

Alma Matters

THE CLASS OF 1999 NEWSLETTER



Nancy Bloomfield receives the inaugural Spirit of '99 Service Award from outgoing class president Michelle Sweetser at a special reception held during reunion in June. Read more about the Nancy and the award on page 3.

CLASS NEWS— Catherine (Maxson) Pieroni is proud to report the birth of Joshua Alexander Pieroni on December 12, 2007. Joshua weighed in at 8 lbs 8 ozs and was 21 and ½ inches long. Catherine decided to leave her job in the Estates and Personal group at Sullivan and Cromwell LLP to stay home full time with Joshua. She is enjoying watching Joshua grow and seeing all those special firsts. Catherine and her husband Marc moved from Hoboken, NJ to the lovely town of Maplewood, NJ right before Joshua was born. While Catherine misses the excitement that comes along with being so close to New York, she loves having a yard, basement and driveway. And fortunately, New York is still a 35 minute train ride away.

Sara Zrike came to visit Catherine and Joshua in early August, 2008 after she spent two weeks in El Salvador with a program called Maestras Sin Fronteras run by Save the Children. Sara lived in the village of Las Maria in the region of Cabanas and spent four weeks working with a grade 1 teacher to support the work of Save the Children and the Salvadorian Ministry of Education. She focused on the use of everyday items as

resources, and shared ideas on how to promote early literacy. When she arrived most of the kids could not identify their names, but when she left almost all could write their names! Sara writes, "It was a very powerful and humbling experience for me. Although the conditions were rough and I witnessed true poverty, the people were so kind and happy to share all they had with me." Upon returning home Sara started her second year as Coordinator of Learning Services at the Joseph J. Hurley School in Boston's South End. The school is one of the three two-way bilingual schools in the city, meaning that the kids spend one week learning in English and one week in Spanish. Sara works on coordinating city and statewide testing, runs the Student Support Team, supports second language learners, leads reading groups for struggling Spanish readers, and supports new teachers. Sara recently moved from Cambridge back across the Charles River to the condo she bought in Brookline.

Debbie Bender also came to visit Catherine in August and the two of them met up with **Kristen Chartier** to have dinner and catch

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JANUARY 2009

WENDY SKELTON SHARES HIGHS AND LOWS OF MARRIAGE LAW CHANGES

In the following article, reprinted with permission from the November 2008 issue of Green Light, the DGALA newsletter, Wendy Skelton '99 reflects on her experience with gay marriage in Massachusetts.

Sarah and I met in college my junior year in 1998. She was the freshman thrower on the track team with me and the coach asked me to look after the new throwers. I started hanging out with her and others and in a short time developed an intimate friendship with her. We would spend hours walking around Occom pond at night and sitting on the golf course looking at the stars. Our relationship slowly blossomed from those walks, and it was touch and go at first as this was my first serious relationship and Sarah would argue that she came to Dartmouth to stay in the closet. We spent the better part of a year helping one another through the muddy waters of coming out and forming new identities.

After college, I followed Sarah to Nebraska for graduate school. This was the first step of commitment in our relationship, to follow her into the Bible belt of the country. We spent five years there, both away from family and friends, both under the pressures of graduate school, and both being publicly out from the start. Those five years allowed us to mature our relationship, to learn to really trust and depend on one another, and to explore how others in the world viewed our relationship. It was the last year of this time that we started to think about getting married. Massachusetts had recently legalized same-sex marriage and we felt as though we had a model, a reality for the next step in our relationship. We had also both attended the Nebraska Symposium on Motivation where Esther Rothblum had presented her research on civil unions in VT. She discovered such things as, after having a civil union, a spouse

was more likely to be addressed on Christmas cards, and that both the spouse and the in-laws reported viewing each other more positively. I'm summarizing some of the results to the best of my memory. Having spent years with my family introducing Sarah as my friend and having difficulty myself feeling recognized in Sarah's family, this research made an impact on our attitudes towards the importance of getting married.

We started to plan our wedding in the Berkshires of MA, with the intention of becoming residents in the near future. Sarah needed to complete an internship for her PhD and chose a program in Seattle. We then realized that we would actually not be getting legally married in MA at the time of the wedding (as we were non-residents at that time), but we continued with the plans anyway. We were married June 10, 2006 after 8 years together, surrounded by about 70 of our friends and family. This was the first same-sex wedding for most of them. Immediately, we started to recognize how much this public display of commitment had changed our relationship in the eyes of some family and friends. My brother, who nearly didn't come, stated that he was amazed at how many people I had in my life that were good people who loved me. He was amazed to know that some guests were gay and some were straight and that he couldn't tell the difference. His long held negative and stereotypical beliefs about gay people were shattered and he was having to reform those beliefs. Most of the people there didn't know that the wedding wasn't legal. We didn't tell them. It was easy to see that some people who

didn't necessarily fully support same-sex marriage, the structure of law, as a normalizing agent. They could accept and understand our relationship better viewing it in familiar terms, legal wedding. This was obviously not necessary for many of our guests but served to be important for several family members.

We moved to Boston in July 2007 and were legally married August 27, 2007. Sarah's brother and wife served as witnesses for us at the courthouse. It was a 15-minute event, 10 of which the justice of the peace used to tell us about her personal transition from not supporting same-sex marriage to understanding the importance of it. We went out for lunch in the North End and celebrated with Italian pastries. The actual step of getting legally married was an odd one for us. We had already had a wedding, and it had served the purpose of bringing together our families. We had already committed to each other for life. Of course we recognized the legal protections this new step afforded us and were very grateful to have them. We felt the importance of being a part of history and felt grateful for those who fought before us for these rights. We felt a little angry that something that could be attained so easily, in 15 minutes, could be so hurtful when withheld from a group.

Most of all though, we finally felt the empowerment that comes with legitimacy given by a society, in this case in the form of law. There is no more hesitation at introducing Sarah as my wife and there is no more doubt that anything short of legalized marriage is enough.

SPIRIT OF '99 SERVICE AWARD PRESENTED TO NANCY BLOOMFIELD

The Class of 1999 honored Nancy Bloomfield as the first Spirit of '99 Service Award recipient at a special reception during reunion in June. Outgoing class president Michelle Sweetser presented Nancy with a crystal plaque as classmates gathered in the Novak Cafe to socialize and celebrate Nancy's accomplishments. Nancy has been involved in the founding stages of three community projects, beginning with her work with the COVER Home Repair and Reuse Program, which had its roots at The Tucker Foundation. Congratulations, Nancy!

The Spirit of '99 Service Award recognizes members of the Class of 1999 who have shown a passion and commitment for bettering the world around them. Helping others is a difficult and often thankless task: this award honors Nancy and others like her who are compassionate and energetic individuals who persevere in such work.

The Spirit of '99 Service Award Committee is currently accepting nominations for the award. Further details about selection criteria and the nomination process are available on the class website at: https://dartmouth.org/classes/99/projects_spirit_award.php.

If you know someone whose work qualifies them, please let us know, even if you are unable to complete the full nomination form. If you have questions, contact committee chair, Danni Downing via email at dannidi@alum.dartmouth.org, or via phone at (301) 452-5932.



Nancy holds the plaque she received in honor of her work.



REUNION 2008: A SUCCESS

Thanks to Jeff Fine, our class' reunion committee chair, and the rest of the committee for making June's reunion weekend a success! Many, many hours went into making it a memorable and successful weekend. Over 400 classmates and guests attended the weekend, along with a growing number of children (some since born!).

Others members of the reunion committee who helped make the weekend a success were Sara Alexander, Michelle Batt, Pauline Christo, Emily Copeland, Dave Dookeeram, Danni Downing, Kirsten Earl, Brenda Godoy, Todd Griset, Katy Hearey, Nini Johnston, Ruchi Kaul, Katy Keller, Meg Lysy, Rex Morey, Noreen Pfenhauer, Catherine Maxson Pieroni, Rebecca Prestel, Melissa Rikard, Michelle Sweetser, Sean Taylor, Adrienne Wagner, Dave Wagner, Evan Walsh, and Diana Wheeler.

The reunion committee made a modest profit on reunion and the new executive committee will determine how these funds may be allocated in the fiscal interest of the class.



TUCKER FELLOW RECEPTION

Class of 1999 Tucker Fellow Nana Ampadu '09 spoke to the class during reunion about her experiences in Ghana during winter semester 2008. Nana volunteered at the Manye Foundation, focusing on education and teaching there. Nana's experience was made possible by monies raised by the class through class dues participation. Nana was the second Tucker Fellow sponsored by the class; a third fellow will be selected to spend the spring semester abroad doing community service.

CLASS OF '99 HONORED AT CLASS OFFICERS WEEKEND

Dartmouth College Class of 1999 really piled up the hardware over Class Officers Weekend in September of 2008. The Class Officers Association named the Class of '99 the Class of the Year for Dartmouth classes out 25 years and less. Amongst our numerous accomplishments, the citation bestowing this honor highlighted our 10th reunion, numerous mini-reunions, our Tucker Fellowship and Memorial Books programs, five newsletters, redesigned website, our Spirit of '99 Award, and the '09/'99 Connection.

Because she presided over these accomplishments, the Class Presidents Association awarded Michelle Sweetser President of the Year for classes out 25 years and less. According to the citation awarded to Michelle, "you have taken the class in a dramatic new direction and inspired your peers with strong leadership, a willingness to consistently pitch in, and new and exciting ideas for your classmates."

The awards did not stop there, as the Class Treasurers Association named Jeff Fine Treasurer of the Year for classes out 25 years and less. Jeff was cited as consistently delivering high dues participation rates, and also for delivering more revenue for our class than any other post-1990 class. In addition, Jeff's award highlighted his work with the Treasurers Association, which "raised the bar" on how Treasurers do their jobs. Congratulations Jeff and Michelle!

And finally, to round out our accomplishments, the Mini-Reunion Chairs Association honored our Mini-Reunion program as program of the year for the 19 events held over the past fiscal year. The award highlighted a mini-reunion attendance of over 240 classmates. Congratulations to all the mini-reunion chairs that made all the events possible, and of course, to all '99s who attended the 30th Birthday parties and pre-reunion mini-reunions last year.

NEWS BRIEFS

WANTED: CLASS WEBMASTER

The Class of '99 Executive Committee is looking for a Webmaster to maintain and provide new content for the class website. If you have the computer skills necessary to manage the website and are interested in joining the Committee, please e-mail Rex Morey (rex.morey@dartmouth.edu) or Catherine Pieroni (catmax@alum.dartmouth.org).

CLASS OF '99 ON FACEBOOK

If you like to spend time on Facebook, please follow in the footsteps of over 75 of your classmates and join our official class group "Dartmouth College Class of 1999". Reconnect with classmates, post news and Dartmouth related events, and view pictures from Reunion weekend!

CALLING ALL NEW PARENTS!

Please keep the Executive Committee informed of the birth of any new babies by e-mailing the big news to our class account (class.of.99@alum.dartmouth.org). If you send a picture of your little one, we will try to include it in the next newsletter or on the class webpage.

CLASS MINI-REUNIONS TO BE HELD IN EARLY MAY!

Class mini-reunions will be held in select cities - Boston, Chicago, DC, Los Angeles, and New York - the first weekend in May. Look for additional details in your email and on the class website in the coming weeks!

PAY YOUR CLASS DUES!

If you haven't already, now is the time to pay your class dues for 2008-2009. Dues fund class activities, the class newsletter, and your subscription to the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, in addition to supporting the class' sponsorship of a Tucker Fellow. Pay your dues online now at <https://dartmouth.org/classes/99/dues.php>.

up. Debbie lives in Santa Monica and does market research consulting for HawkPartners. She was made a partner in the firm in December, 2008. After moving from Boston about two years ago, Debbie is really enjoying life on the west coast. Since Debbie's job requires so much travel she luckily gets to visit Dartmouth friends across the country. Kristen recently began her third year teaching history at the Convent of the Sacred Heart School located on the Upper East Side in Manhattan. She lives in the Bronx.

Catherine attended **Cassie Miller's** wedding in late May and was able to catch up with numerous 99s. Cassie was married to Mike Birtwistle in a beautiful outdoor ceremony in Alexandria, VA. Cassie and Mike met on Martha's Vineyard in 2005, a meeting that spurred a whirlwind transcontinental romance that saw Cassie move to London in 2006. The wedding guests, both English and American, danced the night away. After honeymooning in Mexico, Cassie and Mike returned to London where Cassie does marketing and events for an independent cinema. Several '99s made the trek to Virginia for Cassie and Mike's wedding, including **Heather** (Harnett) & **Chris Ross**, **Karen Yen**, **Caroline Kaufmann**, Debbie Bender, **Elizabeth (Tripoli) Laughlin** and Sara Zrike. Heather served as Cassie's matron of honor. She and Chris live in Long Island where Heather stays at home with their two children, Isabella (4) and Benjamin (3). They are adorable and full of energy, so Heather certainly has her hands full. Chris is still in the reinsurance industry, and is probably one of our only classmates still at the same job he took right out of college. Karen still lives in New York and works as in-house counsel at UBS. Caroline has moved to Munich and does consulting for Siemens Management Consulting.

Emily (Csatari) Poulin, her husband Randall (Bob) Poulin '97 and their almost two-year old daughter Maggie are proud to announce the birth of Jackson Scott Poulin on June 24, 2008. Emily, Bob and their two kids live in Fairfax, VA.

Holly (Smith) and **Jeff Munsie** welcomed Tyler Barrett Munsie to the world on July 1, 2008 at 3:46 AM. Tyler weighed in at 7 pounds 1 ounce and was 20 inches long. Holly, Jeff and Tyler live in Somerville, MA. Jeff is an associate in the Corporate Practice Group at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP. Holly is a brand manager at Procter & Gamble. They are looking forward to bringing Tyler up to Dartmouth for the first time this Homecoming!

Nick van Amburg is living in Park Slope,



Brooklyn and working in Manhattan as a Brand/Product Manager with Rock Star Games. Nick writes "it's been a busy year—with the release of Grand Theft Auto IV and the upcoming release of Midnight Club Los Angeles and Grand Theft Auto Chinatown Wars for the Nintendo DS—but a good year nonetheless." Nick sees Hunter Philbrook '01 and Adam Demark '00 from time to time. His wife Cornelia van Amburg is in real estate with Stribling & Associates, so drop him a line if you are looking for housing in New York.

Eric Jontz graduated from Emory University School of Law in May, 2008. He will be practicing law in Orlando, FL.

Jennifer Lewinski lives in Brooklyn and just started a job with the Fox News Channel as a news editor on FOXNews.com where she'll be writing about everything from art to politics to immigration. She frequently sees **Jason Whaley**, **Anthony Accurso**, **Michael Bruno**, **Rachna Kaul** and **Alyce Eredkian**, although not all at the same time.

Top image: Cathy Emery, Sara (Bauer) Alexander, and Becky Prestel at the Class Dinner during reunion.

Lower Image: Emily Copeland, Pauline Christo, and Kevin Findlan work the registration table at reunion last June.

Images courtesy Danni Downing.

MICHELLE SWEETSER PRESENTED WITH YOUNG ALUMNI DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

During the Class of '99 dinner over reunion weekend, the Alumni Council presented Michelle Sweetser with the Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award. The Alumni Council established this award in 1990 to honor outstanding young alumni service to the College. A standing committee of the Alumni Council consisting of past recipients oversees the selection of one to four alumni each year for this award. The committee looks for breadth, depth and length of service to the College by young alumni, and also to the quality of that service. Because of Michelle's exemplary volunteer work on behalf of the College and the Class of '99 in the past 9 years, the committee determined she should receive this prestigious award.

Upon presenting Michelle with the Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award, Andrea Lordan '86, a former award recipient, noted all of Michelle's Dartmouth alumni activities. They included her stellar run as Class President, and her exceptional work as Newsletter Editor, including her position as president of the Class Newsletter Editors Association. Michelle also served as co-chair of the 5th Reunion Committee, Treasurer and Registration chair of the 10th Reunion Committee, and as a member of the reunion giving committee. As a member of the Alumni Council, Michelle chaired the Alumni Organizations



Michelle with Andrea at the awards presentation in June.

Committee. And finally, in her spare time, Michelle serves as an alumni interviewer and as a participation agent for the Dartmouth College Fund. In her remarks, Ms. Lordan emphasized how Michelle's work has created connections between her classmates, and also helped to maintain her fellow 99's connections to the College. Because of all Michelle's hard work, and her dedication to Dartmouth College, Ms. Lordan stated that Michelle was truly deserving of this award.

ALUMNI COUNCIL UPDATE...

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- Alumni will soon vote on a referendum on the nominating process for alumni-nominated trustees.
- Watch the "Wearers of the Green" video at www.alumni.dartmouth.edu/wearers. You can also register there for the induction dinner in Boston May 16.
- The new Biondi baseball complex and Floren Varsity House are fantastic facilities.
- Visit the Dartmouth YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/Dartmouth.
- Send your thoughts to the trustees through the Alumni Liaison Committee at alc@alum.dartmouth.org.
- Minutes of the 197th Alumni Council Session (<http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/default.aspx?id=1285>)
- Council President's Page which includes President JB Daukas' speech (<http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/default.aspx?id=596>)

Thank you for taking the time to read this. Please be in touch with any of us with your thoughts or comments.

Respectfully Submitted,
Matt K. Nelson '00
Committees: Executive; Student Affairs; Young Alumni
mnelson@gmail.com

At-Large Representative
Dave K. Dookeeram '99
Committees: Academic Affairs; Young Alumni
dave.k.dookeeram.99@alum.dartmouth.org

More Information is also available:

- Alumni Relations website article, "Welcome to Dartmouth Life: Alumni Council Gets into Thick of It in 197th Session," written by Deborah Klenotic, editor of the Alumni Relations Office Web site, (<http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/news.aspx?id=478>)

George Gorayeb was an equity trader in New York and moved to Amsterdam at the end of October. He will also spend some of the winter at his house in Nicaragua. Needless to say, life is good.

David & Meg (Cashion) Lysy report that they attended **Brooks Foster's** marriage to Brenna Tanzosh on July 26, 2008 in Hood River, Oregon. The wedding weekend was spectacular and it was great to catch up with **Jonathan Sullivan**, his wife Maria, and their baby Isabella. Brooks and Brenna live in Portland, Oregon where they are both attorneys.

Sarah Dinwoodey was engaged to Nicholas Welz on May 24, 2008. Sarah and Nick met after college when they were both living in the Boston area. The wedding will take place on Cape Cod in June 2009. Sarah and Nick currently live in Hoboken, NJ.

Carolyn Wachsman Stone writes in to report that she attended **Polina (Globerman) Revness'** wedding in San Juan, Puerto Rico. Polina married Stu Revness on September 27th during a beautiful ceremony overlooking the ocean. The newlyweds live in Blue Bell, PA.

Laura (Poplowski) Ma was married on July 4th weekend to Ryan Ma (Brown '97). She reports that there were so many Dartmouth alums at the wedding that they were able to sneak in a rendition of the Salty Dog Rag during the reception. Laura and Ryan bought a house in Somerville, MA, where she is finishing up ("hopefully soon") her PhD in theoretical computer science at Northeastern University.

Ann Sharfstein and **Dan Meilcarz** are delighted to announce the birth of their second daughter, Helena Beverly Meilcarz, on July 7th, 2008. Helena weighed 7 pounds at birth and was 19 inches long. She joins her big sister Sadie, who is three years old. Dan is working towards a PhD in immunology at Dartmouth and after maternity leave, Ann will return to teaching at the Stern Center for Language and Learning.

Ann Bilderback finished her residency at Tufts in veterinary neurology-neurosurgery last July. After she passed her boards Ann decided to move to New York City. She currently works as a veterinary neurologist at NYC Veterinary Specialists, a referral center in Manhattan.

On August 25, 2008, eight Dartmouth College students congregated on Boston City Hall Plaza to create awareness for energy efficiency and sustainability. Entegra Development & Investment, LLC was proud to sponsor the students' visit



The Poplawski-Ma Wedding. first row: David McKenna '89, Ben Hill '99, Deric Corwin '99, Anthony Accurso '99, Bill Hwang '99, Pat DeLeon '99. second row: Julie (McColl) McKenna '89, Anna Poplawski Grad-'98, Karen Menuz '99, Rosalind (Prabharasuth) Douglas '99, Jean Blackerby '99, Margot Neebe '99, Charlotte Bednar '99, Jessica (Jacob) Flick '99, Laura (Poplawski) Ma '99, Ryan Ma, Ayesha Johnson '99, Dan Epstein '99, Scotty McConnaughey '99, Sally (Dickinson) DeLeon '99. third row: Rob Winn '99, Erin Moodie '99, Alex Ghesquiere '99, Anna (Miller) Hill '99, Christine Simms Grad-'02, Dan Sheldon '99.

to Boston in conjunction with the City of Boston, the NEXUS Green Building Resource Center, Hyatt Regency Boston, and New Ecology, Inc. The students' summer-long project, dubbed "The Big Green Bus," began in Hanover, NH and consisted of a 12,000 mile road trip across America, ending in Boston.

As indicated by the name, the students traveled in a 1970's school bus that had been converted to run on Waste Vegetable Oil (WVO). The students designed the fuel delivery system at Dartmouth's Thayer School of Engineering prior to embarking on their journey. They also stayed continuously connected via cell phones and laptops powered by a series of 250 watt rooftop solar panels and a portable, pole-mounted wind turbine.

Brian Salazar, Co-founder and President of Entegra, coordinated a tour of the NEXUS Green Building Resource Center and presented the students with some "real world" feedback on green building and investment opportunities. Brian and business partner Mike Manzo (Brown University '99) formed Entegra in 2007 to be a leader in environmentally efficient real estate development. The duo, both LEED Accredited Professionals, have made green building consulting and advocacy part of their mission statement. More information on Brian's efforts to promote green building can be found on the company web site: <http://www.entegra-re.com>.

Please send news updates using the enclosed green card or email class.of.1999@alum.dartmouth.org.

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ALUMNI COUNCIL
REPRESENTATIVE
Matt Nelson '00

ALUMNI COUNCIL UPDATE FROM MATT NELSON '00

Happy New Year! I hope that this finds all of you well, and that we all start out the new year with good health and good spirits. We concluded the 197th meeting of the Alumni Council in December, which was an informative and lively meeting. This was my penultimate session as the '99 and '00 representative, so be on the lookout for information about filling the seats that will be opening up. As a reminder, once my term ends there will be a representative for each of our classes. Dave Dookeeram '99 continues as an At-Large Representative, so there is no shortage of representation from our classes.

We were on campus during the middle of reading period, so the campus was a bit quieter than the Spring meeting (overlapping with Green Key), but it did provide the unique experience of serving a midnight finals breakfast in Thayer. The Christmas Tree was lit on the Green, which provided a beautiful backdrop to the Aires singing carols and Dartmouth classics at the Hanover Inn. President Wright addressed the Council at dinner Saturday, noting, among other things, that 14 percent of the entering Class of 2012 are first-generation college students and 8.5 percent are international students.

The next Alumni Council meeting will be May 14-16. I will be in touch before that meeting to collect any feedback that you may have, but please feel free to send me any input leading into that meeting as well (mnelson@gmail.com).

Bulleted Summary:

- The economic downturn means Dartmouth will have to cut up to \$40 million in operating expenses over the next two years. The endowment is down 13.5 percent. (Harvard's is down 22 percent.)
- Dean Tom Crady has practical, effective, data-based insights into forming a sound alcohol policy.
- International student applications are on the rise.