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# Hamposhire

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## 'Life on ice' story honors ex-teacher

By SUE YOUNG WILSON

NORTHAMPTON — Smith College student Cecily Morrow will see her homage to a former teacher brought to life tonight on television when a documentary on the teaching of figure skating she helped write and produce airs locally.

Morrow, a former professional figure skater and now a senior in Smith's Ada Comstock program for students of nontraditional age, wrote the manuscript on which tonight's Public Broadcasting System program, "Gustave Lussi: The Man Who Changed Skating," is based.

The documentary, which will be shown tonight at 8 on Channel 57, profiles Gustave Lussi, one of the world's foremost figure skating teachers and Morrow's own onetime teacher.

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Morrow, 32, said she studied under Lussi in Lake Placid, N.Y., in the 1970s before going on to found her own New York City-based skating company, Ice Theater of New York.

In 1985, the internationally famous Lussi, then 87, asked his former student to videotape and then transcribe in writing his teaching method for posterity.

"I was very flattered," Morrow said.

She said Lussi, whom she called an inspirational teacher, invented many of the spins and jumps now used in professional skating routines and has been a "huge influence" on modern skating.

A friend suggested she take the manual she wrote outlining Lussi's technique to a PBS station for possible filming as a television documentary. Morrow went to WCFE-TV in Plattsburgh, N.Y., near her hometown of Lake Placid.

The station's producer was ex-

cited by the project but too bogged down with other projects to take it on right away.

"She said, 'Call me back in a year,'" Morrow said.

Meanwhile, Morrow enrolled at Smith as an English major because, she said, she had always



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wanted to go back and finish her education, interrupted in high school by her nascent career as a professional skater.

During her freshman year, she again contacted WCFE, which this time went for her idea.

Morrow was made consultant and associate producer for the documentary, which went into production two years ago.

She oversaw shooting sites, contacted champion skaters, including Dorothy Hammill, who had been Lussi students, and in general "got involved in all aspects of production," Morrow said.

"It was great. It was wonderful," she said.

Morrow said she hopes to return to skating after graduating from Smith and, bolstered by her TV experience, to produce a technical video on skating technique. She also hopes to produce a skating benefit for people with AIDS, she said.