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# Connect 78

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The Class of 1978 Newsletter

January 2008

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## Note from Bill Petit

*In Bill's courageous words below, he does not address his own injuries. He is healing physically and left with some vertigo, balance problems, and visual-field issues.*

To the Class of 1978:

Thank you all for your kind words, prayers and support. I have often felt I would not still be here without all those who have helped and supported me in many ways.

My freshman basketball buddies and AXA friends have done heavy lifting. **Buck and KK Kelly** and **Jimmy and Joy Wasz** were here Day One and helped set-up the memorial services. My old New Hamp buddy **Anne Bagamery** has been an e-mail friend via Paris. Emily Wheeler '80 stopped by on her way back to Germany.

I went to New Hampshire twice and Dartmouth once with the help of many who drove me, walked with me, and held my hand as I sobbed over photos of my girls – they did not walk away. There were so many



who were simply there for me, including **Drew and Joan Breen, Bob and Lynne Ceplikas, Mark and Cyn-Dee Sweetser, and Frank McInerney.**

My club in Farmington, Conn., threw together a tournament for the Petit Family Foundation in just five weeks. It was held on October 15.

It would have been my daughter Hayley's 18th birthday, and she would have been at crew practice in her fourth week as a freshman at Dartmouth.

Folks such as **Dan Galyon, Dee Flint, Hugh Dyar, Tripp Peake, Dave Kalapos, Dave Taylor, Tom Hopkins,** Dan Zenkel '80 and Eric Donnenfeld '77 came in from all over

**The Petit family before the tragedy: Michaela, Bill, Hayley and Jennifer.**

Words from the west coast via Carol Muller '77 and Al Henning '77 were quite helpful. Notes from **Jeff Immelt, Bill Daniel, David Kantor,** and others poured in. I am sorry if I left you out. I received about 4,500 cards and letters and did not finish reading them all until about mid-October. They still arrive at the rate of 10 to 20 per day.

**John Carpenter** ran the New York City Marathon in Michaela's honor to raise money for her Chase Collegiate School Scholarship.



Miss Porter's School had a ceremony in the Art Gallery as students had produced 40 luminaries, much as Hayley did in her junior year for a pottery project. The luminaries are porcelain with a very thin layer carved out inside. Done properly, the design cannot be seen until the candle is lit.

The towns of Cheshire, Southington, Plainville, and perhaps Farmington hope to light over 50,000 luminaries to

Cheshire in December to raise funds for an endowed locally restricted Multiple Sclerosis Fund. To date, \$150,000 has been raised for Hayley's Hope and Michaela's Miracle Fund.

Perhaps most importantly I should tell you that Jennifer was a spectacular mother and worked as an RN at Cheshire Academy caring for adolescents from all over the world. She did so despite her multiple sclerosis and was as

much a mother as she was a nurse. She gave her life for her daughters as she returned to our house after being forced to withdraw money from a local bank with one of the killers as she knew we were will all there.

Hayley was a wonderful daughter who embodied James's words in the

bible, "Faith without works is dead." She had raised 54,000 dollars over seven years for MS research and had worked with the United Methodist Army. She had co-captained her basketball and crew teams at Miss Porters School. Ironically, she wrote an exquisite essay about the death of peace for her AP French class that her Professor read at her service.

Michaela was a sweet 11-year-old who always smiled and loved to cook and sing. Surprisingly, after her death when I saw her new Facebook page, her quote was from Gandhi, "You must be the change you want to see in the world."

Given how Jennifer, Hayley, and Michaela lived, I hope to preserve their memories by using our nascent Foundation to do good works, perhaps with a slight bent toward women, education, and prevention of violence.

In closing I thank you all for your love, prayers and support. The fire set by the killers that killed my wife and daughters also destroyed most of the house, except for the front façade, and our possessions, so I am at my parent's house at

PO Box 310  
132 Redstone Hill  
Plainville, CT 06062



line Route 10 as well as many if not all of the streets in

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion:

## June 12-15

**Please mark the dates and plan to attend.**

If you'd like to join the group (*far right*) planning the reunion, please let Dave ([davcorey@att.net](mailto:davcorey@att.net)) Corey, Steve ([steve@adnopo.com](mailto:steve@adnopo.com)) Adnopo, or Todd Anderson ([tkanderson@comcast.net](mailto:tkanderson@comcast.net)) know.

**The 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion is a special opportunity to connect, re-connect and explore new facets of our lives – past, present and future. Don't miss it!**

**Please make sure we have your current e-mail address:**

1. please send updated e-mail addresses to [alumni.records@dartmouth.edu](mailto:alumni.records@dartmouth.edu)
2. join our class list-serve through the class website -- <http://www.dartmouth.org/classes/78/>
3. add our class website to your "favorites" list. We'll have sign-ups and other handy tools there.

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## 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion Giving

On Oct. 8, the coordinators of the 30th Reunion Giving effort — **Steve Mandel, Barbara Dau Southwell, Bill Daniel, and Elissa Von Heill Hylton** — sent the following message to the Class of '78:

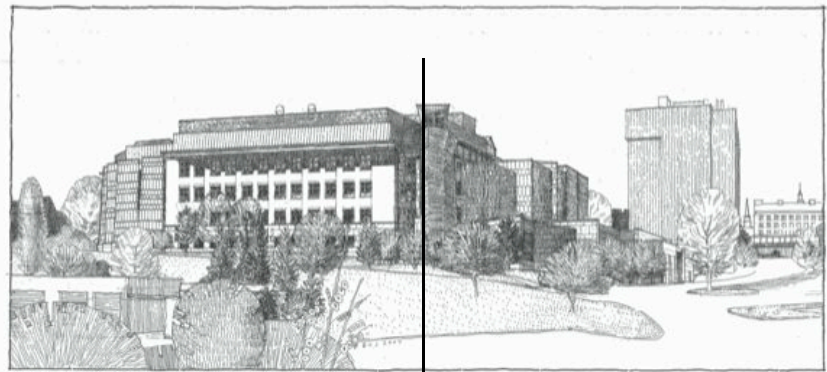
It is with excitement and optimism that we write to tell you of two goals for our 30th reunion next June - a \$3 million contribution to the Dartmouth College Fund and a \$40 million gift to name a new Life Sciences Building.

The former goal will mark another record-breaking gift from our class to support the Dartmouth student experience. The latter will embody our desire to give back to the school that educated us.

**The Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center**, a critical priority of the Campaign for the Dartmouth Experience, will be a national model of sustainable design that supports one of the College's top academic priorities.

The Dartmouth College Fund is necessary for the College to fulfill its mission of educating the most promising students and preparing them for a lifetime of learning and of responsible leadership, through a faculty dedicated to teaching and the creation of knowledge.

Many of you have asked what we can do as a class to support our classmate, **Bill Petit**. The Class of 1978 Life Sciences Building will include an appropriate memorial to honor Bill's family.



Dartmouth Life Sciences Building  
Bohlin Cywinski Jackson

View from North  
Scale: NTS

Site Plan Review  
10.03.2007

### From **Dartmouth Life:**

This commitment comes on the heels of the class's record-setting 25th-reunion gift in 2003. Four years ago the class raised a record-setting \$14.4 million reunion gift. Nearly half the total was given for unrestricted current use, which is essential for the College to stay responsive to student and faculty needs during a given fiscal year. The previous fund-raising record, held by the Class of 1951 at its 50th reunion in 2001, was \$6.46 million.

**The Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center** will be a national model of sustainable design, expected to consume one-half of the energy of the best-performing laboratories currently in use in the United States. At 174,500 square feet, the facility will have spaces devoted to undergraduate- and graduate-level teaching and research, including classrooms, teaching and faculty laboratories, and offices for the

Department of Biological Sciences. Among its notable features: a 6,000-square-foot greenhouse, a 200-seat auditorium, a two-story atrium for "science in sight" gallery displays, a third-floor sorghum and **A view of the Class of 1978**

### **Life Sciences Center (artist rendering by Bohlin Cywinski Jackson)**

—  
grasses green roof to help keep the building cool, a storm water management system that will reuse one million gallons of rain water annually, and a state-of-the-art energy management system.

**"The '78s have done it again," says Dartmouth President James Wright.** "Their latest plan for investing in the College raises the bar. When they meet their goals next June, they will have set a new record for a 30th reunion gift through the Dartmouth College Fund and supported one of our top academic priorities. The life sciences are a pillar of the liberal arts. **The Class of 1978 is not only extraordinarily generous, but farsighted in enabling the work of students and faculty in these critical fields.**"

In the past decade, the life sciences have developed as an umbrella for all disciplines that study life. These include the traditional and emerging fields of biology, biotechnology, ecology, environmental studies, proteomics, genetics, neuroscience, and medical imaging.

Scientific advances that affect all living organisms increasingly occur at the intersection of these and more than a dozen other fields, with implications for public policy, law, ethics, and religion.

Dartmouth's initiative anchors life sciences studies in the liberal arts curriculum through teaching, research, and interdisciplinary studies that emphasize a firm grounding in life sciences issues as necessary for active citizenship.

"In thirty years as a biologist I've witnessed a revolution," said Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Sciences Carol Folt. "New areas of study have transformed biology into a web of connected fields as diverse and dynamic as the most intricate biological systems on our planet. The new life sciences hold promise for unraveling pressing concerns affecting the human condition and our quality of life."

The Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center will be constructed on the site currently occupied by the Strassenburgh and Butler buildings and the Medical Modular Laboratory building, to the northeast of the Vail-Remsen complex. Its north wing will be allocated largely to classrooms and teaching labs, the east wing to faculty laboratories and administrative facilities, with faculty offices distributed between the two wings. Generous amounts of common space will facilitate interactions. The signature element of the teaching wing will be the two-story atrium featuring displays from sources such as the College libraries, Hood Museum, and the Department of Biological Sciences. Displays could include broadcasts from science museums and National Science Foundation conferences, a real-time dashboard of energy use in the building, behind-the-scenes views of lab

activities, and more. Interior glass stair towers will help brighten up the building, the exterior of which — brick, copper roof, granite base — will match existing Dartmouth architecture.

### **Note after Class Officers' Weekend from Brooks Clark, Newsletter Editor**

To the Class of 78:

For the past two Octobers, I've journeyed up from Knoxville to Class Officers' Weekend in Hanover. I had never gone to COW before, but I am now vice president of the Class Newsletter Editors' Association and also a representative to the Alumni Council.

Both this year and last I was surprised at how much I got out of the weekend, in terms of getting valuable information and in getting jazzed up about the whole enterprise.

On the "entertainment" side, this year we heard a lecture on the brain that included several facts about memory and the brain that I think about every day.

Last year's presentation by a Tuck professor on the nature of volunteerism in today's world would grab the attention of any of us who find ourselves on charitable boards, civic clubs, sports commissions, local governments, etc. This guy knows who we are and what makes us tick.

On the practical side, you pick up plenty of new ideas and best practices. It's pretty humbling to see what some of the younger classes do with their websites and the internet. I'll admit that before the weekend I didn't know what

Survey Monkey was. I don't get out much.

It's also pretty humbling to see what the older classes do with their newsletters. One from the 50s has gone completely to e-mail distribution.

On one hand, it's very nice to be a '78 at events like Class Officers Weekend, seeing so many classmates' names on the entryway wall of the Haldeman building, let alone the Rauner Library, and hearing President Wright talk about our class in his dinner speech to all the class officers.

In addition to fundraising, our class has very good attendance numbers at reunions — and after the fulfilling time had by those who came to the 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion, I hope we can build on that.

On the other hand, it's humbling to see what some of the classes do in certain areas. So, here are three goals I want to put before the class that could truly put us 78 in a class by itself.

- 1) we're already tops in total giving, but I want to get to **91% participation** (like the fabulous '57s),
- 2) let's get up from 55% to **73% paying class dues** (like those pesky '82s), and
- 3) and let's shoot for **record 30th reunion attendance** (like the "hip" '66s).

## **'78 Women Represent!**

***We had 40 empowered classmates — more than any other class — at the 35***

### **Years of Co-education Celebration**

For **Anne Bagamery**, personal highlights were “when Jim Wright acknowledged in his speech that the first years of coeducation were hard on the women – and sometimes unnecessarily so – and that he appreciated it that we had stuck it out and made Dartmouth what it is today, and then when **Kelley Fead** and I got the whole room singing the alma mater after the speech.”

For more pictures like the one below, go to the class website -- <http://www.dartmouth.org/classes/78/>

Over 350 alumnae returned to Hanover this weekend for a three-day program commemorating the **35th anniversary of coeducation at the College**. The weekend was filled both with celebration and with contemplation of the struggles women at the College continue to face.

The weekend's events were dominated by panel discussions held throughout the day Saturday. Each themed panel was comprised of Dartmouth alumnae from various years with experiences in certain

by Rep. Kirsten Gillibrand '88 (D-N.Y.), who is the first female Dartmouth graduate to hold a congressional office.

In her speech, Gillibrand recognized multiple female mentors, both in her personal life and at Dartmouth, who helped her gain the confidence, drive and desire to reach where she is today.

"The opportunity to serve is beyond my wildest dreams," Gillibrand said to the audience. Gillibrand also stressed importance of women's involvement in



### ***Alumnae celebrate, reflect at weekend***

By Susan Matthews,  
*The Dartmouth Staff*  
November 12, 2007

areas. Attendees listened to their experiences and participated in question-and-answer sessions.

One of the highlights of the weekend was Saturday night's dinner, which included an address

politics, citing the

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**Lookin' Good --** Let's see, there's Celia, Anne, Kelley, Ellen, Chris, Elisa, Barb, Barb,

**Jane, Amy, Elissa, Libby, Lisa**  
...

low number of females serving in the House and the Senate. She emphasized the unique perspective that women bring to political discussion and encouraged the women in the audience to become involved with the political scene.

"It doesn't matter who you support, activism is what our democracy is all about," Gillibrand said.

Prior to her Saturday address, Gillibrand spent her time on campus meeting with students from organizations she was involved with during her time at the College, including Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She also participated in a public forum hosted by the Rockefeller Center that was open to all students. In an interview with *The Dartmouth*, Gillibrand said that the College has "not changed much."

"Everyone is very optimistic and determined to make a difference in life," Gillibrand said. "I met a lot of smart, intelligent people today, and they are our future."

The dinner closed with a rendition of the College's alma mater, which the alumni **[alumnae! and it was Anne & Kelley! – ed.]** initiated.

"It's been wonderful to be here with these women," Jan Malcolm '77, who ate dinner at a table with her two freshmen roommates, said.

Yet even with all the celebration and excitement, a few alumnae expressed concern over the nature of the event. Although they recognized the accomplishments made by women at Dartmouth over the past 35 years, many said they believe that the battle for gender equality has yet to be completed.

"The same problems that I faced in 1977, my daughter faced in her years here, and they are still present today," Karen Keegan '77 said.

This sentiment was echoed by Keegan's daughter, Kathryn Van Syckle '05. Both women participated in a panel discussion titled "Our Daughters, Ourselves."

"I don't think we've come as far as we should have," Van Syckle said. "We need to not talk about this as something that is over."

Several women referenced recent incidents involving Gillibrand's own sorority as evidence that there is still a problem. Over the summer, some members of Theta Delta Chi fraternity verbally insulted members of Kappa while entering the fraternity.

College President James Wright chose not to comment on any recent issues in his welcome address during Saturday night's dinner.

"The women at Dartmouth and Dartmouth have the same goals," he said.

Wright added later, "Failure does happen in life, but acceptance of failure should not, and these women did not accept failure."

## Green Cards

**Dr. Glen Swartwout:** I would be interested in helping to make the reunion a health and longevity promoting experience for our aging classmates. This could relate to meal planning, and gifts as well, and would tie in with the

Life Sciences theme of our class project.

c/o S.L. Luscombe  
Box 126  
Hilo, Hawaii 96721  
808-217-9647

**Cort Corsones:** After 25 years of practicing law, I was recently (3/31/07) appointed by Vermont Governor James Douglas to be a superior court judge. I am currently sitting on the Vt. District Court in Burlington. I continue to reside in Mendon, Vt., with my wife of 25 years, Teri, and we have three children: Nick, 20, a sophomore at Notre Dame, Brendan, 17, and Caroline, 13.

12 South Mendon St.  
Mendon, VT 05701  
802 773-3413

[corsonesct@aol.com](mailto:corsonesct@aol.com)

**John Davis:** I have been working at BB&T in Winston-Salem for the last two years. Our son John will be a senior at Furman University and is double majoring in Music and History. Our middle child Kimberly will be a freshman at Dartmouth, Class of 2011. Our youngest Meredith will be a junior in high school. We're looking forward to coming back to Hanover more often.

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