Rosemary Landi, Camps & Database Manager
rlandi@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x112

Brenda Warren, Office Manager
bwarren@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x111

Mike Savage, Alpine Program Director & Head U19 Women’s FIS Coach
msavage@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246 x113

Tom Barbeau, Director of Athletic Performance & Conditioning
tbarbeau@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246

Jason Guilbert, Head U19 Men’s FIS Coach
jguilbert@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246

Dan Shuffleton, Freeski Program Director
dshuffleton@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246

Wes Preston, Freestyle Program Director
wpreston@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246

Tim McLaughlin, Snowboard Program Director
msavage@wvbbts.org | 603-236-4246

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88 Boulder Path Road, Waterville Valley, NH 03215
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