

Dartmouth 1955

Read all about it!

February 2009

Classmates Pledge \$126,000 Toward Wright Scholarship



Joe Mehling

Including several lead gifts, 26 classmates and widows have pledged \$126,000 toward the new class of 1955 scholarship fund honoring retiring President Jim Wright and his wife Susan.

Our goal is \$155,000. Class President Jack Doyle urges all classmates to contribute, in order that the scholarship be truly the gift of the entire class. Please read his message overleaf.

An Important Message from Jack Doyle...

Dartmouth has continued to improve under Jim Wright's leadership.

APPLICANTS-The number of individuals applying to Dartmouth grows each year. More than 17,700 applications have been received for the Class of 2013.

STUDENT SATISFACTION-Surveys conducted of students show an extraordinary high level of satisfaction with their Dartmouth education.

STUDENT/FACULTY RATIO- A significant increase in faculty hiring over the past several years has reduced the student/faculty ratio from 10.1 to 8.1.

COURSES-The number of courses offered has grown from 604 to 690.

FACILITIES-\$1.1 billion has been spent on new facilities as well as renovating existing ones. Over \$80 million has been spent on improved athletic facilities.

Jerry Daniell on the Jim Wright Presidency

Jerry Daniell, who has written and lectured extensively about Dartmouth's presidents and taught under five of them, was quoted in an article in *The Dartmouth* (Jan. 15, 2009) about the College's current \$1.3 billion capital campaign as saying that raising capital has become a fundamental expectation of College presidents.

However, Jerry continued:

"Inasmuch as presidents leave a stamp on the institution, my guess is in terms of [Wright], it will be construction closely linked to the student building initiative, and the integrating the non-undergrad parts of the institution--the Medical School, Tuck School and Thayer--into the institution as a whole. Those are the things I think will be more predominant in people's discussions about the Wright administration than the capital gift campaign."

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORT-The amount of dollars spent allocated to scholarship assistance has increased from \$24.5 million in 1998 to \$67 million next year. Jim has made financial assistance a high priority. He and his wife Susan personally lead by example in supporting a student each year.

ENDOWMENT-For long term survival of any non profit organization, endowment is essential. Under Jim's leadership the College's Endowment grew from \$1.6 billion to \$3.8 billion last year.

VETERANS-Jim has personally taken a lead nationally in support of military veterans, both those at Walter Reed Hospital as well as those seeking to return to civilian life. He is a strong advocate for securing adequate funding for veterans to resume their education and worked closely with Senators Warner and Webb of Virginia to get a new GI bill passed.

Over the past three years, I have returned to Hanover frequently and had the opportunity to have contact with Jim Wright. He is an extraordinary individual and leader. The entire Dartmouth community has benefited from his leadership of the College.

The class has elected to celebrate Jim's fruitful presidency by establishing the Class of 1955 Scholarship Fund, Given in Honor of James Wright and Susan DeBevoise Wright. Consistent with Jim's and Susan's interests, we have stated a preference that the scholarship be awarded to a first-generation college student or a student with high financial need.

Please join your classmates in providing this exciting new Dartmouth scholarship! Donation form is the inside back cover of this newsletter. Thanks!

Jack



Amanda Trunzo '11 is the leading scorer of the women's hockey team, with 11 goals and 25 points (as of Jan. 25). The team was then ranked ninth in the country with a 12-6-2 overall record and 9-3-2 in the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference. We financed her recruiting visit to the College two years ago.

Our Recruiting Trips Have Paid Off

Pete Pidermann '10, who returned a Princeton kickoff 85 yards for a touchdown in the final game last season, was elected co-captain of the football team for next fall. He'll be the leading returning tackler, having made 56 stops last fall. He also broke up three passes and forced a fumble. Pete is a multi-tasker on the track team as well: 60-meter hurdles, 400-meter hurdles, and 200 meters. Our class financed Pete's recruiting visit to Hanover from Hialeah, Fla., three years ago.



An un-merry Christmas, 1968

Last Christmas Eve John and Jeannie Baldwin recalled to friends that on that night 40 years earlier they were struggling to save lives in Viet Nam. Below, John (on the right) and a fellow Army surgeon, Bob Grant, operated on an unknown South Vietnamese officer: “shot in

heart, no time to put on gowns or even gloves. Believe it or not, he lived, no infection--wonder where he is in 2008--40 years later.” On the right, in a more relaxed moment, John hopped a river patrol boat to reach a village where he would give 500 rabies shots during an epidemic there.

Alumni Council

Elliott Weinstein '56, who has represented our class as well as his on the Alumni Council, reflected on the Council's winter meeting:

“Since the new Executive Committee [of the Association of Alumni] won election this past spring there has been a new spirit of co-operation between the two alumni bodies [the Council and the Association] and the Board [of Trustees]. They all are working, and I would include in this group the Dartmouth Undying people, on a way to resolve their differences and find a way for the alumni to regain some if not all of its voice on the Board of Trustees.”

Referring to the board's proposed changes in elections of Alumni Trustees (only one vote per alumnus, a runoff between the top two candidates), Elliott stated: “A vote against passing these changes to the Association's constitution will be a vote against these efforts to increase alumni influence because it will remove our ability to conduct our own future elections.”

Vote in Alumni Election March 25-May 6

Four officers and the seven-member executive committee of the Dartmouth Association of Alumni will be elected this spring. You may vote by mail or online. For information: www.voxthevote.org.

Again, strong support by '55s For the Dartmouth College Fund

Class Agent Woody Goss reported that our class gave \$350,155 to last year's College Fund, surpassing our goal of \$301,955, with 67 percent of the class participating. We had hoped for 75 percent (wait 'til next year!), but “we compared favorably with other '50s classes.” Special thanks to Eliot Smith, Paul Merriken and Stan Bergman!

On to Washington!

On April 23 through 26, we'll visit the State Department (thanks to Bill Lenderking), the National Archives vault or inner sanctum (thanks to Mary Lynn Kotz), the new and already very popular Newseum (at right), the War Memorials, the National Gallery of Art, the Air and Space Museum, and Hillwood, the home and garden of renowned hostess Margery Merriweather Post. We'll wrap it all up on Sunday with a picnic on the Virginia lawn of Mary Lynn and Nick Kotz, with a bucolic view of the yard and countryside beyond, seen below.



Photo by
Jack Kotz

Charlie Warner, who's been a radio station manager, journalism professor and AOL exec, wrote this for the Huffington Post (Jan. 19):

I graduated from St. Albans School in Washington, D.C. in 1951 in the bottom third of my class in grades. I applied to four colleges: Harvard, Yale, Princeton and Dartmouth. I was accepted in all but Princeton . . .

My two best friends in that 1951 graduating class and I decided to go to Dartmouth, where I managed to party myself out in a year and a half. Today I'm staying in the large, lovely apartment on Connecticut Avenue of one of those friends, Pulitzer-Prize winning journalist and author, Nick Kotz.

Yesterday I took the Metro down to the Foggy Bottom stop, got off and walked with the crowd to the Lincoln Memorial concert on the mall. The crowd was joyful - not a

frown to be seen on diverse faces of every imaginable skin color, hair color, ethnic background and age. . . Every six feet, or so it seemed, there were hawkers of all color, ages, and gender selling T-shirts, buttons, hats, trinkets, and all sorts of Obama memorabilia; and they provided the comedy - "two buttons for five dollars - ten on Tuesday!" Brahmins from Boston with Red Sox caps, red-necks from West Virginia wearing university sweat shirts, Indian students from India, college girls from University of Colorado in ski clothes, they were all cheery and thrilled to be there. . .

It also thrilled me to see the diversity and absence of privilege. It was a different world than 1951 when there were no black boys at St. Albans and all you had to do

to get into the Ivy League was to be white, graduate from a good prep school, and be a certified member of the privileged or semi-privileged class . . .

Obama has changed things; he has already changed Washington. He's eliminating privilege. I don't miss it. I don't miss the old days of privilege in 1951. Today I realized that one of the reasons I supported Obama and why I'm thrilled to be in Washington today for the Inauguration is that my guilt is finally being expiated. I knew I didn't really deserve the privileges I had growing up. I was just lucky. But now I don't feel guilty any more. Barack Obama is being Inaugurated the 44th President tomorrow and I'll be there weeping like a baby, like I wept when he won the election.

A '55's Washington Memory

Class of 1955

John Sloan Dickey Scholars

Allison C. Parsley '11 is our newest Class of 1955 John Sloan Dickey Scholar. She's from York, Pa., and is double majoring in Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literature and Chinese modified with linguistics (whew!).

Allison is in the Third Honor Group (top 35 percent of her class) and has a work-study job at the Feldberg Library circulation desk. Last fall she was in Beijing on the Asian and Middle Eastern Languages and Literatures Foreign Study Program.

She reports that her favorite class to date is Printmaking 1: "The class was small enough that it was easy for me to get to know the professor fairly well. Professor Louise Hamlin honored her students with perfect and sometimes brutal honesty. In my case, her critiques of my artwork forced me to evaluate my working habits and face my weaknesses. The lessons that I learned from Professor Hamlin about strength of character and perseverance are

slowly creeping into the rest of my life."

Allison describes her Dartmouth experience this way: "It is a unique opportunity to blend information from many different studies together; for example, using information learned in the jewelry studio to inform answers for an engineering problem set, or getting help from my first year Chinese professor for my Arabic culture class. The exciting thing about studying at Dartmouth is the way all of the different classes and activities form a whole, sometimes connecting in unexpected ways."

After Dartmouth, Allison hopes to attend graduate school.

She joins our other '55 Dickey Scholars: Monica A. Martin de Bustamente '08, of Los Altos Hills, Calif., who's now pursuing a bachelor of engineering degree at Thayer School; Minal M. Caron '09, of Fort Kent, Maine; and Kate I. Schnippering '10, of Newfields, N. H.

Still another historical book From Lynmar and Claudie

Lynmar Brock has written another novel, "In This Hospitable Land," based on Claudie's family's experiences in World War II: their escape from Brussels and their eluding the Gestapo in the Cevannes Mountains where they were protected by Huguenots. "Based on a true story, 'In This Hospitable Land' is a tale of simple courage in a time of horror, and how a family survives the limits of cruelty and experiences the depths of compassion."

*News, photos, rumors, whispers
about yourself or classmates?*

*Please send them forthwith to Joe
Mathewson, 345 N. LaSalle 2303, Chi-
cago, IL 60654, joemathewson@aol.com
(for this newsletter) or to John French III,
33 E. 70th St. #6E, New York, NY 10021-
4941, dclass55@aol.com (for the class
Web site). Thanks!*

Yes! Count me in!

Here's my contribution to the Class of 1955 Scholarship Fund honoring Jim and Susan Wright:

\$10 _____ \$25 _____ \$50 _____ \$100 _____ or: \$ _____

Makes checks payable to: Dartmouth College
memo: 1955 Wright Scholarship
Please send to: Ann Smolowe
Dartmouth College Fund
HB 6066
Hanover, NH 03755

or credit card:

Visa _____ Mastercard _____ American Express _____

Other: _____

Number: _____ Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

Name(s) _____

Address _____
