

## Minutes

### D'61 Class Officers /Executive Committee Teleconference

**April 14, 2021**

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Attending the Meeting: Don O'Neill, Denny Denniston, Vic Rich, Harris McKee, Pete Bleyler, Henry Eberhardt, Oscar Arslanian, Tom Conger, Rog McArt, Nyla Arslanian, Vince Wilson, Gim Burton, Art Kelton, Mort Lynn, Jim McElhinney, Hop Holmberg, Jon Sperling

Absent from Meeting: Gerry Kaminsky, Ron Wybranowski, Maynard Wheeler, Dave Prewitt, Bill Collishaw, Dave Armstrong, Patti Rich, Al Rozycki, Glen Gemelli, Tim Grumbacher

Invited Guests: None

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Denny Denniston, Class Vice-President, standing in for Don O'Neill, Class President, called the meeting to order at noon EDT. Because of a schedule conflict, Don had to leave the meeting early.

Denny asked for the approval of the Minutes for the March 10, 2021 class officers/executive committee teleconference meeting, which Minutes were approved unanimously as submitted, subject to three minor technical corrections submitted by Vic in response to communications received from executive committee members after reviewing the draft copy of the Minutes.

Don sadly noted the recent passing of Joan Prewitt, a long-time member of the Class executive committee and co-awardee along with her husband of the Class' Special Recognition Award in 2020. The '61 class officers and the members of the executive committee offer their sincere condolences to class officer Dave Prewitt and his family.

#### Secretary's Report

Vic Rich, Class Secretary, reported that he had completed the Minutes for the March 10, 2021 class officers/executive committee teleconference.

As requested by the class officers and executive committee members at the March 10<sup>th</sup> telecom, Vic prepared and submitted to Don a preliminary draft of a class letter to be considered for submission to the “D” Office of the President, the chair of the “D” Board of Trustees and/or to the president of the Alumni Council. As this was merely a preliminary draft, it included all of the possible issues that were under consideration at the time. The eventual decision might be to defer sending out any letter at this time and to wait and see what additional information may arise on the topics of consideration and concern during the next few months.

Furthermore, Vic further updated DRAFT versions (up to version #9) of the archive of “D” related awards and recognitions conferred upon the Class of 1961 and ’61 individual classmates. See the “1961 Class and Classmate Alumni Awards and Recognitions Archive” for more details.

Finally, Vic communicated with several classmates and various members of the College’s administration dealing with alumni matters in general and the Class of 1961 in particular.

### Treasurer’s Report

Ron Wybranowski, Class Treasurer, was not present at the telecom but submitted a report prepared and dated April 10<sup>th</sup>. The report stated that the Class’ current cash balances as of April 10, 2021 totaled \$44,082 in the Class’ checking account and \$16,000 in the Class’ reunion checking account, totaling \$60,082. Since July 1, 2020, the Class has collected dues of \$13,054 from 214 classmates at \$61 and voluntary contributions of \$11,230 from classmates for various existing class projects. For the current fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, the Class has to date made a donation of \$2,500 to the Dartmouth Athletic Sponsors program, \$1,500 to the Performing Arts Legacy project in memory of deceased classmates and spouses and \$3,774 to other existing class projects, for a total of \$7,774.

Included in other project donations received was a donation of \$1,000 from special classmate Virginia Rice Kelsey which has been allocated by the class officers and executive committee to the update and reprinting of the ’61 class directory, last updated in 2015.

Another classmate, Jim Baum, has contributed \$4,000, as yet unallocated, to be used toward a specific class project to be identified by the Class’ Executive Committee, which

project can be Dartmouth related or community related. Furthermore, Jim has stated that if he likes the project he would be willing to provide additional funding for another one or two years.

The second dues notice for the current fiscal year was mailed out in March to classmates who had not yet paid class dues for the current fiscal year. Dues collections for the current fiscal year are currently still running significantly behind the prior year, partially due to the passing of many classmates during the current year.

### Nominating Committee Report

Dave Prewitt, chair, Art Kelton, Oscar Arslanian and Rog McArt comprise the Class of '61 current nominating committee. Dave was not able to attend the meeting and no report was submitted or anticipated at this time.

### Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) Class Report

Harris McKee, co-chair (along with Henry Eberhardt and Rog McArt) of our Class' DCF efforts, presented the Class' report of actual dollars contributed to date by classmates and number of classmates contributing to date versus projected goals for the Class of '61 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021:

- Our stated class DCF dollar goal is \$610,00 but our submitted stretch dollar goal is \$725,000 for our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion and for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. As of April 12<sup>th</sup>, the Class has received approximately \$518,000 in cash and firm pledges, leaving approximately \$92,000 to reach its stated goal and \$207,000 to reach its stretch goal. Thus far, the Class has achieved 84.9% of its dollar goal and 71.4% of its stretch dollar goal.
- A Class DCF challenge plan entitled "60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Double-Double Match Challenge" was activated to encourage more '61 donors to raise their projected donations by providing for matching incentive gifts from an anonymous classmate for any current year gift that equals or exceeds the greater of the classmate's gift for the 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion or doubles his/her gift for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020. As of April 12<sup>th</sup>, 38 classmates have accepted the challenge and qualified for the matching contribution, currently totaling over \$93,000. Last year, our class had 28 members of the 1769 Society (contributed \$2,500 or more); to date this year, our class has 24 members.

- Our DCF participation goal was established at 72% for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Classmate contributors (including firm pledges) to date amount to 188, or 43%, including all of the 27 current class officers and executive committee members. Another 250 contributors (57%) from our class are needed to reach our participation goal for the year. Henry Eberhardt noted that the Class of '61 to date has dropped to second place among all other classes with its current interim participation rate of 43%; the Class of 1960, our annual nemesis, is now slightly ahead of us.

Henry emphasized that our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion will be the last major reunion effort by our Class. As a result, we should go out on top, achieving and possibly exceeding both our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion dollar goal and our participation goal.

### D'61 On-Campus and Off-Campus Virtual Mini-Reunion Report (Quarterly)

Maynard Wheeler, on-campus and off-campus virtual mini-reunion chair, was not able to attend the telecom but reported earlier that the single-day virtual mini-reunion held on Tuesday, April 6, 2021 was again very successful. Approximately 67 classmates attended the 4 hour session which consisted primarily of an excellent seminar by classmate Mike Kirst, former multi-term president of the California State Board of Education, about the status of the public education system today in the U.S. The moderator of Mike's session and the Q&A which followed was Maynard Wheeler. Following this was an open Class meeting led by Don O'Neill covering a Class Treasurer's report, a Class DCF report, a Class BTS report and the upcoming 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion. A brief display of photos from our 55th Reunion and a more extensive display of and discussion about the artworks created by classmate Dutton Foster was moderated by Ron Wybranowski. The program closed with an approximate 45 minute set of small breakout sessions discussing the various issues of public education today and tomorrow in this country, followed by a closing general session. Harris McKee and Pete Bleyler were both helpful throughout the mini in dealing with the logistics and the technicalities.

Following this was a brief report of the annual Fall mini-reunion, planned to take place in October 2021, which probably will focus, as in past fall minis, on various undergraduate students to whom we provide financial grants under various class projects and possibly also include a discussion of a book by a classmate and/or adopted classmate. Where and how to fit in a televised "D" football game is still open. It is now definite that the Fall mini will remain virtual for 2021.

## D'61 Virtual 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion (June 2021)

Pete Bleyler, 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion chair, reported that he has been holding periodic meetings and rehearsals with the various sub-groups on the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion Committee and has finalized the schedule for the three-plus days of the reunion. The 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion will take place between June 14-17, 2021, will be fully virtual and will be cost-free to all attendees.

1. All aspects of developing and implementing the program aspect of the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion has been completed with six classmate panel discussions, one memorial service for deceased classmates, one women's group discussion, one passages session, one Dickey Center student panel discussion group, one class meeting, two class artist slide shows and two evening meeting entertainment sessions.
2. The underlying theme of five panel discussions will be "The Paths We've Chosen": classmates who have changed, altered or revised their professions or occupations so as to include an entirely different aspect or direction to it, in deference to Robert Frost's a "road less travelled by". A sixth classmate panel discussion will focus on alumni arts initiatives.
3. Most of the '61 class events will be run by and/or consist of classmates and/or spouses and/or widows of classmates, including one of the entertainment sessions, two of the classmate artist slideshows, and the Dickey Center student panel.
4. An extensive 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion booklet will be prepared for all classmates by Nyla Arslanian. Among other things, it will include a detailed program of the reunion's events and the speakers, moderators and organizers involved. It will also include the summary highlights of a detailed historical archive of Dartmouth awards and citations which the Class has received and Dartmouth awards and citations which '61 classmates have received as well as significant positions held by '61s within the Dartmouth alumni leadership and advisory structure during the past 60 years. Finally, the reunion booklet will include a summary of each of the Class' significant projects over the 60 year period.

Assisting Pete in this endeavor are Maynard Wheeler, Harris McKee and Ron Wybranowski, along with an extensive classmate and spouse/widow reunion committee.

The class directory has been revised and updated by Harris McKee, with some assistance from a few other classmates. After final proofreading, the directory will be sent out for printing and binding.

### Robert Frost Endowed Class Project

Pete Bleyler, committee chair, stated that there was nothing significant to report at this time. The dual project, consisting of grants provided to undergraduate students in accordance with the John Sloane Dickey Center/'61 Stephen Bosworth Award and the '61 Arts Legacy, appeared to be running smoothly. One of the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion panel discussions will focus on students connected with the Dickey Center and will be moderated by Chris Bosworth, widow of classmate Steve Bosworth in whose honor an endowed class project has been funded implemented.

### Digital Content Manager/Webmaster's Report

Harris McKee, Class Digital Content Manager/Webmaster, reported that he had generated 26 class website updates, 26 iModules emails, and dealt with one new communications issue between the College and reporting of obituary notices to various class officers going forward.

In addition, Harris has been the primary technical support for the ZOOM mechanical aspects of all class officer/executive committee meetings as well as all virtual mini-reunions, informal roundtable discussions and other virtual meetings/teleconferences.

### Memorialist's Report

Harris McKee, Class Memorialist, reported that during the past month we learned that five classmates (Mauro Dentino, John Gerrish, Jerry Hallisey, Rip Maxwell, and Don Shropshire) as well as two informal classmates (Joani Prewitt and Mel Gitchel) had passed away and that obit notices had been published on the class website for those whom obit notices had been received. In addition, Harris notifies the Class Treasurer of the passing of each classmate and classmate spouse so that \$100 can be contributed to the '61 Performing Arts Legacy to honor each such person. Harris also reported that as part of the alumni staff reorganization, the College will in the future be sending all obit notices to the Class Secretary, who will then be responsible for re-sending out copies to each interested party (Class Memorialist, Women's Initiative Committee).

### Newsletter Editor's Report

Tom Conger, Newsletter Editor, reported that he was preparing to publish in mid-May the last of the four *Wide Wide World* issues of our class newsletter for the current fiscal year ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, instead of the usual three issues.

### Bartlett Tower Society (BTS) Report

Neither Al Rozycki nor Dave Armstrong, Class BTS co-chairs, was present and no report was submitted. However, Harris McKee's email as of March 16<sup>th</sup> noted that three new class members had been approved for their entry into the BTS and that there were still six members of the executive committee who had not yet joined to make a testamentary gift of some amount to Dartmouth (no minimum amount is required).

### Women's Initiative Committee (WIC) Report

Nyla Arslanian and Patti Rich, WIC co-chairs, reported that they were continuing to communicate, orally and/or in writing, with the spouses of all classmates and with all widows of deceased classmates. Nyla reported that a '61 women's committee of 10 classmate spouses and widows had been formed to increase the level and pace of communication with other classmate spouses and widows.

In addition, Nyla has nearly completed the preparation of the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion booklet, with assistance from several classmates in providing the content and from Pete Bleyler in selecting and organizing the content submitted.

### D'61 Special Classmate Awards Committee Report

Dave Prewitt, Awards Committee chair, was not able to attend, but Vic Rich, a committee member along with Denny Denniston and Harris McKee, reported that the committee was expecting to present one or more awards during our 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion in June 2021 and also at the anticipated mini-reunion in the Fall of 2021.

### Class and Classmate Alumni Awards Archive Report

Vic Rich, co-chair of this committee with Denny Denniston, reported that this multi-year project was near completion. The finalized archival information portion of our Class' permanent written history would be included in part in the 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion booklet and

will be fully included in a separate booklet of about 10 pages to be published by our 60th Reunion and distributed all classmates prior to June 30th.

Vic noted that draft version #9 was now completed, but that the draft # will increase as new and additional information is submitted for the archive of "D" related awards and recognitions conferred upon the Class of 1961 and '61 individual classmates. Vic noted, and the Office of Alumni Relations confirmed, that the alumni records were at times inaccurate and at times incomplete as to certain awards and recognitions, both as to the Class as a whole and as to individual classmates, primarily relating to years prior to 2000. Therefore, wherever possible, input has been cross-referenced. Assistance from Dartmouth personnel Vince Wilson and from Meaghan Ramsden has been invaluable during the final stretch of this multi-year project, especially during the 2020-2021 pandemic which resulted in reduced Alumni Office personnel and staff which worked almost entirely from home rather than from their campus office, so that access to existing alumni records were constricted at best.

The (hopefully) final draft will be completed in May and then sent by email to all classmates using email to final review before being sent to the printer.

### New Business

- 1- Vic and others who attended the virtual session noted the successful inception of the Harvard University sponsored Stephen Bosworth Annual Seminar, which debuted on April 7, 2021. Former President Bill Clinton gave a lengthy and praiseworthy introduction and Chris Bosworth and her grandson gave a praiseworthy summation at the end (Chris' teenage grandson was poised and spoke very well; he is one to watch in the future).
- 2- Dartmouth celebrated Robert Frost's 147th birthday on campus with a video of five invited poets in College Park reading their poetry near the '61 Robert Frost statue.
- 3- Vic encouraged all former Alumni Council members to attend and listen to and participate in the virtual "Special" Alumni Council session scheduled for April 21<sup>st</sup> from 4-5pm EDT.
- 4- Nyla, on behalf of the entire '61 executive committee, wished Patti a speedy and complete recovery from her shoulder replacement surgery on April 9<sup>th</sup>.

5- Several class officers and executive committee members offered their sincere condolences to Dave Prewitt and his family on the recent passing of his spouse, Joani Prewitt, a long-term and devoted '61 executive committee member.

The next class officers/executive committee telecon will be on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at noon EST.

Denny adjourned the meeting at 12:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Vic Rich, '61 Class Secretary