

Dear Class of 1961,

Now that summer has ended and the new school year has begun in earnest, I'd like to bring everyone up to date.

Seven of our officers -- Denny Denniston, Harris McKee, Rog McArt, Vic and Patti Rich, Ron Wybranowski and I -- recently attended the VOX volunteer conference in Hanover. It was the largest gathering of alums on campus in recent history comprising officers of classes, clubs and other organizations. We came away energized by new ideas and insights on how to serve the great Class of '61.

We had a full agenda and I'd like to share some of the key experiences from VOX, review some of our accomplishments during the past year, and discuss some of our goals for 2019-2021. The various meetings enabled us to make connections and learn from alums representing a broad spectrum of Dartmouth volunteers.

Some of the key takeaways were:

- The College has put a major focus on human-centered and project-based learning, applying lessons learned in the classroom to real-life situations.
- The campus is extremely diverse. Women and minorities are playing key roles at every level, including Board Chair, Laurel Richie, Dean of Thayer School of Engineering, Alexis Abramson, and Director of the Hopkins Center for the Arts, Mary Lou Aleskie.
- The west end of campus is exploding with new construction to augment new interdisciplinary programs at Thayer and Tuck and to more closely integrate the related disciplines of computer science, engineering and business applications.
- President Phil Hanlon '77 talked about some of the changes he sees as most constructive, such as:
 - The tone on campus has changed to one of respectful dialogue versus strident and angry discourse. He's pleased with the "tightness of the Dartmouth community."
 - The class of 2023 is the best, brightest and most accomplished in recent memory. There were 24,000 applicants for 1,150 seats -- 7.9% were admitted (the lowest in a long time and much closer to the top three

Ivy's). The average SAT score of the incoming class is 1,490 versus 1,440 four years earlier.

- One of Phil's measures of Institutional Quality is to track the percentage of those admitted to those who actually matriculate. That number has risen to 67% versus 50% four years ago.
- The "Call to Lead" campaign has resulted in \$2.15 billion raised thus far against a goal of \$3 billion. Its primary mission is to reaffirm Dartmouth as the "unequivocal leader in undergraduate education." All of us can buy into this objective. Dartmouth continues to honor its historic tradition of its top educators teaching in the classroom.
- Dartmouth is a leader in undergraduate research. To illustrate this point, President Phil Hanlon shared that he and his wife Gail host 10 to 15 dinners annually for the roughly 200 Senior Honors students and their Professors to present their thesis at the dinner. Phil said it is "mind blowing" to witness the work these young people are doing. It also underlines Phil's commitment to undergraduate education and research.

Unlike previous volunteer workshops, we spent a lot of time focused on leadership rather than the usual emphasis on how to be a better Head Agent or Class Vice President.

The keynote presenter was Professor Sidney Finkelstein, Tuck's Steven Roth Professor of Management. He was fantastic. His signature book, *Super Bosses*, is about practices of great leaders – a very interesting read.

Overall, Dartmouth is growing, thriving and deserving of our support. In my opinion, we can be very proud of our alma mater!

As far as last year's achievements by the Class of 1961 and our goals going forward are concerned, here are some of the highlights.

While we were not awarded Class of the Year we were definitely in the running until the end. The award was presented to the hard-working and high achieving Class of 1971. For the record, however, the Class of 1961 was awarded Class of the Year for two of the past four years prior to the current year.

Good progress was made by the Class of 1961 in a number of areas last year. For a complete analysis, read the [Class Annual Report or CAR](#). One of the interesting stats in that report is that 532 of our original class of 721 are still with us (74%). Nationally, of

those born in 1939, only 54.5% are still alive. Could the reason be that we have the granite of New Hampshire in our muscles and our brains? Some of the other highlights were:

- 75.1% of our Class gave to Dartmouth College Fund representing the second highest percentage participation of all classes. Thanks to our SWAT team of Harris McKee, Denny Denniston, Rog McArt, Henry Eberhardt, and Bob Conn for their diligence and hard work.
- Our classmates donated \$242,000 to the Dartmouth College Fund (DCF).
- The Class completed its funding of \$100,000 necessary for the new Robert Frost Endowment.
- Members of the Class also contributed \$3.6 million in “other gifts” to the Call to Lead campaign which celebrates Dartmouth’s 250th year anniversary.
- Jim Baum and then Ron Wybranowski replaced Ivar Jozus as Class Treasurer.
- Maynard Wheeler ran a highly successful and well-attended annual mini-reunion in Hanover during the Fall season.
- Frank Stevens hosted and ran a very successful mini-reunion in London last May—the Class' first mini-reunion held outside the U.S.
- Ivar Jozus was honored by the Class with a Special Recognition Award for his meritorious service over many years to his class, the College and his community.

Clearly we had a solid year but could still improve. One of our objectives is to expand our team by reincarnating the Executive Committee. We have 18 dedicated officers (including three spouses), but we need a fresh group of classmates who at times can pick up the slack, take over or at least share in the roles held by the same people for many years, especially as classmates age. We are going to add at least 10 Executive Committee members (and possibly more) over the next 2 years. Personally, I have found it very rewarding to work for the Class and for Dartmouth. So, if asked, please consider joining us or if you'd like to volunteer, please get in touch with any one of our officers. All of our Class Officers are incredibly gifted and dedicated men and women and I'd like to thank them publicly for their work and cooperation. Ours is a team effort as many contribute far beyond the role or the position they hold.

With our 60th Reunion on the horizon, we've established some important financial goals – these are to raise \$310,000 for the DCF in 2020, \$610,000 in 2021 (our reunion year), accomplish a 72% participation level and add 35 new members to the Bartlett Tower Society raising the number to 100 by the end of June 2021. We know we aren't getting any younger so please consider leaving a specific bequest or a portion of your estate to

Dartmouth, or if you haven't thought of it, now is the time to do it. Dave Armstrong leads this effort and I know he would appreciate your support.

If you're nostalgic about your college days 60 years ago, want to visit the campus to see old friends, visit old dorms and fraternities, visit the new facilities, meet the students, relive old memories and create new ones, then come to our 60th on June 14 - 17, 2021. We want to make this the best reunion ever and at the same time break attendance records for a 60th reunion. Happily, Pete Bleyler volunteered to Chair our 60th and that's great news!

My thanks to all of you for your generous support and ongoing commitment to the Class and the College.

Your loyal son of Dartmouth and '61 classmate,

Don O'Neill, Class President

P.S. Hot news just in. '61 Mini-reunion will be held in San Diego March 22-25 at the Del Coronado Resort.