

Linda Gray Burdet - Class of 1949

Sports: Orange Team

Played in College: Mount Holyoke College

Lyndy was a member of the Orange Team at Oxford School and was awarded the Oxford Class Seal at Class Night. She was also the President of the Athletic Association during her senior year and began the Oxford Fair during that tenure. Lyndy was also a member of the ski team at Mount Holyoke College. She raced in the Junior Nationals in 1948 and was a member of the Olympic training squad in 1951. In 1952 she helped with the translations for the Swiss expedition to Mount Everest. Lyndy has climbed and ski mountaineered throughout the Alps, including Mt. Blanc, the Matterhorn and the Dolent. In 1975, she was part of the film crew on a climbing expedition to the Karakorum in Pakistan. Lyndy reached the summit of Mt. McKinley (Denali) with Galen Rowell on June 3 1976. She is a part of the National Ski Patrol # 58 PSIA (Professional Ski Instructors of America) and is a level three certified instructor. Lyndy also has her airplane, hot air balloon and master scuba diving licenses. Lyndy and her husband Heinz reached the North Pole on April 12, 2008 and are entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest married couple to ever ski there. On August 1, 2008, she reached the summit of the highest most northern mountain in the world in the vicinity of Cap Morris Jesup, Greenland. Lyndy was awarded a plaque by governor of Vermont for an active, healthy aging initiative. She credits her initial interest in outdoor adventures to Jim Goodwin '28. She says, "James Goodwin, a Kingswood teacher, got me started in climbing mountains on foot and on skis back in 1947 or 48. That was at a time when our Oxford headmistress, Miss Fitch, frowned upon such activities for a lady. Luckily, my Dad told Miss Fitch to allow me to go with Mr. Goodwin and the Kingswood boys. She was horrified. Jim Goodwin will turn 100 years old next March 8th. I owe so much to him for the passion for adventure that I have never lost.