



Class of '87 Newsletter

Dispatches from Hanover

While moving back to Hanover and going back to work for the College has reconnected me with Dartmouth in many ways, I (Christen) was not at all prepared for how many friends and classmates I would see whom I have not seen in years. For a pretty remote place, Hanover can sometimes feel like the hub of the universe!

Here is some news on some of the folks who came through town in 2008... (cont'd on p.3)

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Class Project Updates:

Thanks to your particular generosity over the past year, as well as to the leadership of class president **H. Morgan** and treasurer **Anne Jones**, we have finally been able to fully fund our scholarship fund to the level that now allows us to name and support a Class of 1987 Scholar.

We are working this winter with our "insider" in the Dartmouth Financial Aid Office to select a student from the Class of 2012 as our first named scholar. We will be able to follow our student's progress through Dartmouth, and (hopefully) celebrate their graduation in 2012 in conjunction with our 25th Reunion. More news to come on this in our next issue.

Jessica Benjamin and **Ricki Stern** continue to guide our class involvement in the Dartmouth Partners for Community Service. They sent along this note from **David Roccaforte** about his recent experience mentoring an undergraduate from the class of '09 in Bellevue Hospital's emergency room in NYC last summer:

"Being a DPCS mentor was a great way to reconnect with both current students as well as active area alums. I was impressed with the passion and enthusiasm of both the students and alums. The experience reaffirmed everything Dartmouth has meant for me over the years."

As interest in (and availability of) private sector internships wanes, we may see an increase in applications for DPCS, the organization that helps fund internships for undergrads in community service-based organizations around the country. Please continue to support this class effort by making a donation (when you pay your class dues) or offering to be a mentor in your area. To find out more about DPCS go to www.dartmouth.edu/dpcs.

Class News

Message from our Grand Poobah, H. Randy Morgan:

Dear Classmates:

It is with great pride and excitement that we inform you that the Class of 1987 was officially recognized by the College during Class Officers Weekend this fall!

In addition to being enlightened and inspired by the COW training sessions, Christen O'Connor and I were pleased to be in attendance to receive the following 3 (THREE) awards on behalf of the Class and our officers:

1) **Honorable Mention for Class of the Year!!**

With this award, in particular, we received citations for our Mini-Reunion Program, Strong Leadership, Scholarship Campaign, and Teamwork, especially with respect to our Class Columns, Newsletters, the Mini-Reunion Program and our Dedicated Officers.

2) **Newsletter Editors of the Year!**

Christen and Amy received this award, and they sure deserved it! Their partnership created 3 beautiful newsletters last year, with great content, creative use of photos, and supportive teamwork with the Officer Team.

3) **Mini-Reunion Association Award!**

A separate Mini-Reunion Association Award was given in recognition of our hugely successful '87th Night mini-reunions program!

Our Mini-Reunion Chair (and M-R Association VP), the wonderful and fabulous **Laura Gasser**, was unable to attend the M-R Association COW meeting to receive the award because she had just received an even bigger and better prize and blessing ... Baby Isaac Clayton Gasser Katz, born September 5! Mazel tov to Laura and family!

All of our officers deserve our thanks and recognition for their heightened level of teamwork and performance that made these awards possible. Moreover, on behalf of the officers, we thank you, our classmates, for being so responsive to our communications over the past year. We appreciate how much you all stepped up to the plate to help us achieve the goals that we had set forth, including funding the Scholarship, finding jobs for our class project interns, electing a representative to the Alumni Council, and turning out for mini reunions.

Gratefully,
H

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Photo at right of H. and Christen receiving awards on our behalf at Class Officers Weekend



Photo by Jennifer Argote '10. Courtesy of the Dartmouth College Alumni Relations Office.

Dispatches from Hanover, cont'd from page 1:

The New Year began with a visit from my long-lost roommate, **Lisa Damon**. I don't think we've ever lived in the same time zone since graduation, and visits have been few and far between. But she and her husband, Bruce, and two children, Christopher and Lindsay, had made the long drive from Nashville to Mass. for the holidays and decided to spend a few days in Hanover.

Now Southerners, they were ill-prepared for the deep snow (their car couldn't get up our street), the sub-zero temperatures (poor Christopher had to borrow a winter coat!) and an unfortunate back injury that kept Bruce stranded at the Hanover Inn for a few extra days (good planning, Bruce!) But we had a great visit and after being friends for 25 years, had fun watching our kids get acquainted.

Club Officers Weekend in February brought **Allison and Jock McDonald** up from Amherst, MA and **Betsy Booth Scalco** in from Durham, NC. While Allison and Jock and their boys are frequent visitors to Hanover (her parents live in Lyme), Betsy and I had not seen each other in over eight years. Her husband, Mark, had never been to New England and found February in New Hampshire a rather harsh introduction. I think. Being subjected to endless reminiscing about the Dartmouth days probably didn't help.

I had a nice drop-in visit at work over the summer from **Tina Ullrich Peters** and her family. They were passing through Hanover during a family vacation and took me up on my offer to drop by McNutt and say hello. They live in Radnor, PA.

My high school classmate **Mark Kassabian** brought his family to Hanover for the first time in August. I met up with him and his wife, Kristin, and toddler twins Elizabeth and John briefly at Collis when they arrived.

Over the Columbus Day weekend I bumped into **Meg Crone Ramsden** at the Dartmouth Co-op. At the football game that weekend I saw someone waving to me from afar who I thought might be **Jon Zonis**, but I wasn't sure. My suspicions were confirmed the next day when we passed each other on a hiking trail in Norwich, taking in a spectacular day of foliage viewing.

Homecoming weekend saw a great '87 turnout. We started the festivities with a pre-parade pizza dinner with **Heather and Tom Kannam** and **Bethamy Aronow** and her family. Bethamy is an OB/GYN in Connecticut, and her three kids and mine hit it off and were fast friends by the end of the evening. At the parade route we met up with local resident **Holly Taylor** and her three children and parade regulars **Mike and Chrissie Drescher** and their two girls. **Rob Foster and Ann Jaquith** were visiting from California with their family, and **Jeff Lee** was out from Utah. Our contingent made quite a splash in the parade with green & white balloons and buckets of candy that the kids loved throwing at the crowds. Though they missed the parade, I did later in the weekend run into the **Benjamins** and the **Carters** at the Hanover Inn, and their news appears later in this issue.

In early December we were at the Hanover Inn to visit with Santa and ran into **Bob Charles**, our new class representative to the Alumni Council. He was in town for his first Council meeting. Bob is serving on two committees of the Council: Academic Affairs, and Honorary Degrees. Also currently serving on the Alumni Council is **Andy Horne**, representing Club Officers. He sits on both the Communications and the Orientation Committee. By the way, the Council has recently developed an Alumni Liaison Committee, which collects and responds to feedback from alumni. You can contact this committee at ALC@alum.dartmouth.org with your questions and concerns about the College, and they will share your feedback with the College administration and trustees.

Class News

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87s in the News...

Peter DeLong was featured in the Spring 2008 issue of *Dartmouth Medicine*. He is the only interventional pulmonologist in northern New England and specializes in the diagnosis and palliation of thoracic cancers. He has been at DHMC since 2004. When asked what advice he gives to someone contemplating medicine as a career, he responds, "I tell people that if they can be happy doing something else, they should do it. Medicine these days has some rewards, but it is endlessly regulated, certified, and credentialed to the point of distraction – especially if you practice in more than one area. On the other hand, there is still an incredible amount of patient care, teaching, and research work to be done if you can get into a sustainable position to do it. So it's *caveat emptor*." In his (limited) spare time, Peter builds things, and has crafted furniture, guitars, houses, a sauna, and a boat.

An article in *The Dartmouth* last July reported on a gathering of educators from Mexico who came to Hanover to be trained in the Rassias method of teaching language, as part of the Inter-American Partnership for Education Program. In its second year at Dartmouth, the program was created by **Luanne Zurlo**, the founder and executive director of Worldfund.

Believing that English language skills are critical for Latin Americans looking to break the cycle of poverty, Luanne sought a way to make the teaching of English in Mexican schools more interactive and effective. She reflected on the language classes she took while at Dartmouth, taught using the Rassias method, and approached the Rassias Foundation with the idea of instituting such a program. Professor Rassias comments, "It's an instrument of peace – I mean that language makes understanding between people clearer, and with that things work." Worldfund's mission is to reduce poverty in Latin America through education. Classmate **Mary Bourque** also sits on the board of Worldfund.

Now for a quick civics quiz: Do you know what the Solicitor General of the United States does? Well, I can tell you, because I copied it from the Department of Justice website:

"The task of the Office of the Solicitor General is to supervise and conduct government litigation in the United States Supreme Court. The Solicitor General determines the cases in which Supreme Court review will be sought by the government and the positions the government will take before the Court. The Office's staff attorneys, Deputy Solicitors General and Assistants to the Solicitor General, participate in preparing the petitions, briefs, and other papers filed by the government in the Supreme Court. The Solicitor General conducts the oral arguments before the Supreme Court."

Now for part 2 of the quiz: Do you know who the Solicitor General of the United States is?

At the time of print, it was our own Greg Garre, who was nominated by President Bush last June and took the oath of office in October. This will of course change during the administrative transition in Washington this January.

87th Night Festivities: On or near Saturday, March 28th

Plan to mark your calendars once again for our annual "87th Night" mini-reunions around the country in March and April. Last year Dartmouth gave us an award recognizing our "87th Night" gatherings as a Special Mini-Reunion Event! Tentative locations this year include Atlanta, Boston, Hanover, Los Angeles, Park City UT, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington D.C.

Keep your eyes on our class website (www.dartmouth.org/classes/87) and your email inbox for all the locations and as we get closer, and contact Mini-Reunion Chair Laura Gasser (lgx@cpuc.ca.gov) for more info.

Once Again, I'm Dragging Down the Curve...

I'm sure you all saw the headline this summer...after extensive research, the compensation experts at Payscale.com determined that Dartmouth graduates have the highest median salaries at mid-career (10-20 years out of school, median age 42) than those from any other school.

With a median salary of \$134,000, we're sitting pretty, right above Princeton at \$131,000. Dartmouth very proudly broadcast this news through a press release, which I promptly printed out and showed to my boss as clear evidence that I deserve a 200% raise, but somehow she wasn't persuaded. How about you...does this report make you want to crow, or cry?

Classmate News Slowly Trickles In...

Meg Crone Ramsden writes:

"I am still living in Rhode Island with my husband Chris '84. Our children Margaret and Mack will be in 10th and 9th grade respectively in the fall and are big fans of the Dartmouth skiway in Lyme where my inlaws have retired.

I have been teaching nursery school for many years here in town. Happily, I get to see a fair amount of Dartmouth folks there with their children.

Sudie and Chris DiGiovanni have four boys—Cameron, Peter, Nick and William. Chris is an orthopedist and they are enthusiastic sailors and skiers.

Bill DeWitt and his wife Mary have three children—Zeke, Ellie, and Liza, and in fact I just spotted them at up summer camp dropoff in Freedom, NH. I believe Bill is still in advertising.

Jeff Barton and wife Chris also have three children—Abby, Alden and Andrew and are co-owners of our boat, so summertime fun abounds on Narragansett Bay. Jeff is president of a yarn brokerage company.

From Down Under, **Suzanne Pence** checks in: "I have been in Australia for 12 years after 10 years in NYC. I ventured out to Australia with JP Morgan Investment Management and I spent my first 5 years in Melbourne. I have been in Sydney since 2002 after the birth of my son Benjamin who is now 7. I had twin daughters, Katie and Emily, in 2003.

I took time out with the children to work in a family marketing company and I returned back to finance 2 years ago. I was married to an Australian and I have stayed here so the kids can be close to both parents. I also love the quality of life here and can't imagine a cold winter.

I currently work for State Street Investor Services covering global fund managers and hedge funds and look forward to the opportunity to get to Boston in 2009. I live very close to the city across the Harbour Bridge in Mosman.

Distance has kept me away from Dartmouth and too many kids to manage the flight every year. However now that the children are older I plan an annual trip to Maine in July to see my parents and hope to see Dartmouth next year. Are there any other 87s in Sydney?"

Class News

Classmate News, cont'd from p. 5

We had a nice note from **Dave Wiser**, thanking us for the last newsletter. We tried to pry some juicy news out of him for this issue, but this is the best we could get: "I manage an executive search firm, with five partners, and have been at it for about 14 years. It pays the rent. Married to Elizabeth Moore now for 17 years. Three children - SaraKate, 14 and starting high school in August. Emily 11 and our son, Sam, is 9."

"**Alicia Altman Southwell, Mary Halpin Carter, Christopher Carter, Jim Benjamin, Jessica Slosberg Benjamin** and our collective group of 9 children — ranging in age from 15 to 5, had a great time in Hanover for Homecoming," writes Jessica. "Highlights included the football game, the field hockey game and visiting various fraternity and sorority basements!"

Hats off to Ricki!!

And finally, I just read that on January 30th, Dartmouth will be presenting one of its 2009 Martin Luther King Social Justice Award to **Ricki Stern** for her ongoing commitment through her films and volunteer work.

Correction from last Newsletter:

In our last newsletter, I (Amy Baker) incorrectly referred to Sara Dann's now husband as John Galt, instead of his proper name, Bob Galt. By all accounts and based on the photos, it was a gorgeous wedding and Sara didn't let my typo dampen any spirits.

I feel like a dope- I don't know how many of you have read Ayn Rand's [The Fountainhead](#) but I obviously was subconsciously referring to the first line of the novel "Who is John Galt?"

Congratulations, Sara!
Amy

In closing...

We encourage you all to find a mini reunion near you, or create one. It only takes two Dartmouth classmates to count, and the kind of overwhelmingly positive feedback we heard last year is hard to fake. We hope you can join us.

Plus, it makes for good newsletter copy:) Send us your news either way.

All the best,

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