

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As this book details, one result of a decade increasingly immersed in adult figure skating is that I often think of myself as “a skater who,” bumping teacher and writer down on the list. So I begin within my skating communities. At my home rink, the Portland Ice Arena (PIA) in Portland, Maine, Lynda Hathaway runs one of the most welcoming programs for adult skaters that I have encountered, and she helped bring a new dimension to my research by inviting me to become a volunteer coaching assistant. Thanks to everyone on Sunday night adult ice whom I’ve gotten to coach, skate with, and be coached by, and to so many others on public ice, freestyle ice, and club ice there and at Family Ice Center down the road. I could hardly begin to name them, but the adult skaters, and former kid skaters who turned into adults, include Mark Bettney, Dave Brook, Judy Fisher (accessorizing entourage extraordinaire), Teresa Henderson, Kathleen Janick, Allison Johnston, Amy Kaplan, Jennifer Lenardson, Dave Leonard, James Light, Laura Smith Martineau, Heather McGrath (who explained to me, among so many helpful tidbits to a new skater, that a fancy guy needed to sharpen my skates), Joe McGrath, Ed Morin, Elena Morrow-Spitzer, Diane Nugent, Janet O’Toole, Caroline Allam Paras, Lori Sheldon, Val Smith-Punsky and Anna Welch (the other two members of the Fab Femme Fatales competition team), Molly Spindler, Norma Ware (who found me at public skating and helped me relearn some basics), and Glenda Winn. Our skating lives are diminished without John Walker, Tom Beckman, and Dave Brook, who died over the last several years. Thanks to the kids I have had the chance to (stop being scared to) skate with, to the parents I got to know, who occasionally stepped in when I needed a skating mom myself, and to the staff and volunteers at both (and all) rinks who make skating possible, whether in the office, on the Zamboni, or during late nights at the computer, including Sharon Ingalls, D. J. Whitten, Rob Carrier, Mike Blanck, Anthony Reynolds, Luane

Howard, Josh Brainard, Dennis Patenaude, and Kevin Sackville, as well as Alan Wolf and many others in the North Atlantic Figure Skating Club.

I first ventured into skating beyond southern Maine at the 2006 Gay Games in Chicago. Jason Goldman generously came along as friend, research assistant, and not-since-junior-high competitive bowler; Jim Neal was a great fellow traveler. Three skaters I met there, Johnny Manzon-Santos, Sara Shley, and Mary Squires, have immensely enhanced my life, skating, and project. I thank them for sharing friendship, insights, and ice time, and for, on occasion, “putting me on the ice.” From the Gay Games and Adult Nationals, I also thank Amy Entwistle, Cindy Crouse, Debbie Leung, Bradley Erickson, Burton Powley, and the “Ladies” in my competition group, Ladies Bronze IV (IV meaning ages fifty-one to sixty). I thought I’d have to stick it out in hockey to experience that locker-room camaraderie I’d heard about, but not when competitors cheer each other on. To Category V (“sixty-one-till-death”) skaters, I aspire to live up to you. Massive volunteer labor goes into putting on Adult Skating events; my wish for some changes does not diminish my profound respect and gratitude for the work of all involved.

You know you’re a serious skater when you’ve skated to “All That Jazz” (2011 PIA adult-skater group number, check), had a sponsor (Sheila and Shoné at Epiphany, now Salon Paragon, thanks!), and heard a coach tell you, even just that once, to “attack” your jumps. Ann Hanson has been a truly wonderful coach and friend. I hope she keeps telling me to “try one more” (meaning possibly sixteen more) for years to come. Thanks also to my first coach, Mathea Daunheimer, and to my frequent ISI Freestyle Five and sometimes bonus coach, Kristin Andrews.

On skates without toe picks: Dorothy Diggs and Denise Tanguay hooked me up with Greater Portland Women’s Ice Hockey, where the players, and those in Falmouth, generously shared their locker rooms and enthusiasm. Maine Roller Derby also graciously let me hang out, watch, listen in, and ask questions. Killer Quick, Patty O’Mean, Vexacious D, Punchy O’Guts, and Jacked Rabbit provided extensive time for interviews.

Off skates (almost) entirely: At Bates College, where I teach, I received financial support in pursuing this research from the Bates Faculty Development Fund, and I owe thanks as well to the students in my courses; my colleagues in Art and Visual Culture; those in Women and Gender Studies (wgs), who offered extremely helpful discussion on a chunk of

the manuscript; the Committee on Athletics, which has been my privilege to chair; Bates Athletics; the people connected to the Multicultural Center and Outfront; and everyone at the ready for emergency actions and other aspects of working toward an environment where people of diverse genders, sexualities, races, ethnicities, and economic status can thrive. Sawyer Stone, Jordan Williams, Meagan Doyle, and Jarrett Freedman, in order of appearance, were invaluable research assistants, sometimes continuing to offer interest and insights after they graduated. Lorelei Purrington, Anne Odom, Jessie Govindasamy, and Denise Begin have provided great administrative support. So, too, has Lauren Webster at University of Southern Maine, the school where people only think I teach, and where the wgs faculty, among other faculty, staff, and students, have provided another home.

I received very helpful feedback when I presented skating material in progress at the University of Wisconsin; the University of Southern Maine; the Boston Atheneum; the 2008 Flow tv conference; the 2009 Sport, Sexuality, and Culture conference at Ithaca College; and the 2011 Cultural Studies conference. At Duke University Press, Ken Wissoker's way with ooh, yes, or hmmm, maybe not, as I worked my way to the short-essay format and content of this book is just one reason that I have loved working with him. He also sent the book to two anonymous readers whose suggestions really sparked my thinking. Mandy Earley worked with me through the first rounds of the book process. Jade Brooks and Mark Mastromarino then helped make the book happen. I'm grateful, just to start, for Jade's ability to make daunting endeavors seem, and be, manageable and for Mark's graciousness in letting me grab the files back more than a few times without reminding me of my aspiration to be the lowest-maintenance writer he'd ever dealt with. Thanks also to Amy Ruth Buchanan for designing the book; to Katie Courtland, Dafina Blacksher Diabate, Helena Knox, Michael McCullough, Laura Sell, Amanda Sharp, H. Lee Willoughby-Harris, and Emily Young in Marketing; to Chris Dahlin for meticulous copyediting; and to Scott Smiley for the index.

For diverse forms and combinations of collaboration, sports talk, queer sex and gender community, intimacies, political work, family, friendship, pleasure, insight, manuscript reading, and help with hair, music, costumes, photography, and more, I thank, besides those already mentioned: Shana Agid; Cynthia, Ron, Rebecca, Jacob, and Sophie Barabas;

Toby Beauchamp; Jed Bell; Courtney Berger; Sheila Bourassa; Deborah Bright; Anna Campbell; Lorraine Carroll; Yee Won Chong; Laurie Beth Clark; Ryan Conrad; Scott Cooke; John Corrie; Ra Criscitiello; kt Crossman; Craig and Kurt Daunheimer; Gabriel Demaine; Katie Diamond; Jennifer Doyle; Michel Droge; Jonathan English; Jonathan Flatley; Soon Flynn; Stephanie Foote; Judy Frank; Keelin Godsey; Debbie Gould; Stretch Graton; Gary Gurney; Sage Hayes; Rebecca Herzig; Jen Hodson; Lise Kildegaard and Luther, Kaj, and Axel Snow; Katharine Kittredge; Gwen Lexow; Paqui Lopez; Alexis Lyon; Roger Mayo; Kevin McHugh; Dorn McMahon; Joe Medley; Scott, Vera, and Gary Miller; Meaghan and Fili Monaghan; Jackie Parker; Spencer, Liz, Ellie, and Isaac Rand; Lydia Savage; Anna Schwartz; Annie Sprinkle; Beth Stephens; everyone at Outright/Lewiston-Auburn and Trans, Genderqueer, and Allies Yoga; the Portland  $\gamma$ ; Words with Friends; the “Battle of the Sexes” game and other joys of morning drive-time radio; and the editorial boards of *Radical Teacher* and *Salacious*.

My mother, Marilyn Graton, has offered open-spirited engagement with some not-so-usual features of my life in more ways than attending the recitals of her hardly recital-age kid. I thank her also for the insights about education, class, and movement that have honed my thinking here, just as the mix of guts and garters that I associate with my three late grandmothers, Sophie Chananie, Adele Rand, and Iola Graton, has animated my passions. Sarah Holmes has attended virtually every Portland Ice Show I’ve skated in since 2002; her enthusiasm at the beginning encouraged me to imagine performing on ice, one small element of her friendship throughout. Wendy Chapkis has long been an amazing friend to share projects, among so much more, with; I am grateful that she kept reading even when I decided to write about sports. Finally, I thank Quinn Miller for the early-morning launches into writing, for so many generative discussions, and for the extravagant response to “I need skating music” that wound up producing more sparkle than any ice extravaganza.