

D'61 DAM Article – January/February 2022

Congratulations to the Class of 1961 for receiving a Letter of Achievement from the Class Officers Association Executive Board (COAEB) and Alumni Relations for achievement by the class during the fiscal year ended June 30, 2021, with special emphasis on our virtually held and well attended 4-day 60th Reunion. The June 2021 event was outstanding, with about 230 classmates and others attending the 24 diversified and distinct sessions. The primary classmates responsible for our 60th Reunion success were **Pete Bleyler** (chair), **Harris McKee** and **Maynard Wheeler**.

The next class activity receiving specific mention was the efforts put forth and the success achieved by the Class of '61 Women's Initiative Committee, led by **Nyla Arslanian** and **Patti Rich**. Over the five-year period leading up to the 60th Reunion, they built up a sub-committee of ten active '61 spouses and widows who, because of their social bonding and communication efforts, were a significant reason for the successful attendance at the 60th Reunion and added to the diversity of the reunion programs, including the production of an excellent 26-page 60th Reunion booklet (thank you Nyla). The growth of the women of the Class of 1961 reached a peak in 2019, when the class, under the leadership of former class president **Don O'Neill**, formerly amended the '61 Class Constitution, designating all of the spouses and surviving spouses of '61 classmates as fully participating members of the Class of 1961, a first in all of Dartmouth's history.

Finally, the Class of 1961 was recognized in the citation for its continuous and record-setting leadership in the important area of DCF "participation". This effort, led by the class officers and executive committee members Harris McKee, **Henry Eberhardt**, and **Rog McArt**, along with the assistance each year of **Denny Denniston**, **Gerry Kaminsky**, and Don O'Neill, has led our class to consistently become the class leader with the highest DCF giving percentage among all Dartmouth classes and a consistent recipient of the College's annual DCF participation awards. This past year the Class of '61 (again) had the highest DCF participation rate among *both* reunion classes and non-reunion classes.

To conclude, we ask only why the awards for Class of the Year/Reunion Class of the year and all of the individual Class Officers of the Year (e.g. president, secretary, treasurer, reunion chair, etc.) were cancelled. We await a viable answer.

Victor S. Rich, 94 Dove Hill Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030; (516)446-3977;
richwind13@gmail.com