



BURKE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

SUMMER 2022

News & Views

All-in!



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2022 EVENTS

july

31 – Aug 15 Saas-Fee, Switzerland Camps

august

- 21 Opening Day / Travel Day
- 22 Classes Begin
- 27 Physical Testing
- 28 Orientation

september

16 – 18 Parents' Weekend

october

3 – 23 Europe Camp

november

- 19 – Dec 10 U16 / FIS Women Colorado Camp
- FIS Men Europe Camp
- 29 Winter Term Begins

december

- 5 Winter Term Begins
- 17 Travel Day Depart
- 18 – 27 Winter Break
- 28 Travel Day Return
- 19 – 21 December Development Camp



Thanks to the all-in mentality and generosity of our alumni, trustees, parents, staff and friends, we surpassed the 2022 budgeted Annual Fund goal by more than \$30,000.

Thank you for being all-in for BMA!

At BMA we take pride in giving everything all we've got, whether sprinting to the finish line of the 1.75, finding courage to ring the bell for daily lunch announcements in the dining hall, or taking one last run in a course to try and dial-in a turn. That all-in mentality holds true to our community approach to fundraising.

Save the Date!

While anytime is a good time to be at BMA, we have some important dates headed our way! Stay tuned for more info!

Parents' Weekend September 16-18, 2022	Graduation June 5, 2023	BMA's 50-ish Anniversary Celebration June 17 - 18, 2023
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News & Views Team Meryl Willett, Jenny Bruell Fisher '01, Amy Hale, Flek Inc.

Dear Burke Community,

What a year we have had. In many ways, I'm tempted to say that it was a typical year for our community. There were great stories of personal growth for students, plenty of sweat, tears, and laughter, and great courage on the race hill. We celebrated another fantastic group of students welcomed into the fraternity of BMA alumni on graduation day. In other ways, this year was anything but typical. It was a return to normalcy following two unthinkable years under the specter of COVID. International travel, family gatherings, and even the GMR took on special significance. Events that were once taken for granted seemed particularly exciting and breathed extra energy into this school year, and for that reason, the year seemed exceptional.

There were also two significant losses that our community sustained this year that will stay with us for some time. The passing of beloved alumna Moriah Wilson '14 and cherished coach Rolf Gidlow this spring were difficult to process. With their passing, we saw an inspiring coming together of the Burke community that reminds us of the power of this place and the exceptional quality of our BMA family. In moments of need, our community looked to each other and the school for stability. A more resounding affirmation of the importance of this school one could not ask for.

As we reflect on the incredible year it was, we are also looking to the future and striving to grow and improve as a school, a ski program, and a community. We have several new staff who we are eager to welcome to Burke. Most notably, Jesse Hunt '83 is taking over the Sport Director role and will surely bring new ideas, inspiration, and energy to the athletic program. We are also thrilled by the prospect of our incoming class of students and the spirit that they will bring to campus. Finally, be on the lookout for some exciting news from BMA later this summer. We have been hard at work on a several months-long brand audit and are eager to share this important work with you in the coming weeks.

Finally, I want to thank everyone in the broader BMA network for supporting this school's mission and being all-in on Burke! There has been a lot of troubling news of late, and it seems like a day rarely goes by without another terrible headline lurking in the morning news. Your support has remained steadfast and an important reminder that our school, our community, and the idea of Burke are as crucial as ever. Thank you for your unwavering support!

Best regards,
Willy Booker '96, Head of School





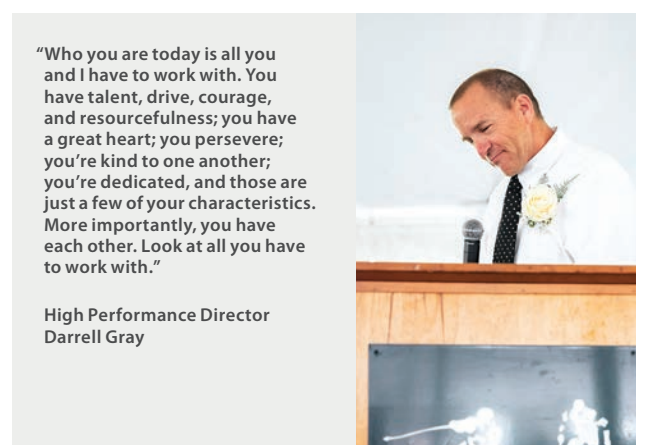
Celebrating the Class of 2022

Honoring the strength and connections that exist between Burkes, the 51st Graduation Ceremony of the Class of 2022 invited current students and alumnae/i to the stage to present their tributes, a heartfelt BMA tradition that ceremoniously graduates each student. Every tribute contained touching stories as fun and earnest as the Class of 2022 itself.



"Graduating from Burke is not unremarkable in any way, it is rare air up here; attending and ultimately graduating from Burke is something to be very proud of."

Head of School
Willy Booker '96



"Who you are today is all you and I have to work with. You have talent, drive, courage, and resourcefulness; you have a great heart; you persevere; you're kind to one another; you're dedicated, and those are just a few of your characteristics. More importantly, you have each other. Look at all you have to work with."

High Performance Director
Darrell Gray

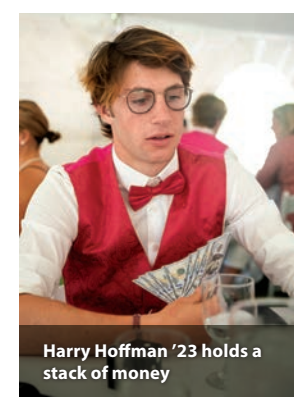


Zoë Heinrich-McMullen '22 and
Barrett Hibshman '23

College Acceptances

We are thrilled to congratulate the Class of 2022 and our post-graduate athletes here and elsewhere on their success. They have worked incredibly hard, and we look forward to more exciting achievements in the future!

- Babson College
- Boston College
- Colby College
- Dartmouth College (2)
- Harvard University
- Middlebury College (2)
- Montana State University - Bozeman
- New York University
- St. Lawrence University (4)
- Saint Michael's College
- University of Colorado - Boulder (4)
- University of Colorado - Denver
- University of Denver (4)
- University of Connecticut
- University of New Hampshire (4)
- University of Vermont (4)
- Williams College



Harry Hoffman '23 holds a
stack of money



Class of '23 boys about to place a maximum bet



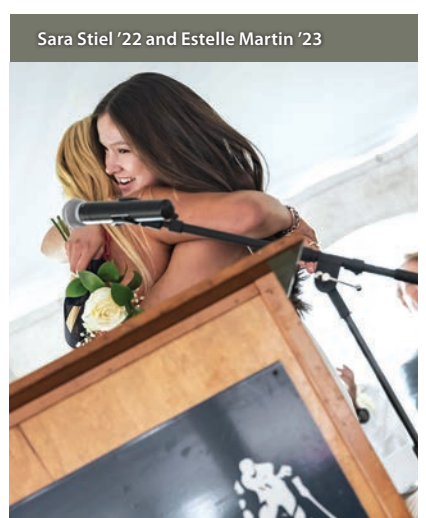
Cate Dance '23 pouring
water for BMA families



Eva Powers '23, Poppy Sargent '22 and Lucy Curtis '23



Riley McHugh '22



Sara Stiel '22 and Estelle Martin '23



Sara Stiel '22 and Sara Paradis '22



Mackenzie Leach '23 and Poppy Sargent '22



Drawing their bib numbers for Graduation the next day

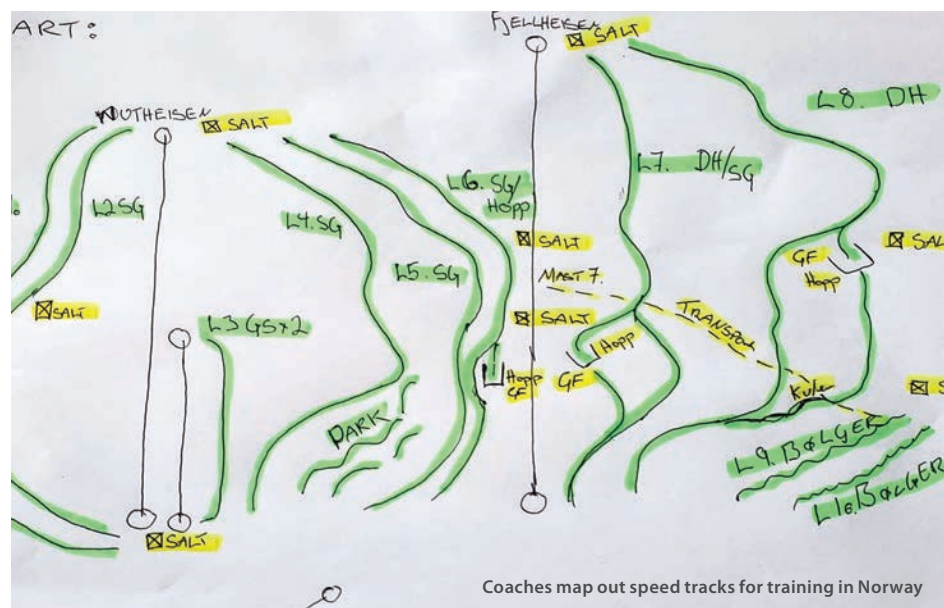


The Elements of Speed

Felix McGrath, Sport Director

Speed training, and why Norway's the place to do it.

The opportunity to train for 5-6 hours per day over two weeks allowed Burke Mountain Academy athletes to focus on speed training. Why speed training? It will enable athletes to hone their agility and coordination, but also, speed training helps athletes to tap into their reserves when their muscles are tired. Rolad Norway's varied terrain offered the perfect backdrop for this development. In Norway, this past April, Sport Director Felix McGrath outlined a detailed plan on what BMA athletes focused on and how they progressed during their training.



WAVE TRACKS: A wave track is a series of evenly spaced bumps directly down the fall line that allow skiers to absorb the top of the bump and push their skis down on the back side. The purpose is to keep the skis connected to the snow and generate speed as the track continues. Generally, a wave track is around 300 meters long. We had the opportunity to ski two waves tracks, one smaller and one larger. Skiers learned the following skills: balance, tuck position, timing, and rhythm to connect from bump to bump.

JUMP TRAINING: There was a large jump (around 2 meters high) in the middle of a moderate to steep slope. With a long run into the jump and a long run out after the jump, the skiers could choose how high they wanted to start above the jump. The higher starting point offered more speed and a further jumping distance. Our skiers initially started relatively low, went straight into a tuck position, and flew around 10 meters. By the end of each session, they started over 100 meters above the jump and flew anywhere between 30-50 meters.

In some cases, if a skier missed the timing of the specific jumping movement, they could quickly fly 60 meters. The coaches taught specific jumping movements needed to minimize the distance traveled and get the skis back on the snow. Most BMA skiers were intimidated by this jump at the start and had mastered it after 10-15 trips.

SG LONG AND SG SHORT COURSES: We had access to multiple short & long SG courses. Some of these courses had varying terrain consisting of natural rolls, bumps, and curving gullies. This was excellent training, and the skiers improved their overall skis run after run becoming more comfortable with each run. These courses are the most relevant to what our skiers would see in an actual race offering very valuable training. One of the long SG courses had a large jump after a long direction change, forcing the skiers to adapt and adjust before flying off the jump. Again, BMA skiers managed this and improved from run to run.

TERRAIN TRACK: The terrain track offered the most challenging elements. With continuously undulating terrain, many blind rolls, swerving corners, and camel jumps! For sure, our skiers were uncomfortable. However, after the first two hours of practice, all the skiers started to look like more natural "speed skiers."

GLIDE TRACK: The glide track is a straight shot on a flat slope and the perfect course for working on the tuck position and letting skis go as fast as possible. Gliding is necessary to be fast on flats in GS races.

GS COURSE: Also, part of the progression was regular GS training. Perhaps the most significant benefit of speed training is the reaction skiers have when getting back into a "normal GS course" Everything slows down, making it easier to execute the technical moves.



The Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix

The Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix concluded on Friday, March 18, 2022, with eight Burke Mountain Academy (BMA) athletes having top-six runs and five in the top ten overall standings, including Max Sotiriadis '24 2nd overall, Salva Cornella '24 6th, Lucas McDermott '25 8th, Annika Hunt '25 2nd overall, Bea May '25 3rd overall.

After a two-year break due to COVID-19, BMA welcomed over 160 top qualifying U16 Eastern Region athletes to Burke Mountain for four days of races. While mild temperatures proved challenging, BMA prepared the courses and "pulled off a world-class event," says U16 Coach Ashley Sargent.

Since 2017, the BRASS Foundation has been a co-sponsor of the Ronnie Berlack U16 Eastern Championship Grand Prix, both named in honor of U.S. Ski Team member and Burke Mountain Academy alumnus Ronnie Berlack '12. An awards banquet at the Burke Hotel welcomed Ronnie's mother, Cindy Berlack, to speak about Avalanche Safety and share Ronnie's story.





At the Canadian border on Monday morning.



Zoë Heinrich-McMullen '22 at the Massachusetts / Vermont border waiting to run the first leg of the GMR.

Green Mountain Run Meryl Willett Communications & Marketing Manager

After a two-year hiatus, the Green Mountain Run returned for its 46th year. The 200-mile-long relay runs from the Massachusetts border to Canada, covering the entire length of Vermont, and has been an iconic BMA tradition since 1975.

At 5:30 am on Sunday, May 29, the first of 13 vans transformed into brilliantly painted taco trucks, donut boxes, hot dog carts, fighter jets, and mystery machines left the BMA parking lot headed for the MA border. For over 24 hours, students and staff jumped in and out of vans to run their assigned leg and support run with one another. After 25 hours and 40+ relay segments later, the entire school ran the last mile of the GMR to the Canadian border together.

To capture the spirit of the GMR feels impossible. Yet, as we tell this year's story, you'll see images of moments when, without pause, one student, then another, jumped in to support an exhausted runner. Our coaches cheering - and yes, still coaching - through each leg and staff pacing students to reach personal goals and break records (we broke four records this year!). That type of unfettered support: cheering, blaring music, and so many push-ups kept us all going strong to the finish.



Lining the side of Rt. 100, Burkies cheer on their fellow runners.



FIS Men's Coach Jeff Sirjane with van #5 the "Burkie Rescue" post painting.



Sara Paradis '22 and Dominic Shackleton '22 atop van #10 "Ninja Turtles" on Monday morning.

GMR photo credits: Art Teacher Kenyon Fatt and Communications & Marketing Manager Meryl Willett

Trixie Shackleton '25 breaks a record on leg #37 "stagecoach shootout."



Running through Killington, VT as the sun begins to set on the first day of the GMR.



The Class of 2022 at the start of the GMR, joined by Director of Advancement Jenny Bruell-Fisher '01.

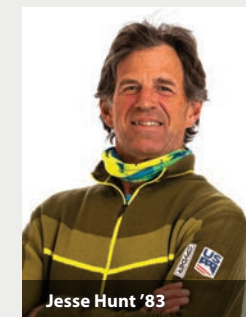
New Territory

Burke Mountain Academy Expands into New Territory with Sport Director Jesse Hunt '83 and Director of European Programs Felix McGrath.

Burke Mountain Academy is pleased to announce the addition of Jesse Hunt '83 to its coaching staff as Sport Director, assuming the position from Felix McGrath, who will continue with BMA in the newly created position of European Programs Director.

Hunt joins BMA following a successful 20-year career with US Ski & Snowboard, where he held the position of Alpine Director since 2018, his second tenure in that role, having held the position previously from 2003 through 2009.

"Since graduating from Burke Mountain Academy in 1983, I hoped to return there someday in some capacity. I'm thrilled to return as Sport Director. This opportunity truly leverages all my experiences, and I look forward to continuing to elevate the quality of an already excellent program," notes Hunt. "I'm highly motivated to make a significant impact on athletic development in American skiing, and I believe Burke gives me the best opportunity to do that."



Jesse Hunt '83



Felix McGrath

"The prospect of Felix and Jesse, two of the top minds in our sport, working together to drive BMA's program forward is beyond exciting."

**Willy Booker '96
Head of School**

Head of School Willy Booker '96 says the enthusiasm is mutual as Hunt will lead all U8 through U19 athletic programming. "He brings an unprecedented track record of success in Alpine Ski Racing back to BMA, confirming our intent to continue to drive for performance and innovation in alpine development," comments Booker.

During Hunt's tenure at US Ski & Snowboard, the alpine teams won four FIS overall World Cup titles, 12 Olympic medals, and 18 World Championship Medals. In total, he spent 20 years with the US Ski Team and an additional nine years as the Program Director for Park City Ski and Snowboard.

"There are few people with Jesse's credentials as a competitor, a coach, and a program director. We are lucky to have him, and I look forward to collaborating closely with him to continue to push BMA's program forward," adds European Programs Director Felix McGrath.

As BMA's Sport Director since 2020, McGrath made significant advancements to BMA's training and technical progression. "Felix has done incredible work raising the expectations for our coaches and athletes. He elevated our program in immeasurable ways, and we're excited to build on the obvious next steps in this process," says Booker.

McGrath will turn his attention to his new role of European Programs Director, a strategic initiative to provide BMA athletes more international exposure by organizing European camps, building on the previously established strategic partnership with Baerums Ski Club in Norway, and providing coaches and athletes exposure to European racing and training opportunities.

"The prospect of Felix and Jesse, two of the top minds in our sport, working together to drive BMA's program forward is beyond exciting. We are fortunate to have this opportunity and look forward to good work ahead," concludes Booker.



The Traveling Schoolhouse

Ida Sargent '06
Academic Director



Camp projects included:

Researching glacier geology
filming travel vlogs,
reading Norse mythology,
and designing anatomy and physiology
experiments about how blood glucose levels
were affected by different aspects of camp life.

When the Burkies traveled to Roldal, Norway, for a two-week spring speed camp, some of our teaching staff, myself included, packed up our classrooms and moved BMA's academics across the Atlantic to join them.

Throwing all customary periodization of physical and academic workload out the window, we led discussions in cozy circles on hotel apartment floors, facilitated class debates in the hotel restaurant, or found places to teach scattered around the lobby. Back in Burke, teachers reawakened their pandemic-nurtured Zoom skills, often logging on to their virtual classrooms at 6 or 7 a.m. It was full gas from the moment we arrived.

After rigorous mornings of skiing, students changed from GS suits to sweatpants. They transitioned seamlessly into several hours of classes writing fairy tales in French or independently solving math problems, often while scarfing down heaping pasta bowls. Weekends balanced out shorter school days when training sessions ran long, and once class ended, it was back into workout clothes for dryland conditioning or parking lot lifts and GMR training runs, followed by dinner and homework.

The camp closed on the Hardangerfjord in western Norway; finally, an opportunity to be tourists outside the ski area! Taking a boat tour along the fjord, we learned about bridge engineering and agriculture and explored regional geography on foot with a hike into the mountains. As ski racers, we expect extensive travel, but having time to venture beyond the hotels and ski hills is a priceless opportunity.

It was exciting to welcome faculty to travel alongside students; moreover, it was exciting to see the challenging and rich curriculum BMA's faculty designed in motion. Increasing faculty presence while traveling for camps is now a model we know works and one we can apply to future ski camps as we continue to expand our European programming.

On Campus



Energy Initiative

Zoë Heinrich-McMullen '22 & Gerrit Kursh '22

Before the December break, Assistant Head of School Elizabeth Elkin gave our Current Affairs class a new project. We were to identify a global issue we are passionate about and develop a plan to solve it.

As we don't have any existing carbon reduction initiatives at BMA, Gerrit Kursh '22 and I have spent the last three and a half months coming up with carbon reduction initiatives for the school.

Through a series of consultations with Efficiency Vermont and discussions with Building and Grounds Manager Mike Middleton and Director of Operations Garrett Quimby, we are in the final stages of the project. Even after we graduate in June, Gerrit and I have put together a ten-year roadmap for BMA to follow.

Examples of initiatives are new heating systems (pellet-powered), LED lighting across all buildings (already installed, thanks, Mike!), dorm insulation, new windows, and much more. The most exciting part of this project is that we presented it to the school board in May to ensure the future of this initiative.

BMA is an incredible place we want to preserve for future generations, and in doing so, we must start making a significant global effort to solve climate change.



Kathleen Searles, Board Certified Sports Dietetics with Riley McHugh '22

Current Affairs

When the students in Current Affairs were presented with the question, "what is a problem or issue that affects your community, and how can you solve it?" Senior Riley McHugh '22 thought about nutrition education for athletes.

"I think most of us eat healthily," says McHugh, "but we don't necessarily eat the best foods to fuel our bodies."

She had the idea to reach out to Kathleen Searles, MS, RDN, CSSD, LD

Board Certified Specialist in Sports Dietetics who visited BMA to speak with students about the importance of nutrition and offer education and tips to use in their daily lives.



STEM

In Physics, students worked through topics of electric and magnetic fields, as well as researched and built basic circuits, which included practicing how to solder a connection as the first step for building a DC electric motor car for the Beep test race!

Alumni News (and in the news!)

1970s

Several 1970s Alumni gathered in Vail, Colorado for a ski weekend last February.



1970s Alumae/i



1970s Alumae/i

Ski photo (l to r): Ben Hart '76, Peter Murphy '77, Chris Mikell '76, Linda Mossman - Petterson '79, Mari Andrie Harris '79, Laurie Baker '76, Amy Bergstrom Baughman '79, Gayle Voelker Brown '79, Kristi Graham '79, Meg Singer Huffman '78, Scott Bogan '79, Rosi Dupre Littlefield '78

Restaurant photo (left row, front to back): Peter Murphy '77, Arch Wright '78, Kristi Graham '79, Scott Bogan '79. (right row, front to back): Anni Dupre Santry '79, Chris Mikell '76, Ben Hart '76, Amy Bergstrom Baughman '79

1973 Scott Dorwart

In April, the Nebraska Knoll Blog published a piece by Scott Dorwart '73 titled "Maple Sugaring in Stowe, VT," and while the article culminates with Dorwart's time in Stowe, his story begins in the trees of Burke Mountain. Dorwart was part of the second class of students to ever attend Burke Mountain Academy. At the time, he says the town of East Burke felt like it was "in the proverbial middle of nowhere," but it "had a mountain with a ski area and that made all the difference."

"In the spring of '72 when the competition season was over for many of us, my roommate, Tim, and I would explore the woods around the school in our spare time, looking for a release from the exhaustion of a long winter of travel and racing. One day we were surprised to find an old shack only a few hundred yards from the campus. It was empty and falling down, but we knew it had been a sugar house. We decided right then, that we were going to be sugar makers."

Read the full article at: nebraskaknollblog.com/2022/04/01/50-years-to-the-month-now/

1974 Bea diGrazia

A long time ago, I was a horsey girl who loved to ski. In his great vision, Warren Witherell wanted to be ever so inclusive. I was deathly shy, hardly said a word. Warren somehow understood what made me tick - I loved the silent outdoors and going fast! The wonderful coaches and teachers at BMA made me feel safe and special.

My update is decades overdue. So this time, I'll spare everyone the "from the beginning" story. So I jump to today. I am an FEI eventing judge. (horses) and climbing the ranks and will be working internationally. It is a great job doing what I love. It includes upholding rules that protect the horse and rider while being the final say in the competition's scoring.

I am a Grandmother to four amazing young people. I have two loving sons who have found women to spend their lives with who bring them joy and a more colorful world.

I keep up with all the Burkie News. I am a very proud alumna!



Nicky Elsbree '82

1982 Nicky Elsbree

We had a terrific 13th season of the DIVAS (Die Incredible Vimin Alpine Shredders) locals program that we run through Sun Valley Snowsports School. This year we had a record 130 women. Our motto is "empowering women one turn at a time".

Our two kids, Clayton (17) and Hadley (13), and husband Mark, are living full lives out here. No ski racers in the fam; but hockey, mtb team, and baseball/softball keep us hopping!

1982 Meg Singer Huffman

I am new to the empty nest, our youngest, just off to college this past fall. Though this last (!) stage of life was somewhat dreaded (how did it happen so fast?), I find the freedom and room in the nest rather delightful. More travel, more time, and worries that seem less heavy--out of sight, out of mind? Perhaps the best is reigniting old friendships with BMA buddies from the earliest years of our school's days. I still work hard to keep my body fit and capable of skiing, hiking, skinning, etc., adventures.

I hope to see you all at a reunion with Willoughby Gap soon!



Bonnie St. John '82

1982 Bonnie St. John

This Spring, Bonnie St. John '82 was lauded with her portrait in the main hall of Trinity College, Oxford, as a distinguished alumna.

"My husband, Allen, and I went to the celebration. They made a series of portraits of women alums and the students voted to include me - the American ski racer!"

Bonnie and her husband, Allen, posing for a photo with her acclaimed portrait in the background.



Lani Ashnault '21, Wen Miao Song '23, Lindley Friedman '21, Katie '21, and Tommy '21

1984 Richard Ashnault and Karen Ashnault

We celebrated Carleigh's college grad from the Univ of Utah (our middle daughter), and had a party for her. We were excited to see a few Burkies who came to hang with Lani '21.

1984 Jen Babin Powers

I've been splitting time between beautiful Sonoma County with my husband Mike and flying for Delta out of Salt Lake City, UT. Crashpad is in Solitude Village, UT a short walk to the Apex lift. All in all, life is good!

1987 Martha Law

I am living and working as a firefighter in the Spring Mountains west of Vegas. Climbing, BC skiing, and scuba diving.

2003 Carina Hamel 2003

Carina Hamel '03 is the Co-Founder of Bivo, a company that designs stainless steel performance water bottles. In this interview, Hamel discusses her passion for nordic skiing, and biking, and what it's like to balance it all as a woman in business.

As a Nordic Ski Racer on the US World Junior Ski Team, Hamel shares in an interview on her website, "When I was part of ski teams, the men and women had many workouts that were done together and I always looked at myself as part of the team, not just the women's team. This mindset certainly helped me as a woman in business and I am grateful for that!"

Find the full interview at <https://drinkbivo.com/blogs/news/meet-our-co-founder-carina-hamel>

2006 Rei Aiba

Congratulations to Rei Aiba '06 who was promoted to CEO at Bodygram, Inc., an AI body sizing technology company.



L to R: Ian Macomber '09, Mike Boardman '12, Liam Mulhern '09, Trace Smith '10, Hannah Henritz '07, Trevor Leafe '07, Taylor Kahl '08, Bruce Lingelbach '81, Brian Morgan '07

2007 Trevor Leafe

Trevor Leafe '07 tied the knot in May and several Burkies were there to celebrate the occasion. Trevor also reported recently running into Annie Raser in Bangkok....Burkies all over the world!



Alex Leopold '08

2008 Alex Leopold

After postponing our wedding by a year due to Covid, Adrienne and I finally tied the knot this past December in Mayakoba, Mexico. Timing was perfect as we just barely dodged the Omicron wave. We were fortunate to have Burke alums Ryan Leek, George Rolfs, Colin Devore, Saiyo Aiba, Aaron Robertson and Trace Smith join us to celebrate. We're still

living in NYC where I focus on commercial real estate and recently moved firms to CBRE. Always happy to connect if you're visiting or would like to get together.



2020 Raphaël Lessard

Raphaël Lessard Goes for Gold in Mixed Team Parallel

At the 2022 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships in Panorama, British Columbia, Canada Raphaël "Ralph" Lessard '20 took gold on day five in the Mixed Team Parallel.

"It's a team event, we all gave it our all. Tonight, we'll enjoy the moment and get ready for tomorrow." - Raphaël Lessard

Alumni News cont'd on back cover.

Under a June sky with the brilliant green backdrop of the Northeast Kingdom, hundreds of people gathered on Sunday, June 12, 2022, to celebrate the life of Moriah Wilson '14.

The Wilsons have a long legacy at BMA, and the breadth of their connections brought together generations of Burkies to honor Moriah's life. While the gathering was somber, it reminded us of our community's strength and the importance of this place in the lives of so many.



An excerpt from Moriah's senior term end reflection.

What does it mean to be a Burkie?

- "I think that a Burkie is someone who embodies in totality all that Burke stands for and believes in. A Burkie is someone who is fiercely competitive yet is also an incredibly supportive team member. A Burkie is someone who not only looks out for the best interest of themselves but also for those around them. A Burkie is someone who is not afraid to fail and embraces failure as a method of learning. A Burkie is someone who does their best in all situations and holds hard work to the highest standards. A Burkie is someone who is self-confident and maintains a positive attitude. A Burkie is someone who embraces challenges and views obstacles as breakable boundaries. A Burkie is someone who is truthful and honest, even when it may expose faults and mistakes. A Burkie is someone who enjoys the process, understanding that true happiness is found in the journey and not the destination."

Coach Rolf "Rollie" Gidlow



We were deeply saddened to learn of the recent passing of long-time BMA coach Rolf Gidlow. "Rollie" was a soft-spoken and caring soul who made a lasting impression on all those who had the opportunity to connect with him. He is remembered by our staff and alumni as a dedicated coach but also one who shared his love of books, music, golf, birds, flowers, and many other interests with our community.

He is survived by his wife Kasey Gidlow.

Upon graduating from Burke Mountain Academy, you join an incredible network of Burkies who do extraordinary things athletically, professionally, and personally. This connection is intrinsic and unique; it is one of the greatest parts of BMA.

This year, BMA hosted two alumnae/i gatherings in Killington, VT, and Park City, UT, and saw the Alumnae/i Speaker Series return with Hans Smith '93 spending two days on campus.

We are excited to continue offering more chances to see one another and, more often, the chance to return to campus to spend time with today's Burkies.

ALUMNI SPEAKER SERIES President of Armada Skis Hans Smith '93

This spring, Burke Mountain Academy saw the return of its Alumni Speaker Series and welcomed ski industry professional and self-made entrepreneur Hans Smith '93, President of Armada Skis, as a guest speaker.



Smith co-founded Armada Skis in 2002, bringing together athletes, artists, and designers who fundamentally changed the style, shape, and business of skiing. While reflecting on the many transformative opportunities in his life, Smith acknowledges BM as the most influential. "I am always struck by and am profoundly grateful for the commitment and investment the BMA staff made in me. I may have graduated nearly 30 years ago, but wherever my own journey has followed - BMA has never left me. Oh BMA made a pivotal impact on me as a creative thinker, as a leader, awesome and as an entrepreneur, and the lessons I learned at BMA will continue to influence my personal and professional growth for the rest of my life," he said.

During his talk, Smith told the story of Armada skis and the many starts and stops the fledgling company experienced along the way and shared stories of his time as a student at BMA.

The Burke Mountain Academy Alumni Speaker Series seeks to welcome Burkies to campus to share their stories of life beyond Burke and the BMA experience's influence on their lives.

ALUMNI INTERVIEW Holly Flanders '76



Burke Mountain Academy alumna Holly Flanders '76 is among the newest members inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame. Along with several prestigious ski and snowboard athletes and sport builders who make up the Class of 2020, she accepted her recognition during a ceremony in Bretton Woods, NH, on March 5, 2022.

Known as a lifelong leader and influencer in snow sports, Flanders will be the first to tell you that skiing didn't always come naturally to her. Still, her passion for the sport and commitment to becoming the best eventually propelled her to the top of the ski racing world.

Flanders shares her story during an interview from her home outside Park City, Utah. She recalls being scouted by Burke Mountain Academy Head of School Warren Witherell in 1974 and deciding to attend BMA for her senior year, which turned into a post-graduate year, and one additional winter beyond that.

"My style wasn't the prettiest, but Warren recognized that my skis were doing good things in the snow, and if I wanted to keep racing, it was clear to me that I needed serious coaching and more race exposure. Burke could do that for me. Skill-wise, I started at the bottom at BMA, but I eventually caught up," she said.

The decision to attend BMA was the first of several choices Flanders made that led her to become the top downhill ski racer in the world. In her upcoming book Going Downhill Fast: How I Went from Worst to First, she examines the seven critical decisions that shaped the trajectory of her life, ultimately bringing her the success she had been working to achieve. "The goal of my book is to motivate and help people get to the next level in their lives," she said.

All this to say, Flanders doesn't believe that to be successful, you have to finish first, or win a World Cup for that matter; she supports embracing failure and building upon lessons learned to become a better athlete and person. Flanders and most Burkies will tell you that success is found in the process. "Warren (Witherell) instilled in us the importance of embracing the process of becoming a skilled ski racer. He believed, as do I that ski racing is about enjoying each step along the way, not just the results," she says.

In 1977, Flanders joined the U.S. Ski Team and won her first World Cup downhill race in 1982. Two first-place finishes, six World Cup podiums, 27 World Cup top 10s, and two Olympic appearances, Lake Placid in 1980 and Sarajevo in 1984, followed. With these achievements, Flanders was undeniably the top downhill skier in the U.S. for a solid five years.

Holly Flanders '76 is a mother of three and has recently retired as Director of Skiing at Park City Ski Area; her first book is due in fall 2022. www.hollyflanders.com

Interview by Meryl Willett



BURKE MOUNTAIN ACADEMY

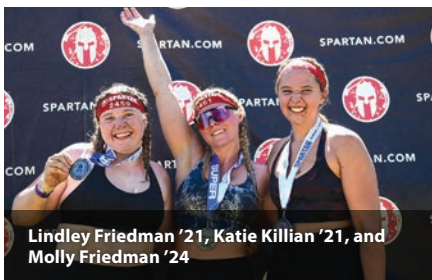
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East Burke, Vermont 05832

Is this the right address for you?
Please send your updated contact info
to Jenny Bruell Fisher at
jbruellfisher@burkemtnacademy.org

Alumni News – Continued

2021 Ava Sunshine Jemison '21

Rising star on the U.S. Ski Team and BMA alumna, Ava Sunshine Jemison '21 claimed the silver medal in super-G at the 2022 FIS Alpine Junior World Ski Championships in Panorama, British Columbia, Canada.



Lindley Friedman '21, Katie Killian '21, and Molly Friedman '24

2021

Lindley Friedman '21, Katie Killian '21, and Molly Friedman '24 took on the Spartan Race at Snowbasin Resort in Utah on July 10th.

Alumae/i at NorAMs



Chris McKenna '12, Jenny Bruell Fisher '01, Ryan Markham '00, Jack Auty '13, Harry Laidlaw '14, Patrick Kenney '15, Willy Booker '96, Graham Flinn '04, Matt McKenna '09

BMA in Park City



Burkies gathered in Park City, Utah in early March 2022 for a ski day and apres ski reception at the Wasatch Brew Pub. It was great to ski together and reconnect with alumni and BMA families!

Departing Faculty

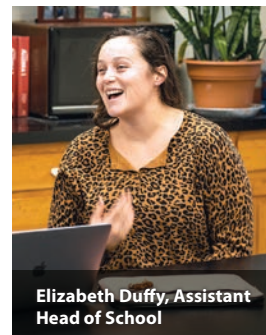
Thank you to the following faculty and staff who are departing BMA. Your contributions to our community have been significant and appreciated! Good luck to all in their next endeavors.



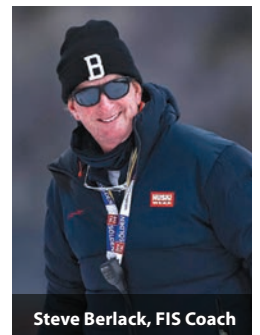
John Kimball, Chef



Beth Brodie,
World Language Teacher



Elizabeth Duffy, Assistant
Head of School



Steve Berlack, FIS Coach