

Dear Classmate,

Nearly 440 Classmates, wives and friends were in Hanover for our great 50th Reunion! A list of those present is attached to this Newsletter. Everything went very well and a good time was had by all. On the preceding page are pictures of our great Reunion Gift. In the first one, President Wright holds the record setting check for \$11,104,819.55, with Reunion Gift Chairs HARRY LEWIS and JOHN BALLARD and Annual Fund Chair BOB PERKINS. In the second picture, Bob Perkins holds the record setting check for 55's annual fund, \$1,234,419.55, which is included in the larger total. As you can see, the checks were being updated during the day and will continue to be updated through the end of the month. You really had to be there!

There are two attachments to this Newsletter: the first, a few pictures of the Reunion, with captions on the cover page. The second are several latecomers for the Reunion Book which should be inserted in your Class Book. A full set of Reunion photographs appears on our web site: <http://www.Dartmouth.org/classes/55>.

You can also see our Reunion photographs taken by the College photographer at: <http://alumni.Dartmouth.edu/reunions/index.html>, click on Reunion Photo Gallery Archives, choose 2005 Reunion Photo Gallery, and then choose 1955 Gallery.

And, importantly, a new set of Officers was elected to run our Class until our 55th Reunion in 2010. Our new president is JACK DOYLE, a seasoned veteran of much good work for our Class. RALPH SAUTTER, who has been Treasurer of every Reunion in almost every year in our Class history, and all the years in between, was reelected by acclamation. Ralph's current accounts appear in this Newsletter, once again showing a positive result. Our new Secretary is BOB PERKINS, and JOE MATHEWSON takes over my job as Newsletter Editor, and who could be more qualified? He was a former Wall Street Journal reporter, author, and way back, won Class Secretary of the Year. Lastly, WOODY GOSS, our outgoing President after a very fine term in office, jumps from the frying pan to become our Head Class Agent. A full list of all the Class positions appears herein.

So many aspects of the Reunion were notable. The Class Seminars chaired by JERE DANIELL and LEON MARTEL, respectively, were standing room only and were the subjects of discussion well into the evenings. Jere's subject was "Liberal Arts, the Professions, the Future... and Dartmouth College". On his panel were JOHN BRAESTRUP, J.ROBERT EDWARDS, PETER FISHBEIN, ALAN MURRAY, ROY NYREN, ROGER SHERMAN and MILO WHITE

Leon's panel was entitled "Terrorism in Our Lives", and his speakers were George Cybenko from the Dartmouth faculty, NICK KOTZ, WILLIAM LENDERKING and BOB PERKINS. All speakers were thoroughly versed in the subject and once again it was standing room only.

Incidentally, as you may know, earlier this winter Nick published another great book, his fifth on politics and on civil and rights, which could land him a second Pulitzer. Entitled "Judgment Days", it is about the relationship between Lyndon Johnson and Martin Luther King, subtitled "and the Laws That Changed America". It is an outstanding work, and has received much national and international attention. Said the New York Times in a full-page review in the Sunday Book Section, regarding Nick's new approach to this historic relationship, "It typifies the meticulous research, restrained prose and deep appreciation of motivation and character that make 'Judgment Day' a stirring, indeed heartbreaking, book". *High praise, Nick*

The Art and Literature Exhibitions, chaired by BOB and IRIS FANGER and BERNIE and PAT SISKIND, demonstrated the extremely wide range of '55's intellect and creativity. The food and drink were great, thanks to great planning by LARRY PILCHMAN and DICK BLODGETT, and as mentioned and pictured above, our record-breaking gift in the 50th Reunion Year was due to the very fine efforts of JOHN BALLARD and HARRY LEWIS, Co-Chairs of the Reunion Gift Committee, and Head Agent BOB PERKINS.

And the Attendance Committee was equally notable. After delivering a near-record crowd, BETTY BRADY, assisted by BRUCE ALEXANDER and many others, spent Thursday packaging the envelopes and on Friday registering all of us. We were assisted throughout the weekend by a fine crew of eight students, who did everything from pour drinks to stuff envelopes. The group was headed by Fernando Ausin, '06, who had just been elected to Paleopitus.

You may recall that we asked for hat size in the registration envelopes, to give everyone one of the famous Tilley hats of international outdoor fame. I dutifully recorded all of them and sent Tilley a list about a month ago. One person had indicated that he had a 9 1/8" head. The Tilley Company operates on a very personal level, and they called me up and said do we really have somebody with a 9 1/8" head? They said they would be glad to make the hat by hand, but thought I should check with the person first. So I called our large headed classmate, who said he had just guessed his hat size. He then tried to refigure it with a metal tape, and we finally settled on a size quite a lot smaller which I conveyed to Tilley. That's customer care!

We had two fine dinner speakers. On Friday night, new Football Coach Buddy Teevens '79 talked to us about athletics at Dartmouth and particularly the future of the football program. Our special guests at dinner included Josie Harper, Director of Athletics, and Vice President of the College Stan Colla, who will be retiring this year. Buddy indicated that even at this early date he had installed in his players a strong sense of the discipline and effort required to be a member of his football team. And he said he had discarded the old black uniforms and has returned to the traditional green and white. He was very impressive, and our football program is in good hands. We also talked about Jay Fiedler happily leaving Miami and joining the NY Jets.

Saturday morning we had our Class meeting, as discussed above, and then the Memorial Service at Rollins Chapel for our classmates who have passed away. The number keeps rising, and we shared in a very fine service led by Classmates ROY NYREN, JIM CAVANAUGH and JOE HERRING. The name of each deceased classmate was read.

On Saturday night JUD HALE was both very funny and very moving, as he analyzed the responses of the Class to the questionnaires in the great 50TH Class Book prepared by JIM PERKINS and JOE MATHEWSON. At the end of the dinner, I was very grateful to be given, as Reunion Chair, a lovely engraved crystal lamp by President WOODY GOSS.

The weather was an equal participant in the weekend. On Wednesday and Thursday nights we had thunderstorms so severe that portions of seven roads around Hanover washed out and 17 cows were electrocuted while sheltering under a tree on a nearby hill. The weather was quite steamy throughout, regardless of how much rain fell, and the Friday night steak and lobster dinner had to be moved from the Bema to Leverone Field House. It tasted just as good! Musicians from the East Bay Jazz Ensemble played for us at the dinners and in the tent throughout the weekend. In a throwback to the old days, at midnight Friday we were asked to keep the noise down in the Class Tent. The slightly springy dance floor was well occupied after 10 o'clock on both Friday and Saturday. The rain also forced the Friday reception given for us by President and Mrs. Wright to be moved from their house into Hopkins Center. The rain stopped on Saturday morning and the rest of the weekend was hot and sunny.

Despite the weather, DICK MOUNT and DOUG MELVILLE conducted great tennis and golf tournaments and prizes were awarded at the dinner Saturday night.

A highlight of the weekend was the 50th Class Address delivered by Gordie Russell at the lunch given by the College for us on Baker lawn on Saturday. Gordie also received an Honorary Degree from the College at

Commencement on Sunday, and his speech was about who we are, where we might be going and giving of ourselves to others. Gordie has been incredibly generous to our Class. This preceded the presentation of our magnificent gift to the College of, at that point, \$11.1 million. This is by far the record for a 50th Reunion Class for money given in the Reunion year. This represents more than two years of work by the Gift Committee, and will stand quite a while. We owe John, Harry and Dick our deepest gratitude.

We had a fine cocktail reception Saturday in the Courtyard Café between Hopkins Center and the Hood Museum.

I can't describe the feeling we had marching from Rollins Chapel to our assigned front section seats Sunday morning for Commencement. At least we were outside, for the first time in 50 years. We were led by the traditional two Marshals, Professors JERE DANIELL and John Rassias. The Senior Class came up the center aisle and sat down in front of us. The hot weather continued, and strategically placed water coolers were replenished a number of times during the ceremonies.

After a pizza lunch in Thayer Dining Hall we all dispersed, and I think many will take with them a greater sense of Dartmouth and will return more frequently in the future.

A mini reunion in Woodstock followed for the next two days, with dinners at the Woodstock Inn and the Simon Pierce Restaurant in Quechee, a tour led by National Park Rangers of the Billings Farm and Mansion, and golf and tennis. This was attended by 32 Classmates, wives and friends.

Most of the above events appear in the photographs following.

PAUL MERRIKEN was with us, who wrote me a couple of weeks before that "Shirley Tenney and I were married, 4/28/05, at her home in Arden, NC. We are both widowers and high school classmates who became reacquainted in our 50th reunion" (*of the high school*).

Next Mini Reunion:

It's time to think about our 51st Year Mini Reunion! This will be once again on Homecoming Weekend (Columbia game), which is September 21-23 this year, and will also include the Annual Meeting of the Executive Committee on Saturday morning at the Hanover Inn. And we have rooms reserved at the Fireside Inn in Lebanon as before. Call the Fireside at 603-643-6717 to reserve a room in the Class of 1955 allotment. The price is \$99.95 per day, a pretty good bargain. There'll be a dinner at the Fireside

that Saturday night as always. Included with this Newsletter is a return letter to our Mini Reunion Chair LARRY PILCHMAN, repeating his 50th success, indicating your attendance and choice of meal. Please send it back to Larry before September 15. I look forward to seeing you there!

A new postcard is enclosed for Joe Mathewson, which I hope you will readily use. I will be communicating with you through the Website, to those of you who have e-mail, as I hope more of you will. The web site offers greater opportunities for instant news and many photographs and you'll be hearing from me.

This Newsletter would not be complete without an enormous thank you to Helen Farwell-Delfino, who started in the Alumni Office as the Newsletter Editor for all the classes in the same year that I became Newsletter Editor for '55. We have worked together for nearly 18 years, and she is retiring this summer. She has done the work of three in a very understaffed office in order to take care of 60 classes in any one year producing one to 10 newsletters each. On behalf of the Class I gave her one of the crystal mementos that I also gave the Reunion Committee Chairs, suitably inscribed to Helen with the '55 logo. It is little enough for all of her work on our behalf. We will miss you very much Helen. You have our deepest gratitude.

Please make sure I have your correct email address. Check the list on the website!

My very best wishes to you all. See you at the 55th!

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