Tyler Walker ’08
Tyler Walker was born with lumbar sacral agenesis, meaning that most of his spine was missing. When he was four, his parents made the difficult decision to amputate both his legs.

Walker grew up in Franconia and learned to ski at Cannon Mountain, where he worked with adaptive ski groups and eventually qualified for the U.S. Paralympic Alpine Ski Team in 2003; he has been a member of the team since. Walker has a successful skiing career and competed in the Paralympics in 2006, 2010, and 2014. He is also a three-time Winter X-Games gold medalist and in 2014 was overall World Cup Champion.

Walker attended the University of New Hampshire from 2004 to 2008 and earned a dual degree in geography and international affairs, with minors in political science and German. Walker credits the knowledge and experiences he gained at UNH with helping him in his travels. Knowing the places, people, and language in the regions where he competes has been invaluable, helping him find a distinct sense of place and meaning around the world.

Walker has not let his disability define him and overcame his obstacles to accomplish something very few could do. He shows great strength, dedication, and determination and is truly an inspiration.