



**Dartmouth**  
**1961**

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Dear D '61 Classmates and Friends:

I am genuinely excited to bring you up to date with recent activities of the Great Dartmouth Class of 1961. We have the unanticipated opportunity to make yet another, perhaps our ultimate, lasting contribution to the College we love, which I will call **The Robert Frost Special Area Project**. Under the leadership of **Alan Rozycki** with the support of **Ron Wybranowski**, **Pete Bleyler** and me, we have exploded the germinal idea of enhancing our favorite but environmentally neglected area around the Robert Frost Statue in College Park (which includes the Bartlett Tower and the recently revitalized Lone Pine Stump) into a comprehensive upgrade of permanence.

Serendipitously we have joined forces with the 50th Reunion Class of 1973 to execute and finance a master architectural plan to include the area from the Observatory parking lot to the Lone Pine Stump and Bartlett Tower. This will create a stone wall with incorporated benches and gathering area in the line of sight of Frost for the part of '61 with paths and a natural contemplative area overlooking Baker Tower and the Vermont Hills to the West for '73. Because of the location, extra attention with planting needs to be given to the precipitous rim above the BEMA, now unattractively delineated by a yellow nylon rope, with appropriate planting at both ends of the area to keep it as natural and low-key as possible. ADA approach would be included.

It is remarkable that in our many meetings to develop the plans, invariably people walk by and stop by the statue. Groups of high school students who are studying the poet have discovered the location to augment their experience.

This will require a special fund-raising effort which we will launch once the College has given us the green light so stay tuned.

It is with pleasure that I also report to you some of our accomplishments over this last year.

Although our **Mission Statement** includes the words that “We will view ourselves and be viewed by the College as one of Dartmouth’s finest classes“, only the first part holds up as the College no longer gives the usual recognition to superlative classes like ours! We must learn to internally be self-satisfied with our exceptional overall performance.

Our well-developed team leading our participation to the **Dartmouth College Fund** (DCF) has guided us to an unbelievable level of 72.6%, highest of any class of any decade! On top of that, we exceeded our contribution goal of \$261,961 with a total of \$411,540, remarkable for our notably smaller-in-number Class. We also had the highest retention (93%) in the year following a reunion.

We continue to build membership in the **Bartlett Tower Society**, indicating one’s desire to recognize the College’s influence in our lives, by emphasizing how simple it is to add a bequest to one’s Will, there being no minimal dollar requirement.

More importantly, we have sustained our personal interactions with the consistently outstanding **Quarterly Reunions** on Zoom masterfully orchestrated by **Pete Bleyler** with **Harris McKee**’s essential technological support. The reunions continue with the basic two components, one being presentations by our classmates about their outstanding contributions to society and the other being reports by the students whom we support through the **Frost Endowment**. As you recall, it is composed of both the **Art Initiative** component and that of the **Steven W. Bosworth Dickey Center for International Understanding** award. We also have included such campus activities as athletic coaches and the women’s championship rugby team captains. Between these reunions and the contacts made by the DCF agents our classmate connectivity has never been higher. It might be added that a spin off has been many zoom meetings among groups like fraternities.

Our other major endowment, the **Legacy for the Performing Arts** continues to be a great source of pride with June 30th estimated market value of \$1,912,698 which has distributed more than \$930,171 in support of performances at the HOP. What an inspired project initiated so many years ago that will prevail for the life of the College!

Your **Executive Committee** consisting of 21 Class Officers and 6 at-large members, continues to meet monthly via Zoom. You could not ask for a more dedicated group that guides the course of the Class with thoughtful consideration of all that will fulfill our mission to the highest degree.

Due to all the above, I believe our Class continues to have a meaningful role in the life of the College, no small task for a bunch in their ninth decade. I eagerly await developments in the coming year.

With best regards,

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