

I would like to address four constituent groups in the next few minutes.

First, President Kim. I thank you for your vision, leadership and commitment to Dartmouth. Having watched your inauguration online and having seen you speak several times in Hanover and once in Seattle, I think you have already proven to be a worthy prime number member of the Wheelock Succession ...and we '78s know how important prime number presidents are to Dartmouth. In your short tenure you have grasped the two core values of Dartmouth – an unwavering commitment to undergraduate education and respect for the strong sense of community that this place engenders amongst its students, faculty and alumni. That you have grasped these so quickly is even more more remarkable given that you were educated in the backwaters of Providence and Cambridge. You as physician and I as a biochemistry major both know that if I were to cut you today, the combination of oxygen and an iron based compound hemoglobin would cause you to bleed, HEAVEN FORBID...CRIMSON. But I also have no doubt that, whenever your tenure at Dartmouth ends, and I hope that day is a long time in the future, you will, like the rest of us here, BLEED GREEN.

Now, speaking of Bleeding Green, let me turn to my classmates and adopted classmate that have already been recognized earlier for your significant gifts that brought forth the marvelous LSC. I too wish to acknowledge you for your leadership, your passion and your commitment to Dartmouth. For you have converted your talents and accomplishments into a fabulous legacy. And I also wish to thank your spouses, for no philanthropic gift of such scope could or should be made unless in true partnership with a supportive spouse. So, thank you ladies for respecting the passion and commitment your spouses have for their alma mater. But what impresses me most as I stand here today, is not just the passion, commitment and leadership demonstrated by you gentlemen...it's your generosity. And by generosity, I do not mean the size of the checks written, sizeable though they have been. By generosity I mean that you have given all of your classmates a chance to be part of and recognized as members of this very special class. To me, it's akin to the "Gift of Grace" if you'll pardon reference to Christian theology. For you generously and graciously have invited us in on this wonderful gift. But whether we have participated or not, you were willing to stand together unselfishly, to link arms and put the Class of 1978 across the building's façade. This gift generously acknowledges any 78 now and forever more. Thank you very much.

Next, let me also extend my thanks to the other members of our class who have supported the 78LSC. You, perhaps like myself, with more modest bank accounts and balance sheets, have nevertheless demonstrated the same passion and commitment to Dartmouth. You have

acknowledged that Dartmouth meant something to you then and means something to you today. And you have supported this capital project because you believe that being a member of the Dartmouth community and a member of the Class of 1978 is important...and that having our class name on a building may be a gift freely offered by our most significant donors but cognizant that "from whom much is given, much is to be expected." For, as Mike Jacobson wrote recently, once a '78 always a '78. You have answered the call and you have tangibly recognized that it is a privilege to be part of the Dartmouth community and the Class of '78. Thank you for joining hands and making the 78LSC a reality for students of today and decades to come.

Finally, I wish to address those classmates that have not yet given to the LSC. And here I'd like to offer two anecdotes from personal experience. First, when I sat in front of Baker Library just over three short years ago at our 30<sup>th</sup> and heard that our class was donating the funds for the 1978 LSC, well my eyebrows shot up like a Harvard grad's GPA at his first post-graduate cocktail party. For I know the development game. After all, I began learning it here at the feet of the masters as a class agent our first five years out. It meant that several major donors had been solicited and that probably two-thirds of the goal had been secured already. And my next thought was, 'gee, my ability to move the needle here is non-existent....should I even bother?' I suspect some of you may have felt this way too. But this brings me to my second story. Just over ten years ago, I led a capital campaign for my small 125 member Presbyterian church in Seattle. We had a centennial coming in 2006 and in 2000 I championed and led a five year capital campaign. Taking a page from the Dartmouth Development playbook, I went out in advance and met with roughly ten families that I thought might be significant donors. With commitments in hand by August 2001, we publicly announced a half million dollar campaign. Mind you, this was post tech bubble and then of course, 9/11 occurred. But we went ahead and announced the campaign to the congregation in late September. Shortly thereafter, I received a letter from a woman in our church who had suffered a series of strokes and other ailments in middle age. She was on disability and of modest means. Her letter, scrawled on blue lined note paper, said that she would like to do more but that all she could afford was \$5 a month over the five year period. Well, I'm here to tell you ladies and gentlemen that that gift brought me to my knees. I will always remember it as the most significant gift of the campaign. You see, she wanted to be recognized as a member of the community because it meant something to her. So, my reluctant classmates, contrary to common wisdom, when it comes to the 1978 Life Science Center, SIZE DOES NOT MATTER. What matters is that you have a chance to be member of our special community.

Now let me conclude with the following story. At the recent Class Officer's Weekend, the unspoken rule is to refer to class leaders as being from 'the great class of blah blah blah.' It reminds me of political nominating conventions. "The chair recognizes the delegation from the

great state of Wyoming or Delaware.” So much political theater that cheapens the word GREAT. So, from now on, I will ask and encourage my fellow class officers to ask to be introduced as from the ‘ACCOMPLISHED AND GENEROUS CLASS OF 1978.’ Finally, let’s not let this new Class of 1978 Life Science Center be the culmination of our efforts, let it not be the swan song of our dedication to Dartmouth, the final chapter. Rather, let it be another milestone, a broader platform upon which to build, for we, as a class, have much more to ACCOMPLISH and an even greater legacy of GENEROSITY to convey to this place and institution that we love.