

## Jim Yong Kim "Gets" Dartmouth

A remarkable thing happened at Dartmouth this week – we named a new President, just the 17th since our school was founded. Jim Yong Kim is a visionary leader, revered educator and brilliant motivator – and he said that he believed that no school in the nation was as well prepared as Dartmouth to offer young people the kind of liberal arts education that would prepare them to be leaders in the 21st century. He sees an exciting partnership of the brightest students, a superb faculty, a cross-disciplinary passion and potential, a confidence and optimism that is Dartmouth to the core. Such a partnership is what he needs to move towards a core value of his own – how to live a worthy life and to teach others to do the same; a moral imperative grounded in an extraordinary intellectual approach.

Jim Yong Kim did not come to Dartmouth through the conventional path of academic administration, of deanships and provost positions. Instead, he has put his enormous energy and transformative leadership style towards saving the lives of the poorest people in the world. He was a founding trustee of Partners in Health with Paul Farmer and others, and was the architect of the World Health Organization initiative to bring antiretroviral treatment for HIV/AIDS to the world's poor. He has scholarship that has been awarded the highest honor by his medical peers with election to the Institute of Medicine at the National Academy of Sciences. He is a physician and he has a Ph.D. in anthropology. He has been called one of the best teachers ever at Harvard, creating courses that are undergraduate education at its best. His classes have a waiting list of 200 and more. His colleagues call him humble, engaging, collaborative, and funny. All speak of his vision and his humanity. He's a lifelong athlete who played high school football and college volleyball. He said he can not wait to throw the football around on the Green and he may even join a practice of the girls' volleyball team.

For all the remarkable qualities that Jim Kim brings to his next job, perhaps the most important is that he "gets" Dartmouth. He understands what makes our College unique – the special sense of community, the passion of its alumni, the focus on teaching, and the great sense of tradition. He wants to nurture that, to build on it and help Dartmouth to "soar with its strengths."

When the Presidential Search Committee asked stakeholders what they were looking for in the next President, the most common thread was the desire to be inspired. One Dartmouth alumnus wrote "All of us have tremendous passion for Dartmouth. I hope we can find a leader who will harness that passion to make Dartmouth even better.

The President needs to lead and energize us. The position of President needs to be filled by an inspirational, Big Green unifier." As if in response to this plea, another Dartmouth alumnus who has the privilege of knowing Dr. Kim wrote that he will bring people together and make Dartmouth even stronger. That magical current, so storied in Dartmouth traditions, between students, faculty and the President will continue its flow through Hanover.

When asked "why Dartmouth", after a career of astounding success and stature in the world of global health, Dr. Kim replied that what he knows to be critical to his happiness is to work with the students of today who are "susceptible to being inspired", just as he has always been. Selecting Jim Kim as President is a bold move that is a great statement about the values of an institution that has chosen such courageous leaders in the past as Ernest Martin Hopkins, John Sloan Dickey and John Kemeny. We have a remarkable person who will become the 17th President of a remarkable place, and my guess is that Dartmouth's future will be remarkable.