

2017–18 Alumni Awards Recognize Outstanding Contributions of Four Alumni

Dartmouth recognized four standout alumni volunteers, including our own Art Kelton, at the annual Alumni Awards Gala on October 27. The recipients were presented their awards in Hanover during the 215th meeting of the Dartmouth Alumni Council. Sherri C. Oberg '82, Tu'86 and Arthur M. Kelton Jr. '61 were presented with the Dartmouth Alumni Award in honor of their long-standing and meritorious service to the College and their community, as well as achievements in their careers. Alumni are eligible for this award, established in 1954, after their 25th class reunion.

Here is Art's citation.

Arthur M. Kelton Jr. '61

Life and Career

Art nearly became a geography major before a conversation with then-chair of the history department and Dartmouth legend Al Foley convinced him to switch to American history. An avid skier, Art joined the freshman ski team, was a member of the ski patrol, and ran the College's recreational skiing instruction program as an upperclassman, was held on the golf course at Oak Hill, and at the newly opened Dartmouth Skiway. Fascinated by politics, Art was the president of the Young Republicans, as well as a member of Alpha Chi Rho (now Alpha Chi Alpha) and the Dartmouth Forensic Union. After graduation, he worked for the governor of Vermont and earned a master's degree in



political science from the University of Vermont. When tired of East Coast mountains, Art packed up his car and moved to Colorado, where he taught skiing in Steamboat Springs and Vail. He worked for Olympic gold medalist Roger Staub, before “inadvertently” getting into real estate and then property development in the Vail area. “I still work for myself, I would never retire,” Art notes, adding that his office “is probably a minute and a half from the ski gondola, and not by accident. I still ski probably 90 days a

year.” He also flies planes recreationally, is chairman of the board of a local hospital known nationally for its orthopedic program, and enjoys spending time with his wife Elaine and daughters Courtney, Vanessa, and Ashley and their families.

Memories from the Green

Art learned the value of the bonds between Dartmouth students and professors early on. Professor Foley, who was an important mentor during Art’s time on campus, remained a source of Dartmouth connections long after Art left the Hanover Plain. “When I moved to Denver, he drove out with me and introduced me to all the Dartmouth guys in the area,” Art explains.

For Dartmouth

Art remains tightly connected to his class, and served as class president for six years and head agent for two terms. He was a member of the board of overseers that managed the Hanover Inn during its renovation, and spent a decade on the now-disbanded real estate committee managing non-institutional properties for the College. He also spent a term on the Alumni Council. Art worked with Steve Waterhouse ’65 to create the *Passion for Skiing* film and book, exploring the history of the sport at Dartmouth. He has been deeply involved with the Dartmouth Club of the Vail Region, serving as president for the last seven years. Art has spearheaded the organization of a weekend celebration called CarniVail, held annually during the last weekend in February, which “combines the intellectual with the athletic.” The event includes a Friday evening celebration and a weekend of ski races. Art hopes to bring faculty to CarniVail to create an academic tie to the College.

Highlights of Volunteer Service

“A lot of undergraduates and recent graduates make their way to my office in Vail, and I love getting to know them. I’ve helped several of them get winter jobs here and things like that. My single greatest ongoing pleasure is being able to interface with people who are either undergraduates right now or recent grads.”

You Know You Bleed Green

“Dartmouth is always part of my daily life in some way, so I guess I bleed Green most of the time. I’m always in touch with some Dartmouth contact or working on something to do with Dartmouth.”