

The Seventy-Eight News

A CATWOMAN 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Hans, Diane and Halle

Hans Sheline and his wife Diane celebrated their 20th anniversary by jetting to Hollywood and sitting between Halle Berry and Benjamin Bratton at the world premiere of *Catwoman*. “The critics gave it a D+, but I liked it,” says Hans. “It was great fun being there with the producer & her family, meeting the stars and seeing the feeding frenzy on the Red Carpet in person. At the party after the Premiere, we were dancing right beside Destiny's child, Snoop Dog, Rick Fox, Vanessa Williams, & the star of NYPD.”

Hans, Halle and Diane. Meow!

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From Bill Daniel and Elissa Hylton:

The GREAT Class of 1978 continues to set new standards for fund raising at Dartmouth. On the heels of our record smashing 25th reunion

1457 MEAN SAT SCORES - NOT BAD

1978 set a new 26th-year-out record with \$608,474 raised and a participation rate of 50.2 percent. And, not to brag on our class too much, this was also the best participation percentage for a class 26 years out since 1970's 26th year. Give yourself a pat on the back.

Overall, Dartmouth alumni, parents, grandparents, and friends raised over \$31.5 million--a new record of support for the Dartmouth College Fund (DCF). The DCF achieved 47.4 percent participation, which is 2 percent-age points over last year's rate.

Your gift to the DCF is most appreciated - THANK YOU VERY MUCH! Special credit and thanks goes to all of those classmates who contributed their time and enthusiasm to help 1978 achieve phenomenal success.

Please don't forget that our annual support of the DCF directly affects the experiences of all Dartmouth students and helps ensure they receive the highest quality

undergraduate education available.

Our contributions also enable Dartmouth to sustain its longstanding commitment to need-blind admissions and to the recruitment and retention of the very best teacher-scholars.

We should all be very proud of what our class accomplished for Dartmouth this year.

Dartmouth College thanks you and we each thank you!

~Bill Daniel and Elissa Hylton, Co-Head Agents

Those Brainy, Diverse 2008s.

"The College's admissions office mailed out a staggeringly high number of rejection letters to applicants for the Class of 2008, as only 18.3 percent of the 11,733 students who applied were admitted -- a number almost as impressive as last year's record-low 18.2 percent admission rate. Of the 2,143 students accepted to the Class of 2008, 384 heard back in December that they would be attending school in Hanover come September. That means that for the over-10,000 regular decision applicants the admission rate was lower still -- just 16.8 percent. "Overall, this applicant pool was exceptional, requiring many tough decisions," Dean of Admissions Karl Furstenberg said. Most

exceptional of all were the average SAT scores, which

A NOTE FROM OUR HEAD AGENTS

1457. In the past three years, SAT scores have increased anywhere from 3 to 5 percent, which makes this year's jump particularly notable. The mean SAT verbal score was 726, while the mean SAT math score was 731. Also of interest: 92 percent of students were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high-school class, and 34.1 percent were valedictorians.

"All in all this has been an exceptional year for admissions and I expect that the class that enrolls next fall will bring a great mix of talents, accomplishments and backgrounds to Dartmouth," Furstenberg said. International student acceptances held near last year's recent high, comprising 7.7 percent of admitted students. Students of color dropped off a little from last year's record high, constituting 36.7 percent of '08 acceptances.

"This is very strong minority representation and is only slightly below last year's record level due to a small decline in minority applicants," Furstenberg said. "Unfortunately, most selective colleges seemed to be down in minority applicants this year." African Americans made up 9.1 percent of acceptances, and Asian Americans 16.1 percent, both numbers down nominally from last year. Latinos held steady at 7.5 percent of acceptances and so did Native Americans and multi-racial students, with 2.9 and 1.1 percent respectively of acceptances. Whereas last year slightly more men were accepted than women -- 11 more, to be exact -- this year, women dominate with the largest proportion of admits at 51.1 percent. At a five-year high, 64.5 percent of admitted students come from public high schools, and 55 percent come from outside

the Northeast region, compared to 53 percent last year.

Six percent of acceptances – approximately 130 students – are Dartmouth legacies.

According to Furstenberg, approximately 42 percent of the Class of 2008 will receive scholarship assistance totaling approximately \$12 million. Approximately 46 percent of this year's freshman class is receiving some form of financial assistance. Now for the first time in this year's admissions process it is the College that will be waiting anxiously for decisions – the decisions of the over-2,000 accepted students who will be deciding where they intend to enroll."

Do top grads remain on top?

BY NEDRA RHONE
Newsday Staff Writer

Tracking valedictorians

If the title of valedictorian is the reward for hard work, it comes with the expectation that the head of the class will also be ahead in life. But research has shown that the relationship between academic achievement and post-school success is a complex combination of factors, including ability, race, social class, gender and chance, said Karen Arnold in her 1995 book, "Lives of Promise: What Becomes of High School Valedictorians."

Arnold's 14-year project, which tracked the lives of 81 high school valedictorians from Illinois, found that, overall, valedictorians don't disappoint. They maintain good academic standing and go on to professional careers at a higher rate than other students. Defying the

stereotype of pocket protector-wearing wonks, valedictorians are typically generalists capable of performing well in almost any area. But they also are usually pragmatists who accept early on that a certain kind of success comes from conforming to the system, rather than changing it.

"The best academic performers are safe bets for career achievement," Arnold wrote, "but most appear unlikely to end up as mold-breaking, transformative leaders. "Working hard, trying your best, conforming to the system, excelling at academic tasks, focusing your efforts, avoiding distractions, enjoying learning: These items form the short list of how one becomes high school valedictorian."

Off to college

The walls of **Dr. Charles Conte's** office are filled with degrees and commendations spanning the last 30 years: undergraduate and medical degrees from Dartmouth surrounded by certifications from various medical societies and institutions. From as early as he can remember, Conte, 48, wanted to be a surgeon. His parents were both pharmacists in Great Neck and he and his younger sister, Lisa, spent a lot of time helping out with the business.

Since returning to Long Island in 1988 to join the burgeoning practice of one of his father's customers, Conte has been a partner at North Shore Surgical Oncology Associates in Great Neck. Recently he was named chairman of the department of surgery at Flushing Hospital. Thirty years ago, in 1974, Conte was valedictorian of Manhasset High School. "Valedictorian is almost a validation of what you've worked for up to that point ... validation that you can achieve your goals and face challenges," Conte said.

He had decided early to attend Dartmouth, where he could indulge his passion for outdoor activities such as hiking and skiing. When he arrived on campus, in the first few days of orientation and placement tests, he got a reality check. "It was a sobering experience to realize that the pool just got tougher," he said, "Right away I realized I wasn't going to be valedictorian of this college class."

If there ever is a moment for valedictorians to self-combust, it is when they realize that there are a lot of smart people in the world, some of whom are smarter than they are. "They are certainly no more creative than the next 50 kids in their class," said Terry Denny, professor emeritus of University of Illinois at Urbana and founder of the study Arnold directed.

Conte responded to the increased competition by working harder and thinking back to his previous academic success. "You say [to yourself], 'I rose to the top before, I can do it again,'" Conte said.

Two in one family

When he was a senior, his sister, valedictorian of the class of 1977, arrived on campus.

She sometimes dressed like a Gypsy,

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CHUCK CONTE AND HIS SISTER LISA IN A NEWSDAY ARTICLE

organized study. "That was her way and we had to let her go," Helen Conte said. "We tried to express to our children all the time that ... we don't expect anything more from them than what they can perform."

Parental support was a common theme among high school valedictorians in Arnold's study. Parents modeled the values of doing one's best and working hard. And they somehow managed to communicate high expectations without exerting pressure to get good grades.

"My parents worked very hard and had a level of excellence for everything they did," said Lisa Conte, 45. "I know I was who I was in high school because of the example that I saw in my family."

While her brother completed Dartmouth Medical School, a five-year general residency at Hartford Hospital in Connecticut and a surgical oncology fellowship in Buffalo, Lisa Conte completed her bachelor's in biochemistry and headed west to attend University of California-San Diego, where she earned a master's degree in pharmacology. One day, she said, she wandered into a meeting of venture capitalists and decided to

go to business school.

In 1989, Lisa Conte was a 29-year-old CEO of her own biotech company in California fighting to get a medication developed from tropical plant sources approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

When financial problems killed the first project after about 10 years, Lisa Conte said she had to dig deep to overcome failure. There weren't a lot of women doing what she was doing, and there were plenty of people doubting her. "The reinforcement that you get [from being valedictorian] is that you believe you can do anything," she said. Three years ago Lisa Conte started again and recently collaborated with another pharmaceutical company to continue the work she began. In the end, said her brother, "It's not enough to be smart, you have to prove to people why you are smart." For some valedictorians, even proof of talent doesn't ensure success. The paths of minority valedictorians more often may be blocked by lack of money or support or limited knowledge of how to function in predominantly white systems.

"The vicissitudes of life just take them over," said Denny. "It's just tough when you don't have anybody in your tribe that knows what you are trying to do, when you can't go to someone in the family to see what it means to be questing after this stuff."

Can't always be No. 1

Unlike the straightforward ranking of GPAs that brought them success in high school, succeeding in life, said valedictorians, doesn't always mean being No. 1. "There is not enough time to be the best at everything," said Lisa Conte, who now lives with her three children in Evergreen, Colo. She and her brother Charles agreed that success includes giving something back to the world. And accepting the challenges of one's chosen path.

"Whatever you do, if you put your best effort in and if you're a smart person, there will be some measure of success," said Charles Conte.

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The Mailbag

Anonymous: Thanks for mentioning **Annalisse Meyer** [pseudonym of a '78 romance novelist). She has sent off her new book to 3 contests this year. Keep your fingers crossed that it scores in at least one of them. Selling self-published books is not very easy.

Annalisse went to a convention of romance authors this spring ... really a fascinating place. There were people in all sorts of costumes, including the models who pose on the covers of those novels. Two male body builders appeared in incredibly skimpy ancient Egyptian skirts -- quite the contrast with what people wear in Egypt today. They were quite a sight.

Still the convention was a bit discouraging. Annalisse was told that, since her first book hadn't sold well, it was unlikely that an agent or publisher would ever take her on.

Fortunately, pseudonyms can be changed, so, if Annalisse chose, she could always publish a "first" novel under another name. But it appears that even mainstream publishers expect first novelists to pay for advertising themselves. What is the point of having a publisher, then?

It was weird to hear oneself addressed as one's pseudonym by a group of colleagues. Still it got Annalisse in free to a lunch she would otherwise have had to

pay for. She was loitering by the door, looking at the costumes, when the CEO of *Romantic Times* -- a very nice lady, with a lisp, wearing an Elizabethan costume, said "With a name like Annalisse, I have to let you in."

There were fans there. Annalisse actually signed an autograph for someone who probably had never read her books. Annalisse's attention was captured by a handicapped fan in a motorized tricycle. The tricycle was a brilliant maroon color. The color was the visible evidence that this elderly, handicapped, balding woman was really a romantic inside. It was riveting, realizing the service these books perform for some.

Annalisse's first book did get a positive review from one source: <http://www.tonyattwood.com.au/> (page down the left column to the button that says "fiction books") Unfortunately, that doesn't seem to have done much good.

Tommy Randolph & Athena Robinson Randolph: Athena and I have three children and have lived in Lake City, Florida for the past 19 years and share a busy medical practice.

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Sharon Cowan: I'm wondering: do you suppose I get the late-bloomer award for becoming a mother this year? On May 26 in a St. Petersburg, Russia, courtroom I adopted Maria Zazie Cowan, just a few days after her first birthday. An outside observer would probably have a few laughs watching me try to apply 25 years of corporate communications skills and

experience to child-rearing. The truth is, I know nothing about this, but we are having fun. What doesn't come naturally, I get from books. Other parents of children the same age tend to be 20 years younger than me, so my life is changed and enriched in more ways than one as a result of the adoption. Partner Andrea Vincenzi is crazy about the baby and she is pretty wild about him, too.

Ciao, Sharon

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Dan Galyon: What a pleasure to read the musings of distinguished classmates like **Jeff Immelt** and **Jim Bullion** in the summer Newsletter. Nice to know that dedication, integrity, courage, and patriotism are alive and well where it counts.

Still doing my best at neuro-surgery. The fact that the best batter ever, Ty Cobb, hit an average of .367 makes me feel better on the tougher days. Our 2 girls Abby and Alina (A1 and A2) are still young and we try our best to shield them from the culture at large- at least for a while. It's hard when dance class includes leather costumes. Just finished a 300-mile sailing race on Lake Ontario. They call them Great Lakes for a reason. My crew and I got beat up, but did very well. I've put aside racing cars for a while to focus on a less fossil-fuel-dependent adrenaline rush. Look for *American Girl*, a new X-Yacht version racer, at Block Island race week in '05 and Newport-Bermuda in '06. Need crew -any takers? **Hugh Dyar**- you still like putting on a wet suit to race? How about some foulies and a harness instead?

Regards to all,
Dan Galyon
dgalyon@stny.rr.com

Diane Boyer Irwin: Greetings from Edwards (Vail) Colorado. Busy as President of Board of Directors of SIA (Snowsports Industries America). Actually amused to be the first "female" in charge of the ski/snowboard/snowshoe trade organization. Still running SKEA Ltd. Winter Sportswear---family company---challenging but fun too.

Too busy at work, but always enjoying family – skiing, horses, running & biking. I'm happy to sacrifice financial gain for my best fabulous lifestyle and scenery.

"Loving life,"

Diane
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Lauren Tanny: I recently became a leader of CEO groups for TEC International.

TEC is the world's largest organization dedicated to increasing the effectiveness and enhancing the lives of CEOs. There are about 10,000 members worldwide, who on average increase their growth rates by 2 ½ times after TEC membership!

I'm forming CEO groups in San Diego, enjoying buzzing around town in my new Toyota Prius gas/electric hybrid. My son Jordan just turned 2. Husband Jim is still at HP.

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Our thoughts are with **Bill McLaughlin** and his family on the death of Bill's father, David T. McLaughlin.

Mr. McLaughlin, of Newbury, N.H., died August 25 at the age of 72, of natural causes, in Dillingham, Alaska, during a fishing trip with friends and his two sons. He was a member of the Dartmouth Class of 1954 and the Tuck School of Business Class of 1955.

Mr. McLaughlin served as Dartmouth's President from 1981 to 1987, having previously chaired the College's Board of Trustees during his business career. After leaving Dartmouth, he served a wide range of non-profit and corporate organizations in a governing or executive capacity, and was particularly well known for his work with The Aspen Institute from 1987-97, first as Chairman and then as President and CEO, the American Red Cross, as Chairman from 2001- 2004, and Viacom Inc., as a Director from 1979-2004 (includes service with affiliated entities Westinghouse and CBS).

The following letter comes from President Jim Wright:

Dear Friends,

We all learned recently of the passing of David T. McLaughlin '54 Tuck '55, president emeritus of the College and a true citizen of the world. David McLaughlin excelled at all he did - Phi Beta Kappa and football star; successful businessman and CEO; president and trustee of this College; leader of the Aspen Institute and the American Red

Cross. He was also a good friend. Dartmouth - and I - will miss him.

As a student, David was very close to President John Sloan Dickey and would later consider him one of his most important inspirations and friends. He was proud to follow in Mr. Dickey's footsteps. As president, Mr. McLaughlin not only consolidated the gains made by President John Kemeny around coeducation and diversity, but he also increased support for the faculty, doubled the size of the endowment, addressed facilities needs including additional residential space, and enhanced student life. Perhaps his crowning accomplishment was the part he played in moving the hospital to Lebanon and acquiring its land in Hanover for the College. His foresight has enabled Dartmouth to continue to meet its space needs while preserving the integrity and aesthetic of the campus.

Last June, Mr. McLaughlin returned to Dartmouth as a member of the fifty-year reunion class at Commencement. I had a chance to salute him and to recognize his classmates. At times like this I am struck by the historical transitions within the Dartmouth community. This summer we have begun to welcome the members of the Class of 2008, who will celebrate their own fifty-year reunion in 2058. A member of the incoming class wrote to me when he heard the news about Mr. McLaughlin's death to say that he had met him as a prospective student and that Mr. McLaughlin had influenced him, through his pride and affection for the College, in his decision to attend Dartmouth. President McLaughlin would have been pleased to know that.