

Class of '61 DAM Article - September/October 2016 Edition

Our 55th reunion has come and gone; it was really special. Great weather, great meals (ok, good meals), great events, great entertainment (especially by several talented classmates - organized by **Steve Dale**), old friendships renewed/new friendships made and every event well-planned and well-executed by **Jim Baum**, 55th reunion chair, with follow-up and assistance from **Denny Denniston**, outgoing class president. Kudos to both.

As part of the class' 55th reunion project,

- 1) we worked with the College to expand and improve the area surrounding the Frost statue on campus (**Mike Murphy**, chair),
- 2) we ran a successful six month art contest (**Pete Bleyler**, chair) open to all undergraduate and graduate students at the College, which generated nearly 40 submissions of the best interpretation of the Robert Frost statue at Dartmouth, winners in each of the four stipulated areas of studio arts (painting, sculpture, drawing, photography) selected by a diverse panel of judges and a five week exhibition of the winning and honorable mention entries at the Black Family Visual Arts Center, and
- 3) the rededication during our reunion of the Robert Frost statue at Dartmouth with an 8-page formal program (**Vic Rich**, chair), the statue's sculptor in attendance as our honorary guest and keynote program speaker, and the presentation of a signed and numbered limited edition bronze miniature replica of the life-size statue, also completed by Mr. Lundeen, gifted to the office of the president of Dartmouth College. In addition, two of the miniature Frost statues were raffled off to classmates and won by very lucky classmates, **Jim Naylor** and Denny Denniston. During the rededication ceremony, the class formally adopted **George W. Lundeen**, the sculptor of the life-size bronze statue of Robert Frost commissioned by the class approximately 23 years ago, completed by Mr. Lundeen and gifted by the Class of 1961 to the College 20 years ago.

The turnout for the reunion was very good for our unusually small class, totaling approximately 170 total attendees, including nearly 100 classmates. However, the 55th reunion was somewhat bittersweet since, based on our current rate of classmate attrition and increasing infirmities, this reunion will probably turn out to be the last major reunion for too many of us.

A class nominating committee, chaired by **Art Kelton**, spent two months coming up with a slate of class officers for the next five years. The slate, led by **Don O'Neill** as class president, **Gerry Kaminsky** and Denny Denniston as class vice-presidents, Vic Rich as continuing class secretary, **Ivar Jozus** as continuing class treasurer, **Harris McKee** as continuing class communications officer, class webmaster and class necrologist, **Tom Conger** as continuing class newsletter editor, **Harris McKee/Hank Eberhardt/Hop Holmberg/Roger McArt** as continuing class co-head agents, and **Maynard Wheeler/Dave Prewitt** as class mini-reunion co-chairs, was approved unanimously at our class meeting held during our 55th reunion in June.

In closing, we can now say that the poet Robert Frost, class of 1896 but never graduated, is now a permanent and a visible part of the history of Dartmouth College, and for Dartmouth College that is a good thing.

Victor S. Rich, *94 Dove Hill Drive, Manhasset, NY 11030;*
(516)446-3977; Richwind13@gmail.com