

# Spring Newsletter 2019

Class of the Year: 1997, 2001, 2004, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2015, 2017

## 79s IN THE ARTS

For many, it has been a lifelong pursuit: a career founded on self-expression, artistic, musical or literary talent. Perhaps it came from a love to perform, a voice that yearned to be heard, a passion for making a statement, for sparking an emotion, a reaction, or a realization in the audience. Perhaps it's a desire to reach into the soul.

For others, it came later in life. An artistic or literary seed that took years to germinate. Or a latent proclivity that emerged from hiding even as life was dominated by another career, family, or nagging self-doubt. With time and focus and courage, an artistic pursuit began to blossom and now thrives.

No matter the pathway, the happy consequence is that we can now share in the fruits of our classmates' many gifts and, of course, their hard work. The Class of 79's portfolio of artistic, theatrical, musical, and literary expression is nothing short of stunning.

What follows is just a sample based on suggestions passed along by friends and admirers. I'm sure there are more people out there to recognize and celebrate. For now, I hope you enjoy what we have collected. - David "Guy" Van Wie, Newsletter Editor [dvanwie.79@dartmouth.edu](mailto:dvanwie.79@dartmouth.edu)

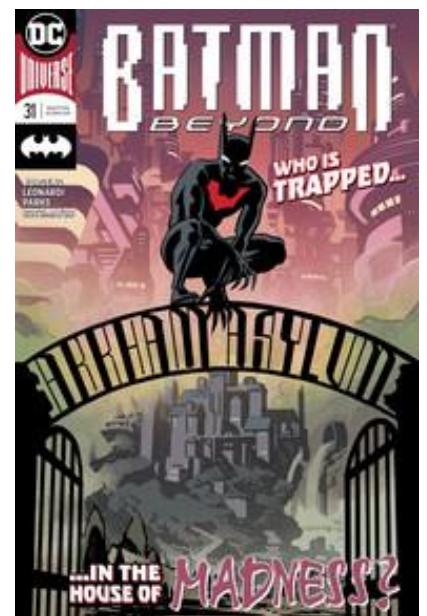
**INSIDE:** Profiles and work from **Beth Blatt, Rick Leonardi, Phil Olson, Steve Gordon, Priscilla King Miller, Sue Goodman Cohen, Jim Schley, Bob Chamberlin, Tim Prager, Dave Celone, and Rob Evans.** Don't worry, we will profile more 79s in the Arts in future newsletters. Many thanks to Grayce Gibbs '22, an intern in the Alumni Relations office, for her help researching this issue.



Award-winning play by Phil Olson.



Steve Gordon, Artist in Alaska.



The acclaimed artwork of Rick Leonardi.



Beth is congratulated by UN Sec-Gen. Ban Ki Moon



Beth with performers Graham Lyle & Clay at the U.N.

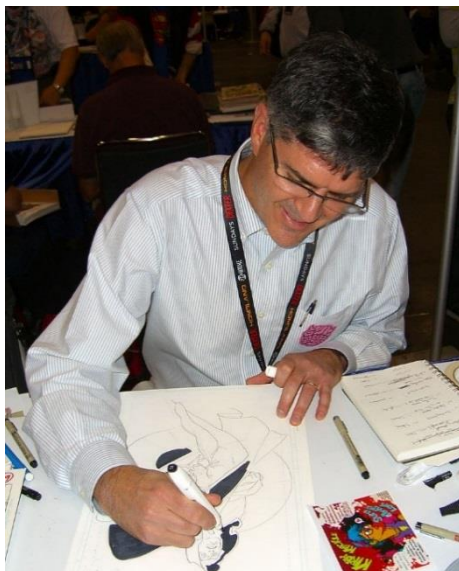
## BETH BLATT - LYRICIST, SINGER, MUSICAL WRITER

Many of us fondly remember Beth's singing performances as an undergraduate with **Woodswind**, as well as her whacky sense of humor and her intense commitment to social justice. She has turned all that into a career.

Today, Beth is an award-winning writer of songs, musicals and plays, with her work performed at the Kennedy Center, Lincoln Center, off-Broadway, across the US, in London, Hong Kong, and Tokyo. She's collaborated with composers from the US, Europe, Asia, and Latin America. Her show *The Mistress Cycle* won The Directors' Choice Award at NY Musical Festival, and the show was also presented at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, Theatre Works Palo Alto, and Barrington Stage. Her work has been featured at National Alliance for Musical Theater (Princess Caraboo), developed at Goodspeed (Hashi), and produced by TheatreWorks USA (Island of the Blue Dolphins).

Beth has worked in TV, film and radio, both as a performer and writer/producer. In Tokyo, she wrote a regular music column for *The Japan Times*, contributed features to *The Hollywood Reporter*, and was featured in the film *Godzilla vs. Biolante*.

Beth also is founder/CEO of **Hope Sings** ([www.hopesings.net](http://www.hopesings.net)), a for-benefit music organization whose mission is to harness the power of song and story to empower, inspire and connect women around the world via various social causes. Beth wrote the lyrics for *One Woman*, which was performed in 2011 at the United Nations at the launch of UN Women as the theme song for the agency. In March 2013, a video of *One Woman* was performed by 25 singers in 20 countries to celebrate International Women's Day. You can find the song performed on YouTube [here](#), with half a million views and counting.



Rick draws Cloak and Dagger at the 2011 NY Comic Con. Photo credit Luigi Novi, CC

## RICK LEONARDI – CARTOONIST

Rick began drawing for Marvel Comics the year after our graduation. Since then, he has quite a following among comic fans and collectors. According to somebody on the web: His work is characterized by his use of dynamic poses, panel composition, and shifting of the camera eye and perspective.

His first published comics artwork appeared in Thor #303 in January 1981. He has worked for various series for both Marvel and DC, including Cloak and Dagger, The Uncanny X-Men, The New Mutants, Spider-Man 2099, Nightwing, Batgirl, Green Lantern Versus Aliens and Superman.

He has also worked on comics based off feature films such as Star Wars: General Grievous and Superman Returns Prequel #3.

He is one of the illustrators on the 2019 Batman Beyond arc #31 that debuted in April (see front page).

## JIM SCHLEY – POET, WRITER, EDITOR, TEACHER

[www.jimschley.com](http://www.jimschley.com)

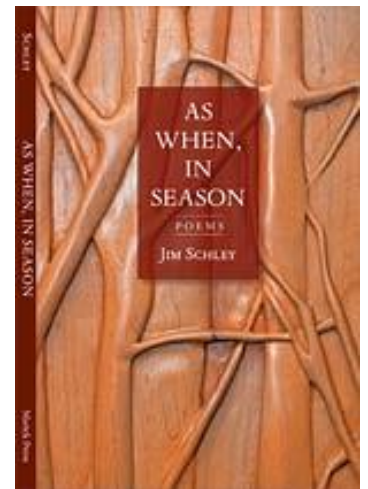
Jim Schley is a writer, editor, and teacher who has edited nearly two hundred books in a wide variety of fields and genres. He is a visiting scholar for the Vermont Humanities Council, regular contributor to *Seven Days* magazine, and currently editing and proofreading for some of America's finest literary book publishers. Jim lives in South Strafford, Vermont with his wife, Becky.

After receiving his MFA from Warren Wilson College, Jim Schley became co-editor of the literary quarterly *New England Review* from 1980–86. Jim worked as Production Editor at University Press of New England and Editor-in-Chief at the book publisher, Chelsea Green, where he developed a line of sustainable living books about organic gardening and farming, renewable energy, and ecological building techniques.

Jim is the author of two poetry collections, most recently, *As When, In Season* and has had his poems published in many literary journals and magazines including *Ironwood*, *Crazyhorse*, *Rivendell*, and *Orion Magazine*, in anthologies including Best American Spiritual Writing, and on *The Writer's Almanac* with Garrison Keillor.

He was a co-founder of Chapiteau Press, which publishes poetry chapbooks. He was executive director of *The Frost Place* museum and poetry center from 2006–2008, and for ten years was managing editor of Tupelo Press.

In addition to his work as a poet and editor, Jim has also toured extensively with theater companies including the world-renowned Bread and Puppet Theater, the Swiss ensemble Les Montreurs d'Images, and the Flock Dance Troupe.



## FROM: SUE GOODMAN COHEN – THEATER PRODUCER

"Theater has always been my passion, from childhood backyard shows to the Dartmouth Players, a work-study job in the scenery shop at the Hop, then quitting my first corporate job in 1980 to work in summer theater. I moved to New York where I stage-managed some small productions and earned an MBA in theater management, then volunteered backstage at my children's various performances . . . I just keep finding myself in a theater, where I belong.

A few years ago, a friend suggested that for a New Year's resolution, I pick something I've always wanted to do and do it. Not a bad idea. I resolved to see more Broadway shows.

That resolution spurred me to think about how to turn my dream to work on Broadway into reality. Seeing multiple shows led me to make contacts and find opportunities. I took professional certification classes and realized that, for me, producing is the perfect hobby. As a producer, I have invested in a few professional shows. I've also produced my talented cousin's one-man show *What They Said About Love in New York* and am Associate Producer for his London run this summer. I also enjoy receiving scripts and information packets about upcoming shows.

I have a 'day job' with Ticmate, a large European ticket-selling company. As Ticmate's U.S. employee, I can take advantage of free tickets to most Broadway productions. I also speak a lot of French on the job, plus a little Spanish and German – Professor Rassias would be proud!"

# CLASS OF 79 MINI-REUNIONS FOR 2019

Dartmouth Football will play Princeton on November 9, 2019 at Yankee Stadium in honor of **Dartmouth's 250th** anniversary and the **150th anniversary of college football**.



Our class has placed a hold on a block of seats for the Class of 1979 in **Section 211, Rows 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6**.

To purchase tickets in this block, you have two options:

1. Use an exclusive link for the Class of 1979 to purchase tickets online. Click the link below to be taken to the ticket page, click on section 211 (you may want to zoom in with the magnifying glass icon in the top right) and select the seats you want to purchase. These seats are only available by using this link. Other visitors will not have access to them. [Class of 1979 at Yankee Stadium](#).
2. Call the Dartmouth Ticket Office (603-646-2466) and ask to be seated in the Class of 1979 seats in section 211.

For general questions, please refer to our [FAQ page](#)!

Pre- and Post Game activities are being planned. Presently, the consensus is the Class of 79 would like to join (and not compete with) the “One Dartmouth” gathering at Billy’s Sports Bar during the 2-3 hours before the 3:30 kickoff. Various Post Game activities are under consideration and will be communicated in the future.

**Also- please join us for more mini-reunions at the following games. More information to come!**

October 12, 2019- **Homecoming/Football vs. Yale**, Hanover NH featuring a **Class of 79 Tailgate**

November 2, 2019- **Football/M&W Soccer/Field Hockey at Harvard**, Cambridge, MA

**IMPORTANT UPDATE ON THE  
'79 VOLUNTEER VOYAGE TO HAITI**

**Political Unrest in Haiti Necessitates Cancelling the Trip Planned for October 2019**

In the previous newsletter, you were invited to participate in a trip to Haiti in October 2019 to volunteer for the non-profit organization *Tabasamu*. Unfortunately, just a few days after that newsletter hit your mailboxes, civil unrest erupted in Haiti. Subsequently, the US Government issued a "travel warning" advising U.S. citizens to avoid travel to Haiti; the warning is still in place. Therefore, the Haiti trip has been cancelled for 2019. It's possible that the Haiti trip could be rescheduled for 2020, but if travel there remains inadvisable, a new locale will be sought.

The Haiti trip was anticipated to be the first in an annual series of service-based trips dubbed **'79 Volunteer Voyages**, open to all members of the Class of 1979 (plus friends and families). The goal of the **'79 Volunteer Voyages** program is to bring classmates together, and travel to interesting locales in support of worthy non-profit organizations. If participating in a **'79 Volunteer Voyage** is appealing to you, please help us with ideas for future planning:

Do you have a non-profit that means a lot to you, and to which you'd like to see your fellow '79s give their support? Is there any place in the U.S. or world where you'd particularly like to travel with a service project as the centerpiece of the trip?

Would you be interested in participating in a '79 Volunteer Voyage in the US only, overseas only - or anywhere it might occur? What is the ideal length of time you'd like a voyage to last, and the time of year that would work best for you? Would you be okay with basic accommodations, or would you prefer more high-end options?

Please share these, and any other thoughts you might have about the **'79 Volunteer Voyages** initiative with Jennifer Hughes, [tojhughes@gmail.com](mailto:tojhughes@gmail.com). And thanks, your input is invaluable.

## **BUILDING BRIDGES**

### ***OUR 40<sup>TH</sup> REUNION IS ONLY A YEAR AWAY!***

Co-chairs Otho Kerr and Dawn Hudson are busy assembling a team to plan a fabulous event in Hanover. If you'd like to help, please contact Otho at [otho.kerr@gmail.com](mailto:otho.kerr@gmail.com) or Dawn at [dawn@beach50.com](mailto:dawn@beach50.com).

We look forward to seeing you soon!

***MARK YOUR CALENDAR***

***June 18-21, 2020***



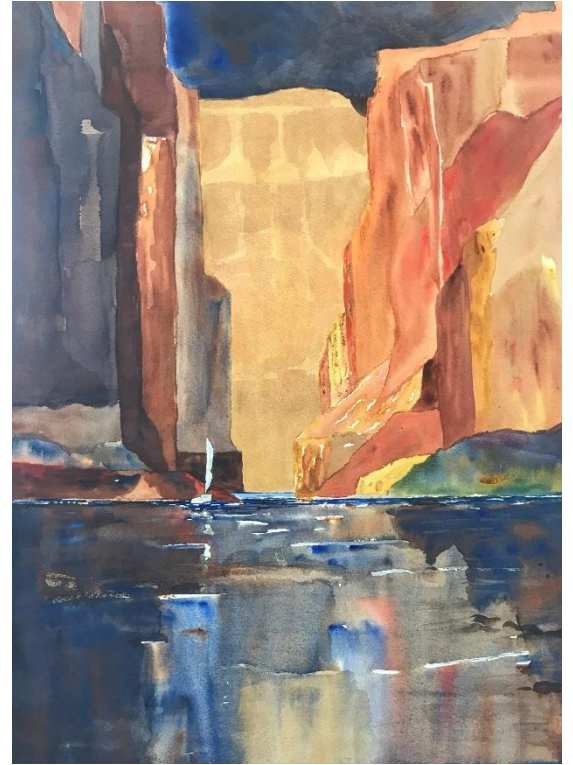
## ROBERT CHAMBERLIN '79A - WATERCOLORS

Bob is one of the co-authors of *The Confluence* with six other classmates. Ten of his watercolors appear in that book, along with his two stories: 'Art & Lit in the Grant,' and 'Dog Days.' Bob sent the watercolor painting on the right, *Utah Nautical*, in response to our request for examples of **79s in the Arts**. From Bob:

*"I moved to Utah from Vermont three years ago. I love Utah's powder and the amazing Mighty Five National Parks, but I'm not a desert boy. I miss water."*

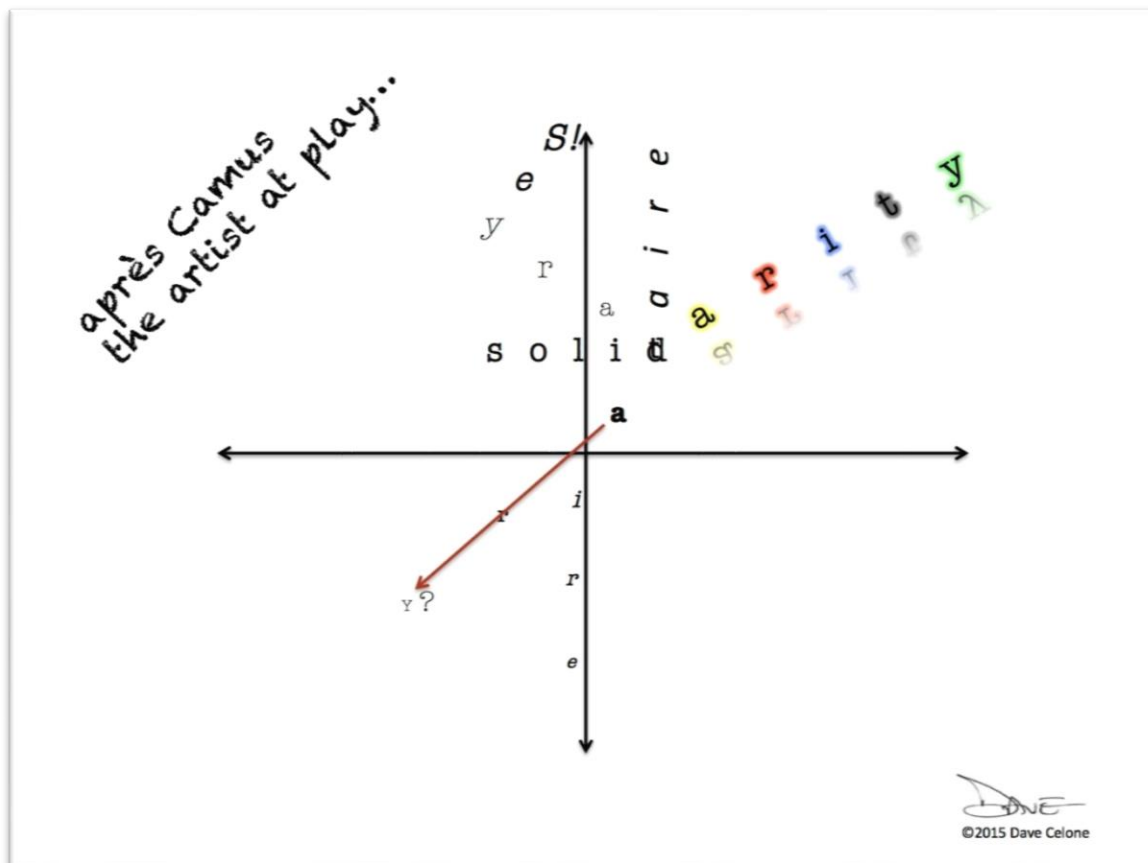
*So, I was inspired to make this painting of a sailboat in the canyons of a Colorado River lake. Hope you like it."*

You can see more of Bob's paintings on his Facebook page and his website: [www.rchamberlinart.com](http://www.rchamberlinart.com)



## DAVE CELONE '79A

Dave Celone (E. Thetford, VT) sent along an example of his artistic talent: "This piece was part of my show of visual poetry titled *Intricate Interconnectedness* that I displayed at Vermont College of Fine Arts in Montpelier, VT and also at the Converse Free Library in Lyme, NH."



## TIM PRAGER – TV, FILM & THEATER

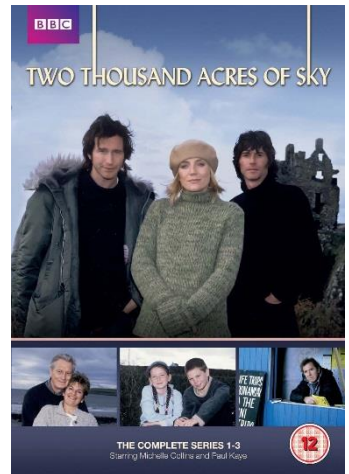
Several classmates insisted we include Tim Prager in this edition of **79s in the Arts**. Tim (right) has been working in the UK for many years, so he's less known on this side of the pond, but he's a force to be reckoned with over there. Here is what Tim has been up to...

Tim Prager is a television and film writer. After graduating from Dartmouth, he attended the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. His first commission was for a film called *The Maid* starring Martin Sheen and Jacqueline Bisset. He then joined the Old Vic Company as Assistant Director under Timothy West. He worked on productions of *Macbeth*, *The Merchant of Venice*, and *Trelawny of the Wells*.

After a brief stint in Los Angeles, he returned to London to write and direct the musical *Spin of the Wheel*. Since then, he has written extensively for television, including episodes of *Dalziel and Pascoe*, *Dangerfield*, *The Ambassador*, and 20some episodes of the award-winning series *Silent Witness*. His writing has received Royal Television Society nominations and he received the Roald Dahl prize for his BBC series *Two Thousand Acres of Sky*.

You can watch an insightful BBC interview with Tim at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/writers-lab/be-inspired/tim-prager>.



## STEVE GORDON ARTIST IN ALASKA

At Dartmouth, Steve studied art while completing a degree in biology. He and his wife **Karen Brownsberger Gordon** met at Dartmouth and married just before graduation. Steve went on to study at the University of Iowa School of Art, earning his MFA in Painting in 1984. After graduation, Steve and Karen moved to Anchorage, Karen's hometown. Steve taught painting, drawing, and design classes as an adjunct instructor at the University of Alaska-Anchorage for several years before becoming the Director of the Art Program at Alaska Pacific University where he worked for two years. Since 1992, he has worked full-time as a professional artist painting the Alaskan landscape. He has received several public art commissions and has had numerous one-man shows across the state. His work can be seen at the Anchorage Museum of History and Art and in many collections across the U.S.

[www.gordonpaintings.com](http://www.gordonpaintings.com)

That's Steve, bottom center, on page one of this newsletter.

## ROBERT EVANS – ARTIST/MURALIST

“Murals are a traditional art form. They are a solid way of documenting culture and history, and giving it life.”

Rob Evans has been painting murals and exhibit paintings professionally for over 20 years. His murals can be seen in museums, zoos, aquaria, civic buildings and residences in the Boston area and across the United States. Rob employs a variety of techniques, including painting directly on exhibit site walls, and painting full-scale murals on canvas or panels, which are shipped from the studio and installed on-site. A third approach is to create smaller-scale paintings that get digitally enlarged, printed on canvas or other materials, installed and touched up on-site.

His work can be seen at major venues such as the Smithsonian Museum of American History, The Estate at Mount Vernon, as well as numerous other regional museums.

Upon graduation from Dartmouth, Rob received a scholarship to The Skowhegan School of Painting and Sculpture, after which he returned to Hanover to work as an assistant in the Department of Visual Studies and Artist-In Residence program. In 1981, Rob received a Reynolds Fellowship to study at the Ruskin School of Fine Art, Oxford, England. He then lived in London for a couple of years, showing work at the Brixton Gallery of Art.

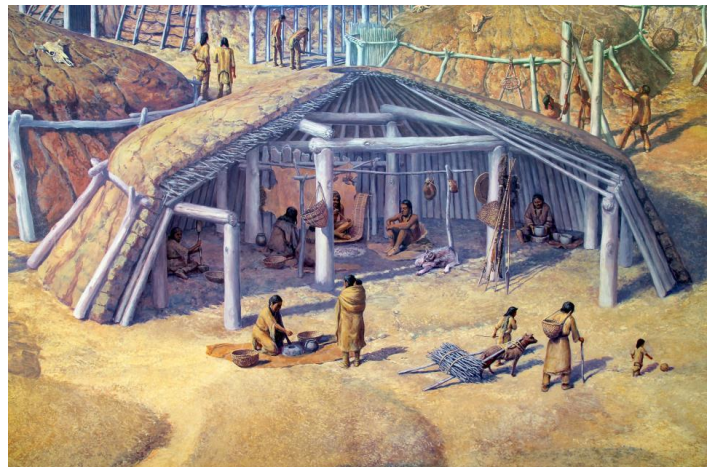
In 1990, after working as a scenic painter on sets for theatre, opera, video and cinema for over five years, Rob began his career as an independent muralist and exhibit-painter. Eight years later, he founded Robert Evans Murals, Inc., a company specializing in realistic, depictive painting devoted to exhibits of natural history, history and ethnography. Check out a cool time lapse of him working on his website:

You may have seen Rob featured in 2016 in the [Dartmouth Alumni News](#).

[www.robtevensmurals.com](http://www.robtevensmurals.com)



Rob working on the Double Ditch Indian Village cyclorama in the North Dakota Heritage Center and State Museum.



The mural measures 6 feet by 50 feet and took four months to complete, from November 2013 to March 2014.

## TO SUBMIT MATERIAL FOR THE FALL NEWSLETTER

Our Fall 2019 newsletter theme will be **Memories from Past Reunions**. With our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion just around the corner, tell us about a memorable experience from a previous reunion: a favorite moment, a new connection you made, a rekindling of friendship with someone you had not seen in years, a photo from our younger days. It doesn't have to be a reunion in Hanover – what about that chance encounter? a mini-reunion? or a planned event to get together with a classmate?

Dig into your photo files and your memory banks to share that special moment with the rest of us.

**Text & photos due August 1, 2019.** Send your content to [dvanwie.79@dartmouth.edu](mailto:dvanwie.79@dartmouth.edu).



## PHIL OLSON – PLAYWRIGHT

I'm guessing that few people who knew Phil as an undergrad saw this coming, especially the guys in the huddle. But life can take us down some interesting paths if we open our minds and welcome the opportunities.

After graduating from Dartmouth, Phil tried out for the Chicago Bears. When that didn't play out, he moved on to receive an MBA from The University of Chicago and pursue a business career. But then, according to an interview by Steve Peterson on the website for Phil's play *Mom's Gift*, things took a turn.

"I was working in commercial real estate in Tampa, Florida when one of my clients asked me to perform in "shoot, don't shoot" training films for the police department. I never acted before but I thought it might be fun, so I said yes. I acted in several industrial films playing different roles, a bad guy that gets shot, a husband in a domestic dispute, a senator that gets kidnapped. Because they weren't scripted, I had to improvise my lines. I did pretty well improvising, got the acting bug, and started doing sketch comedy and theatre in Florida. It took off from there."

Phil moved to Los Angeles where he completed all levels of the famous Groundlings Improvisation School. His teachers included Michael McDonald of MAD TV and Mindy Sterling. He performed in a sketch comedy group with fellow Groundling alums including Maya Rudolph from Saturday Night Live.

Phil wrote his first two-act play when he was 40. Since then, he has written 16 published plays, including, "A Nice Family Gathering," "A Nice Family Christmas," "Don't Hug Me," "A Don't Hug Me Christmas Carol," "A Don't Hug Me County Fair," "Don't Hug Me, I'm Pregnant," "Don't Hug Me, We're Married," "Polyester The Musical" and "Mom's Gift." Many of Phil's plays and musicals are set in rural Minnesota where he grew up, and draw on his emotionally reserved Norwegian upbringing. His brother, Paul, writes the music for Phil's lyrics. His plays have been produced in over 400 cities around the world. He has also written two short films, one of which he directed and produced. Phil has sold two screenplays and as a script doctor, he's re-written three movies that were produced.

Watch for one of Phil's plays coming, live, to a theater near you.

FMI: [www.philolson.com](http://www.philolson.com)



**A Nice Family Gathering**  
A story about a man who loved his wife so much, he almost told her.

**(WINNER!)**  
Rochester Playwright Festival

"Hilarious and touching!"  
- LA WEEKLY Pop of the Week

"Exquisite sense of humor!"  
- Daily Variety

"A surefire, laugh-a-minute hit!"  
- The Tucson Times

"Hilarious!"  
- American Eagle Forum

"Superb!"  
- KCRW News

[ANiceFamilyGathering.com](http://ANiceFamilyGathering.com)

**DON'T HUG ME WE'RE MARRIED**

**WINNER!**  
Silver Medal  
World Series of Screenplay  
Best Stage Play Competition

**RECOMMENDED!**  
"A barrel of laughs!"  
- BroadwayWorld.com

"Hilarious!"  
- L.A. Examiner

"I haven't laughed this hard in a very long time!"  
- NorthArtsDistrict.com

"Sheer comedic perfection!"  
- Tucson Times

"The funniest Don't Hug Me yet!"  
- Plainview News

"An often twisted but always hilarious plot!"  
- Norwegian American Weekly

[DontHugMe.com](http://DontHugMe.com)  
Book & Lyrics by Phil Olson  
Music by Paul Olson

**It's "Fargo" meets "Bridesmaids"**  
(without the woodchipper or the food poisoning)

**Mom's Gift**  
A comedy with a heart

A surprise ending, you will not guess!

**WINNER!** McLaren Memorial Comedy Playwriting Competition  
**WINNER!** Best Stage Play World Series of Screenwriting Competition  
**WINNER!** TNU New Voices Play Festival  
**WINNER!** Northern Writes Playwright Festival

**Winner of 11 Playwriting Awards!**

"If you love the comedy, 'It's a Wonderful Life,' this modern variant by playwright Phil Olson is just for you!"  
- Theatre Spoken Here

"This is a MUST SEE to make your holiday complete!"  
- NoHo Arts

"Wonderful!"  
- Observations Along the Road

"An audience pleaser!"  
- Stage Happenings

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE FUND

### THE GOOD NEWS AND OTHER NEWS

We're not far off our giving total from last year as of early May. Our big opportunity is to show the youngsters what happens when '79 goes Baby BOOM!

Class	# of Gifts
2012	401
2010	355
2014	343
1994	315
2004	314
2006	304
1997	302
<b>1979</b>	<b>295</b>
2003	292

Help us charge into the lead for the 20<sup>th</sup> time in 21 years! Make your '79 participation™ contribution today if you haven't done it already! And *Thanks* if you already have!

Make a sustaining annual gift online: [DCF annual donation](#)

Make a one-time gift online: <http://dartmouthcollegefund.org/give>

## THE CALL TO SERVE



Generations of Dartmouth community members have been called to serve – as volunteers, as community leaders, and as change agents. Now, in celebration of the **College's 250th anniversary**, we honor Dartmouth's legacy of leadership in public service and goodwill through a far-reaching initiative to inspire acts of service throughout the world. Together, we will answer The Call to Serve **by contributing a collective 250,000 hours of service in 2019**. As of May 10, we passed 100,000 hours of service!

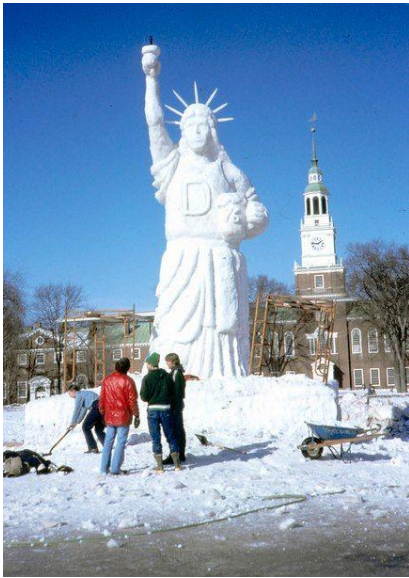
**All 79s should be sure to log your community service hours on the *Call to Serve* website [here](#).**

Please note that volunteer service to our class and the College doesn't count. This is to benefit the outside world.

## DARTMOUTH ALUMNI COUNCIL

CONGRATULATIONS to **Chip Debelius**, our new Class of 79 representative to the Alumni Council. Chip will start his term in the Fall of 2019. We look forward to having Chip in Hanover for the biannual Council meetings. Chip's email is: [cadebelius@gmail.com](mailto:cadebelius@gmail.com)

And THANK YOU to **Jennifer Hughes**, who has served our class so diligently as AC representative and member of the Service Committee. Jennifer, thank you for your personal and thorough communications and your passionate support for your class and the College.



Winter Carnival 1976, A Snow-Spangled Salute.

### CHARLES A. "CHIP" DEBELIUS

While we are talking about **79s in the Arts**, we can't forget Chip's impressive career in architecture and design. After Dartmouth, he earned a Master of Architecture degree at Harvard. He now teaches at Appalachian State University in the Department of Sustainable Technology and the Built Environment.

As you may recall, Chip was the sculptor for the iconic Lady Liberty statue on the Green at the 1976 Winter Carnival, A Snow-Spangled Salute, our freshman year.



The Great Cold Rush statue in 1979

## DARTMOUTH COLLEGE CLASS OF 1979 OFFICERS (2015-2020)

**Leadership:** Mark Winkler, President • [mark.winkler.79@gmail.com](mailto:mark.winkler.79@gmail.com)  
Jim Wasz, Vice-President & Class Projects • [jwasz1979@aol.com](mailto:jwasz1979@aol.com)

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Class website: [www.1979.dartmouth.org](http://www.1979.dartmouth.org)

### Service

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Jennifer Hughes, Alumni Council Rep. [tojhughes@gmail.com](mailto:tojhughes@gmail.com)  
Chip Debelius: Incoming AC Rep: [cadebelius@gmail.com](mailto:cadebelius@gmail.com)

## FROM: PRISCILLA KING MILLER – PHOTOGRAPHER

[priscillakmiller.wordpress.com](http://priscillakmiller.wordpress.com)

"I have always had a passion for two things: horses and the photographic image and spent most of my youth pursuing both passions – riding first (riding team at Dartmouth), photography second.

After a long hiatus, I returned to the camera and naturally horses and equine pursuits have become my focus. I photograph fox hunting, eventing, driving, polo and just about any equine sport that I come across in my travels, and have become especially interested in documenting the fading cowboy lifestyle and ranch work in general. While fine equine images are a passion, my work is not limited solely to horses. General portraiture, and personal branding photos for social media are also a part of my photographic business. Currently, I'm seeking entrepreneurs who want to level up their social media posts- there must be some in our class, right?...wink! I'm based in central New Jersey, but more than happy to travel! I send my fondest regards to my fellow '79s! "

Follow me on Instagram @East\_Shoots\_West



Photos by:

Priscilla K. Miller Photography

Above: Downhill Run (CO)

Right: Magic Barn (WY)

