

# AlmaMatters

## THE CLASS OF 1999 NEWSLETTER



MEG AND DAVE LYSY RELAX ON THE PORCH OF THE MOOSILAUKE RAVINE LODGE

**CLASS NEWS**—Some members of the Class of 1999 and other Dartmouth alums had a mini-reunion of sorts at Mt. Moosilauke from July 22-24th. **Meg (Cashion)** and **Dave Lysy**, Don ('98) and **Nahoko (Kawakyu) O'Connor**, **Brooks Foster**, **Arnold Song**, **George Gorayeb**, **Justin Neuman** and Walker Holmes ('00) spent the weekend in and around the Moosilauke Ravine Lodge, hiking, relaxing and catching up.

Meg and Dave Lysy currently live in Silver Spring, MD with their Newfoundland, Moose. Meg works in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions at Georgetown University. She was recently invited to Jordan as a guest of Queen Rayna to do educational workshops at the International Academy of Amman and the King's Academy, allowing the couple to travel all around Jordan and see its many amazing sights. Dave works as an analyst at the U.S. Government Accountability Office.

**Andra (Winokur) Newman** is thrilled to announce that she left J. Crew in October, 2010 and has launched her own retail executive search practice. She is having a blast being an entrepreneur! And of course,

another added bonus to running her own company is more time with Will (4) and Winnie (20 months). Check out Andra's web site at [www.winokernewman.com](http://www.winokernewman.com).

**Nathaniel Fick** was quoted in the August 29, 2011 edition of Time Magazine in the cover story entitled "The New Greatest Generation." The story highlighted the various accomplishments of veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As usual, there are also many, many new '99 babies to report. Congrats to all the new mommies and daddies!

**Femi (Allen) Wasserman** sends the following greetings, "Hi, everyone. Hope everyone is well. Fall is coming, and it always makes me think of family, complete with big dinners and warm fires, and such. Perhaps even more so this year, because my family has just doubled in size. Ken and I would like to announce the birth of our twin boys, Lucas and Isaac Wasserman. Born on 7/6/11, our fraternal boys' personalities are as different as their looks. It's hard to believe that I am now responsible for two young lives; they really should make you get a license, first. And HBS was nothing compared to the analytical

OCTOBER 2011

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Class of 1999,

Happy Fall! Between an emergency appendectomy (he's ok!) and planning his trip to Hanover for Class Officers Weekend as this issue went to press, Jeff was unable to write a column for this issue of *AlmaMatters*. I am filling in, so bear with me!

May this Fall season bring you fond memories of our Freshman year bonfire, the changing leaves in Hanover, sorority and fraternity rush, football games at Memorial Field, and all the other little moments that made Fall term at Dartmouth so special. Included on page 4 of this issue is the schedule for Dartmouth Night and Homecoming Saturday, with the hopes that you and your loved ones can make it back up to campus to enjoy the weekend!

Also, check out page 6, where I have included the details for the Fall mini-reunions. New York details have yet to be finalized, so check the class web site (<http://www.dartmouth.org/classes/99/>) and our Facebook group page (Dartmouth College Class of 1999) in the next couple of weeks for more information. We are always looking for new blood in our Mini-Reunion program, so please e-mail the class account ([class.of.1999@alum.dartmouth.org](mailto:class.of.1999@alum.dartmouth.org)) or Mini-Reunion Chair Meg Lysy ([meglysy@gmail.com](mailto:meglysy@gmail.com)) if you are interested in helping plan events in your city.

Various members of 1999 Executive Committee are spending the weekend of September 23-24 in Hanover for Class Officers Weekend. Hopefully, they will come up with some new ideas/initiatives to help us better communicate with you, to improve our web site and this newsletter, and continue to keep all 99's up to date with news at the College. We really value your input on all Executive Committee matters so please contact Jeff ([jeffreybfine@hotmail.com](mailto:jeffreybfine@hotmail.com)) or me ([catherine.pieroni@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.pieroni@yahoo.com)) if you have any questions or concerns about the committee, what we do, or if you have ideas of events we could do, or, if you want to get involved. So many of us on the EC have been members since graduation and it's really important for new people to join up so we can get new perspectives and ideas. Especially with our 15th reunion on the horizon- I know, I can't believe it either!

Finally, be sure to read the interview with Danni Downing '99, starting on the opposite page, where she talks about her recent one-woman photography show in Davis, California. We've included two of Danni's photographs, and you can find more at [www.dannidowningphotography.com](http://www.dannidowningphotography.com). If you are an artist and would also like to highlight your work in *AlmaMatters*, please e-mail me- I would love to share it with our class! I would also welcome recommendations of other classmates to feature as I know there are many 99's doing amazing things every day!

All the best!  
Catherine (Maxson) Pieroni  
VP and Newsletter Editor  
[catherine.pieroni@yahoo.com](mailto:catherine.pieroni@yahoo.com)



# AlmaMatters Spotlight: Interview with Danni Downing '99, Photographer



“NIGHT”- A PHOTO BY DANNI DOWNING, ONE OF THE FEW SHE HAS TAKEN IN BLACK AND WHITE.

Back in the Spring, Danni Downing '99 had her first photography show at *ciocolat*, a cafe in Davis, CA. The show was part of Davis's 2nd Friday ArtAbout, a monthly night of open galleries and artist receptions around the city. *AlmaMatters* recently sat down with Danni to learn more about the event and her photography in general. Be sure to check out Danni's web site at [www.dannidowningphotography.com](http://www.dannidowningphotography.com). Danni doesn't typically shoot in black and white, but has provided two such images for this issue of *AlmaMatters*.

AM: How were you chosen to be a part of Davis's 2nd Friday ArtAbout?

DD: I'm lucky enough to have such a good friend in Joanna Kidd (a fellow '99), who lives in Davis. I was visiting her to see and photograph her own gallery show. We'd toured the area and I'd (as always) taken shots. The next day we went for lunch to *ciocolat* and Jo and her mom showed the owner my photos. Kate liked them and offered me a show. It was a wonderful feeling!

AM: Of the hundreds of images you've taken, how did you select 12 for the show?

DD: I had about 30 favorites, but desperately needed help narrowing them down. My friends and family were enormously helpful in selecting the final pictures!

AM: Were you nervous to show your work to the public? It's one thing to share with family and friends, quite another to really put it out there.

DD: It really is a totally different thing! I was so nervous! That sick yet excited feeling in the pit of my stomach lasted through the end of the first artist reception. I was afraid that my photos would be seen as “just pretty, but average” pictures. After over-hearing strangers say wonderful things about my photos, though, my confidence raised a few notches. They may still be just pretty pictures, but they're pretty pictures people other than my friends and family like! By the time the second artist reception rolled around, I was able to sit back and enjoy it.

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# FALL for Dartmouth

Events in Hanover, Fall 2011

Dartmouth Night and Homecoming Events: October 21–23

## Dartmouth Night Friday, Oct. 21

**1–4:30 pm | Navigating College Admissions Workshop for alumni and their children.**

**2–3:30 pm | State of the Presidency in the Obama Age  
Talk by Linda Fowler, Professor of Government**

**3 and 4 pm | Tour: New Class of 1953 Commons  
Check out the great revamp of Thayer!**

**3–6 pm | Visit the Baker Bell Tower  
Meet at front desk, main hall, Baker-Berry Library**

**4–5 pm | New Chapter: Repeat Performance for Alumni of First-Year Orientation  
Doug Irwin, Robert E. Maxwell '23 Professor of Arts and Sciences**

**5 pm | Dartmouth Night begins**

**5 pm | Social Gathering for Alumni  
Tent, Alumni Gym lawn**

**7:30 pm | Dartmouth Parade  
Lebanon and Main Streets**

**8 pm | Dartmouth Night Ceremonies  
Front lawn of Dartmouth Hall**

**8–10 pm | Stargazing at Shattuck Observatory  
Observatory Road**

**8:30–10 pm | Bonfire**

**8:30–10 pm | Bonfire Gathering  
Tent, Blunt Alumni Center lawn**

**8:45 pm | 1769 Society Reception  
Top of the Hop, Hopkins Center**

## Homecoming Saturday, Oct. 22

**9–10 am | Saturday Morning Playbook  
Room 105, Dartmouth Hall  
Harry Sheehy, Athletics and Recreation Director, talks Dartmouth sports**

**9 and 11 am | Steam Tunnel Tours**

**10–11 am | Foreign Policy Trade-offs in an Age of Austerity  
Room 105, Dartmouth Hall  
Talk by Daryl Press, Associate Professor of Government**

**10–11:30 am | Changing Lanes: Career Networking Event**

**11 am–1:30 pm | Young Alumni Tailgate  
Tent, Alumni Gym west lawn  
For members of Classes of 1996–2011 and their guests**

**11:30 am | Tour: New Class of 1978 Life Sciences Center**

**11:30 am | Traditions Tour with Hill Winds Society  
Meet in front of Blunt Alumni Center**

**11:30 am–1 pm | Bartlett Tower Open Hours  
Climb the 86 steps of this stone structure dating to the 1800s.**

**1:30 pm | Football vs. Columbia  
Memorial Field  
Go Big Green!**



challenges of motherhood. Business schools across the country should consider adding that class to their course offerings. Seriously. But, I digress. We are all thrilled and doing well, and are sending warm thoughts to you and yours as the season changes. “



FEMI WASSERMAN AND HER TWIN BOYS GET CLOSE!

**Cynthia (Anderson) Hansen** and her husband Patrick Hansen ('97) welcomed Elisa Maureen Hansen on May 20th. Elisa weighed in at 6 lbs. and 12 oz. and was 20 inches long. Thankfully, her debut was put off just long enough for Cynthia to finish defending her dissertation for her PhD in linguistics at the University of Texas. Cynthia will start teaching linguistics at Grinnell College in Grinnell, Iowa in January.

**Heather (Harnett) Ross** and **Chris Ross** have also added a new member to their growing family. Maxwell Alexander Ross was born on May 2nd, weighing 8 lbs. 12 oz, and was 22 inches long. Max was welcomed home by big sister Bella (7), and big brothers Ben (5) and Sam (2). The Ross family lives in Huntington, NY.

**Justin Evans** sends news of the birth of his daughter, Ella, to wife Angela, on July 17th. Ella weighed 9 lbs. and 2 oz. at birth and will soon be playing with big sister Adeline. Justin is currently a Director at RBC Capital Markets covering financial institutions, and he lives with his family in San Carlos, CA, right outside of San Francisco.

**Holly (Smith)** and **Jeff Munsie** welcomed Kaitlyn Lee Munsie to the world on May 4th. Kaitlyn joins big brother Tyler (3) in the Munsie's new home in Bedford, MA.

**(Margaret) Muffy (Davis) Werner** gave birth to son Robert Thomas Werner on February 6th. Robert joins big sister Allison, who is 2 years old.

**Kathryn (McGovern) Hartinger** and her husband Josh welcomed Tobin Jacob to the world on August 10, 2011. Tobin was 9 lbs and 22 inches, and joins his parents in lovely Portland, Oregon.

**Julia (Hennberry) Sharma** gave birth to Summer Rae Sharma on July 2, 2011. Summer was 6 lbs. 11 oz and almost 20 inches long, and was welcomed home by big brother Reece. Julia and her husband Neal live in Westfield, NJ.

**Anthony Accurso** checked in to say that he and his wife, Jennifer Mulhern, welcomed their first baby this past Spring. Arlo Mulhern Accurso is now 4 months old and doing well. He enjoyed meeting Amelia Flick and her mom **Jessica (Jacob) Flick** on a recent trip to New York City.

**Sean Taylor** writes to report that **Andrew Butterworth** and his wife, Linda, welcomed their first child Carter Prescott Butterworth, who weighed in at just over 7 lbs. According to Sean, Carter was heard saying (through an interpreter, of course) that he is looking forward to matriculating at Dartmouth in the Fall of 2029.

And what would the class news be without wedding and engagement news!

Sean Taylor's update also included the news that surrounded by friends from the New York improv comedy scene, Sean recently proposed to girlfriend Robin Rothman at the top of the Belvedere Castle in the middle of New York's Central Park. Their wedding date is set for next Spring.

**James Mykytenko** got engaged to Anna Molinari at Butterfly Beach in Santa Barbara, CA. James writes "I actually met my fiancé Anna in the gym of our apartment building. This show called Boston Med, which I never watch, was on the TV and surprisingly, one of the people on the show was Dr. Jeff Ustin who I knew from residency. So we met and started talking about medicine." James finished his General Surgery Residency in 2009 and passed the Boards. He started a cardiothoracic residency at Vanderbilt but wasn't happy in that program, so he transitioned over to a critical care fellowship. Ultimately, he will look for a job combining General Surgery and critical care and hopefully land in the same city with Anna., who is applying to medical school.

**Meghan McMenemy** married Lou Silvers on March 19, 2011 in Morris Plains, NJ. The ceremony was a beautiful blending of Catholic and Jewish traditions. Meghan and Lou, who are both avid runners, live in Hoboken, NJ. Fellow 99's Julia (Henneberry) Sharma, **Catherine (Maxson) Pieroni** and **Kristen Chartier** were guests at the wedding.

Kristen has her own wonderful news to report, as she was engaged to Steve Jasikoff in November 2010, and is planning her own June 2012 wedding. Kristen teaches at the Convent of the Sacred Heart in New York City, and she and Steve, who is also a teacher, currently reside in the Bronx.

# Jeff Fine '99 Awarded 2011-2012 Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award

The Dartmouth Alumni Council presents the Dartmouth College Young Alumni Distinguished Service Award to two or three alumni who have demonstrated extraordinary service to Dartmouth. These awards are presented to individuals who have graduated within the past 15 years. The first young alumni award was presented in 1990, and since then, 47 alumni (including fellow '99 Michelle Sweetser) have been honored. This year, the Alumni Council has chosen Jeff Fine '99 to receive this important award, and it was presented to him at a ceremony during Class Officers Weekend on September 23rd.

## FALL MINI-REUNIONS

Join fellow '99s in the following cities for catching up!  
Contact the event organizers for more details....

### Boston

- BBQ at Jeff and Holly Munsie's House
- 3 Lexington Circle, Bedford, MA
- Sunday, October 16th, noon
- RSVP: Holly Munsie (holly.munsie@gmail.com)

### Hanover

- Pre-game tailgate next to the Sphinx
- Saturday, October 22nd, noon
- RSVP: Meg Lysy (meglysy@gmail.com)

### Los Angeles

- Happy Hour at Busby's West
- 3110 Santa Monica Blvd., Santa Monica
- Thursday, October 20th, 7 PM
- RSVP: Lisie Adamson (lisie3@mac.com)

### Washington, D.C.

- Happy Hour at Thunder Grill, Union Station  
(inside, in the corner near the Center Cafe)
- 50 Massachusetts Avenue, NE
- Thursday, October 20th, 6PM
- RSVP: Danni Downing (danielle.downing075@gmail.com)

In presenting the award, the representative of the Alumni Council stated that, in addition to Jeff's passion for running and other outside interests, "Thankfully for us, you expend much of that boundless energy on your alma mater as well. For the Dartmouth Club of Chicago, you have served as vice president and as a member of its executive committee. You have served as president and vice president of both the Class Treasurers and Class Mini-Reunion Chairs Associations. Your biggest labor of love, however, is working for the great Class of 1999, which you have served in almost every capacity imaginable: as treasurer for seven years, webmaster, class agent, mini-reunion chair, 5th Reunion co-chair, 10th Reunion chair, and, currently, president."

The Class of 1999 and the Dartmouth Alumni community are stronger because of Jeff's service, and *AlmaMatters* would like to congratulate him on his award and a job well done.

AM: When did you start getting serious about your photography? Is it still a part time thing? Is the goal to eventually make a career of it?

DD: I started getting serious about 8 years ago. I kept getting frustrated by how limited my point-and-shoot 35mm was. I knew what I saw and what I wanted others to see, but my photos weren't reflecting that—the camera was dictating the end result. So I got a camera where I could be in control. That led to a few classes so I could better work the camera and achieve the look I wanted. It's still very part-time although I'd love to go pro. Right now, though, I'm just hoping to make enough to cover my costs. It's a very expensive hobby!

AM: Has any particular artist inspired your work? Or any particular subject?

DD: Ansel Adams, Henri Cartier-Bresson, Art Wolfe are or were amazing. They all so adeptly capture the moment and evoke different emotions through their work. My favorite subjects are nature and travel—there are beautiful things out there to see and share.

AM: Have you taken any photography classes or are you mostly self-taught? What camera/cameras and other equipment do you use to take pictures?

DD: I've taken some classes and should take more when I have time. But mostly I read, practice, and learn from other photographers. Right now I'm shooting with a D-90 with a Nikkor 18-200mm VR lens fitted with UV and polarizer filters.

AM: Finally, what advice do you have for the rest of us on how to take better pictures in our day-to-day lives?

DD: Get close, go off-center, and have fun! And as trite as it sounds, shoot what you love. No-one else sees what you see in the way you see it.

AM: Thank you so much for your time, and congratulations on the show!



MONUMENTS AT NIGHT PHOTO WALK- ANOTHER OF DANNI'S BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOS.

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CATHERINE (MAXSON) PIERONI, CYNTHIA (ANDERSON) HANSEN, SARA ZRIKE AND DEBBIE BENDER SHOW THEIR DARTMOUTH PRIDE AT DEBBIE'S WEDDING.

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**Danielle (Unger) Buczek** and her husband, Matt, travelled to Baltimore in December of 2010 for the wedding of **Becky Prestel** to B.J. Antoszewski. Danielle is a Marketing Director at an educational publishing company, and lives in Massachusetts with Matt and her two crazy dogs.

**Debbie Bender** married Danny Llewelyn on the waterfront in San Diego, CA, on September 4, 2011. Many '99s made the trip out to California for the celebration, including maid of honor **Sara Zrike**, and bridesmaids Cynthia (Anderson) Hansen and Catherine (Maxson) Pieroni. Other guests included **Elizabeth (Tripoli) Laughlin** and her husband Eric, **Cassie (Miller) Birtwistle** and her husband Mike, Kristen Chartier, and **Adrienne (Wilson)** and **Dave Wagner**. The couple honeymooned

in Ireland and Scotland before returning home to Santa Monica, CA.

Please send us your news in the enclosed green card for the next edition of *AlmaMatters*. You can also e-mail catherine.pieroni@yahoo.com to report weddings, babies, new job information, exciting travel plans or anything else you would like to share with the class!