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This column is the most challenging to write. It's due December 28, for publication in February. I always mean to start it long before its due, because I know that I'll be busy with Christmas celebrations and guests and fun things, and news is sparse this time of year; everyone else is busy too. News is hard to come by anytime though. No one sends me news! So, I'm going to randomly start picking people and emailing you to get your news.

After the column about small world coincidences came out, and I invited you all to meet Alison Chaiken and me for lunch at a local watering hole, I received an email from **Cathy Shelburne**. I didn't know Cathy (although I recognized her) and she didn't know me, but she wanted to meet us for lunch. So we did. Cathy is the director of upper school admissions at Menlo School, a private school in Menlo Park (that my brothers attended; it wasn't coed way back in our days). She's been living in the Bay Area for about 3 years with her husband and two kids.

Martha Gerhan has been living in San Francisco for about 8 years. Martha is consulting with Wells Fargo, strategic stuff, and doing a lot of biking. She recently won the Raymond E. Miles Alumni Service Award from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. The award was created in honor of former Dean Raymond Miles who believed in the value of the alumni network and was a strong support of the Cal Business Alumni Association. Go Martha! Martha is also Vice President of the Dartmouth Club of Greater San Francisco Area and an alumni council representative.

The only part of the Class Secretary job that I was hoping I'd never have to do was to write an obituary. Well, sadly, I'll be writing one...our classmate **Mark Banded** passed away in October in La Jolla, California. Mark came to Dartmouth from Montreal. I knew him from hanging out at Beta and he attended our last reunion. If anyone would like to share stories about Mark or pictures, let me know, as I'd like to put together a tribute in our newsletter. Numerous family members including his children, Bradford and Blair '12, survive Mark.

Until next time, when I start my random emails, that's all I have. Hope that you're still keeping all those New Year's resolutions!

ForeverGreen.

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