

Mike Henriques, New Proctor Head Day Students Shine At Proctor

By Jamie Thompson
Proctor Academy '05
Journalism Class

In July, Proctor will welcome Mike Henriques as the new Head of School, along with his family, to the Proctor and Andover communities. Mike comes to Proctor from Holderness School, where he has worked for nearly 20 years as a teacher of English, dorm parent, coach, Dean of Students, Dean of Faculty, and director of both wilderness orientation and the March Out Back program.

In an e-mail interview I asked Mike what it was that attracted him to Proctor.

"Initially it was the school's connection to the outdoors and experiential education. I have found hands-on learning to be remarkably effective in creating life-long memories and applicable lessons.

"My own connection to experiential education goes back to high school days when I worked building a cabin with old-fashioned tools, learned how to shear sheep, and hiked many, many days in the mountains. I carried those early experiences, particularly a connection to the outdoors, into my career as an educator.

"I have directed programs at Holderness like Out Back and the orientation hike, have worked for NOLS as an instructor. Whether it is skiing or rock climbing, I continue to enjoy all my outdoors time.

"As I learned more about the school, its commitment to being a tight-knit

community that works to ignite life-long passions...well, I became enamored. Proctor's mission is subtly but importantly different from other schools - both in and out of the classroom." Mike is very excited about coming to Proctor.

Mike has two children, Will and Olivia. They will be attending Andover Elementary/Middle School. "[Today,] Will and Olivia attend the Sandwich Elementary School and they love the small size of it and the way everyone knows everyone else. They are both very excited about their new school [AE/MS] and the new friends they hope to make."

I asked Mike if he plans on getting involved with the community. He responded, "Well, once we are settled into the community, have our bearings, and better understand what is available, we will look for ways to get involved. I could see helping out with Bill Koch skiing or coaching little league baseball. In Sandwich, Betsy [Mike's wife] has been involved on committees at the Sandwich Central School. I am very much interested in exploring how Proctor students interact with the community and what kinds of meaningful relationships exist. The way the town and the school are situated, I hope to see - and further - a flourishing and rewarding interaction between the two."

Mike is very excited to make the move to Proctor and Andover with Betsy, Will, and Olivia. Welcome to our community, Mike and family!

By Alexander Stein
Proctor Academy '06
Journalism Class

The community of Proctor has spread beyond its 3,000 acre campus and into the town of Andover. "Proctor is a community dedicated to maximize the success of every student," reads a portion of Proctor Academy's mission statement. This is best seen in the excellence and success of the Andover day students who attend Proctor.

Just what do they excel in? Is it just academics? Is Andover creating the next generation of Einsteins?

While many of the Andover day students who attend Proctor consistently appear on Head's List (an average of 90 or higher) and Effort Honor Roll (60% or more high honor effort grades), many students are excelling in the arts and athletics as well.

February 5 concluded the performances of *Proof*, a production co-directed by four-year seniors and Andover day students Jamie Thompson and Elizabeth Lamb. The play was a great success among faculty and students alike.

In the ceramics room is Matt Johnson, another four-year senior and Andover day student. Throughout his Proctor career, Matt has worked closely with Patrice Martin, the school's ceramics teacher, to develop and hone the

skills he exhibits today. Many of Matt's works have been featured in school exhibitions and outside competitions alike.

Across the street at the Blackwater Ski Area is Nicholas Fairall, an Andover sophomore who excels in the sport of ski jumping. In recent local meets, Nick has earned first place in his age category and was recently named to the Junior Olympic team. Matt Johnson, while an accomplished artist, is also a very talented snowboarder and contributes strongly to the snowboard team's winning record.

To find out just what makes local Proctor students so exceptional, I decided to go straight to the source and speak with Matt Johnson. When I asked Matt of his Proctor experience, he said, "I've really been able to shine here."

When asked how Proctor brings out the best in its local students, Matt replied, "I think that it is two-sided. I think that Proctor has talented teachers and that there is talent within all of the students. The thing that makes Proctor stand out is its willingness to find and support those talents."

I believe that what Matt said shows talent in itself; it shows a maturity and strength of mind. So I must tell you, Andover, whatever it is that you do for these students, please keep it up!

Greg Stetson: Profile Of A Busy Guy

By Sam Swasey
Proctor Academy '05
Journalism Class

During my first few days as a freshman at Proctor Academy I was uncomfortable, lost, and quite nervous, so when Greg Stetson's large work boot came through my advisor's door followed by the rest of his towering body, I was terrified. After he sat down, conversation (instead of fire) came from his mouth, and I realized he was a friendly, easy-going guy.

Interested in the town of Andover, Greg's feelings about Proctor Academy, and what he has done since graduating, I called Greg recently and chatted with him about life.

Greg told me that he believed living in Andover and going to Proctor Academy both had a large impact on his life. While at Proctor, Greg did not let school control his life. He went to classes at the boarding school but made sure to remain loyal to his friends at Merrimack Valley High School.

When asked if he believed that he benefited from his four years at Proctor, Greg thoughtfully sighed then stated, "I did not realize it while I was there... I do now."

Two years after graduating from Proctor, Greg continues to live in his hometown of Andover. He must have a battery inside him which he charges each night, because during the day Greg does not stop. Along with his school-

work, Greg ambitiously fills his time working at the Blackwater Ski Area, plowing for Proctor's maintenance, and working part time with the Hopkinton Fire Department.

His battery is clearly not fueled by money alone, because Greg, along with his paying job as a fire fighter, also proudly volunteers at the East Andover fire department. Being a lazy seventeen year old myself, I sniggered and asked bluntly "Why do that?"

"That's the kind of stuff that makes me happy," Greg calmly replied (as if trying out for a part in some cheesy family sitcom). This was not a television show though; Greg was playing no part at all. He was being truthful and straightforward. This is just the kind of person Greg is - thoughtful and hardworking.

Of course, even Greg needs time to relax. To do that he generally kicks his snowmobile into gear or meets up with friends, but in any case Greg is usually smiling.

The town of Andover, Proctor Academy, and the Stetson family deserve a round of applause because these three elements aided in the creation and evolution of a kind, hardworking, overall good guy.

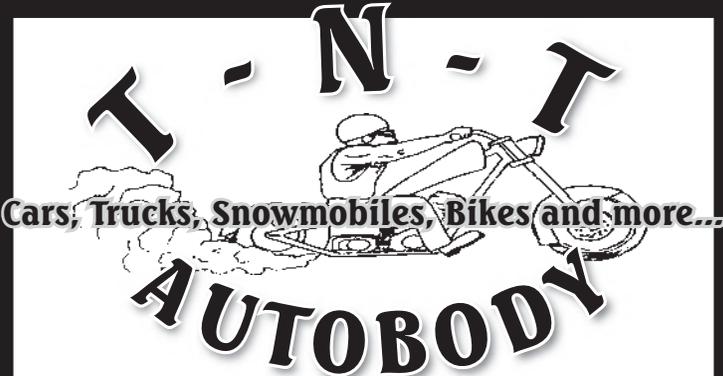
Finally, Greg Stetson is deserving of a firm handshake for who he is and everything he does. After all, it could be the next snow storm that he helps clear or a house in your neighborhood where Greg responds to a call for help.

SAVE THE DATE
Saturday, April 30
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Masonic Hall
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along with the
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