

Dartmouth 1955

Read all about it!

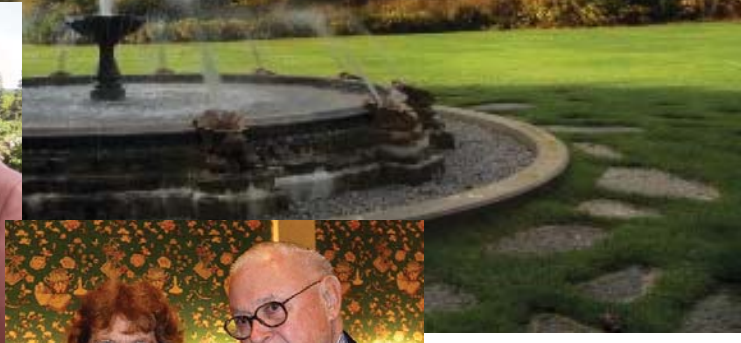
May 2013

Dan Musser: Gracious Host To '55 and the World



Dan and his wife Amelia on their “longest front porch in the world” last summer.

Dan died April 13 in Lansing, Michigan, his winter headquarters, of congestive heart failure. He was 80. He had been associated with the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island for 60 years, and hosted a marvelous '55 mini-reunion there in 2011. *Some memories of that extraordinary event, and an obituary, are inside.*



To Dan and Amelia, every Grand Hotel guest was special. Above, with Jim Nelsen, and right, with Claudie Brock.



We rode horse-drawn buggies to the Mus-sers' delightful lake-front home.

Fond thoughts of Dan, from . . .

Former Michigan Gov. James Blanchard: "Dan wrote the book on hospitality. He and his family have done more for tourism in Michigan than anyone. The Grand Hotel is not only the crown jewel of Michigan, but a fabulous gathering place for the leaders of Michigan and America. People come from all over the world to go to the Grand Hotel. Dan's passing is a great loss for Michigan and the world of hospitality."

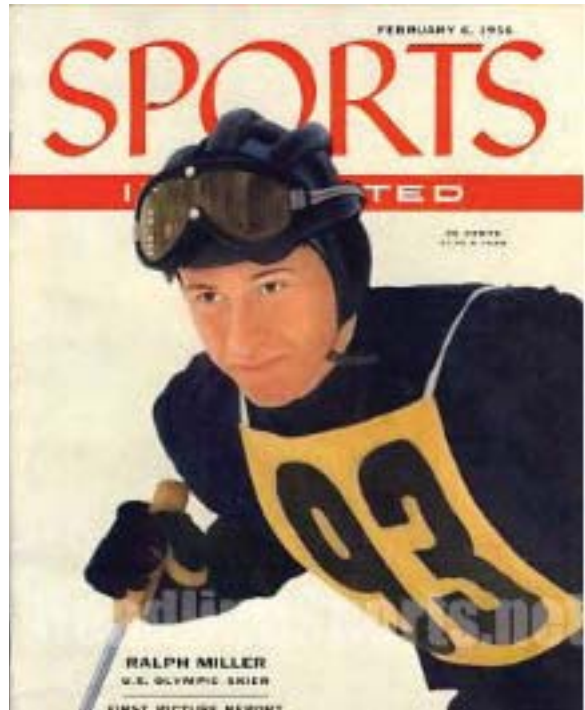
Steve Yencich, president and CEO of the Michigan Lodging and Tourism Association: "His ability to manage that grand property and the relationships and rapport he developed with so many over a period of decades is truly what made him so very special."

Mackinac Island Mayor Margaret Doud: "He was just an absolute outstanding citizen of Mackinac Island." (Dan chaired its Public Works Commission for more than 30 years.)

And speaking of memories,

do you recall that Ralph Miller graced the cover of Sports Illustrated in February 1956 as the Cortina (Italy) Winter Olympics were about to commence?

Nowadays Ralph, despite his serious hang glider crash a few years ago, is still hitting the big slopes (Vail recently), is a trustee of the Kentucky Land Conservancy, and though allegedly retired from medical practice and teaching at the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, volunteers at a mission clinic for the working poor in Lexington, Ky. (where his wife Pam once served as mayor). Ralph, one-time holder of the world downhill speed record (before helmets), remains the only '55 ever to appear on Sports Illustrated's cover.



Now, you can be forgiven if you don't remember John Baldwin's 1951 commencement speech at Pelham (New York) Memorial High School. Remarkably, however, the speech was recently posted on the Internet by a California writer and lecturer on ethics named Jim Lichtman, a friend and admirer of John's. It's at: <http://iwvpa.net/baldwinjn/zz-crucial-.php>



Noting that John was only 16, Lichtman wrote: "What stood out in reading Army Major (ret.) John Baldwin's speech were two things: the number of critical 'front burner' issues that were making news [nuclear testing, Truman relieved MacArthur, Kefauver crime investigation]; and the remarkable similarities between his observations about the lack of 'moral conscience' with my own observations concerning a lack of ethical standards in the last chapter of my book, What Do You Stand For? 'Somewhere along the line, our sense of values has deteriorated,' young Baldwin says. John's address, The Crucial Years, reads like a 'canary in the coal mine' reminder of just what is important and why."

Keep moving, octogenarians!



Tom Wittenberg is certainly doing it! He writes: “I am thriving in my improbable, third career as a tai chi instructor. I lead training sessions in tai chi and qigong just about every day for fellow seniors. I’d practiced tai chi for 20 years, and several years ago got certified to teach it.” Madelaine and Tom have lived in Athens, Georgia, for the past 25 years. He notes: “If my name is unfamiliar to you, it may be because I took a three-year sophomore summer to serve in the Army at the tail end of the Korean conflict, and graduated in 1958.”

And so is Mike Gorton (front row, second from left). With brother Nat '60 (back row, fourth from left), Mike plays hockey (which he started at age 52) in a men’s league weekly from September through March, and once a year plays in a charity game (right) at Harvard that raises about \$50,000 for the Fish Industries Research Fund. It supports investigations into such fishy health topics as allergens and Omega-3.



‘Our’ student-athletes move very well, too



Mitch Horacek '14, whose recruiting visit to Hanover we sponsored, has a fine record this spring of 5 wins and 2 losses, with an earned run average of 2.37, as of April 22. With the help of sometimes-robust hitting, the tall left-hander from Colorado got the wins over Northern Illinois 1-0, Long Island University-Brooklyn 11-4, Babson 10-3, Columbia 3-2, and Brown 7-0. The Brown victory was Mitch's first complete-game shutout at Dartmouth. He lost to Cornell and Yale.

The baseball team (also as of April 22) had 26 wins and 7 losses, and was 11-5 in the Ivy League.

Other stellar varsity athletes whose recruiting visits were sponsored by '55 are high-scoring field hockey star Ali Savage '15, from New South Wales, Australia, and standout freshman diver Ken Gillis, of Kitchner, Ontario.

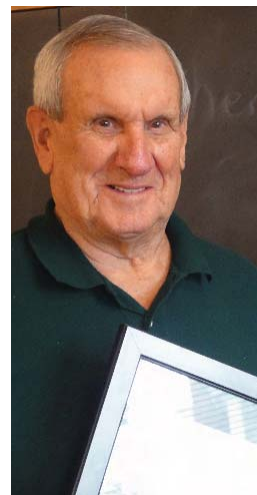
Continuing Contributions, Market Gains, Enlarge '55 Tucker Foundation And Scholarship Funds

Good news from our always-balanced class treasurer-for-life, Ralph Sautter. He reports that at the end of the College's fiscal year June 30, the combination of our continuing contributions and a buoyant stock market have increased the market value of our three class endowments to a total of \$620,000!

Tucker Foundation Fellowship Fund

book value: \$100,791

current market value: \$112,901



Ralph
(with his well-deserved Class Treasurer-of-the-Year Award)

Dickey Scholarship Fund

book: \$209,340

market: \$328,857

Wright Scholarship Fund

book: \$160,298

market: \$179,029

Ralph reports that in March he sent a check for \$5,700 to the Dickey Scholarship Fund, which we established in 2005, and he expects to send another check soon, for the current fiscal year ending in June, of about \$5,500. Most of the Dickey Fund has been raised through our \$25 ad-

ditions to our annual class dues payments. The Wright Fund honoring Jim and Susan Wright, and the Tucker Fund, were raised through individual direct contributions rather than through the annual class dues solicitation.

See student letters overleaf.

Nice notes from our scholarship recipients

Tiffany Wang '16, New York City

Thank you so much . . . I am sincerely grateful to be able to be a part of the Dartmouth community. I would like to take every course offered . . .but the plan for now is still to major in English and pursue the pre-health track. I am a sub-committee chair on Programming Board . . and the Tucker Foundation has given me the chance to continue doing volunteer work . . I am fully CPR and First Aid certified and hope to take an Emergency Medical Technician course next year. Dartmouth has given me the opportunity to shadow Dr. Scott Rodi in the emergency department at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. . . I never imagined the amount of support I would get from the faculty or from my peers. . . I held a fundraiser for Hurricane Sandy relief. . Alpha Phi, Dirt Cowboy Cafe and Morano Gelato donated, and we managed to reach a surprisingly large number of people on campus and most donated.

Tiffany.L.Wang.16@dartmouth.edu



Sophia Archibald '13, New York City

Receiving the Class of 1955 John Sloan Dickey Scholarship for a third year in a row is a great honor, and I cannot express enough in words how grateful I am... I interned at Seven Stories Press [New York City] over the summer, a term that helped me to look into my future and explore possibilities for a career path. On campus I took a community-based-learning class that visited inmates at the Sullivan County Department of Corrections once a week. I also starred in my Shakespeare group's show *Measure for Measure*. I am currently trying to stay warm, as I have not been on campus during the winter since my freshman year. . . Although I finally feel ready to be done with college, the end being near is bittersweet. I will miss the campus, my groups such as the Rude Mechanicals and Panarchy, and the community of students and professors. I hope you realize how much this is all in part thanks to you. I will never forget my Dartmouth experience!
Sophia.H.Archibald.13@Dartmouth.edu

Prajeet Bajpal '16, India

I feel honored to have been named to the Class of 1955 John Sloan Dickey Scholarship, and am writing to express my deepest gratitude at being accorded this privilege. . . I have spent this term and the last delving deeper into my love for mathematics, and it is a delight to study under professors who care so much for the subject and for their students. This college has also given me the unique opportunity to simultaneously nurture my passion for music: as I write I am taking instruction in classical guitar under a Dartmouth professor, preparing for a performance of chamber music with another instrumentalist, and completing an application for a Foreign Study Program that will take me to the cultural goldmine of Europe--and to its very heart in London. . . I plan to get engaged in volunteer work through the Tucker Foundation, and hopefully realize one of my goals in attending Dartmouth: to find my place in the world and understand not only how I can give back to it, but also what it is that I can best contribute to the communities of which I am a part. prajeet.bajpal.16@dartmouth.edu



Ian Blanco '14, Frankford Twp., NJ

Thank you very much for awarding me your generous scholarship. Dartmouth is an incredible place because it dedicates itself to providing aid to those who need it most. Without amazing support from donors like you, I do not know if I would be studying at Dartmouth today. I am a government and Romance languages double major. I've enjoyed politics and the history of the United States as long as I can remember, and I want to be a public servant in some capacity in years to come. I would like to go to law school or move to Washington to work for the federal government. My dream would be to become a U.S. senator representing New Jersey later in life. I enjoy the challenge of winning people over, and I find the political process to be very interesting and potentially rewarding. ian.m.blanco.14@dartmouth.edu



Lives of Fifty-fives

ROBERT DANIEL MUSSER, JR., chairman emeritus of the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island and our gracious host of the 2011 mini-reunion, passed away in Lansing on April 13 of congestive heart failure. Dan was born in Circleville, Ohio, and grew up on a small farm. After Governor Dummer Academy where he was class president, he entered Dartmouth, majoring in economics and joined Alpha Delta Phi and the Sphinx Society. After Army service in Japan, Dan returned to the Grand Hotel as assistant manager, becoming president in 1960. He had worked there as a college student since 1951, his uncle having purchased the hotel in 1933. In 1979 Dan and Amelia bought the hotel. He increased its rooms from 200 to 385 and, with a complete redesign and decor, extended its season by opening in May and running to the end of October. Dan had a “hands on” approach to management and was known by his employees for handwritten notes to them, sometimes 50 to 60 per day. A strong “green” advocate, Dan was chair of the Island’s Public Works for 30 years, sparking the construction of a water supply system and a waste water treatment plant that more than met the usual standards. One must mention his show dogs, one of which, Sadie, a Scottish Terrier, won the Westminster Kennel Club “Best in Show” in 2010. Sadie was named “Dog of the Year” by the American Kennel Club. Dan is survived by his wife, Amelia, two daughters and a son. Contributions may be made to the Mackinac Community Foundation Library Fund, P.O. Box 1933, Mackinac Island, MI 49757. In our 25th reunion book Dan wrote of himself, “Relatively good hotel keeper and operator.”



At our reunion

Submitted by R.J. Hastings, M.D., '55



Dan with his son Dan III, president of Grand Hotel, and grandson Dan IV, called “Quattro.”

Plan ahead!
Class of '55 60th Reunion
June 15-18, 2015 Monday-Thursday

BE THERE !