

Mackinac! June 11-14!

Dartmouth 1955

Read all about it!

January 2011

Dick Roberts, Yielding One Of His Four Jobs, Is Honored By Austria and by Polish Doctors



Star Black

Austria's ambassador to the United States, Christian Prosl, presented Dick Roberts the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, Class 1, in a ceremony at Carnegie Hall, in New York, in November.

For many years Dick Roberts, while teaching at Weill Cornell Medical College, led an annual seminar in infectious diseases for doctors from Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia and elsewhere in Salzburg, Austria. In 1999 Dr. Jim Kim and Dr. Paul Farmer of Partners in Health were on his faculty.

As Dick stepped down last fall, the Austrian government honored him with the Austrian Cross of Honour for Science and Art, Class 1. Just a month earlier Dick became the first American inducted into honorary membership in the Society of Epidemiology and Infectious Diseases in Poland, from which many of his young physicians had come. A Slovakian doctor who heard Dick's farewell speech last year wrote to him afterward, "you are unique in your love to share with others what you love the most, and that is knowledge. I will never forget what you said to us."

Dick continues to do research at Cornell and The Rockefeller University in New York, and is dean of Trinity School of Medicine on St Vincent in the Caribbean. But he's only 78.

Tucker Foundation Highlights For Fiscal Year 2009-2010

International Fellowships (including '55's; see next page): 30 students gave 32,890 hours of service in Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America, from healthcare to engineering, microfinance to education, conflict resolution to refugee services.

Local service projects: 41,598 service hours

SEAD summer high school program: 13,380 hours

Student internships: 12,600 hours

United Campus Ministries active members: 904 students

Tucker Foundation Dean Richard R. Crocker wrote to our class: "On behalf of the students and the entire Dartmouth community, thank you for all you do for the Tucker Foundation, and please be assured that we will use these resources to continue to provide students with the opportunity to explore the meaning of spirituality and to be of service to the world community."

Dan Nixon serves on the Tucker board of visitors, continuing the two decades-long participation of '55s on that governing board.

A personal note from President Jack Doyle:

*At our 55th reunion some classmates mentioned that they had read *Mountains Beyond Mountains* by Tracy Kidder. The book's main focus is on Paul Farmer who founded Partners in Health. A Harvard-trained doctor, his life has been extraordinary, particularly his efforts to improve health care in Haiti. One of his early partners was Jim Kim. . . . reading about him and his relationship with Paul Farmer helps one to understand what a remarkable individual is now leading Dartmouth College.*

Haven't seen your name in the class news recently?

Unburden yourself by scribbling an inspired note on the enclosed green card and mail it to Joe Mathewson, newsletter editor, 345 N. LaSalle 2303, Chicago, IL 60654. He'll also serve as collector for items for the Alumni Magazine (by Ken Lundstrom, class secretary) and the 1955 Website (by John French, Web editor). Thanks!

Dave Miller Has Words With *N.Y. Times*

In response to a Nov. 13 Times article stating that the increasing rate of polar ice melting threatens to raise sea levels by "perhaps three feet by 2100," threatening "coastal regions the world over," Dave posted:

"With the earth's surface temperatures continuing their rise, escalating environmental collapse will at some juncture become a global reality. CO2 from fossil fuels will be seen as the driver bringing on an end to human civilization. This will empower a critical mass of the world's population to challenge vested oil, gas and coal interests and demand an abandonment of fossil fuels . . . however, it may be too late. An examination of the time line showing how long it will take for fossil fuels to run out against the line showing the acceleration and irreversibility of global surface temperature rises paints a frightening picture. The fact is, we do not have that much time."

(Dave, now retired in North Carolina, was a banker to the oil industry in the Middle East.)

1955 Tucker Fellow Joe Schwappach '13 tells how he helped child soldiers return

In Gulu [a tiny village in northern Uganda], every family has a story about how the Lord's Resistance Army abducted one or more of their children in order to replace fallen soldiers in the war against Uganda's national army. These abducted children always told me that there were only two ways out of the LRA once you were one of them, "You can leave the army through death or through escape--usually it is death." The lucky minority who manage to escape from "the bush," the local term for living with the LRA, face rejection and social isolation when they attempt to rejoin the society they once called home. My job was to act as an active third party who could help both sides rediscover their respective positions not in the relationship between victims of war and those who implemented the atrocities of war, but rather, the relationship between parent and child, between society and those in need of society's care. . .



The first recipient of the Class of 1955 Tucker International Fellowship, Joe Schwappach is from Denver.

The majority of fighting happened in and around Gulu and therefore, the child soldiers were forced to kill their friends, neighbors, parents and siblings. The pain and suffering they caused, both inadvertently through their abduction and explicitly through their acts of war, created a hatred for them that no family ties could overcome. . . .

Manual labor is a part of life that most northern Ugandans pride themselves on. Every day I worked side-by-side with anywhere from one to ten children who had been opening fire with their AK-47s less than a year ago. At first, we helped build a three-room

schoolhouse out of brick, cement and tin. . . [I]t was the first time several of the ex-child soldiers had worked alongside members of the local town, several of which had fought for the national military in opposition to the LRA. . .

In payment for their work, the ex-child soldiers were given a meal a day and allowed to use the open field behind my living quarters as a soccer pitch. The local soccer team, Set Future FC, strategically consisted of half ex-child soldiers and half local boys who were not abducted by the LRA. Although the field was covered by knee-high grass, it only took an afternoon with machetes to clear the field and transform it into a soccer pitch. Every night for the remainder of my stay in northern Uganda, I coached and played alongside my new friends for hours until the sun dipped below the horizon and darkness announced the end of training. . . Underneath the pitch was a mass grave, a grave that included many family members from both those abducted and those who successfully evaded the LRA.

In the following weeks I worked with this group of ex-child soldiers in order to solidify their presence in society. We built their new homes as mud huts intermingled with those of families who once refused to allow these outcasts anywhere near their children. Also, we built phone booths so they would no longer be reliant on the UN food banks in the area. Finally, we obtained and planted over 200 pine trees in a tree nursery in order to assure a source of income for years down the line when the trees could be harvested as timber. . .

I helped the fifteen ex-child soldiers on Set Future FC become accepted members of society who can now find work, pay for their own food and education and enter into relationships with people other than fellow escapees from the LRA. . . On my departure, several ex-child soldiers were once again living with their families and Set Future FC was planning matches with every local team. . . I left Gulu with people who could once again laugh freely and love openly, who could cry about the past, but also smile about the future.

Get Thee to Mackinac! June 11-14!

Mackinac Island, betwixt Michigan's Upper and Lower Peninsulas at the junction of Lake Michigan and Lake Huron, is an unforgettably picturesque and relaxing jewel of North America. Our classmate Dan Musser, owner of the magnificent Grand Hotel, is rolling out the red carpet for '55 June 11-14. We've already had an excellent response! To join the fun, contact Betty Brady: doverhugh@comcast.net, or phone 508-785-0790. You'll be glad you did!

An optional add-on: Dave Robertson '75, a Chicago lawyer, invites us to his summer home on Les Cheneaux Island, 14 miles northeast of Mackinac, for a picnic lunch on Tuesday, June 14. Add \$40 each for food and drink on Dave's front lawn. Boat transportation promising a scenic cruise on Lake Huron will be provided. If you like, Dan Musser offers a bargain rate for an additional night at the Grand Hotel.



A pleasant way to tour the auto-free island. Bikes and riding horses are also available.



Grand Hotel



Straits of Mackinac