
Connect 78

The Dartmouth Class of 1978 Newsletter

June 2008

Our 30th Reunion: June 12-15

It's not too late to decide to attend!



To register and pay, go to <http://www.dartmouth78.com/>

Need to be persuaded?
Check out some of the activities at

<http://www.dartmouth78.com/postcards/>

Welcome to Our New Class Secretary— David Hov!

Many thanks again to **Maggie Fellner Hunt** for 11 years of service as our class secretary.

Dave Hov has volunteered to take over. Let him know

what's up with you at davidhov@comcast.net.



Tom Swartwood: Flew to historic Easton, Md., for a joyful occasion: the wedding of **Dave Speer** (at long last) to Renee DeCroes. **Win Craven, Don McQueen** and his wife Ginnie, **Duane Peterson** (on his way to Costa Rica for a sabbatical!), **Karen & Mark Frank, Hope Dobrow** and husband, as well as Frank Hathaway '79, wife Lisa, witnessed the blessed event (touch and go when the minister forgot the readings) and celebrated with

reminiscing, dancing and lots of laughs.

tom@thomasswartwood.com

Above (l-r): Dusty McQueen, Duane Peterson, Mark & Karen Frank, Win Craven, groom Dave Speer, and Ginnie McQueen. (Not pictured: bride Renee DeCroes.)

Tom Hopkins: I am planning to attend the 30th Reunion and looking forward to catching up with our classmates.

After several years as a lawyer and then over 15 years in investment banking, I started a private equity and advisory firm in 2003 which has been an interesting and good experience. Our family is doing fine: our oldest child, Amanda, just finished her sophomore year at Princeton; Jeff will be a freshman at Dartmouth in the fall; and Sarah still has a couple of years to go in high school. All of their activities have kept my wife and I very busy.

Like many of us, we are looking forward with mixed emotions to when our youngest child goes off to college in a couple of years.

Finally, over the last few years I have also been able to accomplish a long term goal of running several marathons, which has been both fun and rewarding. I hope that everyone is doing well and look forward to the reunion.

30 Colchester Road
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John Myer: I am practicing law in Seattle at AXIOS Law Group, a boutique intellectual property firm where I am the corporate attorney. On a personal level, I remarried in 2002, and my wife, Elise

Friedbauer, is a member of Princeton's class of '78.

Recently, the Seattle area Dartmouth alums organized a chapter of the Dartmouth Entrepreneurial Network.

Our first event will be held on May 1, and will feature Dartmouth alumni who helped grow Amazon.com.

Rich Lougee: Cheers from **Andy Cutler** and me atop the Zugspitz, Germany's highest peak, in February on a trip with Rich "Boomer" Akerboom '79 to visit Goop in Munich and Garmisch. Goop has landed as coach of the Jesenice professional hockey club of Slovenia which plays in the Austrian Hockey League. We actually did some skiing on what was a fine day in the Alps, then it was back to the Hofbrauhaus to celebrate Fasching.

Tim McNamara: I am in my eighth year as an Associate Director in Dartmouth's Real Estate Office, where I am responsible for the planning, design, permitting, and construction of housing for graduate students, faculty and staff.

My wife, Pat, is a sixth-grade teacher here in West Lebanon.

Son Tim (27) is an ensign in the U.S. Coast Guard, son Kevin (22) lives in Hawaii, and daughter Abby (20) is finishing her sophomore year at UNH.

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**John Carney Helps
Bring Offshore Wind
Power to Delaware**



A note from Delaware Lt. Gov. **John Carney**:

Earlier this year, I secured a commitment from Babcock and Brown, the parent company of Bluewater Wind, to make Delaware the regional hub of their offshore wind operation if their proposal to construct a wind farm off our coast is approved. The benefits of this commitment are threefold:

First, it will lock in clean, renewable energy at an affordable price for years to come.

Second, it will create good, quality jobs for Delawareans. In order to create a workforce to fill those jobs, Babcock and Brown made an additional commitment to me of a \$150,000 grant and its expertise to create a regional training program in partnership with Delaware Tech.

The third benefit is that it allows us to get in on the ground floor of an emerging industry.

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At Reunion: Admissions Tips

During reunion, the Office of Alumni Relations and the Admissions Office are offering a half-day workshop on "**Navigating College Admissions.**"

Recommended for parents of, and students entering grades 7-11 this fall, it's designed to familiarize parents and students with the college admission process, from researching and visiting schools, preparing for interviews, and completing the application, to financial aid news and the first-year transition. Early planning helps students increase their competitive edge in college admissions.

Participation is free but space is limited and registration is required. To register, go to www.alumni.dartmouth.edu/reunions + click on the "Admissions Workshop Registration" link.

Please note: this workshop is not intended to promote your child's Dartmouth application, nor will your participation in the program be shared with our Admissions Office. For info, contact ar.ace@dartmouth.edu or call (603) 646-9159.

In The Nick Of Time, It's Marriage For Lowery

By Hearne Christopher Jr.
KansasCity.com

After a six-month romance, the legendary Chiefs kicker is looking at an early 2009 wedding to former ABC San Diego newscaster **Phoebe Chongchua** (right, with Nick).

“He was out here a couple weekends ago, and I was teasing him about being a kicker, and so he said, ‘You try it,’” Chongchua says. “And I did pretty good, pretty good — I’m not sure if my balls would have made it through the uprights, but give me some time.”

What Chongchua sees in Nick the Kick?

“He’s in my hall of fame,” she says. “I mean, he’s a fantastic guy, and I feel so blessed. I have a daughter, and he’s a terrific role model for her.”

These days Chongchua concentrates on motivational endeavors.

“I’m a writer, and I’ve written a book called *If the Trash Stinks Take It Out*,” she says. “It’s basically how we get through periods in our life that are different and if we’re going through a great period how to stay on track.”

The couple’s brief first date went down in the Westin Crown



Center. Did Lowery jet out to San Diego for date No. 2?

“No, he wrote me a poem,” Chongchua says. “He writes me a poem every day. I never would have guessed that a football player wrote poetry. I mean, I’ve not met many men that write poetry, certainly not ones that I dated. ... He’s extraordinarily talented.”

Next up: a move from Phoenix to San Diego for Lowery and surfing lessons from Chongchua’s 4-foot-9-inch-tall, 13-year-old daughter, **Siena**.

“I’ll make sure he’s safe, and my daughter is a junior life-guard,” Chongchua says. “And I think I can make good incentives to make him learn how to surf. I’ll wear a tight bikini.”

Lowery’s finest attribute: “I think what I enjoy most about him is the mental stimulation,” Chongchua says. “We connect at such a high level and the spiritual side. You know what? I’m such a Type A personality, and I’m very high-energy. And Nick does this thing where he

can power nap, so he’s teaching me how to power nap and let go. It’s something I’ve never been good at.”

I’ll bite. How long does a power nap last?

“Oh, probably 10 minutes,” Chongchua says. “He’s amazing how he does that. I haven’t mastered it yet, but he’s got it down. He can go to sleep in a minute and wake up nine minutes later. I can’t do it yet, but I see the value in it, so I’m practicing.”

Not that Lowery is perfect. His single shortcoming? “Whenever I make the protein shakes, the kitchen is always clean. Whenever he makes them, there’s always a dust trail all over the counters.”

Lyrics by Nick

The Lowery love poem that started it all:

*Flying in time
Connecting the rhyme
To a single moment
A blinking sign
Western Auto
Circling the city
Lights and stars
Dancing in panorama
Winking at us
Would that we learn
And embrace more
Each other’s noble core
As outward we reach
For the heavens
That they might teach
Us to soar*

***Ricki Fairley-Brown
Presides over Black***

Alumni of Dartmouth Association

Ricki Fairley-Brown is serving as president of the The Black Alumni of Dartmouth Association (BADA), which held its 18th reunion held over Memorial Day weekend.

In a May 27 article by Julie Kim of *The Dartmouth*, Ricki noted that BADA is involved in the College's presidential search process, pointing to the growth of the College and increased diversity as key factors that should be considered during the search.

"Clearly, the priority is someone who supports diversity, as President Wright did," she said.

BADA has aimed to bring alumni together to support black students at Dartmouth since its inception in 1972, according to Fairley-Brown.

"Our mission for the future is clearly the same as our mission for the past -- to foster diversity at the College, support the students and to continue our mission of supporting African American students on campus," she said.

The association, for example, helped fund 15 students' plans to travel to Chicago to work in an AIDS clinic in June, according to Yaa Obeng-Aduasare '10, who plans to go on the trip.

At an award ceremony, which concluded the reunion,

BADA presented African kente shawls to graduating seniors.

"We are so proud of the students, and it's a welcoming ceremony -- welcoming them into BADA," she said. "They'll wear them at graduation."

In addition, Anne Kasitaza '08 received BADA's Nguzo Saba award, named for the "Seven Principles of Blackness"

"I've seen her grow, and it was good to see it all culminate into this award that I believe fits her perfectly," Obeng-Aduasare, whom Kasitaza mentors, said. "She's been a role model to me."

BADA hosts alumni on campus for similar reunions two to three times each year, Fairley-Brown said.

"I was really awed to be in the presence of Dartmouth's black alumni and see how far they've come," Obeng-Aduasare said. "BADA's involvement in the black community has helped empower us in our endeavors. The reunion is important because there are a lot of alumni here this weekend I would not have met any other way."

Simon Trabelsi '08 said a panel of students who described their Dartmouth experiences to the alumni was a particularly important part of the reunion.

"They can see the legacies they have left behind," Trabelsi said. "We're sitting here where they were sitting 15, 20 years ago. "Trabelsi added that the reunion provided networking opportunities for black students.

"It's so much better than just going to career services and getting a list of alumni because this way, you get to see these people face to face," Trabelsi said. "For example, Ricki, provided me with a career opportunity in advertising. I just made some phone calls and was able to get in."

A Project on Dartmouth's Impact on Skiing

A number of alumni and staff have gotten personally involved in a project to substantiate the preeminence of Dartmouth in the world of skiing

This group plans to publish a book, and create a film documentary, on this subject. They invite all alumni to join them in helping to uncover interesting stories and facts to properly tell all aspects of this previously untold tale! You may know things that have never been written down, are long lost, or are happening right now. The material coming is a fantastic statement on how Dartmouth has impacted skiing and the lives of skiers though out the world! You can see more details on this project at



<<http://biggreen65.wiki.zoho.com/Dartmouths-Contribution-to-American-Skiing.html>>. If you have something of interest, email Steve Waterhouse '65 stewater@aol.com or Doug Leitch '65 celtic_aquarian@hotmail.com. They will explain how best to send the information to us. Please contact others who might want to contribute.

Tom Swartwood's Pilgrimage to hear Buffett (Warren, not Jimmy)

On May 9 **Tom Swartwood** made a pilgrimage to see and hear Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha, in person. Despite the derisory comments of his dear wife:

Ooh, maybe you can touch the hem of his robe. Maybe you can wash his feet. I mean, c'mon, what's the big deal; you can read all his comments afterward and watch it on YouTube too. It's just like the time you interrupted Pat Riley at that bar on the Upper East Side,

He made the 130 mile trip in about two hours, and here are his notes:

For more wisdom like this, visit Tom's blog:

<http://thepointergroup.blogspot.com/>

Although the whole Berkshire Hathaway thing was a little cultish, it was a great experience. For anyone in the finance business or interested in the stock market, it is a must. 31,000 happy (except for a few members of the Klamath tribe¹) Berkshire Hathaway investors crammed the Qwest Center in Omaha to listen to Buffett and Charlie Munger, Vice Chairman hold forth. Heck, 60,000 people crowded into Yankee Stadium to see the Pope, and he's only been on the job a few years. The two senior execs (and I mean senior; Buffett is 77 and Munger is 84!) respectfully responded to unscripted, unfiltered audience questions. Questioners included a 9-year-old and a 12-year-old, a community college teacher who got the biggest laugh of the day, a group of Chinese CEOs, a lot of Germans, a housewife, finance students, and at least one devout Christian. There were no hotel vacancies within 60 miles of the Qwest Center. I came away from the whole event with an optimistic outlook for my future and the future of my children.

I was the guest of my good friend from Birmingham, Alabama, **John T. Bird**, author of a biography of *Twin Killing: The Bill Mazerowski Story* and a new book titled *Fuchsia Shock*², a guide to 151

¹ They were protesting a hydro power facility; Dave Sokol, CEO of MidAmerican Energy handled their questions with dignity and aplomb. He's on the short list to succeed Buffett.

² I bet you did not know how to spell "fuchsia" which is derived from the name of the scientist Fuchs.

commonly misspelled words and how to remember to spell them correctly. He first became a Berkshire Hathaway shareholder some years back when he accepted a share of BRK stock in lieu of a cash payment for editing the first edition of *Of Permanent Value: The Story of Warren Buffett*. He later secured financing for the Mazerowski book with that one share, and today is the happy owner of a B share. Small world.

Now, I have attended plenty of annual meetings, and read about many more. None celebrated, and most failed to acknowledge, the shareholders as Berkshire does. Remember Robert Nardelli, former CEO of Home Depot and former candidate for GE CEO? He simply refused to take shareholder questions at his last Home Depot Annual Meeting and many members of HD's Board of Directors chose to stay home and avoid all contact with owners of their company. Granted, Buffett and his sidekick, Munger, fielded mostly softball questions and rarely missed a chance to promote Sees candy, Wrigley gum and Coke as the keys to longevity. The entire board was in attendance³, though, as were many of the managers of BRK's portfolio companies. And Buffett responded to every question; although Charlie often stuck to his trademark line of "I have nothing to add." When Munger did have something to add, however, he pulled no punches. Buffett was generally optimistic about opportunities for Berkshire and for the country; Munger was less sanguine and clearly frustrated

³ Including Bill Gates, 2nd richest man in the world, made me wonder momentarily about the low level of security.

by some of the “stupidest” things he has ever encountered: the ethanol craze and the subprime mortgage debacle which he described as “sweeping bums off Skid Row and giving them mortgages.”

Buffett looked a little frail when he walked by in the Exhibition hall where about a dozen of BRK’s portfolio companies exhibited their wares. He was hale and hearty on stage though, and neither he nor Munger missed a beat during their 6+ hours’ of interaction with investors. One must wonder how long they will be around: in fact, the first question centered on succession plans.

Without offering details Buffett repeated prior statements that they have identified a number of able successors and indicated that the company would like break down the functions he serves into at least two or three distinct positions. But for now, Buffett and Munger are clearly in control.

Following are excerpts from the Q&A session.

Buffett:

Berkshire will not be able to sustain the double digit returns it has generated to date; the universe of potential deals for them is just too small (because of the size needed to move the needle).

The country will be better for our children and grandchildren.

If you could buy 10% of one person, who would you buy? Surround yourself with that kind of person.

Nobody has proposed a windfall profits tax on corn or soy beans.

All 3 presidential candidates are good; the country will prevail.

If someone walked into this arena weighing 300-350 lbs, I’d know he was fat...we’re looking for fat companies; that is, companies fat with potential.¹ We stick to what we understand...I’ve never done a deal where after the fact more due diligence would have helped avoid a loss, but it might have cost us a few winners.

We need a strong head of regulation, not more agencies or a more complex regulatory structure.

Suppose your dad told you could have any car you want, but it would be the only car you ever got. You’d take care of that car. You only get one body and one mind; take care of it (as he snacks on Sees chocolate and Coke).

A brand is a promise. (Hard not to be impressed at the selection of brand names present in the exhibition hall: Fruit of the Loom, Dairy Queen, Justin Boots, Acme Brick, Ginsu Knives, Geico, Sees Chocolate, Mars/Wrigley = a real slice of Americana).

They are going to Europe: Germany, U.K and a couple others to get the word out that BRK is interested in buying family owned businesses with strong

¹ Referring to BRK’s PetroChina trade, Buffett explained that after reading the annual report and based on his knowledge of the oil & gas business, he concluded that PetroChina was worth about \$100 BB, but the market cap was only \$35 BB. BRK invested \$500MM and cashed out for \$4 BB four years later. It didn’t matter if the real value was \$95BB or \$105BB; just like it doesn’t matter if the guy weighs 300 or 350 pounds; PetroChina was fat with potential and skinny on risk.

management. “We are the best place for those companies to go.”

At the average age of 80, we’re (Buffett and Munger) aging at the average rate of only 1 1/4% per year. That’s a lot better than younger people.

Munger:

Use up coal first; oil and gas have other and more important uses.

Ethanol is one of the stupidest things he’s seen; not quite as bad as sweeping bums off Skid Row and giving them mortgages, but close. In the end we will be left with only the sun; we should be developing ways to tap into it.

“*Assets beyond reach*” Munger used this phrase to describe the derivative securities many financial institutions carry on their balance sheets. They are only good until reached for, then they recede just beyond the grasp of the institution.

I do not think we’d have this mess if women were running all the financial institutions².

CEOs have a *moral* duty to be underpaid; they should refuse to accept disproportionate compensation.

² He actually said this at the Wesco Annual meeting the Wednesday after the BRK meeting, but it illustrates his frustration with the mismanagement he sees as the root cause of the mortgage mess.