

# Alma Matters



## The Class of 1999 Newsletter

November 2005

### Class News

Compiled by Michelle Sweetser

Ah, fall. It's a dream for your lowly newsletter editor, as the fall months always bring with them reports on all of the summer weddings, which means I have to do a little less work to get reports and photographs for class news. Keep 'em coming!

**Julia Henneberry** and Neal Sharma were married in July in Summit, NJ, according to a report from **Alexis Starke**, who describes it as a "very fabulous wedding" and notes that Julia and Neal "seem extremely happy together." Other Dartmouth alumni at the wedding included **Ali (McKinley) Jefferson**, Melanie Kay '00, **Maureen McAleer**, **Leah Campbell**, **Elizabeth Davis**, **Leslie Kinsey**, **Meghan McMenamy**, **Scotty McConnaughey**, **Carolyn Wang**, and Brad Jefferson '98. Both Julia and Neal are currently teaching in Summit.

**Melissa Kho** married Peichung Chiu (CMU '98) in a beautiful outdoor ceremony on September 3 at Glenmere Mansion in Chester, New York. **Yuika Goto** and **Lillie Ng** were among the bridesmaids. Several other '99s attended, including **Xiaoqing Wang**, **Willy Wong**, **Grace Eboigbe**, **Henry Chen**, **Aiyana Thompson**, **Cat McCarthy**, **Cindy Jwo**, **Swee Ching Lim**, and **Karen (Hung) Raghavan**, as well as Sharat Raghavan '98, Mitch Yashiro '00, Helen Chen '01, Evelyn Chen '01, and Joyce Lee '01. Melissa is a second year litigation associate at Boies, Schiller & Flexner LLP in Armonk, NY and Peichung is an IT consultant with Obvia Corp. and IMI Group.

After spending the last year living in Paris with her boyfriend, Will, and getting her masters in French at Middlebury College, **Hannah Alldredge** is now living in New York City, where she is teaching 6th, 7th and 8th grade Latin at Elisabeth Morrow School in Englewood, NJ. Will attends Teacher's College at Columbia University. The couple was engaged a few months ago and is planning a wedding in the Adirondack Mountains in the summer of 2006.

**Erin Loback**, who is currently working as a prosecutor in Oakland, reports that **Sarah Kelmenson** and **Derek Chau** were married on August 27 in Newton, MA. Derek just began his third year at Harvard Law School, and Sarah is in her third year of residency in emergency medicine at Rhode Island Hospital. They live in Mansfield, MA. In



Sarah Kelmenson and Derek Chau on their wedding day, August 27.  
*Photo courtesy Erin Loback.*

the bridal party were fellow '99s **John Cruz** (just beginning his first year at NYU Medical School), **Steve Wright** (an attorney with Kaye Scholer in Los Angeles), **Allison Lee** (recently graduated from a masters program in international relations at Columbia University), **Rupa Mukherjee** (in her second year of residence in internal medicine at Yale University), and Erin, as well as Cynthia Kelmenson '95. Other Dartmouth alums in attendance were usher **Lucas Bianchi**, **Kate Creskoff** and husband **Matt Garvey**, Jeff Cummins '98, **Jane DeWitt**, **Danni Downing**, **Ros (Prabhara-suth) Douglas**, **Krispin Leydon**, **Dave Lipman**, and **Ed Suh**.

Thanks also go to Ros (Prabhara-suth) Douglas for sending in a report on the Kelmenson-Chau wedding as well as Cat McCarthy and **Muhammad Hutasuhut's** on August 6 (check out the last issue of the newsletter for a complete report from **Kevin Findlan**). Ros also attended the wedding of **Deric Corwin** and Cristina Aspuru on June 18. **Bill Hwang** served as best man, and **Ben Hill** was among the groomsmen. Also in attendance were **Margot Neebe**, **Laura Poplawski**, **Charlotte Bednar**, **Jean Blackerby**, **James Chalfant**, **Jess Jacob**, and Scotty McConnaughey.

Ros and her husband, Chris, moved to Pasadena in

News continued on page 6

**Class of 1999  
Executive Committee**

*President*  
Melissa Maggio

*Vice President*  
Kevin Findlan

*Secretary*  
Tony Perry

*Treasurer*  
Jeffrey Fine

*Newsletter Editor*  
Michelle Sweetser

*Webmaster*  
Evan Walsh

*Mini-Reunion Chairs*  
Danielle Downing  
Jonathan Hummel  
Meg Cashion Lysy  
Damali Rhett

*Head Agents*  
Juan Bell  
Karen Mangold  
Jonah Sonnenborn

*Alumni Councilor*  
Adrienne Wilson Wagner

Dave Dookeeram  
Liz French  
James Gallo  
Caroline Kaufmann  
Jessica Kelley  
Seth Kelly  
Ann Sharfstein Mielcarz  
Rex Morey  
Emily Mulvoy  
Melissa Rikard  
Willy Wong

**Class of 1999  
Dartmouth College Fund Scholarship  
2005/2006 Scholar**

**Akay C. Tuncak '06**  
Bellevue, Washington  
Anthropology

Akay is majoring in anthropology with a double-minor in government (International Relations) and Spanish literature and culture. She has a 3.33 grade point average and was a Presidential Scholar during the 2004-2005 academic year. For work-study jobs, Akay is a student consultant in the Deans Office and a Financial Aid front desk assistant. She is a member of the Dartmouth Dance Ensemble and Sheba-Lite. From 2002-2004, she was coxswain for the Dartmouth heavy weight men's crew team.

In the fall of 2003, Akay traveled to Madrid, Spain, on the Spanish Foreign Study Program and, in the winter of 2005, she went to Auckland, New Zealand, on the Anthropology Foreign Study Program. Last summer she received a Goodman grant through the Anthropology department to travel to Turkey to improve her Turkish, take classes at Middle East Technical University in Ankara, and research the role religion plays among college-aged Turkish women.

The anthropology course, Religious Conflict and Collective Violence, is the class Akay says has had the most impact on her education at Dartmouth. "I was introduced to anthropology through this class and also to my academic interest, Turkey, as well as whetting my appetite for academic courses that provided freedom to pursue my interests."

Future plans are to pursue a master's degree or a Ph.D. in international relations and diplomacy. Akay's ultimate goal is to work overseas as an intermediary between cultures, ideally for Turkey-US relations. "Prior to graduate school, I am planning on taking a few years off to either work overseas or join the Peace Corps."

*Prepared by the Office of Donor Engagement and Stewardship*

**If only all New Year's Resolutions Were This Simple!**



We don't know about your other New Year's resolutions, but we can guarantee that paying your class dues will be a cinch.

Just log onto the class website at <http://www.dartmouth.org/classes/99/dues.shtml> to pay your dues online.

We've made it even easier on the post-holiday wallet by reducing dues to only \$35 this year! Make a contribution to our class project - a Tucker Fellowship - at the same time, and you've knocked off two resolutions in one easy step.

*99s/09s ...*

*It doesn't seem all that long ago that we were entering our freshman fall, and now another class with the same final digits has matriculated at the College, indicating that a full decade has gone by. How does their experience at the College compare to ours? Over the course of the coming year, we'll take a look back at Dartmouth then and get a glimpse at what's going on now.*

*The academic year begins with Convocation, and in 1995, our convocation speaker was K. Barry Sharpless '63, who received an honorary Doctor of Science Degree in addition to providing remarks. In 2005, our classmate, Sarah Billmeier, gave the Convocation address at Dartmouth on September 20. She has granted us permission to reprint her remarks here in the class newsletter.*

Thank you President and Mrs. Wright, exceptional Dartmouth faculty, and the class of 2009 for the honor of being asked to speak today. Class of 2009, I wholeheartedly welcome you to the Dartmouth community and congratulate you on your collective accomplishments that brought you to Hanover. In particular I would like to extend a welcome to those of you arriving here from areas affected by hurricane Katrina. Our thoughts are with you in this time of loss and recovery. I know that Dartmouth has been active in their response to this tragedy, and I hope that you are finding the support you need. It is with a twinge of jealousy that I think of embarking on four years here. As we celebrate the initiation of your Dartmouth experiences, I will share with you a bit of my own Dartmouth story.

If I look honestly at my life, I can easily say that my disability brought me to the Big Green. At age five, my leg was amputated above the knee in a successful effort to treat bone cancer. While I wouldn't wish my past illness on anyone, it provided a clarity to my life that I never could have had otherwise. My missing leg opened up far more doors for me than it ever shut. I learned to ski at an adaptive program soon after losing my leg, and from there progressed to traveling around the world racing for the US Disabled Ski Team. My disability formed an inner kernel of stubbornness otherwise known as personal motivation. In high school, my coach knew me well enough to know that the way to get me to do anything was to tell me I couldn't do it. I have now given up on trying to prove

to myself that I am without limitations, but my ability to enjoy a good challenge remains. Growing up as an amputee also liberated me from much of the body consciousness that afflicts American women. My outer shell would never be perfect - what difference did it make if I didn't look like a model?

Most importantly, I grew up with a profound awareness of the unpredictability of the human existence and with a sense of appreciation for the wonderful, but limited, gift of time. All of us have this same gift and with it the challenge of figuring out how best to spend the days we are given. Defining a path through life is a basic challenge, but something that I am confident everyone struggles with. More than most other times in life, college presents the opportunity to focus on discovering what you love to do or what you find

*Then...*

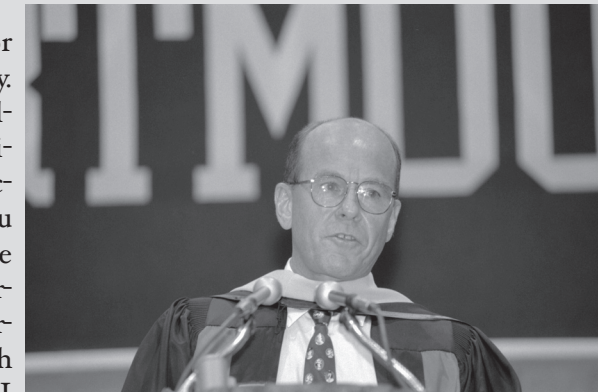


Photo: Dartmouth College Library

most meaningful. In starting Dartmouth you have the chance to continue to carve out who you are and to determine what makes you happy.

I came to Dartmouth from the protected world of ski racing. Despite having traveled to multiple snowy foreign countries, I was surrounded by people who looked like me and basically had the same goals I did. Dartmouth was my first real exposure to the wide heterogeneity of human backgrounds and interests. Raised in a town of 500 people, I became fast friends with classmates from New York and Beijing. I met people interested in physics, classics, priesthood, law, art...this was a refreshing awakening! Part of understanding how to direct life's journey is based on knowing what the options are. Having been focused on athletics for most of my life, Dartmouth allowed me to see the world beyond. I am happy to see that Dartmouth's commitment to di-

*...and now*



Photo: Joseph Mehling '69

are. Having been focused on athletics for most of my life, Dartmouth allowed me to see the world beyond. I am happy to see that Dartmouth's commitment to di-

Then & Now continued on page 5



**After working at other museums in California and Texas, Tina Zarpour (above, with husband, Sean O'Donnell in San Diego) was recruited to work at the Smithsonian Institution, and has been there just over a year. She takes some time out from her work and graduate studies to talk about her experiences.**

**What exactly is your role at the Smithsonian?**

I am Program Assistant with Smithsonian National Museum of American History's Program in Latino History and Culture. It's a brand new department with just two staff members, me and the Director. Right now, there is a lot of support and enthusiasm from higher up. The best part of it is that we actually have money—federally-allocated funds to do programming. After working in non-profit museums for almost years, I am very familiar with making do with few resources. Primarily, our job is to infuse and integrate Latino history and culture into what NMAH already does, as well as develop a Latino audience that visits the museum. NMAH, like many other institutions, has come to the realization that they have long-ignored the histories and cultures of non-Anglo communities even though they have had a long and viable historical presence. It is a small step but our program is a step in that direction.

**What were you doing before your current job?**

Just after graduation, I worked for a non-profit Chicano cultural arts center for a few months and curated two small shows. However I think I was getting paid something like \$300/month so I couldn't stay there very long. I had to eat and pay rent!

Before this job, I was working in museum education at The San Diego Museum of Man and the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas. Everything from photographs taken during the Mexican Revolution, to Egyptian mummies, Zuni fetish carvings, and cowboys.

## '99 Spotlight: Undergraduate Internship Leads to Position at Smithsonian's National Museum of American History

**What kinds of projects have you been involved on at the museum?**

¡Azúcar! The Life and Music of Celia Cruz exhibition and programs, a summer music series on the roots of salsa, Jazz Appreciation Month, La Causa: The Delano Grape Strike of 1965-1970 exhibit and panel presentation, Day of the Dead Family Festival, developing a teaching collection of Latino history objects. One of my favorite things about working in museums is the opportunity to learn about a lot of different things.

**Did you complete any graduate work or training to prepare you for the job?**

No, one experience seemed to lead to another. It started with an undergraduate internship at the Smithsonian National Museum Natural History (thanks to a connection anthro professor Dr. Deb Nichols had), followed by a year-long curatorial internship at the Hood Museum on campus, working with a Dr. Tamarra Northern, then lead curator of ethnography. I also had the opportunity to curate my own small exhibition on Ogboni (Yoruba) sacred brass objects. I did not go to graduate school for museum studies or museum education because by the time I thought of it, I had already three years of "on-the-job training" and had done a lot of my own reading and thinking about broader museum issues such as interpretation, exhibition development, and audiences. Last year, I was a fellow at the Smithsonian Institute for the Interpretation and Representation of Latino Cultures. I have graduate work in cultural studies, and just started a new program in Applied Anthropology at the University of Maryland with a concentration in cultural heritage issues.

**Your undergraduate major was in anthropology. At what point did you decide that you wanted to work in a museum setting? Do you think your background in anthro trained you well for your current position?**

My experience has been strictly with anthropology or history and science museums, so yes, my anthropology training did help with approaching the delicate issue of representing cultures to outsiders, thinking about diverse audiences, and the relationship between artifacts and the communities they come from. My interest in museums started during my first internship and a fas-

ination with material culture. Now it seems I am more interested in the human aspect of it. Eventually, I would love to work internationally as a free-lancer helping communities preserve and present aspects of their cultural heritage or expressive culture.

**What is your favorite exhibit or item at the NMAH?**

My favorite is Bon Appétit! Julia Child's Kitchen at the Smithsonian. Julia Child donated the kitchen from her Cambridge, Massachusetts, home to the Museum. The exhibition features the actual kitchen, including the cabinets, appliances, cookbooks, kitchen table, and hundreds of utensils and gadgets. Beside the fact that I love to cook (well, mostly watch cooking shows on T.V), you really get an idea of her as a person and how she used her kitchen—it's that human touch on the objects.



**What constitutes a good museum exhibit or program?**

Timely and interesting themes artfully integrated with available objects/artifacts. Multi-layered interpretation taking into account different styles of learners and accessibility of content. A good museum

exhibit/program is conducive to contemplation and helps viewers come to a new understanding about something, but does not necessarily hit them over the head with it.

**What one museum or exhibit in DC might you recommend to a classmate who may only be in the city for a limited period of time?**

The National Gallery of Art always wows me. For a Smithsonian museum that is pushing the envelope of traditional museology — the new National Museum of the American Indian.

*Do you know of another profile-worthy classmate? Or perhaps you want to nominate yourself? Don't be shy! Drop an e-mail to the class account at: [Class.of.99@alum.dartmouth.org](mailto:Class.of.99@alum.dartmouth.org), and we'll consider your suggestion for an upcoming issue of Alma Matters.*

**Then & Now** - Continued from page 3

iversity is reflected in your class, with 49 of the 50 states and 25 foreign countries represented. Thirty percent of your class are underrepresented minorities. I am a firm believer that there is strength in diversity and hope you are able to learn from the people who come from worlds different than your own.

Like many of you, I began my Dartmouth experience on a Freshman trip. During our last night at the Moosilauke Ravine lodge I remember listening to an older and wiser upper classman speak. She encouraged us to sample widely from the extensive variety of opportunities offered at Dartmouth and to relish the chance to discover new interests. Relish, not meaning the condiment. I have always remembered that. This is the same message that I will pass along to you, to relish your new Dartmouth experiences. I do have to admit that during my first few years here I worked much harder at exploring the beautiful New England wilderness than I did in my classes. I learned how to paddle and rock climb. I took literature classes and enjoyed drawing in the Hop. I changed my major a couple of times. I don't regret any of this - in fact these are the things I miss the most now that I have focused my life on a career in medicine. Having sampled different possibilities, I was able to be much more confident in my eventual decision to go to medical school and become a surgeon.

Part of the reason I chose to come to Dartmouth was because of the D plan. I took 6 years to complete my studies here in order to balance my twin passions of skiing and education. I still appreciate that Dartmouth's flexibility allowed me to grow as a multi-dimensional person, and permitted me to pursue opportunities outside of Hanover. There is more than one way to travel through these hallowed halls, and the path can be as much of your own creation as you like.

You will soon discover that Dartmouth's real strength is sitting all around you. Your classmates are some of the most intelligent, interesting and all around fantastic people that you will meet. They are truly outstanding. Many of the people in this room will continue to educate, inspire and motivate you long after your graduation.

A Dartmouth education is a multifaceted gift, lifelong and wonderful. I hope that your adventures here are propelled by the magic of discovering new interests, meeting new people and finding your unique place within this community. Congratulations on starting your own Dartmouth journey.

**Class News** - Continued from page 1

February after Chris finished his Ph.D. in organic chemistry in January. Ros is working in Los Angeles as a geologist for an engineering firm; Laura Poplwaski lives nearby in Westwood, California, where she attends UCLA for computer science.

Writing in for the first time this month is **Leonora (Snyder) Gogolak**, noting that she married Adam Gogolak, Williams '98, on August 6th in New York City. Dartmouth folks at the wedding were **Kerry Bystrom, Lindsey Ermey, Lysa Janssen, Jon Rivinus, Emily Schopick, Dave Sussman**, Chris Redpath '88, **Dustin Rubenstein**, and Katy (Weiss) Rubenstein '00. Leonora is in her second year at Columbia Law School.

**Mamie Lawrence Gallagher** is living in Honolulu with her husband, Michael Lawrence Gallagher '01. The couple married this past June in Kaupo, on Maui. **Raadha Jacobstein, Libby Reder**, and Emily Quetone '02 were among her bridesmaids. Other Dartmouth alumni from '96s to '02s were in attendance. Mamie has a consulting business for Hawaiian not-for-profits and is the president of the Hula Preservation Society ([www.hulapreservation.org](http://www.hulapreservation.org)), while Michael is working on a Ph.D. in physics at the University of Hawaii.

**Liz Dziadik** met **Brett Kiefer** during senior week at Dartmouth and sporadically kept in touch after graduation, while Brett moved to Seattle to work for Amazon.com and she went to medical school in Connecticut. The couple reconnected in 2003 and dated cross-country for a year and a half. Brett moved to New York City when Liz matched in internal medicine at Mt. Sinai Hospital in 2004. The couple got engaged in late August and is happily planning a wedding. I guess those long-distance relationships can really work out!

Joining the growing ranks of parents among our classmates is **Joseph "Kit" Harrison**, who, with his wife, Janet, welcomed beautiful daughter Olivia Ruth Harrison into the world on April 24. Both mother and daughter are happy and healthy.

**Emily Copeland** and Joe Scott '00 are also proud parents to Owen Bradley Scott, born at in El Paso on October 21. Owen weighed in at 8 pounds, 9.4 ounces and was 20.5 inches long at birth.

After two years working on a book about his experiences in Afghanistan and Iraq **Nathaniel Fick's** lonely days typing in his apartment have finally ended, and *One Bullet Away: The Making of a Marine Officer* was published by Hough-



Rebekka Brooks Istrail, Lee Istrail, Tara Pennington, Kaitlin Reidy Verber, and Brad Verber at the Albuquerque Academy high school reunion. Photo courtesy Lee Istrail.

ton Mifflin on October 3rd as their lead non-fiction title for the fall. Nathaniel will spend most of October and November traveling around the country to speak about the book, and would enjoy seeing any of you who are able to attend one or more of the events. Stops include Hanover NH, Boston, New York, Baltimore, Washington DC, Norfolk, Raleigh, Nashville, Austin, San Diego, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. The full schedule, among other things, can be found at <http://www.nathanielfick.com>. Nathaniel is also scheduled to speak as a Rockefeller Center event on November 11. His talk is titled *Eating Soup with a Knife: A Marine Officer's Perspective on Afghanistan and Iraq*.

**Danica Lo** has also been busy writing, and her first book, *How Not to Look Fat*, based on her former New York Post column of the same name, will go on sale May 9, 2006, published by Harper Collins.

And I'm sure many of us were reminded this summer that it's been 10 years already since we finished high school and were looking forward to our years at Dartmouth. On September 24, **Lee Istrail, Kaitlin Reidy Verber**, and **Tara Pennington** attended their high school reunion at Albuquerque Academy in Albuquerque, NM. The event was co-organized by Tara. Also joining them were **Brad Verber** and Rebekka Brooks Istrail '01.

*Have news to report from your corner of the world? Drop an e-mail to the class account at: [Class.of.99@alum.dartmouth.org](mailto:Class.of.99@alum.dartmouth.org), and we'll include your news in an upcoming issue.*

## LATE-BREAKING NEWS

A special meeting of the Association of Alumni is scheduled in Hanover on Feb. 12 to consider and vote upon an amendment to the existing alumni constitution that would open the constitutional amendment process to all-media voting and correspondingly modify the size of the majority required to pass future amendments. Alumni must be present to vote. For additional information visit <http://alumni.dartmouth.edu/leadership/association/index.html>.

## Giving to Dartmouth: A Primer

*Why does Dartmouth keep asking me for money? I already gave, why should I give again? Why should I give at all? Read on to better understand where your \$\$ goes.*

As alumni of Dartmouth, there are three distinct areas where we are generally asked for our support.

### 1999 Class Dues and Class Projects

The dollar amount of *class dues* is set by each individual class. This year, our class dues have been reduced to \$35! Class dues are paid to the class treasury and are used to fund your subscription to the *Dartmouth Alumni Magazine*, to produce the class newsletter, to support social events (e.g. regional mini-reunions), and for reunions. Each class may also undertake a *class project* and ask for an additional contribution specifically for that project. Our class is planning to fund a Tucker Foundation Fellowship. Stay tuned for further details.

Class dues and class project contributions are usually collected in the fall of each year by snail mail and e-mail, with follow-up solicitations throughout the year. Once your dues have been paid, you are no longer contacted during the class' fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.



### Dartmouth College

The College requests your support in two ways: to specific projects and to its general budget. The College collects *restricted gifts* for use towards specific projects undertaken at the College. New campus buildings such as Kemeny and the Rugby Team House are two projects that have been funded by alumni contributions for use toward such specific purposes. Restricted gifts are solicited throughout the year by representatives of the College, via snail mail and e-mail.

The Dartmouth College Fund (DCF) collects *unrestricted gifts* to the College and provide approximately 10% of the College's annual operating budget. Gifts and pledges to the DCF are requested by the Class Head Agent and Class Leadership Agents, undergraduate Green Corp\$ students via personal contact, phone calls, snail mail, and e-mail. Once a gift or payment on a pledge has been made to the DCF, you are no longer

contacted during the fiscal year. The College's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30 and all gifts made to the College through the DCF are tax-deductible. All pledges to the DCF must be paid by June 30.

The most efficient and time saving method for making a gift to the College is online by visiting <https://www.dartmouthcollegefund.org>

When you choose to make a gift to the DCF, you can designate your gift to one or divide your gift among the following areas: the College's highest priorities; the arts; student financial aid; technology and the digital library; academic programs and faculty support; athletic programs; student programs and services; and the campus.



### Regional or Affiliated Clubs

Each major urban and suburban area has a local Alumni Club that sponsors social events, community service activities, continuing education forums, and assists the College with alumni interviews of prospective interviews. These groups may have *club dues* to help fund club projects and activities.

Affiliated Alumni groups include the Black Alumni at Dartmouth Association, the Dartmouth Lawyer's Association, the Alumni Association of Asian and Pacific Americans, as well as the Gay and Lesbian Alumni Association, the Association of Latino Alumni, and the Native American Alumni Association at Dartmouth College.

Dues are often scaled for young alumni classes and requested in September via snail mail and e-mail.

Together we can make a difference. For our Class. For the past, present and future of Dartmouth College.





# 1995

To help us feel welcome on campus before we headed out on our DOC trips, Stephanie Hull and Peter Goldsmith greeted us at the DOC House. Here they meet with Allison Lee and Jennifer Lee. *Photo: Dartmouth College Library.*



# 2005

In September 2005, the Class of 2009 learns to dance the Salty Dog Rag before heading out on their DOC trips. *Photo: Dartmouth College Library.*