



The Board of Advisors of
the Tuck School of Business
is pleased to award the 2019 Distinguished Achievement Medal to
Tore Rynning-Nielsen T'85

Tore has supported Tuck and Dartmouth in so many ways, it's hard to know where to begin a description of his impact. Perhaps it's helpful to speak in terms of his beloved sport, Nordic skiing. Nordic skiing is said to be the most physically demanding activity on the planet. What separates truly great Nordic skiers from the rest of us is their ability to go faster and farther with less effort. They travel over hills at a mind-boggling pace, and make it look graceful and easy. For many years, Tore has brought that same astonishing effectiveness to his service to Tuck, and he has done it with a grace and flair that reflects how successfully he has lived our School's mission of being a wise leader who betters the world of business.

Nordic skiers, like other endurance athletes, put in many hours of base training to hone their aerobic system and make them capable of elite performance when the time comes. You could say that Tore's base training at Tuck consists of years of engaged, insightful service on the Board of Advisors, the European Council, the board for the Center for Private Equity and Venture Capital, and the Campaign Leadership Committee. And when Dartmouth took notice of his leadership in his home country of Norway, and in Europe more broadly, the College tapped him to serve on its regional European committee as well—and, of course, he generously said yes.

Tore's presence on these boards and committees has given him an intimate understanding of Tuck's needs and opportunities, and set him up to unleash his creativity and generosity on the school's priorities. One example is when Tuck was just beginning its capital campaign, and the European Council was discussing scholarship fundraising.

As Erin Tunnicliffe related: "Tore immediately came to us and said: 'I want to do two things. My family cares about this, so we're going to create a fund in our name to benefit European candidates. But I think the Council should do this together, so I'm committing money for a second fund and an additional piece for matching other gifts.' Through the matching, Tuck had very high participation from other Council members, and because of that model, the other two global councils funded regional scholarships, too."

Another example is Tore's early and ongoing support of the Next Step: Transition to Business program for military veterans and elite athletes. Last fall, he hosted a delegation from Tuck at his home in Oslo and organized meetings all day with business leaders, the dean of the local business school, and representatives from Olympiatoppen, Norway's Olympic training organization. He singlehandedly orchestrated the right conversations with all the right parties to bring seven Norwegian athletes and veterans to Next Step last April and, we are hoping, the first global Next Step offering, to be held in Norway in the fall.

As a testament to his entrepreneurial spirit, Tore has been able to combine his passion for Nordic skiing with his mentorship and philanthropy at Tuck and Dartmouth. Last year, he led a First Year Project at Tuck on the Nordic skiing industry in New England, with an eye towards increasing opportunities for youth development and community participation in the sport. At the final presentation, there was an astounding turnout of people from the Upper Valley, all keenly interested in the group's findings. And Tore has pledged a significant gift to explore a major upgrade to Dartmouth's cross-country ski facility, Oak Hill, through lead sponsorship of a feasibility study.

Many people in the Tuck community have had the pleasure of getting to know Tore, including Dean Slaughter, who remarked, "I am continually impressed by his confidently humble, empathetic, and decisive engagement with his home country and the broader world."

We are extremely fortunate to have this elite performer on our team, and in recognition of his outstanding service to our community, the Tuck Board of Advisors is pleased to honor Tore Rynning-Nielsen with the Tuck Distinguished Achievement Medal for 2019.

Matthew J. Slaughter
Dean
Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth
June 8, 2019