

Dedication of the Robert Frost Statue area and "The Rise"

June 10, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.



Serendipity took over when Alumni Affairs introduced 1961 and 1973 representatives for a discussion. Both classes were separately interested in funding certain improvements to an area on College Hill between Bartlett Tower and the Shattuck Observatory, the highest elevation on the Dartmouth campus and directly above the Bema.

The '61's have been most attached to this place for many years, following relocation by the College of the statue the '61's commissioned to honor Robert Frost 1896, a treasured English class lecturer. It was previously located adjacent to Silsby Hall. The new setting is a wonderful improvement and has quickly become a rallying place for class get-togethers. In 2021, one of their members proposed constructing a rural stone wall along the bank so Frost would appear to be looking across it as he composed his poem "The Mending Wall". A place to sit near the statue was also suggested.

Chugging down a parallel path for their 50th reunion, the '73's were hoping to create a small "pocket park" for individual or group contemplation and reflection. The goal was to find a convenient spot with a view of Baker Tower, an iconic element for many. A planning team was created which worked closely with the College community to consider possibilities. With encouragement, a landscape architect was retained to help guide the process. As their project grew in scale, Alumni Affairs suggested in the spring of 2022 that the '73 team should meet with their '61 counterparts, to ensure their efforts would be complementary and enhance one another.

Everyone who participated in the joint process (both classes, Dartmouth staff, various community members, and consultants) have remained enthusiastic and supportive as the project has evolved. The budget has grown substantially, but the project team is pleased and proud of what you see here today, and grateful to our benefactors. The design intent was to use a light touch and create something timeless, appropriate, and fitting for this beautiful place - "hiding in plain sight" we like to say. The main elements include: selective tree thinning and pruning to enhance the views, invasive plant removal, a curved stone wall opposite Mr. Frost with a curved wooden bench top designed and created by Dwight Sargent '72 atop forged iron bases designed and fabricated by Dimitri Gerakaris '69, a circle of stone "benches" (boulders) with a small "sneak stair" headed down to the Observatory parking lot, and plantings designed to thrive in the local climate and appear indigenous. The improved main walkways and access to the contemplative stone benches are handicapped accessible to maximize safety and enjoyment for the entire Dartmouth family and the general public. This was a key element for us. Above all, we hope the changes appear to have been made when Bartlett Tower was built, a wonderful example of class participation from 1885-1895.

The '73 team have come to refer to their portion of the site as "The Rise". This seems to have been well received by the college community and we're confident Robert Frost would have agreed too.

To learn more about this project, please scan the QR code below



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June 10, 2023

Words by Maynard Wheeler '61, Class President
to members of the Class of '73 and guests.

As Robert Frost once said:

Something there is that doesn't love a wall,
That sends the frozen-ground-swell under it,
And spills the upper boulders in the sun;
And makes gaps even two can pass abreast.

However - WE LOVE THIS WALL and the beautiful bench !!

To Rick Routhier, President of the Class of 1973, and all those gathered here, the Class of 1961 could not be more excited and pleased with our collaboration with your Class on this project. Our history begins with a long drawn 5 year out dance with the College beginning in the 1990s at the time of our 30th reunion which included several sites until ending up in this beautiful meaning-filled place with Bartlett Tower and the Old Pine Stump nearby at the very pinnacle of the campus. Now, 25 to 30 years later, starting with the idea of a small stone wall in front of the Robert Frost statue, with your impressive leadership and assistance, it has grown to a comprehensive improvement of the whole RISE that will endure for the foreseeable future. We give thanks to Alan Rozycki from our Class and Bob Haynes '73 for their hard work and persistent efforts to bring this project to completion. Bob, if you were not already a member of the Great Class of 1973, the Class of 1961 would adopt you! What with the involvement of so many talented Dartmouth graduates, not just members of the classes of '61 & '73, this project will stand as a superlative example of the magic of the Dartmouth Connectedness. The '61s anticipate with gratitude the stewardship of this area by the '73 long after we are around to participate.



Robert Frost Looking Over the Finished Wall With Bench



Wheeler, Bob Haynes '73, Roz, Dwight Sargent '72 of Pompanoosuc (wood top of bench) Mills

