

D'61 DAM Article – May/June 2021

As the Covid-19 pandemic slowly begins to slowly recede, the Class of '61 has begun to step up its momentum as it prepares for its virtual 60th Reunion, its last big showdown at the OK corral. **Pete Bleyler**, chairman, and his many assistants, including **Maynard Wheeler and Harris McKee** on the inside and class president **Don O'Neill** on the outside, in addition to many other classmates, spouses and widows all working diligently to develop and implement the three-plus day program from June 14-17, 2021.

On January 12th, the class held a highly successful one day, two program virtual ZOOM off-campus mini-reunion. The program was chaired by Maynard Wheeler, with assistance from Harris, Pete and Don and two discussion panels led most ably by Chris Bosworth, widow of **Steve Bosworth**, and **Dave Prewitt** as the program moderators. One panel included a discussion of the U.S. Foreign Service from the perspective of four career Foreign Service officer/classmates (**John Adams, Parker Borg, Jake Gillespie, Jon Sperling**). The other session consisted of John Barry, the author of the book, *The Great Influenza*, as the key speaker. That session discussed the influenza pandemic of 1918 in the U.S. and its similarities to and differences from the current Covid-19 pandemic of 2020-2021. In between the two panel discussions, **Terry Rogers** held a photo exhibition. In total, some 92 classmates, spouses, widows and outside guests attended the mini-reunion event.

An extensive response to a survey sent out to all attendees of the January 12th event confirmed that the mini-reunion was highly successful and that the class wanted to have similar one-day virtual minis going forward on a quarterly basis.

On March 2nd, Harris again ran our annual Class of 1961 birthday celebration, held on the 61st day of each year. Along with unique pictures of classmates holding the class' logo poster for 2021 designed by Harris, this year will also include a "BYOB" virtual cocktail party.

On April 6th, another quarterly one-day virtual mini is scheduled to take place. The key speaker will be **Mike Kirst**, one of the nation's foremost people involved in public education from K-12 grades, in California and throughout the United States. The moderator of that program will be **David Blake**.

To conclude, a few of us attended the recent Dartmouth Social Justice Awards virtual ceremony for 2021, where **Vince Wilson**, our recently adopted classmate, received *The Holly Fell Sateia Award*. Congratulations Vince.

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